



2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT & MAGAZINE

VILLA

JOSEPH
MARIE
HIGH SCHOOL



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Check out the list of upcoming events on the back cover to join Villa in celebrating in the spirit of "Always more, always better, always with love."

VILLA JOSEPH MARIE HIGH SCHOOL

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OUR MISSION

Mission Statement

Villa Joseph Marie, a Catholic college-preparatory high school, empowers young women through faith, education, and service, in the tradition of the Sisters of St. Casimir.

Vision Statement

Villa creates an academically challenging environment within a nurturing community, helping young women discern who they are and who God calls them to be.

Inspired by the words of Mother Maria Kaupas, we work in the spirit of "Always more, always better, always with love."

Designer & Editor: Erica Franzzo '03
Photographer: Bridget Gorman
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Writers: Jeanne Frawley '94,
Matt Grunwell, Cathleen Murway,
Grace Quick '22

"We as a community have been so blessed. You should frequently recall all of the years of work and sacrifice done before you and presently occurring... Let us rejoice in all the good accomplishments."

- Mother Maria

Thank you for another record year. We have so much to celebrate.

These pages recognize team members who gifted us with years of service and those who joined the fold as we design Villa's future.

To my Villa Sisters, I am truly grateful. You have shown up for events, supported our annual fund, and helped us increase our EITC pool. What touches my heart the most is that you joined forces in June to unlock a match in the name of Kate Wade '81.

Our work is being recognized. From arts to engineering, Villa is on the map. Congratulations to our faculty, staff, and students for putting in the effort and telling their stories. Join us in congratulating the Arts program for another year of recognition and our own John Gentile for his national recognition in preparing future engineers. Villa continues to produce female engineers at five times the national average, and we couldn't do it without your support.

Beyond our halls, partnerships with regional foundations, including The Ambassador's Fund for Catholic Education and The Connelly Foundation are enabling Villa to expand our reach, launching an innovative regional case study program that invites university engagement.

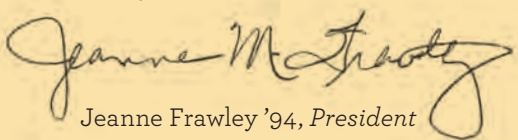
At long last, we updated our facilities. A fully refreshed chemistry lab, improved signage, and facelifts to other key areas like the main hall restroom were made possible by the generosity of our donor partners, our Parents' Guild, and the fundraising efforts of our student annual fund.

As we look to the future, we are designing an updated Strategic Plan, exploring the best ways to build upon our success and serve the greater Bucks County Region.

Mother Maria's legacy is alive and well in the halls of Villa. She came to Holland Road with a vision to educate the women of her congregation. Your support keeps her legacy alive, empowering our students to discern who they are and who God calls them to be.

Thank you for supporting this legacy. Together, we continue to make a difference.

Always,



Jeanne Frawley '94, President



FROM THE PRESIDENT

We extend our deepest gratitude to Sr. Margaret Zalot '67, Lindsay Guinan '05, and Mark Staudenmeier (P '19) for their outstanding service on our Board of Trustees. Sr. Margaret, an alumna, served on the board for over 15 years, contributing her wisdom and deep connection to Villa's mission. As former president of Maria High School, Sr. Margaret provided perspective that enhanced Villa's decision-making. She will continue to serve on our Mission and Ministry Committee, providing guidance and insight as we build the future of Villa's Mission and Ministry programming. Lindsay, also an alumna, dedicated six years as co-chair of the advancement committee,

playing a pivotal role in supporting our development efforts. As a development professional with experience across high school and university settings, Lindsay's contributions helped shape a streamlined approach to fundraising for Villa. Mark, who served for six years and most recently as chair of the finance committee, provided valuable oversight in strengthening the school's financial position. His expertise in strategizing for Villa's fiscal sustainability set the foundation for the upcoming strategic plan funding discussions. Their dedication and leadership have made a lasting impact, and we are sincerely grateful for their contributions.

*thank
you*

FOSTERING CONFIDENCE AND GROWTH

Introducing Villa's New Principal, Valerie Prucnal

As we embrace the vibrant energy of a new academic year at Villa Joseph Marie, we celebrate the leadership of our principal, Valerie Prucnal, who has been guiding our community since July 2024. In her short time here, Ms. Prucnal has already made her mark, fostering meaningful connections with students, faculty, and families alike. Her nearly 25 years of experience in independent Catholic schools, including her most recent role as Assistant Head of School for Academics at Merion Mercy Academy, has given her the tools to launch new initiatives and engage our community in Villa's mission. Ms. Prucnal's thoughtful and collaborative leadership is already inspiring positive change as she builds on our strong traditions while steering Villa into the future.

Ms. Prucnal's path to Villa was paved by her dedication to women's education and her passion for developing the whole person. Reflecting on Villa's mission, which centers on empowering young women to discover their purpose, Ms. Prucnal shares,

"I believe that educators have the opportunity and responsibility to guide students as they grow to their fullest potential. I'm dedicated to inspiring, empowering, and unlocking opportunities for students so they may lead the change the world needs."

Ms. Prucnal's journey into education began with her unique blend of academic interests in history, chemistry, and education, which has profoundly shaped her approach to leadership. She holds a B.A. in History and a B.S. in Chemistry from Saint Xavier University, along with an M.A. in Teaching and Learning from DePaul University and an M.A. in Education Administration from Saint Xavier University. This diverse academic background allows her to bridge the analytical and contextual aspects of decision-making, helping her connect with both students and faculty with different teaching styles. "In chemistry, there's a solution at the end of the day, but history is more about understanding context. Bringing both together gives me a broader perspective as a leader," she said.

Her shift from teaching to administration came early in her career, driven by a desire to contribute beyond the classroom. "I moved around a bit and taught at different schools, which gave me greater awareness of how different institutions operate," Ms. Prucnal explained. "I've always said yes to opportunities, and that's opened doors for me. I've realized that leadership is about empowering others to do their best work."

Her passion for women's education is deeply personal. "I attended an all-girls Catholic high school outside of Chicago, and though it's no longer open, I recognize now just how formative that experience was for me. I'm committed to providing our students with the same transformative opportunities—building their confidence, giving them leadership experiences, and fostering a strong sense of community." This commitment aligns perfectly with the mission of Villa Joseph Marie, which was founded by the Sisters of St. Casimir to empower young women spiritually, academically, and personally.

Ms. Prucnal was particularly impressed with the students at Villa, who played a significant role in her decision to join the community. "The students were so impressive during my visits. Their poise, confidence, and engagement were unlike anything I've seen. I want to ensure that every student who walks through our doors continues to receive that kind of life-changing education," she shared. At Villa, the advantage of a single-sex environment is clear—every leadership position, from sports teams to clubs, is held by a young woman, creating an unparalleled space for students to grow into confident, capable leaders.

As Ms. Prucnal steps into her new role, she looks forward to working alongside Villa's President, Jeanne Frawley, and the Board of Trustees to continue guiding the school toward future success. "Valerie's clear passion for women's education, her collaborative approach to leadership, and her curiosity in exploring best practices make her a fantastic fit for Villa," said Ms. Frawley. Together, they will lead the school into its next chapter, focused on continuing Villa's tradition of academic excellence while preparing for the school's centennial celebration.



Ms. Prucnal is looking forward to the upcoming PAIS accreditation process and strategic planning initiative, which will help guide Villa Joseph Marie into its next steps as the school approaches its 100-year anniversary. These efforts will serve as a roadmap for Villa's future, positioning the school for continued growth and success.

Ms. Prucnal also expressed excitement about Villa's growing emphasis on STEM education through the Project Lead the Way program, a significant differentiator for the school. "STEM is one important path for our students, but Villa provides something for everyone—whether you're interested in the arts, leadership, or sciences, there's a place for you here."

In her first weeks at Villa, Ms. Prucnal has already felt the warmth and authenticity of the community.

Looking ahead, Ms. Prucnal is eager to deepen her connections with students, parents, and alumnae. "Partnering with parents is crucial for our students' success. School should also be a support for parents, and I look forward to working collaboratively with them." As the parent of a teenage son, Ms. Prucnal understands the challenges families face and truly values their insights and perspectives.

As Villa Joseph Marie continues to evolve and grow, Ms. Prucnal's leadership, in partnership with Ms. Frawley, will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact. Together, they will help students discover their unique gifts, guiding them to become the confident, compassionate leaders the world needs.

"The faculty and staff here are truly committed to the students. They are 100% mission-driven, always focused on what's best for the girls. That's rare, and it's something I'm so proud to be a part of."

PLTW NATIONAL AWARDS 2024-25



AWARDS

OUTSTANDING PLTW TEACHER

John Gentile, Science Department Chair, has earned the 2024-25 Outstanding Project Lead the Way Teacher Award for his commitment to inspiring, engaging, and empowering our students with transformative classroom learning experiences through our PLTW Engineering and Computer Science programs. Mr. Gentile is one of only 103 teachers across the U.S. to earn the 2024-25 Outstanding PLTW Teacher Award!

Each year, PLTW honors outstanding teachers and administrators from across the network who play an immeasurable role in preparing students to thrive in college, future careers, and beyond. PLTW equips PreK-12 students for a STEM-driven world with teacher-empowered curriculum in computer science, engineering, biomedical science, and more.

PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH ART MONTH

Congratulations to Sarah Barats for winning the Region 11 Award for Pennsylvania's Youth Art Month. Her artwork was printed on a banner and hung in the PA State Capitol throughout March 2024. A Reception and Award Ceremony was held recognizing Sarah, Mrs. Cargas (*Villa Fine Arts teacher*), and the following students who were selected to be in the online exhibit on the PAEA website: Taylor Pitts, Haley Dickson, Elena Schwenker, and Ava Pagliaro. Use the QR code to view the 2024 online exhibit.



OUTSTANDING VISUAL ARTS COMMUNITY

For the second consecutive year, the Pennsylvania Art Education Association (PAEA) has recognized Villa Joseph Marie as an Outstanding Visual Arts Community, highlighting the school's commitment to visual arts education. Villa is one of fewer than fifty schools in Pennsylvania honored for actively providing arts education opportunities to its students.

Schools receiving this endorsement demonstrate the importance of their visual arts programs with:

- **Rigorous and Inclusive Programs:** Arts programs demonstrate rigor using standards-based curricula taught at every level by highly qualified and certified art educators.
- **Highly Accessible Programs:** Art programs are offered to all students at every level of education with a sustainable budget for the visual arts.
- **Highly Visible Programs:** Schools and districts identify their programmatic accomplishments, curriculum for all levels, art staff, mission statements, and arts events using their school websites and social media.

Students at Villa Joseph Marie celebrate the importance of a well-rounded education with opportunities to engage in arts education courses at all grade levels. These opportunities prepare students for robust futures in the creative industries as well as prepare them for skills needed across all aspects of life, such as problem-solving, flexible mindsets, teamwork and collaboration skills, creativity, and more. These are the cognitive skills young people will need to find their place in a globally competitive workforce.

**MOTHER MARIA KAUPAS
SCHOLARSHIP**

**Abigail Kuvik '25, Mairead Menarde '26,
Chelsea Agundu '27, and Gianna Na '28**

This scholarship was established in 2015 by the Villa Joseph Marie Class of 1960, in celebration of the Class's 55th reunion, to honor our school's Foundress and to reward students who emulate her virtues. This financial aid scholarship provides four one-time \$1,000 tuition awards to four Villa students—one rising Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior—who are passionate advocates and activists for positive change in the areas of social justice, environment, science, medicine, engineering, arts, literature, or culture.

Congratulations



**KAITLIN ABEL MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP**

Rylind Pasquito '25 and Madelyn Smith '26

Established in memory of Kaitlin Abel '09, this scholarship recognizes a rising Junior and rising Senior who have demonstrated kindness toward others, strong academic focus and work ethic, involvement in athletics or extracurricular activities, a commitment to community service and charitable organizations, and has a value for friendships, assisting others, oftentimes behind the scenes. This scholarship provides two annual scholarships of \$2,500 each. Applications are not accepted.

**AMY KOHLER
SCHOLARSHIP**

Isabelle Glunz '25

Named for Villa past-parent Amy Canning Kohler (P '14), this scholarship recognizes a rising Senior who has demonstrated the characteristics of kindness, compassion, thoughtfulness, generosity, graciousness, and a love of fun. \$2,500 is awarded, annually. Applications are not accepted.

Case Study Program

MISSION AND MONEY: WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS

Villa students are receiving a master class in servant leadership thanks to Philadelphia area business leaders willing to share their expertise.

Local leaders opened their doors and their hearts to discuss the ethical challenges facing today's C-Suite. Following prep with NBC 10's Tracy Davidson, student teams visited Corinne O'Connell at Habitat, Kevin Mahoney at UPenn, Dr. Denise Torres '94 at Geisinger, Jim Morrissey at James D. Morrissey Inc. and Tina D'Orazio at Philadelphia Eagles.

Students heard first-hand accounts of what it means to make decisions that impact employees, patients, colleagues, constituent partners, and the community. They learned what it means to consider environmental, geopolitical, and industry-based factors when choosing a path forward and then presented recommendations to

a panel of judges.

Case Studies are common in university settings, but Villa Joseph Marie's case study competition was the first of its kind at the high school level. This premier experience in Bucks County is open to regional schools and judged by university and industry leaders, exploring how faith can inform board room decisions.

The concept was inspired by the global leadership of the Sisters of St. Casimir, and it provided an opportunity to showcase the power of a strong moral compass when making key leadership decisions, "Our Sisters are showcased as an example of what intentional, responsible, long-term planning looks like, and those skills are crucial for our students' future success," stated VJM President, Jeanne M. Frawley '94.

Launched with funding from The Ambassador's Fund

Thank you to our partners, without whom this program wouldn't be possible.





for Catholic Education, the program was coordinated by Villa alumna Christine Zecca Caltabiano '98. Through her efforts, Villa showcased several teams and welcomed students from area high schools onto campus for two competitions this past year.

Our students joined teams from Conwell Egan, Father Judge, Holy Ghost Prep, and Malvern Prep. Each group investigated a business problem, examined potential solutions, and proposed the most effective path forward. Fielding questions from a panel of experts, participants used supporting evidence to justify their recommendations. Judges included leaders from Flynn & O'Hara, Knights of Columbus, La Salle University, Neumann University, Penn Community Bank, Penn State University, St. Joseph's University, Villanova University, and more.

Winning teams earned scholarship dollars from area colleges, with over \$560,000 available. Malvern Prep and Villa Joseph Marie took home the top prizes in fall and spring, respectively.

This is one of the many ways Villa Joseph Marie serves as a leader in experiential learning, preparing students to be future leaders and compassionate members of society. Huge thanks to the alumnae, community members, and university partners for their support of our students and the region.

Thanks, in part, to the success of last year's program, The Connelly Foundation agreed to support Villa's continuing efforts. For information on how to participate as a competitor, judge or sponsor in the next program on December 7, please visit www.vjmhs.org/casestudy.



DECEMBER 9, 2023

1st Place

Malvern Prep – Habitat for Humanity team:
Neil Morrison '24, Leonardo Scarpato '24, Josh DeStefano '24
Scholarships: Saint Joseph's University [\$20,000]

2nd Place

VJM – Penn Medicine team: Erica Johnson '24,
Erin Flatley '24, Lana Leiter '24, Grace Monaghan '24

APRIL 20, 2024

1st Place

VJM – Jefferson Health team:
Erica Johnson '24, Lana Leiter '24, Ava Spera '25
*Scholarships: Saint Joseph's University [\$20,000],
Neumann University [\$20,000], La Salle University [\$10,000],
Holy Family University [\$10,000], Rider University [\$8,000]*

2nd Place

VJM – ABC Capital team: Meredith A. Czyz '25,
Julianna Warshaw '26, Andrea I. Abrams '27
Scholarships: Neumann University [\$15,000]



BUILDING COMMUNITY

THROUGH VILLA'S PARENTS' GUILD

The Parent's Guild is dedicated to one common goal, to create a relationship between the school and its families. Through fundraising, social events, and sponsoring activities, the Guild works tirelessly to support the girls. Every dollar raised supports clubs, activities, and enhancements around the school. Some recent donations include outdoor signage on campus, an athletic training room, and a contribution to the cost of a major bathroom renovation.

The Guild would like to welcome and congratulate Melissa Turco and Michelle Bailey on their new roles on the executive board. Melissa and Michelle will serve as the 1st and 2nd vice presidents for the 2024-25 school year.

You may recognize the Parent's Guild from one of Villa's most beloved traditions, the Mother-Daughter Tea. The Guild's signature event, featuring a fashion show put on by the sophomores, celebrates the seniors and their mothers. The second annual Father-Daughter Service Day, held by the Fathers' Club, creates an opportunity for the girls and their dads to give back to the school while spending quality time together.

The newest event run by the Parents' Guild was this summer's used uniform sale, which was a huge success. With plenty of donations and sales over the first two dates, the Guild has decided to continue accepting donations into the school year.

If you are interested in getting involved, the Parents' Guild holds meetings on the last Wednesday of every month. All parents are welcome to attend the monthly meetings.





2023-2024 National Honor Society

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE MULTIPLIED: VILLA WELCOMES ITS 10TH HONOR SOCIETY

This fall, Villa celebrated the addition of its tenth honor society. With double the amount of society chapters as its competitors, Villa ensures that the students have an opportunity to take part in organizations focused on academic excellence in a variety of subjects. Villa's current societies include:

- Art National Honor Society
- French National Honor Society
- Latin National Honor Society
- Math Honor Society
- Music National Honor Society
- National English Honor Society
- National Honor Society
- National Social Studies Honor Society
- Science National Honor Society
- Spanish National Honor Society

National Social Studies Honor Society

During the 2023-2024 school year, Villa welcomed a ninth honor society, RHO Kappa, the National Social Studies Honor Society. Led by history teacher Anne Crotty, RHO Kappa aims to encourage academic success in social studies inside and outside of the classroom. For Villa, this meant student mentorship, community activities, and welcoming speakers to talk with students. To join the society, students must have participated in the National History Day competition, have a B average overall, and have or plan to take five history courses at

the school. The highlights of the society's activities this year include upperclassmen mentoring underclassmen while completing their National History Day projects, placing wreaths on veterans' graves at the Washington Crossing National Cemetery, and a visit from representative Brian Fitzpatrick along with local judges. Through these activities, students have strengthened their knowledge of local government, politics, and community. The addition of RHO Kappa has been a great success for Villa and the girls.

Art National Honor Society

Villa welcomes its newest honor society, the National Art Honor Society, this fall. Founded in 1978, the National Art Honor Society aims to celebrate high school students and their work while connecting them with opportunities for awards and scholarships. This will be the second chapter at the school dedicated to the arts, along with the Tri-M Music Honor Society. The National Art Honor Society is already planning meetings and events for this school year, including a mother-daughter paint night this spring.

HONOR SOCIETIES

Villa Joseph Marie: 10
Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School: 4
Mount Saint Joseph Academy: 5
Nazareth Academy: 5

Honor society numbers based on information published on each school's website.



investment challenge **REAL WORLD LEARNING**

This April, five students from the Class of 2024 competed in the fifth-annual Haub School of Business High School Investment Challenge at St. Joseph's University. Lauren Braun, Reed Fritz, Erica Johnson, Emily Steuer, and Madeleine Todd worked under faculty advisor and teacher James Bender to learn and navigate the “whys” of the stock market. The competition challenged the girls to invest a one-million-dollar budget with a stock simulation system, which enabled them to practice financial strategies through live trading over three months. Together, the girls

created and kept track of their plans, investments, and strategies to present to a panel of esteemed judges at the university on the day of the competition. Villa's team was named a runner-up against other private schools from the area that competed.

The Challenge gives our students an experiential learning opportunity and real-world experience to be leaders in front of an authentic audience.

mock trial

NOURISHING THE FUTURE WHILE DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Mock trials provide an engaging way for students to learn about the legal system and related careers while developing persuasive argumentation, public speaking, teamwork, and self-confidence. They also learn to manage the tone, pacing, and structure of their speeches. The Pennsylvania Mock Trial Competition, which began in 1984, offers an abbreviated trial experience, including opening statements, testimony, evidence presentation, closing arguments, and jury deliberations. With 250 to 300 teams competing each year, it is one of the largest state competitions in the country.

Congratulations to Villa's 2023-2024 Mock Trial Team, who were well-prepared for the court simulations. The featured "whodunit" murder case for the 2024 competition was Commonwealth of Pennsylvania vs. Addison Booker. Under the guidance of VJM Social Studies teacher and Mock Trial Advisor Mr. Joseph Wilson, along with Mock Trial Attorney Coach Judge Brian Marriott, Esq., both the prosecution and defense teams thrived.

A mock trial team consists of three attorneys and three witnesses on both sides of the case. The jury scores each part of the trial based on categories like direct examination flow and cross-examination effectiveness. The invaluable support of PA Deputy Attorney General Catherine "Catie" Pirolli, Esq. '08 and Bucks County Assistant District Attorney Alexandria "Alex" Baland '08 has helped shape the JV and Varsity teams into confident advocates.

Students dressed formally for mock trials; attorneys wore dark or neutral business attire while witnesses dressed in character. Co-captains Erica M. Johnson '24 and Abigail Gillespie '24, who have participated for

all four years, kept "order in the court" with skill and enthusiasm. "It was an excellent year," Erica shared,

"The girls were really enthusiastic about the case and this season in general. I really enjoyed my years of Mock Trial that have taught me so much about writing, public speaking, and critical thinking. Moreover, it has brought me closer together with my Villa sisters."

On January 18, the prosecution team faced Tamanend Middle School at the Bucks County Justice Center in Doylestown, winning unanimously. Gloria Winkler '25 was awarded Best Witness, and Meredith A. Czyz '25 received Best Advocate.

On January 30, our varsity defense team secured a victory against Holy Ghost Prep. Though the jury ruled against us on February 7, Gianna Simpson '25 delivered an exceptional opening defense, and seniors Sheridan "Reed" Fritz and Abbigail Phillips were praised for their performances. Judge Brian T. McGuffin commended the team for their confidence and poise. Emily Steuer '24 and Nadia Kozij '25 were recognized for outstanding performances as Best Witness and Best Advocate respectively.

Rylind C. Pasquito '25, who has been participating in Mock Trial since her freshman year, shared, "I am comfortable with public speaking and interested in law and the courtroom, so this is a good opportunity to practice my public speaking."

Mr. Wilson added, "It's a unique club. The students do all the work; they're so hardworking and driven. I just give tips and support! The ball is in their court."



The strategic planning process will follow this timeline:

MAY 2024

Board of Trustees activates committee & names co-chairs

JUNE/JULY 2024

Co-chairs invite committee members

AUGUST 2024

Committee meetings & work begin

AUGUST–DECEMBER 2024

Stakeholder outreach & input
(parents, alumnae, faculty/staff, students)

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

Synthesis & drafting of the plan

MARCH 1, 2025

First draft completed

APRIL 1, 2025

Final draft review and production

MAY 2025

Board of Trustees approves and adopts the plan

Board of Trustees Launches Strategic Planning Process

This past May, the Villa Joseph Marie Board of Trustees unanimously voted to embark on an exciting, year-long strategic planning process. The goal is to plan a foundation for the future, ensuring that Villa continues to thrive in its mission of empowering young women through faith, education, and service. While the plan will focus heavily on the upcoming three years, it will serve as the foundation for charting the course toward our centennial — leading us to Villa’s 100th anniversary in 2032.

Why Strategic Planning?

Plans translate values into action. Strategic planning plays a crucial role in ensuring that Villa’s practices reflect its deeply held values as it continues to grow and succeed. It allows us to set clear, focused goals, guiding the school toward future opportunities with confidence and purpose. The process also strengthens Villa’s identity, making the organization more resilient and adaptable. In addition, a well-developed plan enhances our ability to fundraise effectively, ensuring that our resources are aligned with Villa’s long-term vision.

Leading the Way

Two dedicated board members stepped forward to co-chair the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. Dr. Karen Elinich ’84 and Matt Kaness P’23 are joined by a diverse group of stakeholders – faculty, staff, alumnae, and parents – all of whom are committed to shaping the future of our school.

Areas of Focus

Five working groups were formed to explore key areas of focus by considering these questions, which will be answered with our faith and mission at the forefront:

- How will our curriculum and college prep empower students of the future?
- How does Villa best serve our community – internally and externally?
- How will opportunities beyond the classroom – artistically, athletically, experientially – enhance student preparation?
- How will Villa’s financial model help us thrive for the next hundred years?
- Why Villa?

Together, this committee will explore key priorities that align with Villa’s vision and values, setting a course that ensures the continued growth and success of our school community for years to come. For updates on the process, please visit www.vjmhs.org/plan.



STRATEGIC PLAN
www.vjmhs.org/plan

ADMISSIONS, COUNSELING AND COMMUNITY

In June, new first-year students spent the day at Six Flags Great Adventure building community and new friendships.



Each summer, Villa hosts camp programs to educate, excite, and inspire students throughout the summer. Our programs span athletics, academic enrichment, arts, service, and test prep. Outside of athletics, Villa's two most popular camps are The Edge Camp and F.I.R.S.T. (Freshmen Involved in Reflective Service Together) Camp.

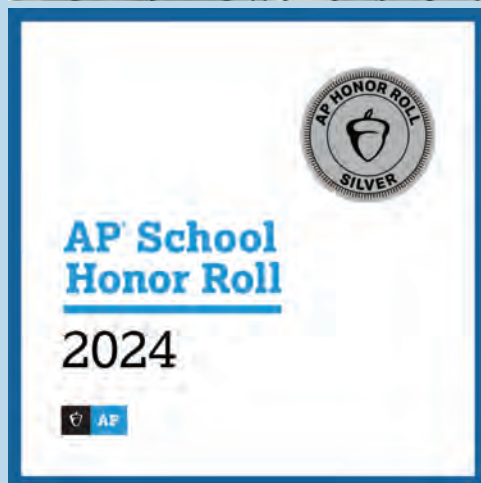


In July, twenty-five students took part in Edge Camp, the two-week preparatory program for students interested in applying to Catholic high schools. The course focused on HSPT preparation, English and Math, resume writing, and interview skills. Strategies and skills learned benefit students on entrance exams and all future standardized tests.

On September 30, 2024, members of the Villa community — including administrators, staff, and faculty — volunteered their time to hand-deliver surprise packages to 24 students accepted into Villa's Early Acceptance Program. Applicants who scored high on the 7th Grade Practice Test were invited to apply for this prestigious program.

In August, our Jems in the Class of 2028 came together before the start of the school year to take part in fun, reflective community service as a part of the F.I.R.S.T. Camp. This also provided these students with a fun way to meet their new Villa sisters and become more familiar with Villa.

This year's Early Acceptance number marks a significant increase from just 10 EA students in 2023. Volunteers covered three counties to personally deliver the good news, creating heartfelt moments for both recipients and Villa representatives.



Villa Joseph Marie has been named to the AP School Honor Roll, celebrating the success and growth of the school's AP program! This recognition reflects Villa's commitment to increasing college readiness, offering opportunities for students to earn college credit, and fostering a strong college-going culture. At Villa, 67% of seniors took at least one AP Exam during high school, 58% scored a three or higher, and 14% took five or more exams!



On Saturday, June 1, 2024, Villa celebrated the graduation of 97 members of the class of 2024. Recognized through a variety of awards, including full tuition scholarships, Catholic High School recognition awards, and scholarships for excellence in athletics, community service, music and art portfolios, this year's graduating class received over \$30 million in college scholarships and grants. We are so proud of the Class of 2024 for their accomplishments and extend our heartfelt thanks to the Counseling Department for their guidance and support in helping students reach this significant milestone. We look forward to their future successes!

Congratulations to the **CLASS OF 2024**

VILLA WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2024 FOR THE FOLLOWING AWARDS:

Valedictorian: Alyson Beck | Salutatorian: Emily Steuer
| National Merit Finalist: Alyson Beck | National
Commended Scholars: Sarah Barats, Grace Monaghan,
Emily Steuer | Archdiocesan Academic Honors
Convocation Honorees: Alyson Beck, Erica Johnson,
Emily Steuer | Venerable Servant of God Maria Kaupas
Award for Exemplifying the Mission of Villa Joseph
Marie High School: Julia Schuman | Sisters of St. Casimir
Award: Erica Johnson | Father Sirvaitis Award for
Outstanding Display of Catholic Values: Mary McAlpin |
St. Macrina Award: Adrianna Doyle | J.E.M. Community
Service Award: Danielle DiDomenico | Villa's Awards
For Excellence: (*Always More*) Grace Monaghan, (*Always
Better*) Sophia de Jesus, (*Always With Love*) Nora
Fleming, (*Always Villa*) Charlotte McGonigle | Principal's
Awards For Excellence: (*Award for Outstanding School
Leadership*) Sarah Barats, Elizabeth Grunwell, Abigail
Gillespie, Anna Hogge, (*Villa Joseph Marie Faculty
Award*) Abigail Gillespie, (*Diamond Key Student
Ambassador Award*) Charlotte McGonigle | Good
Citizenship Awards: Annalise Aballa, Lauren Braun,
Niamh Cole, Danielle Durante, Payton England, Nora
Fleming, Elizabeth Grunwell, Lana Leiter, Mary McAlpin,
Abigail McGrody, Gabriella McIntyre, Morgan Mosley,
Ava Pagliaro, Marygrace Ricci, Faith Sullivan, Julia
Schuman, Abbigail Turco, Madeleine Todd, Sarah
Warunek, Jade Wilkins | Diocesan Scholars 2023-2024:
Abigail McGrody, Abbigail Turco | The Presidential
Award for Educational Excellence: (*Gold Medal Awards*)
Sarah Barats, Natalie Boedewig, Alyson Beck, Erica
Johnson, Nicole Lenker, Grace Monaghan, Emily Steuer
| 2023-2024 Courier-Kiwanis Student Athlete Award:
Kendall Gayton | Class of 2024 Alumnae Class Agent:
Annalise Aballa

*Many students in the Class of 2024 also
won awards for individual subjects and
participation awards for activities and athletics.
Congratulations to all members of the graduating
class for their outstanding accomplishments.
Class of 2024: We love you and hope that
you come back to visit us often!*



Annalise Aballa | Kaitlyn Angelucci | Sarah Barats | Alyson Beck | Alexa Beerhalter | Madalen Bentivoglio | Natalie Boedewig | Lauren Braun | Erin Butler | Sophia Carradorini | Isabella Clark | Niamh Cole | Ava Conrad | Sophia de Jesus | Danielle DiDomenico | Adrianna Doyle | Keva Duggan | Danielle Durante | Elliana Endrigian | Payton England | Caroline Farrell | Angelina Ferrandino | Catherine Fiore | Erin Flatley | Nora Fleming | Caitlin Forman | Sheridan Fritz | Jacqueline Gaal | Kendall Gayton | Abigail Gillespie | Madeline Goldner | Ainsley Gondek | Elizabeth Grunwell | Ava Gumieny | Jordan Higgins | Julia Hobson | Anna Hogge | Grace Hopkins | Adriana Houtz | Erica Johnson | Nicole Klem | Hannah Klingenberg | Zoey Lanahan | Lana Leiter | Gina Lemma | Nicole Lenker | Alyssa Levito | Paige Lewandowski | Lauren Luca | Julia Mack | Nicolina Macolino | Erin Mallee | Kiera Martin | Hannah Maymadom | Mary McAlpin | Reilly McCann | Madeline McCarthy | Megan McCord | Charlotte McGonigle | Abigail McGrody | Gabriella McIntyre | Grace Monaghan | Caitlin Moore | Rebecca Morein | Morgan Mosley | Angelina O'Neill | Kyleigh Oswald-Scholl | Colette Owens | Ava Pagliaro | Nanea Perales | Margaret Perri | Madalyn Peters | Abigail Phillips | Cara Picariello | Gianella Puccini-Cooperstein | Lily Pyfer | Anna Raczy | Delaney Reynolds | Marygrace Ricci | Abigail Rosenfelt | Ella Ruppertsberger | Allison Ryan | Madeline Sarachman | Julia Schuman | Grace Scotto | Kaitlyn Sonnie | Mikayla Spearing | Darby Spencer | Emily Steuer | Faith Sullivan | Anicea Tassone | Madeleine Todd | Abigail Turco | Sarah Warunek | Regan Welsh | Emily White | Jade Wilkins

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES *Bold denotes colleges and universities attended by the Class of 2024

Albright College | Alvernia University | American University | **Arcadia University** | Baylor University | Belmont University | **Boston College** | Bryn Athyn College of the New Church | Bucknell University | **Bucks County Community College** | **Bucks County School of Beauty Culture Inc** | Central College | Central Michigan University | **Champlain College** | **Chestnut Hill College** | Clemson University | Coastal Carolina University | College of Charleston | College of the Holy Cross | Colorado State University-Fort Collins | Commonwealth University - Bloomsburg, Lock Haven and Mansfield | Connecticut College | Creighton University | Dallas Baptist University | Delaware Valley University | DeSales University | Drake University | **Drexel University** | **Duquesne University** | East Carolina University | **East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania** | Eastern Michigan University | **Elizabethtown College** | **Elon University** | **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Daytona Beach** | **Fairfield University** | **Florida Atlantic University** | Florida Southern College | **Florida State University** | Fordham University | **Franciscan University of Steubenville** | Franklin and Marshall College | **George Mason University** | Gettysburg College | High Point University | Hofstra University | **Holy Family University** | Houston Christian University | IE University - Madrid | Immaculata University | Indiana University of Pennsylvania-Main Campus | Indiana University-Bloomington | Ithaca College | **James Madison University** | King's College | Kutztown University of Pennsylvania | La Salle University | **Lafayette College** | Lebanon Valley College | Lehigh University | Liberty University | Limestone University | Loyola University Chicago | **Loyola University Maryland** | Loyola University New Orleans | Lynn University | Marist College | Marymount Manhattan College | Marymount University | McDaniel College | Merrimack College | Millersville University of Pennsylvania | Milwaukee School of Engineering | Misericordia University | **Monmouth University** | Montclair State University | Moravian University | Mount Aloysius College | Mount Saint Mary College | New Jersey Institute of Technology | New Mexico State University-Main Campus | North Carolina State University at Raleigh | **Northeastern University** | Ohio State University-Main Campus | Palm Beach Atlantic University | **Pennsylvania College of Technology** | **Pennsylvania State University** | Plymouth State University | Point Park University | Pratt Institute | Providence College | Purdue University | Quinnipiac University | Ramapo College of New Jersey | **Randolph-Macon College** | **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute** | **Rider University** | Roanoke College | Rollins College | **Rowan University** | Rutgers University-New Brunswick | Roanoke College | Rollins College | Rowan University | Rutgers University-New Brunswick | **Sacred Heart University** | Saint Francis University | **Saint Joseph's University** | Saint Michael's College | Salisbury University | **Salve Regina University** | **Seton Hall University** | Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania | Southern Methodist University | St. John's University-New York | **Stevens Institute of Technology** | **Stockton University** | Stony Brook University | Susquehanna University | Syracuse University | **Temple University** | Texas Christian University | The Catholic University of America | **The College of New Jersey** | The George Washington University | The University of Alabama | **The University of Tampa** | **The University of Tennessee-Knoxville** | Thomas Jefferson University | University at Albany, SUNY | University of Central Florida | University of Charleston | University of Colorado Boulder | University of Connecticut | University of Dayton | **University of Delaware** | **University of Florida** | University of Georgia | University of Hartford | University of Hawaii at Manoa | University of Louisville | University of Maryland | University of Massachusetts | University of Miami | University of New Hampshire | University of New Haven | **University of Pittsburgh** | University of Rhode Island | University of San Francisco | **University of Scranton** | University of South Carolina-Columbia | **University of Vermont** | Ursinus College | Vermont State University (All Campuses) | **Villanova University** | Virginia Tech | Washington & Jefferson College | **Washington College** | **West Chester University of Pennsylvania** | **West Virginia University** | Widener University | William & Mary | Worcester Polytechnic Institute | **York College of Pennsylvania**

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR AMAZING
ATHLETES! WE ARE SO
PROUD OF YOU.

AACA ALL-STAR:
BASKETBALL
Ava Gumienny
1st Team

AACA ALL-STAR:
BASKETBALL
Grace Pizzica
2nd Team

AACA ALL-STAR:
CROSS COUNTRY
Isabelle Glunz
Honorable Mention

AACA ALL-STAR:
CROSS COUNTRY
Madeline Heine
Honorable Mention



COLLEGE-BOUND ATHLETES

Kendall Gayton
SOCCER, Chestnut Hill College

Payton England
FIELD HOCKEY, Salve Regina University

Ava Conrad
DIVING, University of Vermont

Angelina Ferrandino
ROWING, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

Faith Sullivan
SOCCER, University of Scranton

Ava Gumienny
BASKETBALL, Arcadia University

EXCEPTIONAL INDIVIDUAL MILESTONE

Sarah Barats '24
VOLLEYBALL, 1,000 Assists



Athletic Achievements

This year, Villa's athletic teams showcased remarkable talent, dedication, and sportsmanship. From individual standout performances to team triumphs, our student-athletes demonstrated excellence both on and off the field. We are proud to celebrate their hard work, accomplishments, and the Villa spirit that drove another successful season across all sports.

BASKETBALL

Captains: Ava Gumienny '24, Grace Pizzica '25

With a 13-9 regular season record, the basketball team can look back on a great season filled with major growth. "We put in the hard work both on and off the court, and it's paid off in ways we couldn't have imagined," says Ava Gumienny '24. Winning the district championship this season was a big milestone for the team, especially after not making the playoffs last year. With many players returning this year, plus a few new freshmen, the group's dynamic and strong bond was undeniable. The team crushed their first state playoff game and advanced to the Sweet 16 round, which was a true testament to their dedication and teamwork. Together, they've shown what true teamwork looks like, not just with the games they've won, but how they've supported each other through every challenge.

**AACA ALL-STAR:
FIELD HOCKEY**
CiCi Turco
Honorable Mention

**AACA ALL-STAR:
LACROSSE**
Kira Chirichella
2nd Team

**AACA ALL-STAR:
LACROSSE**
Kendall Gayton
2nd Team

**AACA ALL-STAR:
LACROSSE**
Niamh Cole
Honorable Mention

**AACA ALL-STAR:
LACROSSE**
Grace Hopkins
Honorable Mention

**AACA ALL-STAR:
LACROSSE**
Kiera Martin
Honorable Mention

CROSS COUNTRY

**Captains: Lauren Braun '24, Erin Flatley '24,
Kate Sonnie '24**

The cross country team kicked off their season in August with lighter workouts, gradually increasing in intensity as the season progressed. They participated in several invitationals and league meets, capping off the season with an impressive performance at the District 1 Championship, where each team member achieved personal bests. Notably, the team secured a second-place finish at the Council Rock North Invitational. Witnessing their teammates excel each week fostered camaraderie and spurred the team to push harder. Under the guidance of coach John Gentile, the team embraced the mantra that “positivity starts in between your ears,” putting them into a mindset that propelled them to success.

FIELD HOCKEY

**Captains: Annalise Aballa '24, Payton England '24,
Nora Fleming '24, Ryland Pasquito '25**

This season, the Villa field hockey team welcomed its largest freshman group in years, many of whom quickly became integral members of the JV squad. Competing in the fiercely competitive AACA league, they secured a thrilling overtime victory against Dock Mennonite, showcasing their collective tenacity. The team's unity extended beyond the field, with cherished traditions such as a season-opening tailgate, a spirited blue/white game, pasta parties, and a festive Halloween practice. While they prioritized competition and motivation, they also emphasized team bonding and fun. The team bid farewell to eight graduating seniors: Annalise Aballa, Payton England, Nora Fleming, Danielle Durante, Anna Hogge, Lauren Luca, Danielle DiDomenico, and manager Erin Mallee. The team expresses heartfelt gratitude for the graduating seniors' dedication. These seniors have left an indelible mark on the team that has inspired returning players to uphold their legacy of inclusivity and fun for future players at Villa.

GOLF

Captain: Gianna Simpson '25

The golf season was eagerly anticipated following a hiatus last year, and it was a welcomed return to the course for the team. This year, they welcomed new golfers alongside senior Sarah Warnak, commemorating her final year with the team. Despite the short duration of the season, the team cherished the camaraderie forged during van rides to and from matches. Among the lasting memories was the opportunity to play at prestigious courses such as their home course at Northampton and the esteemed Philadelphia Cricket Club. Looking ahead, the team is enthusiastic about expanding and eagerly anticipates their return to the course next year.

LACROSSE

Captains: Kendall Gayton '24, Maddie Todd '24

The Villa lacrosse team had a season highlighted by a series of close games. The most exciting was a come-from-behind victory over Cheltenham on Senior Day, with Kiera Martin scoring the game-winning goal in double overtime. The eight seniors fueled the effort as they had done all season and created opportunities like sleepovers and team meals to foster a strong team bond outside of practice. Maddy Peters '24, while reminiscing on her final season with the team said, “We all supported each other, and you could tell how much we all loved each other.” Niamh Cole '24 recalls her favorite memory from the season as the time when the team “attempted a half field shot into the net at practice and Mr. McGrath bought the winners Dunkin each time.” The girls showed true growth over the season both in their playing skills and working as a team. They will miss their eight seniors, but they look forward to the continued growth of the young talent on the Varsity and JV teams.

CONGRATULATIONS
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ATHLETES! WE ARE SO
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USROWING SCHOLASTIC
HONOR ROLL
Angelina Ferrandino
Honorable Mention

AACA ALL-STAR:
SOCCER
Maddie Goldner
1st Team

AACA ALL-STAR:
SOCCER
Addison Holmes
1st Team

AACA ALL-STAR:
SOCCER
Adriana Houtz
1st Team

AACA ALL-STAR:
SOCCER
Taylor Houtz
1st Team

ROWING

**Captains: Angelina Ferrandino '24,
Madelyn Mehler '25**

The rowing team showcased their talents in the fall across a variety of rowing events, encompassing scrimmages, sprints, and head races. They competed in JV and Varsity events in Women's 4+, Women's 8+, and Freshman/Novice 4+ and 8+. Noteworthy performances were witnessed at the Core Creek Clash, Head of the Ohio, Head of the Fish, Mercer Classic, Philadelphia Frostbite Regatta, and Bill Braxton Memorial Regatta. Throughout the season, the team consistently demonstrated excellence, amassing an impressive total of 14 gold, 19 silver, and 33 bronze medals. This remarkable achievement stands as a testament to their hard work, resiliency, and persistence.

The team had an equally as impressive and fun spring season. At the Manny Flicks the Varsity 4 placed in the top 3 throughout the races, the Junior 8 raced in the Varsity 8 to challenge themselves against faster boats, and the freshman placed in the top half for their races! At the Steve Neczypor Regatta, the team raced Varsity 8, Junior 8, Junior 4, Novice 8, and Novice 4, with Junior 4 earning second place and Novice 8 earning third. At the City Championships, all boats progressed, with the Freshman 4 winning the city championship, Novice 4 finishing 4th, Varsity 4 finishing 8th, and Junior 8 finishing 5th. At the Stotesbury Regatta, Freshman 8 placed 7th out of 34, Junior 4 placed 29th out of 52, Varsity 4 placed 26th out of 49, and Junior 8 placed 8th out of 38. At the SRAA National Championships, the Junior 8 was petitioned and received a bid, becoming a top 20 boat. Captain and senior rower Angelina Ferrandino remembered the season with heartfelt words, "I spent more time with the girls in the boat than with my family or friends outside of rowing. Bonds are formed, lifetime friendships made, and a sisterhood that will carry you through your high school years and beyond." Row, Villa, Row! Go, Villa, Go!

SOCCER

**Captains: Kendall Gayton '24, Maddie Goldner '24,
Adriana Houtz '24, Faith Sullivan '24**

The soccer team had an outstanding run this season marked by commendable achievements culminating with their AACA league championship title. With a record of 12 wins, 2 losses, and 2 ties, they secured the top position in the league standings. Despite a tough loss in the district semi-finals, the unwavering commitment and dedication of each player to the program remained evident throughout. The Villa soccer team was characterized by unique traditions such as continuous cheers and wearing bows during games. Beyond the exhilaration of on-field competition, the team forged enduring friendships and provided unwavering support to one another. Embodying the team mantra of "playing with two hearts", one for oneself and one for the team, they demonstrated remarkable unity and resolve throughout the season.

SOFTBALL

**Captains: Kate Sonnie '24, Lindsey Rooney '25,
Gia Sigmund '26**

The 2024 Villa softball team was blessed to have five amazing seniors on the team: Cara Picariello, Kate Sonnie, Regan Welsh, Abbi Phillips, and Nicole Lenker. The senior class will undoubtedly accomplish great things and always have a home on the team. The captains were privileged to lead the girls and grow with them this year on and off of the field. As a team, one of the most memorable games was played against Gwynedd Mercy. It was a very close game, and every player fought for the well-deserved win. The team's record this season was 5-13, which is an improvement from the 2023 season. Ken Fetterolf took the role of Villa Softball's head coach and Russel Lyons took the position of assistant coach, which greatly contributed to the evolution of the team. These kind, devoted, encouraging, and selfless coaches wanted the very best for their players. Villa softball is based upon self-perseverance, determination, discipline, and the love that all share for the game. Going into the 2025 season, the team will work hard to ensure that they keep improving, grow closer, and instill the values of our school.

AACA ALL-STAR: SOCCER Kendall Gayton 2nd Team	AACA ALL-STAR: SOCCER Faith Sullivan 2nd Team	AACA ALL-STAR: SOFTBALL Abigail Phillips 2nd Team	AACA ALL-STAR: SOFTBALL Lindsey Rooney 2nd Team	AACA ALL-STAR: TENNIS Cassie Gibbs (singles)	AACA ALL-STAR: VOLLEYBALL Kara Whalen Honorable Mention
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SWIMMING & DIVING

Captains: Abbigail Turco ’24, Sienna Webb ’25,
Co-Captains: Kaitlyn Angelucci ’24, Maggie Perri ’24,
Spirit Captains: Mikayla Spearing ’24,
Madison Sperduto ’25

This year’s swim and dive season proved to be a success for the Villa Aqua Jems. Securing a long-awaited victory against Nazareth Academy HS, boasting multiple district qualifiers, and even producing one state qualifier, they exemplified the essence of victory as a collective, driven by genuine kindness and spirit. Several swimmers and divers achieved district qualifying times, with notable performances from Ava Conrad ’24, Julia Hobson ’24, Madeline Sarachman ’24, Sienna Webb ’25, and Addisyn White ’27 in various events. Additionally, Madeline Sarachman ’24 qualified for states in the 500-meter freestyle. Whether engaging in post-swim meet WaWa trips, showcasing belly flops during senior relays, or partaking in impromptu cross-country team workouts during dryland practices, the Villa swim and dive team undoubtedly left an indelible mark this year.

TENNIS

Captains: Erica Johnson ’24, Cassie Gibbs ’25

The tennis team enjoyed a strong season this year, marked by significant achievements and the addition of several talented freshmen to its ranks. From late August to early October, the girls honed their skills on the courts at Core Creek Park under the guidance of coaches Justin Goulet, Gabby Persechino ’18, and Brian Jones. Impressive performances unfolded in District Doubles, with Cassie Gibbs ’25 and Olivia Dungan ’27 emerging as finalists. Moreover, for the first time in six years, captains Erica Johnson ’24 and Cassie Gibbs ’25 led their team to the finals in the District’s Team Tournament, exemplifying their leadership and commitment. The team honored Erica Johnson ’24 and Reed Fritz ’24 on their senior night for their invaluable contributions to the team.

TRACK & FIELD

Captains: Izzi Glunz ’25, Tessa Pratt ’25,
Emma Vogt ’25

The 2024 Villa Track & Field team showed remarkable growth this season, with every athlete pushing their limits and setting new personal records. Emma Vogt led the team with monumental achievements, setting personal bests in the 100, 200, and 400 meter races. Her dedication and hard work paid off as she qualified for the district championships in both the 100 and 200 meters. The 4x100 meter relay team, consisting of Emma Vogt, Molly Marr, Jacqueline Capasso, and Rafaela Alviggi, also made waves by qualifying for the district championships, showcasing the strength and coordination of our relay team. In the distance events, Izzi Glunz and Sarah Warunek reached significant milestones. Izzi broke the 6-minute mark in the mile, while Sarah broke the 7-minute mark in the mile and 3-minute mark in the 800 meters. The 2024 season was a testament to the team’s perseverance, determination, and the strong bonds formed through shared challenges and triumphs. As they look ahead to the 2025 season, the team is committed to continuing their progress and representing Villa with pride and passion.

VOLLEYBALL

Captains: Sarah Barats ’24, Caroline Farrell ’24,
Julia Mack ’24

Throughout this season, the volleyball team gleaned invaluable skills, lessons, and memories from a fiercely competitive schedule. Each game served as a testament to the team’s endurance and determination with five separate games going to five sets and countless sets going to extra points. The team also celebrated many personal victories, notably Sarah Barats ’24 achieving a significant milestone of 1,000 assists in a memorable 3-1 victory against Central Bucks East. Anchored by strong traditions of pasta parties and babysitting, the bonds among the girls on the team deepened, evolving them into not only teammates but also a close-knit family. The returning players signal a promising future, poised to further strengthen the program.

What's New on Campus?

Continued renovation and expansion of our facilities to provide an enhanced educational environment is no small part of that commitment. During the 2023-2024 school year and into the summer, we completed several key projects, both large and small, that will greatly impact our campus and young women.

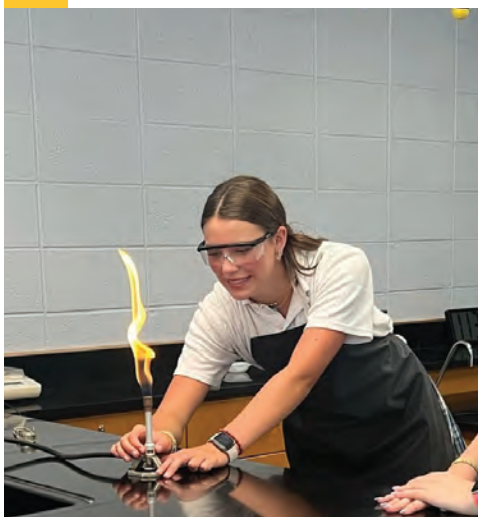
If you own a business and wish to partner with Villa on campus enhancements, please contact Matt Grunwell, Director of Advancement. Future projects include driveway and parking lot paving, pouring concrete for outdoor classrooms, and technology upgrades in our Performing Arts Center.

It is only through the generosity of our donors and partners that these opportunities have been, and will continue to be, made available to impact the lives of the young women of Villa.

CHEMISTRY LAB

Thanks to the generosity of Capital Campaign donors, our students will now benefit from a fully remodeled chemistry lab. Completed in conjunction with our partners at Twining Construction (McIntyre family) during the summer of 2024, we revitalized a space that is more than 50 years old. The redesigned lab will inspire future female scientists by providing a modern environment for exploration and learning.

01



MAIN HALLWAY BATHROOM

Spearheaded by the Leadership Class, our student body raised money this year to fund a refresh (or “glow up” as our Jems like to call it!) of the main hall bathroom. Fresh paint, new ceiling tiles, front and backlit LED mirrors, and stylish modern sinks brought the bathroom back from the 1950s. Special thanks to the Parents’ Guild for providing a matching gift to bring the project to fruition.

02



FACI



MARIA HALL

Historic Maria Hall, built in 1860 and the site of events ranging from Cocktails with the President, prom photos, and class reunions, to numerous bridal and baby shower rentals, has been refreshed as well.

The first two floors were fully repainted this summer after receiving a fresh coat of paint on the exterior last summer.

Book your event now at www.vjmhs.org/mariahall.

03



LIGHTING

Villa is shining even brighter thanks to our recent lighting upgrade. Partnering with Tri-County Electrical Supply Inc. (Bisler family), we've gone greener, replacing 3,000 light bulbs and saving an estimated \$20,000+ annually while reducing our carbon footprint. The team also navigated the PECO rebate process on our behalf, resulting in zero cost to Villa for materials and labor.

04



CAMPUS BANNERS

We are excited to share that our latest project has further enhanced the curb appeal of our campus. Thanks to the generosity of the Parents' Guild, Villa now proudly displays blue light post banners along the driveways and parking lots, alternating between our school logo and motto.

05



LITTLES



FROM THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

Share good news with us — awards, accomplishments, milestones, new jobs, and celebrations of marriage or children — by filling out the form on Villa's website at www.vjmhs.org/alumnae/update. We love hearing from our Alumnae sisters!

Dear Fellow Alumnae,

I'm thrilled to share the exciting developments from our 2023-2024 fiscal year! Our Alumnae Association has been bustling with activity, and we've made great strides in connecting our community. Here are some highlights:

1. **LinkedIn Engagement:** We've seen an increase in the following of Villa's LinkedIn page for more updates and content.
2. **Alumnae Directory:** We are launching a new resource this December to help you stay connected and network with fellow graduates. Head over to www.vjmhs.org/alumnae/directory to be included!
3. **Designer Bag Bingo with the Alum Happy Hour beforehand:** A fun-filled event that brought together fun, fashion and friendship.
4. **Giving Challenge:** Your generosity continues to make a difference for Villa, where we unlocked \$20,000 in matching funds, and celebrated a milestone of a 39% increase in alum donors from the previous year.
5. **QR Code Check-In:** We've introduced a new way to track attendance and interests at events.
6. **Virtual Alumnae Bingo:** A fun opportunity to win Amazon gift cards and connect with other alumnae in the comfort of their home
7. **Professional Networking:** Our Spring Happy Hour event fostered valuable connections across different graduating years.
8. **Trenton Thunder Game:** We cheered on our local team together!
9. **Virtual Alumnae Bingo:** A fun opportunity to win Amazon gift cards and connect with other alumnae in the comfort of their home
10. **"Why I Give" in the Alum newsletter:** This section was started to highlight alumnae perspective on what motivates them to give back to Villa. The alumnae's generous contributions greatly impact and are appreciated by our community.
11. **Annual Meeting:** The Alumnae Association shared an update with what was accomplished recently and what they had planned for the coming year.



Spring Case Study Competition Amy Pasqua '00, Christine Caltabiano '98, Stephanie Weaver '05, Lisa Fry '98



These events reflect our commitment to creating meaningful experiences for our alumnae. Check www.vjmhs.org/alumnae/events for more information on upcoming local, out-of-town, and virtual gatherings.



Virtual Bingo
Bingo Number Caller:
Andrea Abrams '27,
Alumnae Association intern

Individual Round Winners:
Mary Frances McNulty '22,
Rebecca DeSantis '18,
Gabby Hocker '19, and
Courtney Shaw '12

Final Round Winner:
Joanne Raczynski '70, who
received \$100 to the Auction

To ensure you're receiving our newsletters and email announcements, please update your contact information by utilizing the form on our website: www.vjmhs.org/alumnae/update. We value your feedback and input as we continue to grow our community.

As we look to the future, we're excited to build on this momentum and offer even more opportunities for engagement. Your involvement is what makes our community thrive. Join us in making the coming year even more remarkable! "Always more, Always better, Always with love."

Warm Regards,
Anna (Orgasan) Dailey '96
President, Villa Joseph Marie Alumnae Association



Class of 2024 Graduation

Four alumnae with daughters in the Class of 2024 led the blessing of the graduates and read the alumnae pledge during Commencement: Robin Cinkutis Beerhalter '89, Alice Sheerin Braun '90, Jennifer Sweeney Gillespie '90, and Jacquelyn Bruestle Racz '89.

Also in attendance were members of Villa's Board of Trustees, including Matthew Kaness (father of Isabella '23), Sr. Ellen Maroney, IHM, Dr. Karen J. Elinich Ed.D '84, Sr. M. Immacula Wendt, SSC, Marilyne H. O'Hara, PhD (mother of Nadia '20), Aileen Kevane Alexander '94, Mary Smithson (mother of Catherine '08), Paul Stabile, Ph.D. (father of Katherine '04, Ann '09), and Sr. Elizabeth Ann Yocius, SSC.

alumni class notes

Margaret M. O'Neil Schenk '60

Peggy visited Ireland with her daughter, Deb, then a week after her return, she traveled to Hawaii to visit her other daughter, Daisy, and her grandson, Zy. "The shirt went with me there as well. VJM is traveling the world!"



Hilda A. Keiffer Fedak '62

"I have fond memories of my school. Out 62 years this year!"

Dolores Reiber Haizlip, CRNA '52

"Hello to all classmates still in this world. I lost my husband Dr. Thomas Haizlip just after our 60th Anniversary in 2022."



Dyan L. D'Emidio '73

Dyan celebrated her father Joseph N. D'Emidio's 100th birthday at Maria Hall in September. Her classmates, Mare Campbell Gazarra '73 and Deborah Keyser DeSabatino '73 were in attendance.



Amanda Bachinsky Guld '04

In June, Amanda fulfilled a 20-year goal by stepping onto the stage at the Pennsylvania State Ultimate Physique Championship, participating in the bikini bodybuilding division.

Amanda credits her success to the unwavering support of her family, who were with her every step of the way. Reflecting on her journey, Amanda emphasizes patience, persistence, and a strong desire as key ingredients in achieving her dream. As an Institute for Integrative Nutrition Certified Health Coach, she is passionate about empowering women to live healthy, joy-filled lives without using food to fill the voids. Her experience serves as proof that any goal is worth pursuing. To follow Amanda's journey and continued commitment to balanced nutrition, follow her on Facebook or Instagram, @amandaguld_.

Grace Scarpello '12

This summer, Grace was named as Villa Joseph Marie's new Director of Mission and Ministry. After teaching Theology at both Villa and Nazareth Academy HS in recent years, Grace is excited to be back at her alma mater, where she will help guide students in their spiritual growth and foster a strong sense of community.



MaryElizabeth S. Stein, Ph.D '13

"I defended my PhD in Biomedical Sciences in the summer of 2023 and joined the National Comprehensive Cancer Network as an Associate Scientist/Medical Writer, where I help develop cancer treatment guidelines for healthcare professionals."



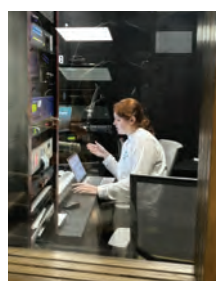
Arianna R. Barricelli '19

On September 1, Arianna sang the National Anthem at the Phillies Childhood Cancer Awareness Game. She represented the Kisses for Kyle organization, as she does every year, to bring awareness to this organization helping families in our region whose children are facing a cancer diagnosis.



Grace Quick '22

After completing a summer communications internship at Villa, where she wrote, edited, and analyzed content for the school, Grace started a new position as the Student Manager at WUSR 99.5 FM at the University of Scranton this semester. She is so grateful for



the opportunity to be a leader and a role model at the station. Rock on!

Anna Schmidt '22

After previously working with CBS's production engineering team this past summer, Anna joined Fox News Media as an intern with Fox News Radio during her fall semester. In this new role, she has immersed herself in newswriting and audio editing for Fox's Audio network, podcasting, and Talk studio departments!



HONORING A PASSION FOR EDUCATION

CELEBRATING MRS. CARR'S JOURNEY

AT VILLA JOSEPH MARIE

As we look back on the last two decades, it's hard to imagine Villa Joseph Marie without the presence of Lauren Carr. An alumna of the Class of 2000, Mrs. Carr's journey at Villa began as a student, but she was drawn back just a few years later to teach — and ultimately to lead as our principal.

Over her time here, Mrs. Carr witnessed and guided the school through remarkable growth and transformation. She joined Villa's faculty in 2004. From teaching the first EDGE camp to instructing Honors Calculus, her passion for education touched countless students, year after year.

Her leadership as principal was characterized by forward-thinking initiatives that enhanced the Villa experience. Among her many accomplishments were the introduction of the rotating schedule and a partnership with Holy Family University, giving students the opportunity to earn college credits while still at Villa. Under her guidance, Villa transformed — both physically and academically. From navigating the devastating fire in Maria Hall to overseeing its revitalization, from leading the school through a pandemic to modernizing curricula, Mrs. Carr's reach extended far beyond policies and programs.

Ms. Carr's dedication to the students and staff was unparalleled. Her door was always open, whether for a chat, guidance, or support during challenging times. From celebrating Spirit Days and Thanksgiving Feasts to cheering at soccer championships, her passion for Villa was evident in every corner of the school community. She was not only a principal but a mentor, a colleague, and a friend to many.

In the words of Abigail Gillespie '24, Student Council President, during Mrs. Carr's farewell: "Your commitment to fostering an environment of academic excellence, integrity, and inclusivity has shaped the very foundation of this institution. Under your guidance, we have not only excelled academically but have also grown as compassionate individuals, ready to make a positive impact on the world around us."

While we bid farewell to Mrs. Carr, her legacy will remain woven into the fabric of Villa. Her commitment to fostering a nurturing environment of growth and excellence will continue to inspire us all. As we look to the future with a fantastic new principal at the helm, we honor the spirit Mrs. Carr cultivated, ensuring that Villa remains a place of care, dedication, and achievement. Her leadership will ensure that the values she instilled continue to shape Villa's future for years to come. *Always more, always better, always with love.*

[1] In March, Lauren attended the High School Leadership Award ceremony at Widener University with Ryland Pasquito '25.

[2] Lauren's love for math, along with her collaboration with fellow math teachers — Ms. Merlino, Ms. DeVito, Ms. Stoops, Mr. Mayer, and many others over the years — has shaped a legacy of innovation and academic excellence at Villa.

[3] Lauren met with the Sisters in September while in Chicago to present at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Annual Meeting and Exposition. She presented on Women, Woodworking and the Wonders of Math!



Lauren Gaughan Carr '00





rooted in legacy **CHRISTA CHIRICO '11 REFLECTS ON VILLA'S MISSION**

Christa Chirico '11, Villa English teacher of ten years, recently visited Chicago with her mother to connect with the Sisters of St. Casimir. Christa had the opportunity to visit the Legacy Room and spend time with Sister Elizabeth Ann, Sister Immacula, and other Sisters at the Motherhouse and Franciscan Village in Lemont. Reflecting on her visit, Christa described the experience as a powerful reminder of the pioneering women who have shaped Villa's mission of empowering young women through faith, education, and service.

"I am continually inspired by how Mother Maria is such a prime example of trusting in God's plan and blooming where you are planted. In her life, she found herself in various scenarios where she was tasked with assessing what her community needed and working to fill that need. As Villa enters another new school year with plenty of new things on our horizon, I hope we can find comfort in knowing that thriving amidst change is a part of our history! Moving forward into this new school year, I am so hopeful that we can root ourselves in our history while also not being afraid to keep transforming Villa for the better. I wouldn't be my English teacher

self if I didn't also connect this to my favorite author, Virginia Woolf. In one of her novels, *The Waves*, she writes, 'I am rooted, but I flow.' I find such inspiration in these words, a reminder that we can be both firm and flexible. We are like the beautiful trees all over our campus. They have deep roots, but their branches are always reaching for the sun. That's our community—rooted in Mother Maria's example of love and devotion, but reaching for a future that she hadn't yet imagined for us."

During the trip, Christa was inspired by the stories of several Sisters, including Sister Margaret Zalot, a Villa alumna who studied Chemistry at DePaul, and Sister Bernadette Marie, a former Villa student and long-time educator. These women exemplify the qualities Villa seeks to instill in its students: intelligence, faith, and community spirit.

Villa looks forward to more from Christa as she continues to bring this rich history into her teaching and inspires the next generation of Villa students!



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IN MEMORIAM

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

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2023-2024

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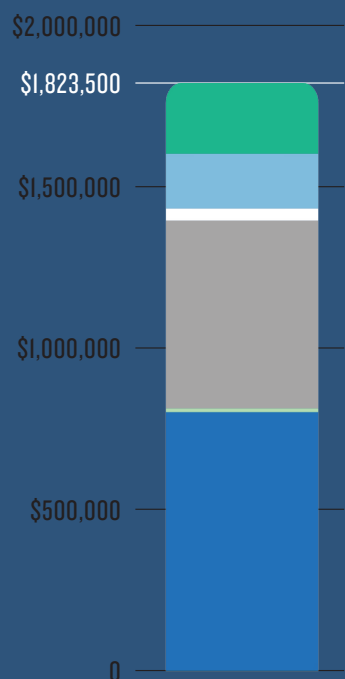
*Laura Shelley '78
Ameila Shelley '14*



had for Villa, and has been the mission of the Sisters of Saint Casimir for the past ninety-two years, be available or future generations of young women. This is why I support Villa Joseph Marie High School."

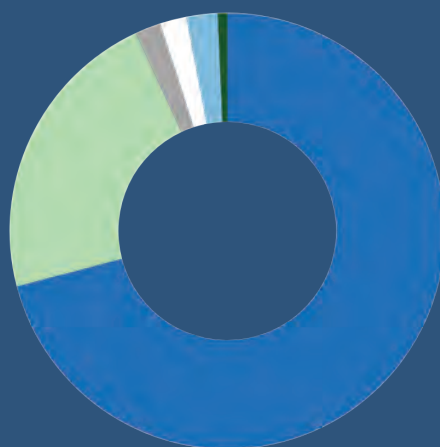
John Wade, spouse to the late Mary Katherine (Nagel) Wade '81, father to Nora '14 and Maggie '19

"It is critical for Villa to have the best facilities and faculty/staff to empower each young woman to be who God calls her to be. It is imperative that the vision Mother Maria Kaupas



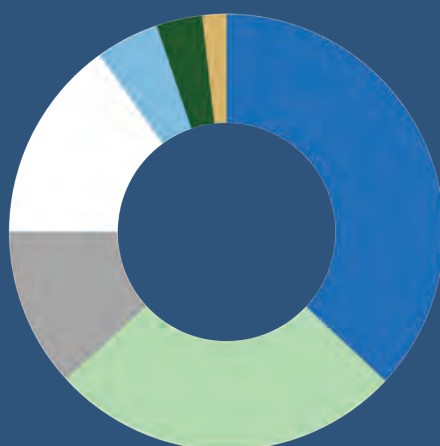
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- Government Aid - 0.7%



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- Administration & Staff - 26.3%
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215.357.8810, ext.217, ajohnson@vjmhs.org

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215.357.8810, ext.124, mgrunwell@vjmhs.org

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44 Donors in 2023



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Villa extends its heartfelt gratitude to Frank Buzydlowski from Aqua (back row right), Jeff Gibson from BLOCS (back row left), State Rep Kristin Marcell (second from right), and Senator Frank Farry (far left) for their immense support of Catholic education. This \$7,500 donation from Aqua through the BLOCS EITC program will truly fuel our mission in support of our students. A special acknowledgment goes to our Student Council Executive Board: Ryland Pasquito, Abigail Kuvik, Julianna Warshaw, and Catherine Holt, as well as to Jeanne Frawley '94, Alyse Johnson, and our beloved Sisters — Sr. Elizabeth Ann Yocius, SSC, Sr. M. Immacula Wendt, SSC, and Sr. Margaret Zalot, SSC '67 — for their participation in the celebration.



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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

As we begin the 2024-2025 school year at Villa, we want to take a moment to once again express our gratitude for the collective support shown by our alumnae during the end-of-year Giving Challenge back in June. Thanks to the generosity of so many in our alumnae community, we unlocked \$20,000 in matching funds, with 154 alumnae contributing during the challenge week.



Together, the Villa community achieved over \$200,000 in total contributions to the Always Villa Annual Fund — our highest level in at least five years. We also celebrated a milestone of 203 alumnae donors for the year, marking a 39% increase from the previous year and a figure that is 22% above our three-year average!

Your enthusiastic support ensures we can continue our mission of empowering young women, who carry forward the legacy you established here at Villa, through faith, education, and service.

Thank you once again for your generosity and please know that you are always welcome at Villa. We would love to see you on campus this year!

Matthew Grunwell
P '22, '24, & '26

Professional Networking Event - April 2024



Quizzo 2024



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"The reason I give to Villa's annual drive is because I believe in the value of a Catholic education. My daughter attended Villa and I have seen how well Villa prepared her for college and her career. Additionally, the friendships she developed at Villa will forever be life long, and that is absolutely wonderful!"

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father to *Kristen '12*

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Saturday, September 23, 2023

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Monday, April 29, 2024

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Lehigh Gas Wholesale, LLC
J. McLaughlin
Johnson & Johnson Foundation
Knights of Columbus
Merck Company Foundation Matching Gifts
Milk Street Marketing
The Vanguard Group, Inc.
Xumo/ Comcast

Golf Outing 2024



UPCOMING EVENTS

11/14-17	Fall Show www.vjmhs.org/musical	2/11	Spelling Bee www.vjmhs.org/bee	4/9	College Panel & Fair
11/26	Career Day & Thanksgiving Feast	TBD	Erg-A-Thon www.vjmhs.org/athletics/rowing	4/10	Bring-Your-Sister-to-Villa Day
11/30	Kate Abel Memorial Basketball Tournament www.vjmhs.org/abel	2/21	100 Days Until Graduation	4/11	Prom
12/3	Giving Tuesday www.vjmhs.org/alwaysvilla	2/22 & 3/8	6th & 7th Grade Practice Test www.vjmhs.org/test	4/23	Art Show & Spring Concert
12/4	Christmas Social www.vjmhs.org/christmas	2/27	Science Fair	4/24	Spring Open House www.vjmhs.org/visit
12/7	Case Study Competition www.vjmhs.org/casestudy	2/28	St. Casimir Day of Service	4/26	Case Study Competition www.vjmhs.org/casestudy
12/16-19	Midterms	3/1	Father-Daughter Dance www.vjmhs.org/fddance	4/28	<i>Fore the Girls!</i> Golf Outing www.vjmhs.org/golfouting
1/18	Winter Formal	3/3	St. Casimir Mass	5/22	Award Ceremony Day
1/26-2/1	Catholic Schools Week	3/6	Bids, Bubbles, & Bites: Auction Preview Party	5/27-30	Final Exams
2/1	Quizzo www.vjmhs.org/quizzo	3/11-15	Virtual Spring Auction www.vjmhs.org/auction	5/28	Baccalaureate
2/7	Chicks with Sticks	4/3-6	Spring Show www.vjmhs.org/musical	5/31	Graduation www.vjmhs.org/graduation

Note: Please check the school website for the most up-to-date school calendar and announcements.