

# THE EMERALD

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND DE PAUL AND BEYOND...



Pictures from the 2025 NHS Spirit Week!

## Almost There...

Three quarters down, one to go! With quarter three over, we're officially in the final stretch of the school year! However, before we start making summer plans, we still have one final quarter left in the 2024-2025 school year. Quarter 4 will be filled with all of the seniors lasts: last day, graduation, prom, etc. We'll see the Juniors move up to replace the Seniors' spots in Mass, the Senior fleeces will be passed down to the Class of 2026, and suddenly 5 grades in our school will turn to 4, with the Seniors' last day being May 16<sup>th</sup>. Spring sports will be in full swing and summer mode will begin as we enter the final stretch. While we've got a lot to look forward to still for the year, let's not get ahead of ourselves. Let's take a look back on what an action-packed quarter we just had!

In quarter 3, there were many exciting events, memorable milestones, and amazing achievements! We got to see students shine in academics, athletics, & the arts and our entire school community come together in meaningful ways. Keep reading to hear all about it!

## NHS SPIRIT WEEK 2025

From March 3<sup>rd</sup> to March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Spartans showed off their school spirit by participating in the annual National Honor Society Spirit Week! Here's an overview of the week:

**Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>: COLOR WARS!**  
Spartans kicked off Spirit Week in their grade level colors for color wars! Seniors wore red, Juniors wore black, Sophomores wore navy, and Freshmen wore purple.

**Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>: MARDI GRAS!**  
On Tuesday, the halls were a sea of green, purple, and gold as the Spartans celebrated Mardi Gras!

**Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>: Ash Wednesday**  
Wednesday put a pause on Spirit Week so that we could all be in our best attire for our Ash Wednesday Mass, which marked the start of Lent!

**Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>: COUNTRY VS. COUNTRY CLUB**  
Festivities quickly resumed following Ash Wednesday with Country vs. Country Club Day on Thursday! Spartans had to pick a side: would they spend a day living in the luxury of a country club or in the wild west?

**Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>: SPIRIT WEEK T-SHIRTS**  
Everyone closed out the week with their spirit week t-shirts on Friday. It was the perfect way to show school pride and end the week on a high note!

Spirit Days were not the only fun we had during Spirit Week!

The entire week, we had Penny Wars! The jugs were set up in the Main Lobby. Each grade had their assigned jug! Every penny added points, so students raced to add pennies to their Class's jug. All other coins deduct points, so nickels, dimes, and quarters were reserved for rivaling classes.

There was also a food drive throughout the week to help fight food insecurity. Spartans brought in all sorts of non-perishable food items to help people in surrounding areas. Some items donated include peanut butter, pasta, canned vegetables, canned fruit, and cereal.

Finally, on Friday, the Spartans wrapped up the fun-filled week with the Pickleball Tournament. Held in the gym from 2:30 to 4:30, Spartans battled it out in teams of two! After many nail-biting matches, Vincent Maione and Joseph Micchio ended up winning the tournament! Members of NHS worked the event as referees and runners. A huge thank you to Ms. Wiltshire and NHS for this wonderful event!

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PAUL'S CLUBS**



SPORTS

Goodbye Winter Sports...Hello Spring Sports

WINTER SPORTS WRAP-UP:

Wrestling:

De Paul Catholic’s wrestling team was on fire this season. Our Lady Spartans had 3 state qualifiers: Lily Massenzio, Olivia Georges, and Caroline Biegel. Of our incredibly talented and dedicated Lady Spartans, Olivia Georges and Caroline Biegel won the state championship, and Lily Massenzio placed 2nd. The boys weren’t too far behind this year with 4 state qualifiers: Cody Aniche-Farrell, Isais Hernandez, Joey Rizzuto, and Delvan Rotte. In the state championship, Joey Rizzuto placed 6th place. Congratulations Spartans!! We are so proud of you!



Winter Track:

Winter track had an outstanding season, filled with Spartan spirit and enthusiasm! Four of our runners advanced to counties, and three made it to states. Junior Jack Coppa finished 8th overall in the 400-meter event at States, while freshman Jax Miranda-Correia took 3rd place in the mile. Sophomore Giancarlo Glass finished 2nd overall and earned the title of "Top Sophomore Track Athlete" in New Jersey for field events. A huge congratulations to all the athletes who won and to everyone who gave their best effort this season! Let’s continue to support and cheer on our incredible Spartan athletes!

Competition Cheer:

The competition cheer team had an impressive season this winter, showcasing their hard work and dedication on the mat. With high-energy routines and strong performances, the team demonstrated their skill and teamwork at each competition.

Girls’ Basketball:

One team that stood out this year in winter sports is the girls’ basketball team. Head coach Jio Fontan led the girls to a 19-7 record and their first Passaic County championship win since 2019. This year many elite young athletes joined the squad, including lead scorer Giovanna Burress with 463 points. The youthful team was held up by the amazing seniors, who we wish the best of luck in their future careers. Our Lady Spartans were also voted the North Jersey team of the week during the season! This year marked a new beginning for the girls’ basketball program, and it is safe to say there are many good years to come.



Congratulations to both the Varsity and JV basketball teams on a great year. Go Spartans!

Boys’ Basketball:

The boys’ basketball team had an impressive season this year, finishing with a record of 14-14. They racked up huge wins against Clifton, Lakeland, and Mahwah. Some of their leading scorers were Josias Carbon, Shane Jacobs, and Cody Webster. Their season ultimately came to an end with a loss to Delbarton in the first round of states. Congrats on a wonderful season!

Swim:

The swim team wrapped up an incredible season, demonstrating hard work and determination in every meet. Once again, they had an amazing season as a co-op team with Mount St. Dominic! Their hard work and dedication allowed them to secure a third-place finish in Counties.



Spring Sports Begin...

Spring sports are officially starting up! As of March 10th, our athletes are hitting the fields and tracks for a new season. Whether it’s Girls and Boys Lacrosse, Baseball, Golf, Softball, Track, or Flag Football, it’s still early in the season, and we’re excited to see all the hard work pay off. Let’s bring that Spartan Spirit and support our teams as they get ready to make this season unforgettable! Please check the school website for the teams’ schedules. Go Spartans!

Club Corner:

Green Club –

As spring has begun to bring in warmer weather, members of the Green Club have been busy getting the greenhouse ready for the season! Throughout March, the club cleaned out the greenhouse and started planting various flowers and vegetables. We look forward to watching the array of plants grow, ranging from marigold and wildflowers to cucumbers and tomatoes!

Italian Club -

Buon San Valentino! At their February meeting, the Italian Club celebrated Valentine’s Day by creating treat bags for loved ones. Members also decorated cards with personalized messages to add to each bag. While crafting, they enjoyed snacks and great company, embracing the spirit of togetherness. It was a wonderful way to share kindness and celebrate the holiday with friends!



Crochet Club –

Crochet Club has been active this quarter, working on developing the basic skills of crocheting. Some members have even started crocheting larger projects, including scarves and small stuffed animals. Next quarter, the club plans to continue with stuffed animals, planning on making crochet octopuses.

Book Club –

This quarter, the Book Club focused on philosophy, reading Franz Kafka’s *The Metamorphosis*. At their meeting, Mr. Aquilino led a discussion focused on philosophy, specifically existentialism and the allegories present within the book.

SPORTS

Basketball: The Passaic County Tournament

TWO HUGE WINS...ONE ACTION PACKED DAY

Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> was a huge day for Spartan Nation, as both our Girls and Boys Basketball teams took home the win for the Passaic County Tournament. The Boys Basketball team started the winning day with a game at 12:00 PM. They played Paterson Eastside at Wayne Valley. It was a nail-biting match, but the Spartans ended up with the win, ending the game 49 to 48. Key players during this matchup include Junior Cody Webster who had 18 points during the game and Aiden Griffiths who had 11 rebounds.



Then, the Girls Basketball team took the court at 2:15, following the boys’ game. They played Paterson Kennedy, once again at Wayne Valley. While it was just as captivating as the boys’ game, the girls were able to build a steady lead, which they kept throughout the game. They ended the County Finals with a score of 63 to 50, with the Spartans on top. Breya Le Tennier, Gisela Tapia, and Maya Morrison all finished the game with over 10 points each, making huge contributions to the win!



A huge congratulations to both of our basketball teams on their amazing County wins!

EXTRACURRICULARS

More Clubs

Spanish Club –

The Spanish Club also had a celebration for Valentine’s Day, or “El Dia de San Valentin,” where they made Valentine’s Day cards to give to someone special in their lives, ate chocolates, and had a wonderful time enjoying each other’s company. How festive!



Forensics –

The Forensics Public Speaking team attended multiple competitions this quarter. In February, they attended a meet at Villa Walsh. At this meet, Riley Bennett, Cassie Jourdan, and Jaidyn Watson received the Certificate of Excellence for their performances. In March, the team participated in the NCFL Paterson Grand Tournament, at which Katelyn Guinto and Jaidyn Watson placed in the top three for Oral Interpretation of Literature. Jaidyn Watson will be going to the NCFL Nationals in Chicago this May.



Our Faith



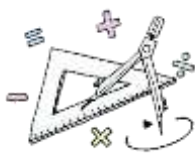
Quarter 3 was a very faith-filled quarter for the Spartans! We kicked off Quarter 3 with everyone’s favorite week: Catholic Schools Week! During Catholic Schools Week, we celebrated a very special Spanish Mass on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The entire Mass was said in Spanish and we were lucky to have Father Diego Monsalve, from Saint Peter the Apostle Church in Parsippany join us as the celebrant. To cap off the month of January, peer ministers had a Youth Night at St. Anthony’s in Hawthorne to come together in their faith! Throughout Quarter 3, theology classes were taken into the Chapel for adoration and to say the Rosary. Both of these were beautiful ways to pray as a community and acknowledge all the intentions close to our hearts!

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, some peer ministers traveled to St. Paul Inside the Walls for a youth encounter with the Bishop and other Catholic Schools. They had the opportunity to ask the Bishop faith-related questions and dive deeper into their faith! March 5<sup>th</sup> was Ash Wednesday! The Spartans celebrated Ash Wednesday with a Mass where ashes were distributed. It was a wonderful way to begin the Lenten season! Throughout Lent, there have been Stations of the Cross and reconciliation in the Chapel. These are two wonderful opportunities for the Spartans to grow closer in their faith during this special season!

Once again, the Spartans came together to serve the community through the Frozen Food for the Working Poor program. Spartans cooked pans of some of their favorite dishes to donate to those who may not have had a meal on their table otherwise. These meals were collected for distribution on March 19<sup>th</sup>. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, the Spartans traveled for a workshop and reflection called “Greater Love.” Here, Spartans will learn more about fundamental teachings in our faith. Looking forward to the next couple of weeks, the Spartans will have a Lenten prayer service on Holy Thursday which will depict the Last Supper. This will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

UPDATES ON THE DEPARTMENTS:  
*What We’re Learning Around De Paul...*

The Math Department:



The math department has been hard at work in classes, learning topics ranging from trigonometry in Geometry to integrals in Calculus. In attempts to bring real-world applications to what is being taught in the classroom, teachers are getting creative to allow classes to deviate from the everyday note taking. In Ms. Wiltshire’s AP Statistics class, they played the game “Pass the Pig” to apply all that they are learning regarding probability. Additionally, in Mr. Fusting’s AP Calculus class, students discussed how Calculus can be used in calculating March Madness brackets. The teachers here at De Paul truly are working to make math fun!

The English Department:

The books are staying open thanks to our wonderful English Department! In various senior English classes, students are focusing in on Shakespeare by studying works such as *Othello* and *King Lear*. Other classes are sharpening their skills with vocabulary work and practicing writing essays. Both AP English classes, AP English Language and AP English Literature, are preparing for the AP exams in May, which are rapidly approaching.



The Science Department:



This quarter, DePaul’s Science Department has been busy! Ms. Ferrito, head of the department, shared some highlights and exciting events from the quarter. Ms. Ferrito said that the best and biggest event was the addition of our new science teacher, Ms. Guerra. Another key event from this quarter was the preparation of the greenhouse, trying to get it back in order for planting and use this year. Mr. Mooney and the Green Club have been preparing the greenhouse for planting, a fruitful harvest, and a successful growing season in the Spring. Furthermore, teachers in science AP courses, like AP Biology, AP Chemistry, and AP Environmental Science, are preparing their students for the AP exams coming up in May. Ms. Ferrito and the rest of the Science Department are also connecting with Future Spartans, as they are working through the application process of current freshmen into the Medical Science Academy. Finally, Ms. Ferrito stated that she is looking into possibilities for things to do with her current Honors Health and Disease class for next semester. If you recall, last semester’s Honors Health and Disease class partook in the viewing of a kidney transplant online. If you are in this class, make sure to stay tuned! Overall, the Science Department is up and at it this quarter and there are lots of exciting things awaiting the students for the remainder of the school year.



The Social Studies Department:

Get your pencils writing and your keyboards typing! The social studies department is focusing on research papers, which the department assigns to all classes every other year. Each student must choose a topic based on the material covered in class to write an in-depth paper on. All levels of the social studies department, from CP to AP, are working on these papers and have been for a majority of Quarter 3.



The World Languages Department:

Whether you’re practicing “hola” or “ciao” you’re definitely staying busy this quarter in your Spanish or Italian class! On both sides of the World Languages Department, students are being immersed in another language and culture, learning vocabulary and grammar that will allow them to communicate with people from around the globe! One interesting project done in Spanish classes was about famous painters, where students researched and presented biographies of famous Latin painters and their artwork.

The Theology Department:

Our theology department has been busy helping our Spartans grow in faith. The Freshman have been busy studying the Old Testament and the Prophecy of Jesus Christ. Meanwhile, the Sophomores have been working on the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ with a focus on Jesus’ Ministry and entry into Jerusalem. Our Junior students have been immersed in Church History learning about Cathedrals, stained glass windows, and much more. As for our Seniors, they have been discussing social issues in the world, while working on evangelizing as they get ready to embark into their new chapter of life.



Study Tips:

As AP exams and finals approach, it’s crucial to have a solid study plan, just like a Spartan preparing for battle. Create a study schedule that breaks down your materials and prioritizes challenging subjects, focusing on consistency with shorter, focused study sessions. Practicing past exams helps you familiarize yourself with the format and identify weak spots. Forming a study group can deepen your understanding, much like Spartans training together to sharpen their skills. Take care of your body with exercise, balanced meals, and sleep to keep your mind sharp. Finally, stay positive and manage stress, approaching exams with the confidence of a Spartan warrior!!

Meet Ms. Guerra!

You may have seen a new face in Room 114—Ms. Guerra! Ms. Guerra was an environmental scientist before she made the decision to teach science at the high school level. Though this is her first year teaching high school, Ms. Guerra previously taught after school programs to seventh and eighth graders. Her goal as a teacher is to teach kids at least one thing that can stick with them for the rest of their lives. Having attended Catholic school all her life, Ms. Guerra feels right at home at DePaul and loves the sense of community that can be found here. We hope that she has a fantastic first year and that her passion for science and education inspires her students. Welcome to DePaul, Ms. Guerra!



EXTRACURRICULARS

What’s Happening with Our Clubs...

Interact Club -

Interact Club has had a busy quarter! In February, for World Peace and Understanding Day, Interact organized for friendship bracelets to be made in theology classes. These bracelets were then donated to a local nursing home to spread kindness and joy. For Read Across America Week, some members of Interact visited elementary schools in the area to share



a love of learning and reading with the younger generation. They were able to read and make bookmarks with students in pre-school through second grade. Finally, Interact also organized a collection of toiletries and hygiene products for upcoming Midnight Runs to celebrate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene month!



LEO Club –

In February, the LEO club partnered with the American Heart Association to celebrate Heart Health Awareness month! Working with NHS, they organized Candy Grams, which were sold throughout the first week of February and delivered throughout the following week. They also ran activities during the gym classes throughout the week to support heart health. Some of the gym class activities included jump roping, a rock paper scissors battle, and hula hooping. Winners of each gym class received a prize courtesy of the American Heart Association! Also, on March 21, members of the LEO Club visited the United Nations as part of Lions International Day. While there, members attended a reception where they were able to connect with LEOs from other clubs, discussing past volunteering projects and trading ideas for future plans. Our members were able to sit in on a United Nations



Conference and listened to discussions on different service projects and the worldwide impact of Lions International.

The Junior Class: Semi-Formal & Ring Ceremony

**Junior Semi-Formal:** On Thursday, February 13th, the Juniors all got dressed up for the annual Junior Semi-Formal! This event took place at Macaluso’s in Hawthorne. It was a night of fun, dancing, and celebrating with friends! The venue was filled with music, laughter, and excitement as students enjoyed an unforgettable evening. What a wonderful way for the class to come together to make memories and celebrate their junior year!



**Junior Ring Ceremony:** Another major milestone for the Juniors took place: The Junior Ring Ceremony! Spartans from the Class of 2026 gathered in the Chapel for a ceremony to commemorate the accomplishments and memories they have made thus far, while recognizing the innumerable amount left in the future. Such a longstanding and special tradition here at De Paul, and we are so happy that the Class of 2026 was able to partake in it as well!



Taking Our Learning Outside the Classroom: Recent Field Trips!

**AP Government:** Students in Mr. Sokolewicz’s AP Government class recently traveled to the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia for a firsthand look at important historical documents, interactive exhibits and presentations. The students had a great time and learned a lot about our nation’s history. What a wonderful way to apply all they are learning in class! They were able to see an exhibit that brought to life that historical day in 1787 when the Constitution was signed as well as a talk that walked viewers through the history of the laws in this country.



**Theological Foundations of Christianity:** The Spartans couldn’t stay away from Philadelphia! Fr. Brian’s new Theology class, Theological Foundations of Christianity, traveled to the Penn Museum in Philadelphia. During their visit, they explored ancient civilizations and archeological findings. They were able to take what they learned in class and see the real-world applications of it. It was a wonderful day of learning and exploration, giving the students an opportunity to deepen their understanding of both history and their faith!



The Mental Health Corner: All About Morgan’s Message Club

The Morgan’s Message club hosted dedication games for Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, and Wrestling. These teams had great matches for an even greater purpose! The club also had two meetings on Managing Stress and How to Support a Teammate/Friend. The club looks forward to hosting Spring Sports Dedication Games soon.

The Emerald is brought to you by the members of the Newspaper Club. This includes:

- Moderator: Ms. Zaccardi
- Editors-in-Chief: Ashley LoMonaco and Eryn Rubenacker
- Writers: Olivia Ciampa, Emily Nicol, Natalia Gonzalez, Michael Perebzak, Melissa Tafro, Matteo Brown, Katelyn Guinto, Isabelle Cairoli, Isabella Najsarek, Hayden Tully, Gianna Nelson, Gabriella Rattacasa, Destiny Munroe, Cassie Jourdan
- Photographers: Emily Nicol and Katelyn Guinto

The Emerald – A closer look at all the reasons why De Paul is the place to be!

Stay tuned for our next edition coming soon, with more articles about academics, arts, faith, sports, extracurriculars, and everything DPCHS!