

THE EMERALD



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



The Class of 2025 – Congratulations and Good Luck to all the Graduates!

Goodbye Class of 2025...

Dear Seniors,

On behalf of *The Emerald*, congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone! Finishing high school is no easy feat, and you have all shown incredible strength, resilience, and dedication to get here. Whether you're heading off to college, stepping into the workforce, or figuring out your next path, remember that this is just the start of an exciting new chapter.

Cherish the memories made, the friendships built, and the lessons learned along the way. Keep believing in yourself, stay curious, and don't be afraid to take risks. You'll never know where they could lead you.

Wishing you all the best in everything that comes next.

Good luck and God bless!

Where to Next? New Beginnings for Our Senior Spartans

Each and every member of the Class of 2025 has such a bright and beautiful future ahead of them. Here are the next stops for our Spartans:

- Montclair State University
- New Jersey Institute of Technology
- Kings College
- Fairleigh Dickinson University
- University of Delaware
- University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- Seton Hall University
- Ithaca College
- Gannon University
- The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
- Creighton University
- Bucknell University
- Stevens Institute of Technology
- Longwood University
- Ramapo College
- Pennsylvania State University
- University of Notre Dame
- Florida Atlantic University
- Millersville University of Pennsylvania
- University of Scranton
- The University of Tampa
- The University of Alabama
- Kean University
- Lebanon Valley College
- Saint Joseph's University
- Moravian University
- Rutgers University
- University of Connecticut
- St. John Fisher University
- Northwestern University
- Sacred Heart University
- Virginia Wesleyan University
- Endicott College
- Passaic County Community College
- Trade School
- University of Rhode Island
- University of Cincinnati
- William Paterson University
- Ohio State University
- Trinity College
- American University
- Felician University
- Fordham University
- Dartmouth College
- Rensselaer Polytechnic University
- Bates College
- Mississippi State University
- James Madison University
- Indiana University
- Centenary University
- Saint Anselm College
- University of Chicago
- Pace University
- Brookdale Community College
- Coastal Carolina University
- University of New England
- Misericordia University
- California College of the Arts
- University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- The College of New Jersey
- The Catholic University of America
- United States Navy
- Caldwell University
- Bergen Community College
- Marist University
- Clarkson University
- Stevenson University
- University of Arizona
- Salisbury College
- University of Mississippi

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Last Moments Together



The last day for the Senior Class of 2025 was May 16th. On this day, the Seniors celebrated their final day together with a breakfast to reflect on memories and share laughs one last time as a class. They picked up their caps and gowns, which will be put to use at their graduation on June 3rd. Graduation begins at 10:00 AM.

Before graduation, the true culmination of their high school journey, there are a couple of events for the Senior class which will celebrate their past four years. Some of these events include the Academic Awards Ceremony on May 20th and the annual Senior Prom on May 28th.

Wherever life takes all of these young men and women after they walk that stage on June 3rd, they should always remember: Once a Spartan... Always a Spartan!

Tricky Tray & Fashion Show



On Wednesday, April 9th, DePaul Catholic held its annual Tricky Tray and Senior Fashion Show at the elegant

Westmount Country Club. This year's theme, *Polynesian Paradise*, brought tropical flair and vibrant island vibes to the event. Seniors



modeled stylish looks while guests enjoyed a night of raffles, prizes, and community fun. It was a memorable evening celebrating DePaul tradition and spirit!



Pictures from the 2025 Tricky Tray and Fashion Show.



Senior Prom

The Class of 2025 celebrated their Senior Prom on May 28th at The Grand in Totowa, NJ. It was from 6 PM to 10 PM. Students enjoyed a night filled with dancing, laughter, and unforgettable memories. The elegant venue provided the perfect backdrop for a night of celebration with friends and classmates. It was a memorable evening that marked one of the final milestones of senior year.



Our Faith: A Season of Spiritual Growth

This spring has been an extraordinary season of faith, fellowship, and spiritual enrichment for the Campus Ministry and Theology Department. Students from all grades have come together to grow in their relationship with God and each other through a series of special events and celebrations.



Retreats: The sophomore class participated in a powerful and reflective retreat at *Our Lady of Consolation* in Wayne, NJ. The day offered time for prayer, a witness talk, personal reflection, and spiritual bonding. Likewise, our 8th-grade students enjoyed a meaningful retreat at the *Shrine of St. Joseph* in Stirling, NJ, where they explored their individual faith journeys and strengthened their spiritual foundations before entering high school.

Masses, Reconciliation, & Rosary: During Quarter 4, we had an Italian-language Mass in honor of *Our Lady of Fatima*. Thank you to Ms. Espinoza for her dedication in helping our students prepare for this celebration. Throughout the school year, *Reconciliation services* have been offered to students and faculty. Additionally, the *Rosary* has been prayed regularly, bringing our school community together in meditative prayer and intercession for the needs of our world.



Pro-Life Encounter: Another highlight of the season was a *Pro-Life Encounter* hosted by Bishop Kevin Sweeney. The campus ministry leaders enjoyed a special day with the Bishop and other peer leaders from our diocese.

Catholic Youth Rally: To top off the season with some joy and community spirit, a group of students attended the *NJ Catholic Youth Rally at Six Flags Great Adventure*. It was a fun-filled day of rides, games, music, and Mass with thousands of other faith-filled young people from around the dioceses. Even as the school year winds down, the Spartans still continue to live their faith boldly!



SPORTS

Passaic County is Green!

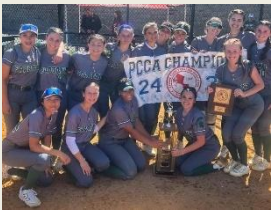
GIRLS LACROSSE AND SOFTBALL TAKE HOME THE COUNTY WIN

Saturday, May 10th was a huge day for the Spartans, as two of our spring sports teams, Girls Lacrosse and Softball, won the Passaic County Tournament.

Girls Lacrosse played at 12:00 PM at Wayne Valley. Ranked as the number one seed, the girls battled Wayne Valley and ultimately took home the win in a close game that ended 9 to 8. This was only the second time in program history that Girls Lacrosse took home a county win—the last time being 2011. What a way to make history!



Softball's game began at 1:00 PM and took place at Independence Park. They took on Passaic Valley, who had tallied a perfect season up until their county final match against the Spartans. Softball was able to stop the winning streak by beating them 11 to 7 and leaving the diamond as county champions. This marks back to back county wins for the Softball Team.



We are so proud of both of these wonderful teams and all their amazing accomplishments!

SPOTLIGHT

Spartan Spotlight: Desi

Our very own, Desi, has been quite busy recently! You could say he's a man of many talents! On Sunday, March 23rd, he played Tuba as part of the Brass Group Instrumentalist Performers at the West Point Military Academy Chapel Music Performance. He performed with the West



Point Academy Cadets Church Service Singers. He was back on stage as a musician on Wednesday, April 16th playing his French horn with the William Paterson University Orchestra. Congrats Desi!

SPRING SPORTS UPDATE

Boys Lacrosse

The Boys Lacrosse Team had an incredible season, finishing with an impressive 14-4 record. Along the way, they earned big wins over tough opponents like Lakeland, Morris Catholic, and Waldwick. Stat leaders Cody Webster and Sean Ballesteros were key contributors, helping to drive the team’s success. The Spartans also showed off their strong defense, holding teams like Passaic Valley and Newark East Side to just one goal. It was a season filled with hard work, teamwork, and standout performances.



Flag Football

The Flag Football Team had a strong season and finished with a 6-5 overall record. Making an exciting run to the SFC Tournament Quarterfinal Round, they capped off a memorable season on May 17th. The team picked up key wins against West Orange, Indian Hills, and Belleville. They had a league record of 2-3. Standout players Jaelynn Perez and Alexis Kochan led the way with impressive performances throughout the season. It was a year of growth, grit, and great moments on the field.



Girls Lacrosse

The Girls Lacrosse Team wrapped up a fantastic regular season with an 11-7 record. One of the highlights of their year was capturing the Passaic County Tournament title with a thrilling 9-8 victory over Wayne Valley. The team also secured impressive wins over Governor Livingston, Millburn, and Cedar Grove. Ava Bower led the charge on offense, breaking the Passaic County record for most goals scored in a season, while Leah Bolson led in assists and Talia Younes commanded the defense with the most forced turnovers. They also ended with a 4-2 league record. From making history to breaking records, it was a season to remember for the Spartans!

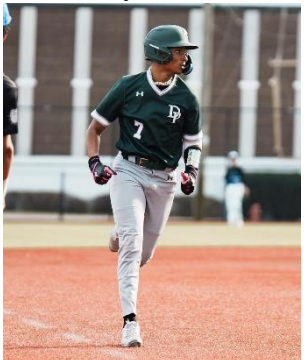


Softball

What a season it was for the Softball Team! They ended with a 17-5 overall record and a 3-3 league standing. One of the highlights of their year was winning the Passaic County Tournament. The team secured big wins against tough opponents like Wayne Hills, Passaic Valley, and Passaic Tech, while shutting out teams such as Lakeland, Holy Angels, and Passaic. Abby Kiem led the team in strikeouts from the mound, and Kaelyn Brown powered the offense by leading in RBIs. It was a powerhouse season for Spartan Softball!

Baseball

The Baseball Team had an impressive season, finishing with a 17-6 record. The team made an exciting run in the Passaic County Tournament, making it all the way to the Finals, where they fell short against Passaic Tech. During the season, they recorded shutouts against West Milford, Lyndhurst, and Clifton, and posted notable victories over strong programs like St. Joseph (Montvale), Immaculata, and Glen Rock. Jason Amalbert led the team in runs scored, while Angelo Bellizzi dominated on the mound, leading in strikeouts. It was a season marked by dedication, determination, and grit.



Track

The Track Team had a standout season, with many athletes qualifying for and excelling at the County Championships. Jax Miranda-Correia placed in both the 800 and 3200, while Evan Liranzo, Jack Coppa, and Gabby Rattacasa each placed in the 800 events for their divisions. Josh Addai also had a strong showing, placing in the 400. With States quickly approaching on May 31st, the team is ready to finish their season strong and continue making De Paul proud!

The 2025 National Honor Society Induction



The NHS Induction was a meaningful event where new members were officially welcomed into the National Honor Society. It was inspiring to see so many dedicated students recognized for their academic achievements, leadership, service, and character. The ceremony reminded us of the importance of these values and encouraged us to continue striving to make a positive impact in our school and community.



SPOTLIGHTS

Newspaper Senior Spotlights

Ashley LoMonaco: Ashley, our Founder and Editor-in-Chief, has been an active member of the DP community. She was also President of Interact, Vice President of Student Council, a Peer Minister, a Student Ambassador, a member of the Girls Lacrosse Team, and a member of the LEO club. Her favorite De Paul memory is winning the County Final this season with the Girls Lacrosse Team. In the future, Ashley will be attending Dartmouth College to major in English and potentially Government. Her advice for underclassmen is “Be the change you want to see in the world. Day one is always better than one day.”

Emily Nicol: These past four years, Emily was a dedicated member of the Varsity Cheerleading Team, *The Emerald*, and Peer Ministry. She was also a Student Ambassador and Morgan’s Message Ambassador. Outside of this, you could also find Emily on the sports field taking pictures of the different Spartan teams! Her favorite DP memory is winning the State Championship twice as a cheerleader for the football team. Her future plans include going to Centenary University to study Pre-Veterinary Medicine. She hopes to eventually become an equine veterinarian. When asked about her advice for underclassmen, Emily said she hopes that others will “Stay positive throughout any situation that life may throw at you.”

Natalia Gonzalez: Natalia surely kept busy during high school! She was part of *The Emerald*, music ministry, National Honor Society, and the History and World Language Honor societies. Her favorite DP memories were all of the moments she shared with her friends, whether it was hanging out between classes, in the halls, during lunch, or after school. Natalia said that, “those everyday hangouts were the highlights of my day, and I have made such amazing friends during my four years here.” In the future, Natalia will be majoring in psychology in college and eventually wants to get a master’s in counseling. She is still figuring out her exact path, but her main goal is to work with kids in schools. Her advice for future Spartans is “Even if you’re not friends with everyone, always be kind to those around you. You never know what someone’s going through, and being kind doesn’t cost anything but means everything to someone going through a rough time.”

Katelyn Guinto: Katelyn Guinto is a Spartan of many talents. She was part of the Forensics Public Speaking Team, the Medical Science Club, and the Swim Team at De Paul. Katelyn’s favorite memory from her time here at De Paul is going to Nationals for Forensics because it was such a new and exciting experience that she got to share with her teammates and Ms. Ferrito. Next year, Katelyn will be studying pharmacy at the University of Rhode Island, with hopes of becoming a pharmacist in the future. When asked about her advice for underclassmen and future Spartans, Katelyn said “Get involved as much as you can! Sometimes you need to be the person who takes the first step in order to create a great community.”

Olivia Ciampa: Olivia is always going, going, going—and you’ll be able to tell from all she is involved in! She’s Student Council President, the Morgan’s Message Lead Ambassador, a captain for the Girls Lacrosse Team, an Athletic Training Aid, a Relay for Life Team Captain, a Student Ambassador, a Peer Minister, and a member of *The Emerald*, Interact Club, and LEO Club. She’s also in NHS and other academic honor societies, such as Science, World Language, History, and Theology. Her favorite high school memory is winning counties with DPGLAX because it was a goal that they had all worked towards for during their high school careers. Olivia’s bright future includes attending Lebanon Valley College for their 3+3 Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program. She will also be playing DIII Women’s Lacrosse. Her advice to underclassmen is “Get involved! What you put into something is what you get out of it! Most importantly, have fun! One bad grade or bad game doesn’t determine your worth. It’s not about how many times you fall but how many times you get back up.”

Eryn Rubenacker: Eryn has also been a member of the Flag Football Team and a stat girl for the Girls Soccer Team. Additionally, she was a Student Ambassador, member of the National Honor Society, and member of the LEO Club. Eryn has truly enjoyed her time here at De Paul and will miss all of the memories she has made with her friends. In the future, Eryn plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. There, she will major in exercise science. Eryn looks forward to all of the exciting opportunities and new experiences that her next chapter will open for her. Best of luck, Eryn!

Matteo Brown: During his four years at De Paul, Matteo was involved in several clubs and activities. He is very grateful for his participation in clubs like the National Honor Society, Interact Club, and *The Emerald* because he believes that they shaped who he is today. His favorite high school memory is his first football game freshman year. Matteo plans to attend Pennsylvania State University next year, where he will major in political science. While he is sad to leave De Paul, he is excited for his next chapter. His advice to underclassmen is “Don’t be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. Get involved, try new things, and enjoy your time. High school goes by fast, so make memories and enjoy everything!”

The Spring Art Show



The Spring Art Show featured displays from all the Semester 2 art classes, showcasing a wide range of student work. There were also special senior displays from Eryn Rubenacker, Yudum Seker, and Jasmin Quispe, which highlighted their outstanding talent. The event was topped off with live performances from members of the music ministry on stage, which were complete with lighting and effects. Overall, it was a great celebration of creativity and hard work from our Spartans!

Young Lawyers Club: On the Road

Dr. Stickles and Mr. Goldfarb’s Young Lawyers Club took a trip to the federal courthouse in Newark to witness a plea bargain. They were allowed to experience firsthand how a court and trial operate. After the hearing, the members had an opportunity to meet with Judge Wettre, who tried the case. She was able to educate them on the judicial legal system. She explained her job, what she does, and the steps she took to achieve her position.



The Busy Day of May 2nd: DP Doggy Day & The Spring Pep Rally

On Friday, May 2nd the Interact Club hosted De Paul’s 3rd Annual Doggy Day. The Spartans gathered around The Oval to watch the dogs of students, teachers, and staff. Interact Club members announced each dog’s name, as well as some fun facts about them. Dog treats from Holy Bones were sold with proceeds being donated towards animal charity. Student Council also took this time as an opportunity to recognize our Spring sports. The seniors from each spring sports team were called up by the steps, and one of each team’s athletes spoke on the team’s behalf.

Study Tips:

As another school year at De Paul wraps up, so come along final exams. Finals are important, so make sure you finish off the school year strong! With just a few weeks left before finals arrive, it is best to begin looking over your second semester notes now. This way, when you are actually studying for your final, older topics will seem more familiar and not totally distant or new. It is also important to distinguish your strong areas from your weak areas, so that you will be able to know which topics should be more heavily studied and which ones don’t require much time to review. The most important advice: do not procrastinate and cram all of your studying into the night before the exam. Several months’ worth of information can’t be reviewed in just one or two days, so getting a head start now would be worthwhile. Another beneficial tip is to accept the help your teachers offer. Our teachers here at De Paul want to see us all succeed and work so hard to ensure this. So, take advantage of all opportunities, such as extra help after school and final reviews. Finally, it is important to take care of yourself in preparing for these exams: a healthy body equals a healthy mind. While it might not seem like it, getting enough sleep, remaining physically active, and eating well will all positively impact your final grade. Remember, do not stress, stay calm, and know that God is with us and in control. St. Vincent De Paul, pray for us!

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

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

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