



INVESTING IN TOMORROW'S LEADERS



Jalen | Class of 2014

At Gesu School, we know that education is more than academics.

From the moment our students arrive—at any grade—they begin learning what it means to be part of a community and to be good citizens. Each year, they are encouraged to take on leadership opportunities that foster civic engagement, service, self-respect, and care for others. Inside and outside the classroom, students create connections that give them a sense of belonging and help them develop essential life skills. By graduation, Gesu students are equipped as lifelong learners, ready to succeed in further education, careers, and community leadership—traits emphasized in our soft skills curriculum.

When Jalen Everette, '14, Operations Manager at Ballard Spahr LLP, first came to Gesu in Pre-K, he was shy. Over the years, thanks to the stability of scholarships and the structured learning environment modeled by leaders and teachers like Sister Ellen Convey, IHM, Jalen began to thrive and find his voice. He found confidence in his advanced writing classes, ballroom dancing, joining Gesu's very first baseball team as starting catcher, and even watching President Obama's inauguration with the entire school. These moments inspired him to run for student council—the first of many leadership roles he would carry into high school, college, and beyond.

Today, Jalen continues to pursue leadership and politics, and he gives back to Gesu, putting his faith in action as an active alumnus—serving on our Junior Board, representing Gesu out in the community, and sharing his story to inspire others.

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I definitely developed into a leader, and a large part of that is because of Gesu. I try to live by the concept of 'getting comfortable with being uncomfortable.' Whether in leadership or community involvement, that's where growth and meaningful change start.

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Stories like Jalen's reveal that while determination and grit are vital, long-term tuition assistance plays an equally critical role in students' ability to thrive. Financial hardship can disrupt academic continuity and limit opportunities—a key reason why Gesu prioritizes scholarship support for each of our students. Stable enrollment supports academic success, well-being, and stronger futures. Our commitment to ensuring student success extends to our Graduate Support Program, which assists with a range of supports for middle-school students and continues through high school, post-secondary education, and professional life.

A Gesu education begins to work from the minute a student walks into the building. Scholarships and other sources of tuition relief directly impact our mission and students' success. Through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, Gesu can provide families with the support they need to commit to Gesu's 10-year program.



Jalen '14 played on Gesu's very first baseball team!

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THE POWER OF TAX CREDITS

\$2M

Scholarships awarded during the 2024-2025 school year

385

Number of students supported



22

Number of participating businesses



99%

Percentage of students eligible to receive tuition assistance through EITC

\$43K

Average annual income of Gesu family of four

\$10.2K

Cost of tuition for the 2024-2025 school year

\$5,000

Average scholarship amount

33%

Percentage of students enrolled in Gesu’s after-school programs

25

Number of individuals who participated via a Special Purpose Entity (SPE)

EITC – GOOD FOR GESU, THE COMMUNITY, AND YOU

Through EITC, businesses and individuals can redirect tax dollars toward education—strengthening communities and changing lives. When you participate, you make it possible for students like Jalen to stay at Gesu, discover their voice, and grow into the leaders our world needs.

To learn more about how you or your business can benefit from the EITC program, please contact **Rob Weinstein** at **215.763.9077 ext. 221** or **rob.weinstein@gesuschool.org**. Together, we can ensure the next generation of confident leaders has the same opportunities as Jalen.