



# 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT



## OPENING DOORS TO HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND

The class of 2016—and second class to graduate to high school—takes a moment outside the iconic red doors of the school just after receiving their diplomas. [Full story on page 5 >](#)

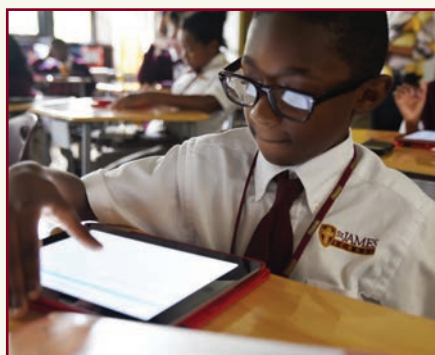
# OPENING DOORS

TO HIGH SCHOOL  
& BEYOND

2015-2016  
YEAR IN  
REVIEW



St. James Co-founder Dr. Audrey Evans and Head of School David Kasieвич celebrate with Class of 2016 graduate Joseph Cotten at the school's graduation ceremony.



Dear Friends,

Each summer, Andrew and I enjoy several weeks of vacation on Beaver Island, Michigan. While on the island, we attend Sunday Mass at St. James Episcopal Mission (yes, St. James!). We enjoy sharing about our work at St. James School with friends at the Mission, and bring news each year of our growth and many successes. On our last Sunday before returning to Philadelphia, I was chatting with a parishioner when he caught me by surprise with an important question: "Does what you and your teachers do at St. James really work?" My answer was immediately "Yes!"

There are so many things that make our school work: the way we canvass the neighborhood to find new students; our deep engagement with graduates; our ability to provide students three to four meals per day; the incredible commitment of our teachers who are often found visiting homes and playing basketball with students on the weekends. I hope you are as encouraged as I am by the remarkable results of our school, outlined in this report.

Still, we are not complacent. We are proud of our students' successes, and we know we can and will continue to do better.

As supporters *you* inspire us. You have remained clear that what we do matters, that it works, and that it changes lives. Thanks to you and your tremendous generosity, we have reached ambitious fundraising goals that ensure we remain tuition free and that every child receives a full scholarship. This Annual Report gives you a look inside the 2015-16 academic year made possible by *you*.

St. James School's influence extends well beyond North Philadelphia. We have inspired the launch of similar schools, and we regularly share best practices with our sister schools throughout the country. Our model is continually recognized as one worth paying attention to, investing in and praying for. You make this possible and we make it work. We are very grateful and hope you are proud of St. James School's growing impact.

Thank you and God bless,

David J. Kasieвич *Head of School*



# ST. JAMES SCHOOL IS ACCREDITED

This summer, St. James School celebrated an incredible milestone years in the making—it became one of the youngest schools to earn accreditation from the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS). Only a handful of non-tuition driven schools within the state are accredited with PAIS, and many wait to tackle the rigorous process until at least their 10th year of operations.

Accreditation underscores St. James School's commitment to excellence, and recognizes that the school's mission, program, methods, and staff are on par with Pennsylvania's most prestigious private schools. Accreditation also ensures that St. James School is consistently held to high standards, and opens up a new world of professional development opportunities and best practice resources only available to PAIS accredited schools.

"It's a huge achievement for a school like ours to be accredited by a body as well regarded as PAIS," said Head of School David Kasiech. "When we opened in 2011, some saw us as a risky experiment. Accreditation establishes that yes, our school works, and that it has the same level of academic quality as other PAIS accredited schools, from Friends Select School to St. Joe's Prep."

St. James School's accreditation did not happen overnight; in fact the conversation began back in 2014. Preparing to embark on the demanding review process, the school's dedicated staff and leadership proved to be ahead of the curve, and were certain that the school, though young, was ready.

By 2015, two staff members took on the role of accreditation co-chairs and recruited a team of staff, board members and volunteers to tackle part one of the process, a comprehensive self evaluation, testing whether the school lives out 25 standards of effective independent schools. It was an all-hands-on-deck effort, as 10 working groups formed to research and respond to a series of in depth questions in focal areas ranging from Mission and Philosophy to Physical Plant. The entire school community engaged in thoughtful reflection about important topics, like how the school lives out its Episcopal identity, partners with the community, and communicates its mission to parents and stakeholders.

The end result was a 123 page document, describing St. James School's mission, approach, results, and future plans in detail. After submitting the final document in the fall, the school eagerly prepared for the second part of the process—a three and a half day evaluation visit by a committee of peer professionals from PAIS member schools in the spring. The visit was filled with interviews and observations, and committee members shared both commendations and recommendations for the future. Finally, in June, the visiting team reported back with exciting news—the school was now a fully accredited member of PAIS.





## ART COMES ALIVE AT THE PHILADELPHIA FOUNDATION

The arts are alive at St. James School! The robust art and music program is an essential part of the school's total care approach to education.

This year, students displayed their work on a larger scale at a special exhibit, titled "Our Gallery. Our Stories" at the Philadelphia Foundation's Community Art Gallery in center city. Bold and colorful self portraits paired with mixed media collages of student thumbprints and stylized depictions of students' homes creatively revealed the students' personal narratives.

"St. James School and The Philadelphia Foundation have come together to present not just student artwork but also the powerful imagination that young people can display through art," said Head of School David Kasievich.

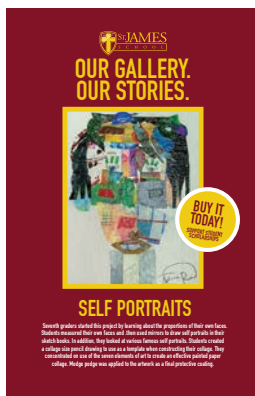


CREATIVE

The exhibit, which hung at The Philadelphia Foundation for two months this spring, opened with two special showcase events. The first opening, exclusively for parents and family members, was followed by a second opening for an external audience of St. James School supporters.

At each opening, guests had the opportunity to tour the gallery with a student artist guide and purchase art—nearly 50% of which sold during the event. All art purchase proceeds raised funds for scholarships.

"We're delighted to highlight the many talents of these young people in our art gallery," said The Philadelphia Foundation CEO and President Pedro Ramos, adding, "this is a truly special showcase."



Student ambassador Samira Oliver with Philadelphia Foundation President Pedro Ramos, Donor Services Officer Maggi Kirk, Art Teacher Deena Ball and Head of School David Kasievich.



## FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS STRENGTHEN

Associate Principal Mitchell Thompson and a core group of St. James parents formed the Guardians of St. James group, consisting of parents, guardians, and family members.

With the goal of increasing family involvement at school, the Guardians planned fun evening events to bring families together on campus after school. Game and movie nights, usually centered around a theme, were a huge success. A rotating team of family members hosted each event and served food to the gathered community.

Membership in the Guardians of St. James continues to expand and the committee has high hopes for the growth of the initiative. Along with fun after school, consulting with this engaged, committed group of Guardians gives St. James School a valuable perspective about new projects and policies.

Mr. Thompson sees the program as vital to strengthening the St. James School community.

"Parents are such an asset to our school and bring so many gifts to support our mission. We want them to know that this is their campus too."

With Guardians acting as St. James ambassadors in the community, St. James School can better live out its mission as a neighborhood school.



A group of parents, grandparents and family members proudly don their new Guardians of St. James sweatshirts.

# EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

## SECOND CLASS GRADUATES



At St. James School, the high school placement process begins as soon as students enter the building as fifth graders. Unfortunately, most neighborhood high schools in Philadelphia lack the resources to propel students to a bright future. St. James students, therefore, apply to public special admissions schools, public charter schools, Archdiocesan schools and private independent schools.



Valedictorian Justin Best poses with his diploma with Principal Laura Dimery.

The high school application process is very similar to applying to college—full of forms, research, essays, teacher recommendations, standardized tests, financial aid applications, scholarship applications, and interviews. St. James School works with each family through the entire process. By creating a team approach—student, family and High School Placement—St. James School strives for the best-fit high school for each of its students.

For the Class of 2016, this extensive high school application and selection process culminated on Friday, July 15th, when they officially became St. James School alumni during a joyous graduation ceremony.

To celebrate this momentous occasion, families and guests gathered under a tent on the lawn on the 90-plus degree day. Dr. Michael Gomez, Principal of Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School, delivered a rousing Commencement address to the class of 2016 that touched on gun violence, race relations, and the overall current state of affairs in the nation. His presence was particularly fitting as six of the twelve Class of 2016 graduates are attending Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School. One of St. James School's closest partner schools, Cristo Rey provides graduates with rigorous college preparatory curriculum, unique work-study opportunities, and unmatched support.



**MORAL**

Dr. Michael Gomez's speech captured how Cristo Rey and St. James share a similar hands-on, whatever-it-takes mindset. He pressed students to dream big and to work hard through high school and college, noting that they weren't wearing graduation caps, only gowns:

"I'm glad you're not wearing them," said Dr. Gomez. "The first caps you should wear should be about eight years from now. Picture it—a glorious day with about 5,000 people behind you, when you get that college diploma. That's when a cap really matters."

Valedictorian Justin Best, who is heading to The City School in the fall spoke on behalf of the class, expressing gratitude to his family and the St. James staff for their support and encouragement.

At graduation, all of the hard work each student put in to get to this point was worth it. Each student proudly stood, excited to face the future and assured in the knowledge that St. James School will be with them every step of the way.



**"The first caps you should wear should be about eight years from now—that's when a cap really matters."**

— Dr. Michael Gomez

Principal of Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School

### CLASS OF 2016 BEST-FIT HIGH SCHOOL CHOICE

Justin Best	The City School
Joseph Cotten	Cristo Rey Philadelphia
Tynae Drain	Cristo Rey Philadelphia
Keenan Hellams	West Catholic Preparatory
Alexis Johnson	W.B. Saul H.S. of Agricultural Sciences
Samira Oliver	Cristo Rey Philadelphia
Tyahmiya Sanders	Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls
Aashiyah Selby	Mercy Career & Technical
Marquis Thompson	Cristo Rey Philadelphia
Monae Thompson	Cristo Rey Philadelphia
James Troutt	Roman Catholic
Shaniyah Williams	Cristo Rey Philadelphia

# AT HOME AND ABROAD: SYDNEE REDDY LEADS THE WAY



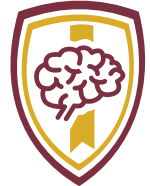
Sydnee Reddy, far right, can sometimes be spotted on The Perk's Instagram feed

Sydnee said. When she returned home on breaks, Sydnee always made time to visit the Huskies Hangout, and she has remained connected with her mentor. She keeps in touch with her St. James School classmates through social media, including St. James School's Graduate Support Instagram feed.

Before Sydnee began her 9th grade year as a boarding student at The Perkiomen School, she had many questions: What would it be like to be away from home? What would her homework load be like? Would she have any time to relax? Would she be able to connect and make new friends? Now that she has completed her first year at Perk, it's safe to say that Sydnee has thrived.

Though high school has presented many new challenges, Sydnee's time at St. James School prepared her well for what was ahead. "My teachers and mentors at St. James School taught me how to be organized; to keep trying and never give up, and to ask for help when I need it,"

When asked about the highlights of her 9th grade year, one experience stands out above the rest—a life-changing trip to Germany and Poland as an exchange student. Since 2011, The Perkiomen School, which has a focus on cultivating a diverse student body and preparing students for success in a global society, has maintained a student exchange partnership with St. Andrew's Gymnasium in Hildesheim, Germany. Each year, students from Gymnasium Andreanum spend two weeks in the U.S. with host families, attending classes at the Perkiomen School, and visiting local historic sites. Every year, up to 20 freshmen and sophomores from Perk have the opportunity to travel to Germany, stay with German host families, attend St. Andrew's Gymnasium, and tour historic sites in Germany and Poland.



**INTELLECTUAL**

Sydnee pursued this exchange opportunity, and joined a select group of her Perkiomen classmates for the 2016 exchange program. Her travels overseas and experience as a boarding student have cultivated a passion for international studies in Sydnee. She maintains close friendships with several German students, and is studying German as a second language. Her closest friends at Perk hail from locales near and far—Rwanda, New Jersey, Florida, New York, Germany, and Korea.

In the summer of 2016, Sydnee returned to St. James School to help with the school's summer STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) Academy, and volunteered in the advancement office. Sydnee is looking forward to her sophomore year at Perk, and plans regular visits to St. James School to connect with current students. Her advice for recent graduates: "Keep your head in the game, but don't get too stressed out!"

## EACH ONE TEACH ONE CAREER DAY INSPIRES STUDENTS

On Wednesday, February 24, St. James School welcomed 13 professionals for the second annual Black History Month Career Day. Career Day at St. James School is one of many Black History Month activities designed to increase understanding of the sacrifice people of color endure to achieve equal rights and tolerance in American society.

During Career Day, students had the opportunity to connect with black leaders from many different industries, including medicine, business, the arts, law, engineering and more. Students were inspired as professionals discussed their personal career paths. Guests fielded student questions ranging from what activities they participated in during middle school to their personal role models and how to set and reach goals.



Author Lorene Cary delivered a spirited presentation that had many students asking questions and getting involved.

**INTERESTED IN  
BECOMING A MENTOR  
OR ATTENDING  
CAREER DAY?**

Visit [www.StJamesPhila.org](http://www.StJamesPhila.org)  
or (215) 226.1276  
for more details



Businessman Blane Stoddart, Co-Founder of Better Living Center in Chester, PA, spoke passionately about the great need for education and jobs in Chester. He talked about his founding of the Center, his life as a business and marketing professional and inspired students to think beyond the dream basketball job to establish a life that will provide enjoyment, give back, and help others as well as their family.

*"Education is the most powerful weapon  
which you can use to change the world."*

— Nelson Mandela

A gift to the St. James School Legacy Society ensures neighborhood students will receive a life-changing education for many generations to come. Named for visionary co-founder Dr. Audrey Evans, the society is a small and growing group of supporters who have included St. James School in their long term plans. Planned gifts can provide valuable tax savings and unique ways of advancing your personal financial goals. Legacy gifts will help build the new endowment fund, sustain comprehensive programming for students, and provide full scholarships.



### 3 Ways to Join the Legacy Society

- 1) Remember us in your will
- 2) Arrange a gift to provide fixed payments for life
- 3) Leave a percentage of retirement plan assets

**INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?**  
Already have us in your estate plans? Let us know!

**Angie McCole** *Director of Advancement*  
amccole@stjamesphila.org (215) 226-1276 x112

### SOCIETY MEMBERS

*As of September 2016*

Mara Blake-Ward | Robert W. Brano | Bill and Cantor Eagleson  
Dr. Audrey E. Evans | David Kasiech and Andrew Kellner  
The Rev. Marie Z. Swayze | George and Ronna Tyndall

# ON BOARD

**TWO OF ST. JAMES SCHOOL'S MOST COMMITTED SUPPORTERS  
SAY YES TO JOINING OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

## BILL MIGNUCCI, JR.

**PRESIDENT, DI BRUNO BROS.**

Mr. Mignucci grew up in the family business, which was established in 1939 by his grandfather, Danny Di Bruno, and his granduncle Joe Di Bruno. Mignucci began working at Di Bruno Bros. at a very early age. Upon graduating from Drexel University in 1990, he and two of his cousins purchased the flagship store in Philadelphia's historic Italian Market. He is committed to expanding Di Bruno Bros. without diluting its legacy and core values. His core value of "Servant Leadership" strengthens and preserves the fabric of the Company by valuing, developing, empowering, equipping and—most importantly—genuinely caring for the people that Di Bruno Bros. works with every day. Mignucci is a proud member of The 9th Street Market Merchants Association, the Rittenhouse Row Merchants Association, Bella Vista Civic Association, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Directors of Center City Proprietors Association, and the Board of Directors of CCPA Small Business.



## MICHAEL C. LAING

**MARKET LEADER/ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, BB&T**

Mr. Laing is a native of Jamaica and resident of Drexel Hill with over 18 years of experience in banking and financial services. Currently a Branch Manager and Vice President for BB&T's East Falls Branch, Laing oversees the day to day operations of the branch, generates sales, develops business and makes meaningful connections with local community organizations. In addition, Laing assists with overseeing seven other BB&T branches in the Philadelphia area. Laing earned an Associate's Degree from the Community College of Philadelphia and a Bachelor's Degree from Temple University. He is involved with the East Falls Business Association (EFBA), the East Falls Development Corporation (EFDC), the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministries (GACM), and the Advocate Center for Culture and Education (ACCE). He is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Notaries and the Temple University Alumni Association.



Laing is also a husband and proud father of two daughters. His philosophy in life is to "Strive for excellence and never settle for mediocrity."



Members of the 8th grade class help break in the new recreation area on the first day of school.

## NEW RECREATION AREA PROVIDES A SAFE PLACE FOR PLAY

In the Allegheny West neighborhood, playgrounds are scarce, frequently touched by violence, and have little adult supervision. St. James School is proud it can now offer an alternative.



### PHYSICAL

This summer, St. James School unveiled an eagerly anticipated new addition to its campus: a multi-purpose recreation area. This fully paved open space is used daily for recess and after school activities. Featuring a full basketball court, this new play area can also be used for volleyball, tennis, jump rope, hopscotch, and other games.

“We are excited to have an area that will serve our students and community as a secure and open space for physical exercise, play, team building, and gathering in a neighborhood where fear often keeps young people indoors,” said Head of School David Kasievich.

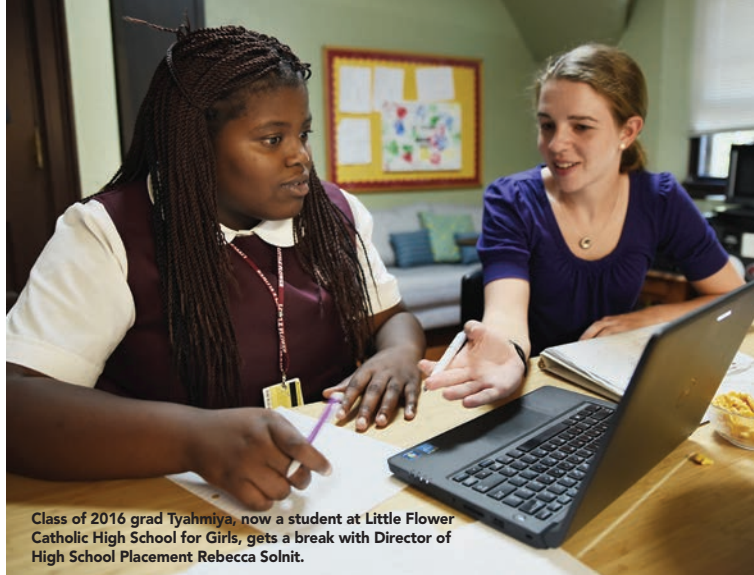
Recreation area construction was made possible through a lead gift from Community Clothes Charity and the generosity of St. James School volunteer Bob Smith.

Staff is excited about the myriad of ways this space will improve student health and physical activity, increasing the frequency and quality of outdoor play. The recreation area will also become a valuable neighborhood resource with posted supervised hours for community use.

Class of 2016 graduate Justin, who was a proud member of the St. James Huskies basketball team, is pumped that his team will now have a place to practice. “I am excited to come back to St. James and use the new court,” said Justin. “I can’t wait to work on my skills and improve my layup right in our own backyard!”



ST. JAMES SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



Class of 2016 grad Tyahmiya, now a student at Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls, gets a break with Director of High School Placement Rebecca Solnit.

## IF YOU BUILD IT...

Over the summer of 2015, while students enjoyed a well deserved summer vacation, a major transformation was taking place at St. James School in preparation for the 2015-2016 school year. In a bright, sunny, second floor space above the library, the office desks of the school’s advancement team were exchanged for a couch, chairs, work table, printer, colorful décor, and inspirational posters. While the growing advancement team settled into a new office space elsewhere on campus, the newly-christened Huskies Hangout graduate lounge opened for the first time—ready to support the school’s first class of graduates.

Support for graduates is a cornerstone of St. James School’s educational model, and the Hangout provides a safe place on campus for alumni to return to do homework, reconnect with peers, and seek guidance and support. A fast wifi connection, computers and printers, healthy snacks, and ready availability of tutors and mentors ensures that grads have the tools and resources at hand for continued success in high school.

St. James School grads made regular use of the lounge throughout the school year, logging over 1,000 hours collectively, with some students staying as late as 9:00pm. Eight official graduate mentors clocked over 592 hours with graduates and 15 volunteers provided over 220 hours of tutoring and transportation assistance.

As the school year began, Director of High School Placement Rebecca Solnit joined the staff, providing much-needed support for the expanding program.

Our first graduates have experienced many successes in 9th grade. Ainyae Holmes, the class valedictorian, is an honor student at William Penn Charter School, and stars on the school’s track team. After her first year at Mercy Vocational High School, Diamond Gibbs was accepted into the Nursing CTE Program for 10th Grade, and Sydnee Reddy thrived as a boarding student at the Perkiomen School and had the opportunity to travel to Germany and Poland for an exchange program through her school.

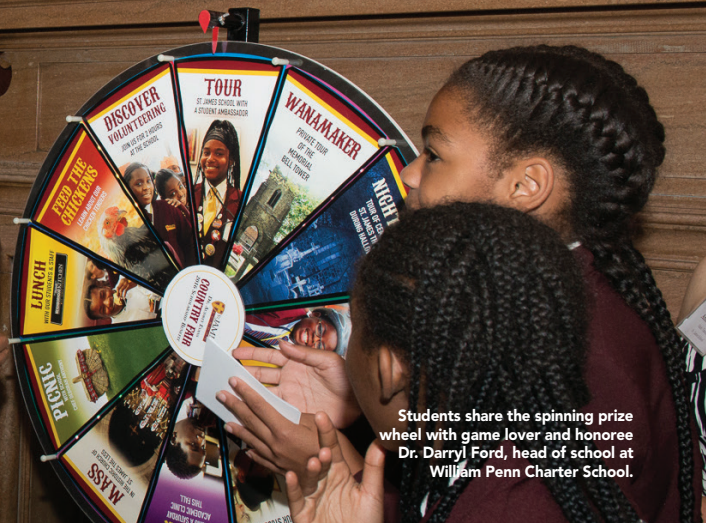
Graduates from our first class regularly return to St. James School to volunteer and inspire current students—staying connected as an integral part of the St. James School community.



Team effort: between HS Placement Director Rebecca Solnit and Graduate Support Director Kevin Todd, they are working daily to ensure current students are finding best-fit high schools and graduates are keeping up with school work and extracurriculars.

# SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS

**FUN BENEFIT HONORS  
DR. FORD AND ST. DAVID'S**



Students share the spinning prize wheel with game lover and honoree Dr. Darryl Ford, head of school at William Penn Charter School.

**“We need a win in the Episcopal church, and St. James is that.  
It is Christ’s work here in Allegheny West. Thank God for St. James School!”**

— Dr. Darryl J. Ford

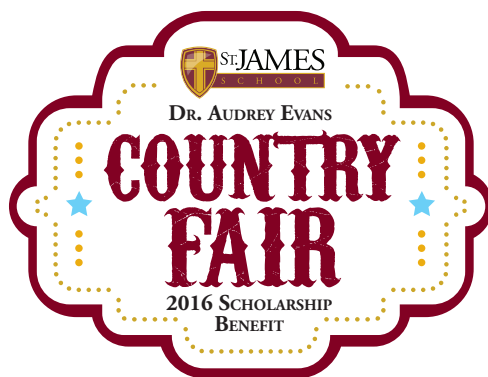
On Monday, June 6, 2016 St. James School hosted the second annual Dr. Audrey Evans Scholarship Benefit, honoring Dr. Darryl Ford and the people of St. David’s Episcopal Church, led by The Reverends Frank Allen and Matt Holcombe. A sold out crowd of over 260 guests gathered at the Union League of Philadelphia to celebrate the honorees, including St. James School staff and Board members, St. David’s Church parishioners, and members of the William Penn Charter School community.

St. James was pleased to recognize the honorees for their strong commitment to its future growth. As a founding Advisory Board member, Dr. Ford, Head of School at William Penn Charter School, is a tireless champion of St. James School’s mission and continues to play an invaluable role in the school’s success.



The Rev. Matt Holcombe, honoree and longtime St. James supporter, poses with some of The Men of St. David’s Church

In homage to the St. David’s beloved annual country fair, St. James School brought the country fair to the city and transformed the Union League with a prize wheel, flea market, St. James School Huskies mascot photo ops, roaming banjo player, caricaturist, hot dogs, cotton candy, and more!



Likewise, the people of St. David’s are among the school’s most faithful supporters; their generosity, volunteer engagement, prayers, and guidance enriches every aspect of St. James.

Led by 8th grade student emcees Justin and Tynae, St. James ended the night with a heartfelt presentation to the honorees. In addition to a special framed award, Head of School David Kasievich announced the naming of the Head of School Office in Dr. Ford’s honor, as well as an athletic field that countless St. David’s volunteers landscaped as the St. David’s Field.

**“I thank God for the opportunity we’ve all had together to touch the lives of so many kids and families.”**

— The Reverend Frank Allen

“Continue to be connected—if you haven’t stepped on the campus of St. James, I would encourage you to go!” The Reverend Matt Holcombe told the group.

The festive evening was a resounding success, raising thousands of scholarship dollars for St. James School students. St. David’s parishioner and auctioneer Fred Wampler led guests in a rousing live auction. In a twist on tradition, rather than bidding on items, Wampler challenged guests to make a pledge in support of a student scholarship. Thanks to the generous crowd, the auction raised \$45,000 (a scholarship and a half) in record time.



The Rev. Frank Allen, rector of St. David’s Church (Radnor) and evening honoree, shares a lighthearted moment with Dr. Audrey Evans and Head of School David Kasievich

Students hang on tight while tubing the Chesapeake Bay at NorthBay Adventure Center.



## SUMMER PROGRAM GOES SOUTH

Summer at St. James School is always an exciting mix of academic and recreational activities, but this year, students were in for a new adventure! For the first time, the majority of the school packed their bags to travel to a week-long sleep away camp. St. James School partnered with NorthBay Adventure Center, an outdoor and environmental education center located in North East, Maryland, to offer students a week-long residential outdoor education experience as part of the school's summer programming.



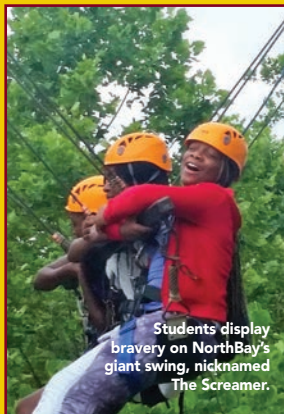
Students get comfortable on stage with NorthBay Live.

Over the course of their stay at NorthBay, St. James School students engaged in environmental education lessons, outdoor activities (rock climbing, kayaking, water tubing, hiking) and teambuilding challenges, including a giant swing, and zip line into the water! Students bonded with their peers as they explored the natural environment of the Chesapeake Bay,

and worked together to solve group challenges.

NorthBay's ecologically diverse setting provided a rich, real world learning context where science, math, social studies, and language arts came alive in a multitude of new ways. Teambuilding activities, including high and low ropes courses, inspired each student to challenge him or herself personally, while at the same time encouraging groups to work together. The NorthBay experience provided students with an incredible opportunity to grow both academically and socially.

"Since our founding, Summer at St. James has been a hallmark of our programming and it's always evolving," said Head of School David Kasievich. "Adding an overnight camp experience expands our ability to provide our students with high quality enrichment programs eleven months of the year."



Students display bravery on NorthBay's giant swing, nicknamed The Screamer.



Student baptisms in the Church of St. James the Less

## MIND, BODY, SPIRIT

Religious study and spiritual formation are central to St. James School's Episcopal identity and mission to nurture the whole child. In November 2015, St. James School students were invited to read at the 232nd Annual Convention of the

Diocese of Pennsylvania. Eighth graders Tyahmiya, Samira, and Tynae read the Prayers of the People during the opening Eucharist before a crowd of over 500 delegates. Ten additional students accompanied the readers as Student Ambassadors, representing St. James School with confidence and composure.



### SPIRITUAL

In May 2016, three students were baptized during mass at the Church of St. James the Less. Students interested in baptism were guided, along with their families, through a four week preparation process by St. James School's Chaplain. At the service, they made their baptismal promises and were blessed by holy water and chrism.

In the spring of 2016, Holy Week engaged the entire school, beginning with Palm Sunday, and a reading of the passion gospel, and included a Maundy Thursday foot washing ceremony. On Friday, students and staff gathered again at the Church of St. James the Less, taking time to commemorate the crucifixion of Christ. The school celebrated the joy of life renewed during Easter Mass the following Thursday.



Advent in the Church of St. James the Less

# WANAMAKER SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY

## SPOTLIGHT: THE REV. MARIE SWAYZE

*Founding School Chaplain & Wanamaker Society Member*



The Rev. Marie Swayze has served many roles at St. James School. Touring the campus back before the school opened, Mother Marie suggested she could assist with one or two maintenance needs. In no time, she and her late husband Richard were heading up the Property and Grounds Committee. They were the resident gutter cleaners, leaf rakers, and trash collectors—these two were not afraid to get their hands dirty! Richard volunteered his time, practically full-time, as sexton, and the couple devoted hundreds of hours getting the overgrown, debris-filled property ready to open as a school.

Later, Marie served as St. James School's founding chaplain, and then on the Board of Directors. No matter her role, Marie has been unwavering

in her support of St. James students, always focused on what they need to be successful. Marie now lives in Massachusetts, where she can be found doting on her 8-month old granddaughter Audra, but remains in close touch with St. James School.

As a member of the Wanamaker Society, Marie is committed to the school's most important financial need—scholarships. When asked why she decided to support scholarships, Marie says:

**“Scholarships keep the promise we have made to our community: our gate swings out and open each and every day, all year long. A scholarship gives life for our students and the whole community.”**

**ABOUT WANAMAKER SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY** Scholarships are the cornerstone of St. James School's mission as a tuition-free school; every single student receives a full scholarship of \$30,000 a year. The Wanamaker Scholarship Society is a group of committed individuals creating real change for our students. Members contribute from \$2,500 to over \$30,000 annually and are united by their passion for educational equity.

## SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

**\$2,500 = 1 MONTH OF EDUCATION**

**\$5,000 = 2 MONTHS • \$15,000 = HALF A YEAR**

**\$30,000 = FULL YEAR**

Ready to join? Angie McCole, Director of Advancement  
(215) 226-1276 x112 amccole@stjamesphila.org

## ABOUT JOHN WANAMAKER

Born 1838, John Wanamaker was a prominent Philadelphia businessman, philanthropist, and devout Christian. He is credited with opening the first modern department store where he offered no hassle returns and generous

employee treatment. With shops opening around the turn of the 20th century in Philadelphia, New York, London and Paris, Wanamaker had the opportunity to build a business model that looked out for its customers and employees. He popularized the fixed-price system into what became the industry standard, and created the money-back guarantee. Employees received free medical care, education, recreational facilities, pensions



and profit-sharing before this became a standard practice, and his stores made noted early efforts to advance the welfare of African Americans and



Native Americans. Though the Wanamaker stores are no longer around, the former Philadelphia location by City Hall (a Macy's department store today) houses the beloved Wanamaker organ that can still be heard every day.

## WANAMAKER TODAY

Wanamaker's stores are no longer in operation, but his legacy carries on.

Wanamaker is buried with his family in the memorial tower located on our property. The chimes have remained a symbol of hope and promise in the St. James neighborhood, and we invite you to join in the legacy of this great Philadelphian through our student scholarship program.



Wanamaker  
Memorial  
Bell Tower

*John Wanamaker*

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016

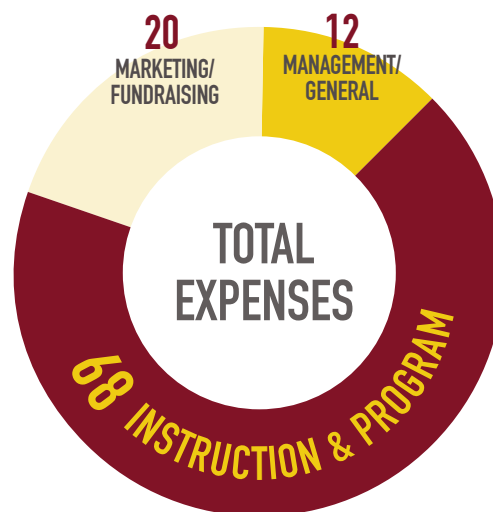
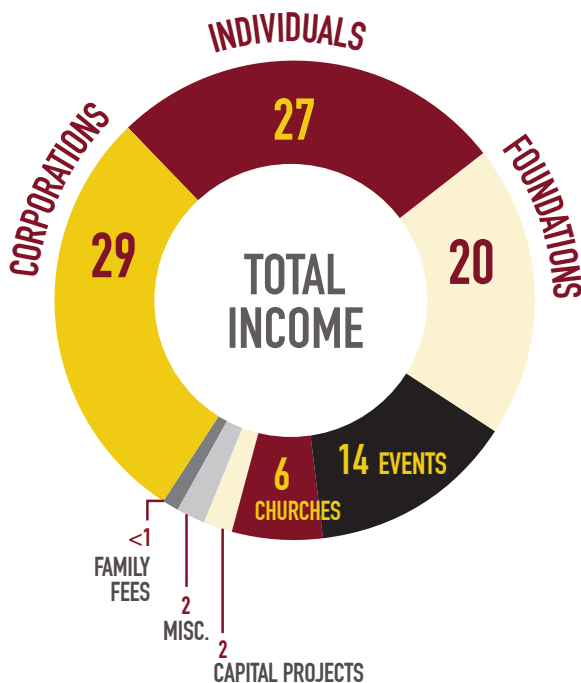
Unaudited statement of revenue and expenses

## INCOME

Corporations	\$591,352	29%
Individuals	\$545,565	27%
Foundations	\$405,522	20%
Events	\$288,275	14%
Churches	\$120,274	6%
Capital Projects	\$46,399	2%
Miscellaneous	\$34,997	2%
Family Fees	\$9,129	<1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,041,513</b>	

## EXPENSES

Instructional and Program Expenses Teacher salaries, academic programs, classroom technology	\$1,345,004	68%
Marketing and Fundraising Advancement staff, publications, events	\$402,279	20%
Management and General Administrative staff, business operations	\$239,135	12%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,986,417</b>	
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$55,096</b>	



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## IN MEMORIAM DR. NATHANIEL M. ROBINSON 1925 - 2016



A longtime friend and supporter of St. James School, Dr. Robinson was known as a quiet, humble man, despite his myriad accomplishments. Born in South Carolina in 1925, he decided at a young age that he wanted to be a doctor. After serving in the US Army during World War II, he went on to medical school where in 1954 he made national news as the first African American student to graduate from Marquette University School of Medicine (now the Medical College of Wisconsin).

Dr. Robinson worked at the former Philadelphia General and Mercy-Douglass hospitals before starting his own practice. Known for his kindness, Dr. Robinson could often be found sitting up all night with his patients in the hospital. He strongly believed in the power of education to transform lives, and contributed thousands of dollars towards St. James scholarships in his lifetime.

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Mr. Welsh—a trusted advisor and supporter of St. James School since its early days—was a respected financial advisor and major philanthropist. Raised in Chatham, NJ, he attended the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School before serving as a lieutenant in the US Navy. A partner at UBS Financial Services, he began his career in sales at the firm when it was known as Kidder, Peabody, and Co. Passionate about giving back, Mr. Welsh was involved in many charitable organizations, including the Salvation Army, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the University of Pennsylvania—he quickly developed a reputation as a talented fundraiser. Mr. Welsh is survived by his wife of 62 years, Joanne, two children and six grandchildren.



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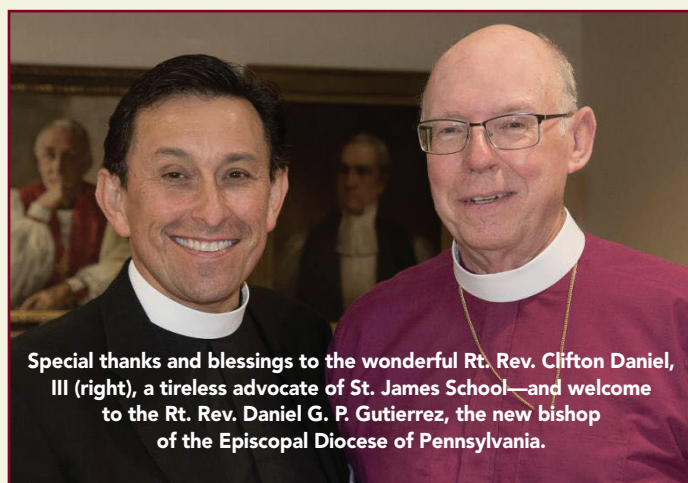
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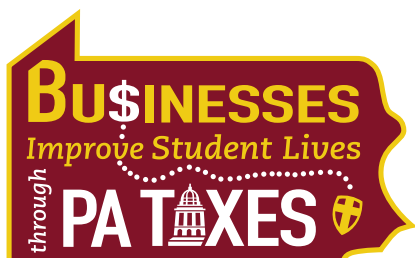
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