



# ST. PHILIP & ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC ACADEMY

APRIL 2025 - JUNE 2025

## SPRING NEWSLETTER



### LETTER FROM THE SPSA BOARD CHAIR

It is truly an honor to write this letter to you. If you are receiving this newsletter, it's because you've made a meaningful impact at SPSA in some way, and for that, I want to express my sincere, heartfelt thanks. Your support plays a vital role in allowing us to continue our mission of providing a safe and nurturing space where children can learn, grow, and develop into the future leaders of our community. Through your contributions, we are equipping our students with essential skills and tools that are not typically available in our traditional educational system. The difference you are making extends far beyond the lives of the children we serve. It is also fostering profound positive change within the Dallas community. We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership.

I've had the privilege of serving on the SPSA Board of Directors since the school opened in 2015 and now have the honor of being the Board Chair. It has been incredibly rewarding to witness the dedication of our students, parents, teachers, Board members, and donors all working together over the past nine years toward the common goal of educating our students and preparing them for success far beyond the walls of SPSA. This newsletter is filled with highlights that make me so proud to be a part of the SPSA community.

One notable accomplishment I would like to highlight is our enrollment for the upcoming school year. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our admissions team, we are rapidly closing the gap on our enrollment goal for next year. We've already accepted 20 new students who will start in the fall, and more are still in the enrollment process. Enrollment remains open, and many families continue to express strong interest in registering their children. We are thrilled to see this momentum and eagerly anticipate the bright future ahead for these students. Please continue reading to learn more about the exciting developments taking place at SPSA this year!

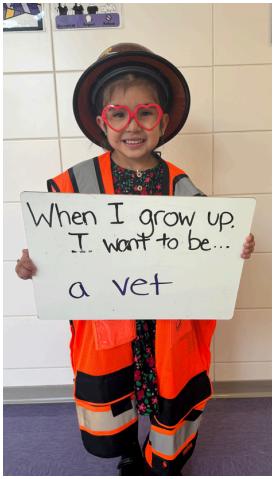
Sincerely,

Deanna Walker, CEO  
Venturity Financial Partners





# SPSA WINTER HIGHLIGHTS



## CAREER DAY

To conclude Catholic Schools Week, SPSA hosted a career day, featuring 40 organizations from the DFW metroplex. These organizations, including representatives from Bonton Farms, Frost Bank, KPMG, Texas Tech, the Dallas Fire and Police Departments, the State Fair of Texas, UT Southwestern, WFAA, and many others, set up interactive stations to share their career experiences with students. The event provided valuable insights and sparked excitement, inspiring students to explore the wide array of opportunities that await them.



## CATHOLIC CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD

On March 7th, SPSA hosted its annual Catholic Cultures Around the World event. Each classroom was assigned a different country and created engaging presentations highlighting the culture and Catholic traditions of that nation. The rooms were beautifully decorated to reflect their assigned country, and guests had the opportunity to sample delicious traditional foods. Parents, donors, and other visitors were given passports, which were stamped as they toured each country.

## EIGHTH-GRADE CONFIRMATION

On Saturday, March 22nd, our eighth-grade students received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Burns from the Catholic Diocese of Dallas presided over the Confirmation Mass at St. Philip the Apostle Church. We are incredibly proud of our students and the dedication they demonstrated in preparing for this important Sacrament of Initiation. Thank you to all the parents and teachers who supported our students and contributed to making this a truly special day.

## WORK OF HEART AWARD PRESENTED BY THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

Ashly Jones, SPSA's librarian and tech support, was this year's recipient of the Work of Heart Award. Ashly is an alumna of St. Philip Catholic



School, and Ashly's daughters currently attend SPSA. Her dedication to the mission of our school is truly remarkable, and this recognition is well-deserved! Thank you to Bill Kula for presenting the award!

## DONOR HIGHLIGHT: WILSON SCHOELLKOPF

Wilson Schoellkopf is a dedicated donor and volunteer at SPSA. He is native to Dallas, and after spending some time in Virginia for college, he returned to Dallas to begin his career. He had a variety of career shifts, one including being an aviation instructor, which helped him discover his passion for teaching, and eventually lead him to a role at SPSA. He has an eighth-grade daughter and is now a full-time volunteer in the community, also serving as a math tutor for DISD.



### Wilson's Involvement with SPSA

Wilson taught 6th–8th grade math at SPSA for 2 years and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. He loved the nurturing culture of the school and the support from other teachers and the administration. The students were phenomenal to work with and truly extraordinary, hard working kids.

Now, Wilson focuses on fundraising for the school, serves on the Imagine Project Committee, and participates in annual events like the Posadas event in December, Career Day, and Catholic Cultures Around the World.

Wilson has also generously funded a scholarship for our students. Established in 2021, this scholarship ranges from \$1,000 to \$3,000 and is available to ambitious students in 4th–8th grades.

### Thoughts from Wilson

"SPSA is a special place doing really great things in an underserved neighborhood. It is creating a tremendous opportunity for kids that don't have a lot of options. The kids that are coming out of SPSA are going to good high schools. They are going to be successful and they will be good productive citizens. That foundation starts young and SPSA helps nurture that desire to be a good community member. To anyone reading this letter, if you are interested in getting involved or learning more about the school, go out and visit the school. Go take a tour, observe the classrooms and see the students in action. You will see the magic happen right away."



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## APRIL

April 11 | 8:00–9:00AM

**Stations of the Cross**

April 24 | 6:30–8:00PM

**\*PEEP – Truist Bank to present about Financial Wellness**

April 27 | 9:00AM–6:00PM

**SPSA School Carnival**

## MAY

May 1 | 6:00–7:30PM

**SPSA Talent Show**

May 22 | 4:30–7:00PM

**8th Grade Graduation Ceremony & Reception**

## JUNE

Summer Break! Please check the website for our updated summer office hours.

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### PARENT ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION PROGRAM (PEEP)

Dallas organizations offer monthly classes for parents on a variety of requested topics.

Contact our Director of Development, Caylee Kennedy, for information on how to get involved at the school.

[ckennedy@spsacatholic.org](mailto:ckennedy@spsacatholic.org)



## DONATE

Make a donation and help us provide students with an affordable, transformative, education! 68% of our students live below the federal poverty line and the remaining 32% are considered low income. Our students are able to receive this education because of the generosity from donors like you!



## VOLUNTEER

SPSA has many opportunities for the community to volunteer with our school! Please email our Principal or Director of Development for more information!



## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

to learn more about our school and follow us on social media to keep up to date with everything happening at SPSA! <https://spsacatholic.org/>