

SAINT AUGUSTINE SAINTS NEWS

• VOLUME 16, NUMBER 3

• FALL 2024

SINCE 1858

Welcome to the
Home of the Saints

For Parents, Alumni, Parishioners and Friends of St. Augustine School in Washington D.C.

Augustine of Hippo: The Perfect Patron for any School

Dear Parents, Faculty, Alumni,
Parishioners and Friends,

When I arrived at Saint Augustine Parish twenty years ago, I remember thinking and re-thinking about how I could introduced our patron Saint in a way that was simple and easy to understand for children ranging from three to fourteen years of age. This is what I came up with: *Saint Augustine loved to learn and learned to love!*

Love of Learning - From a young age Augustine grew to be a quite a student of knowledge and philosophy. As a passionate learner, we hope all of our students will rival him in this regard. For Augustine, a good education was never a dreaded chore or reluctant burden, but an exciting endeavor and a passionate pursuit. In one of his many multi-volume works, Augustine produced essentially a manual for Christian educators entitled, *On Christian Teaching*. In it Augustine explains his belief that learning should be a *transformative experience* that impacts a person's *life and actions*. He also believed that learning should be a

From the Pastor Column



spiritual process that leads to happiness and wisdom. A Key to this happening is the critical role of the teacher. He argues that the teacher's attitude would determine the student's enthusiasm for learning, and that good teaching skills were critical. In fact, he goes so far as to assert that it is better not to teach than to teach ineffectively and with a poor attitude.

Learning to Love - Born on November 13, 354 in North Africa, Augustine received a classical education in Latin literature and later studied and taught rhetoric in Rome and Milan.

Augustine was exceptionally smart, but not particularly happy or fulfilled. He was constantly searching but not quite finding what he was looking for. This changed forever after a powerful conversion experience at the age of 32 while reading the Holy Scriptures. A year later he was baptized a Catholic, later ordained a priest and eventually became a bishop. His lifelong love and pursuit of knowledge became a passionate love and pursuit of God!

In the Spirit of our Patron - At Saint Augustine Catholic School we not only want to give our students the tools and resources they need to become great scholars but also provide for them a path to become people of great character. We will continue to strive to make learning at our school a *spiritual journey* that leads to true happiness and wisdom and a *transformative experience* that impacts their lives so they in turn can impact this world still looking for love and truth in all the wrong places.

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Patrick A. Smith
Pastor

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From the Principal's Desk

Dear Alumni, Parents, Parishioners,
and Friends,

Welcome to the 2024-2025
School Year!

The 2024-2025 school year has officially begun, and it is filled with great enthusiasm and promise! I am truly excited to be part of such a vibrant and engaged learning community. My initial experiences at St. Augustine Catholic School and Church have been overwhelmingly positive, showcasing the collaborative spirit and unwavering dedication that defines our parish. The warm welcome I have received from both students and staff has made my transition smooth and enjoyable, and I am eager to dive into all the activities and learning that this year has to offer.

This school year, my primary focus is to implement structured systems and programs that will further our commitment to fostering faith and academic excellence within a supportive and nurturing environment. I believe that a well-rounded education extends beyond the classroom, and I am dedicated to creating opportunities for our students to grow spiritually, academically, and socially. One of my key initiatives will be to encourage our students to actively participate in various service opportunities. By taking on roles as Student Ambassadors, Peer Buddies, and offices within the Student Government Association, students will not only develop their leadership skills but also learn the importance of compassion and service to others.

We will also focus on engaging with the broader local community. I envision partnerships with local organizations and outreach programs that will allow our students to make meaningful contributions both within and outside our school.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the numerous church and



school volunteers who have played an instrumental role in my transition to St. Augustine Parish. Your dedication to our school community and your willingness to lend a helping hand exemplify the spirit of service that is beautifully captured in the words of 1 Samuel 12:24, which reminds us to serve faithfully with all our hearts. This calling inspires us to live our faith every day, embodying the principles of service exemplified by Jesus. I am continually amazed by the generosity

and commitment of our volunteers, and I look forward to working alongside them to enrich our students' educational experiences.

As we embark on this exciting journey together, I am reminded of the incredible privilege it is to serve the students and families of St. Augustine Catholic School. I am committed to fostering an environment where students feel empowered to explore their interests, ask questions, and seek help when needed. Together, we will navigate this school year, celebrating our achievements and learning from our challenges.

I look forward to a successful and enriching school year ahead, full of growth, learning, and community. Let us embrace this year with open hearts and minds, ready to make the most of every opportunity. Thank you for being a part of this journey.

Sincerely,
Anika Logan, Ed.D.

ADMISSIONS

Do you know a child who could benefit from a Catholic education?

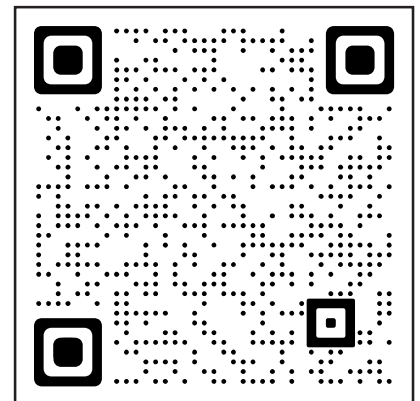
Saint Augustine Catholic School has 2024-2025 school year openings from Pre-Kindergarten for 3 and 4 years olds through the eighth grade. Tuition starts at \$6,750.00 for one child.

In addition to small class sizes, our school offers an Honors Math program. Our aftercare program includes Basketball, Chess, Fence Club, Girls Scouts, Reading Circle, and Spelling Bee Club.

Our high school placement includes Academy of Holy Cross, Bishop McNamara, Bullis, DeMatha, Georgetown Day School, Georgetown Visitation, Gonzaga, Maret, St. John's, and St. Vincent

Pallotti. Financial aid is available.

Please contact Ms. Lynn Teran at 202-265-1470 or Iteran@saintaugustine-dc.org or visit our website at www.staug-dc.org to find more information. One can also use this QR code to complete the student interest form on our website.



Donita Adams named Volunteer of the Year

Donita J. Adams '87 grew up in St. Augustine Parish, part of a two-generation parish family. Her mother, the late Mrs. Gwendolyn Adams '48, worked for many years as the school secretary.

When it came time for Donita's children Naimah '21 and Kohen to receive an education, there was no doubt that they would attend St. Augustine School, where Donita's four siblings also graduated.

On Oct. 10, Saint Augustine School honored Donita with its Volunteer of the Year Award, at the 10th annual Catholic Business Network-DC Gala at the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown.

Our school and parish communities are very grateful to Donita's gift of time, talent, and treasure, including her serving as an officer at the Home



& School Association (HSA) of St. Augustine School and her volunteering at events, going the extra mile.

"She has worked in many roles at the HSA," including president, vice president, and events coordinator, said Kip McCoy, St. Augustine's Physical Education & Health Education/After

Care Director. She has run events such as the Halloween Haunted House and Family Fun Day, as well as sports. She has served as a moderator for the school's Legos Club, according to McCoy, who nominated Adams for the CBN-DC award.

"She sometimes overextends herself but does so with a smile on her face and love in her heart," McCoy said. "We would love to have more volunteers," McCoy added.

She has also given her time through the St. Augustine Church Dance Ministry. As Naimah begins her senior year at Georgetown Visitation, mom's alma mater, we thank and congratulate Donita.

Sheku Kabia Scholarship initiated

The family of Sheku Kabia '08 has established a scholarship program in memory of the young man, who passed away in his sleep on Jan. 28.

Sheku is survived by his mother, Hawa Sheriff, and his sister, Fanta Kabia '10. Ms. Sheriff is a native of Sierra Leone, and she raised her two children in the District of Columbia, sending them to Catholic schools through the Opportunity Scholarship Program, a federally funded voucher program for low-income families. Both siblings graduated from college, and Ms. Kabia has been working for Ernst & Young as a federal contractor for three years.

The scholarship will benefit a student in financial need who demonstrates great potential in reading and writing, since those are



two skills that Sheku developed.

Those who wish to donate to support the Sheku Kabia Scholarship should contact Bill Murray, St. Augustine School's development director, at bmurray@saintaugustine-dc.org. One can make an online donation at www.staug-dc.org.

Martin V. Proctor

(1958-2024)



We pray for the repose of the soul of Martin V. Proctor, Jr., a parishioner who passed away on Aug. 1. At his request, friends and family have made donations to support Saint Augustine Catholic School. We extend our condolences to his family and friends on his passing.

Our Class Trip to New York

Abigeya Ashenofi '24

Our class trip to New York in May was an adventure I'll never forget, but the highlight for me was visiting the Statue of Liberty. The sight of the Statue of Liberty standing tall against the sky was breathtaking, and we could hardly wait to get closer. Once we arrived, we gathered together for a quick group photo at the base, with Lady Liberty behind us. The size of the statue up close was even more impressive than I had imagined. After the photos, we began our climb to the pedestal.

The climb to the pedestal was a bit of a workout, but it was also a lot of fun. There are 215 steps to the top of the pedestal, and each one brought us closer to an incredible view. We talked and laughed as we made our way up, encouraging each other along the way. Reaching the top felt like a real accomplishment.

From the pedestal, the view was absolutely stunning. We could see the beautiful view of the Hudson River, busy harbor, and Ellis Island in the distance. It was a clear day, so we



could see for miles. My friends and I spent a lot of time taking photos and pointing out landmarks. It felt amazing to be sharing this experience with my classmates, and we all agreed that the climb was definitely worth it.

Spending time at the Statue of Liberty was more than just a sightseeing trip; it was a chance to connect with my

friends in a beautiful and meaningful way, and to connect with an important part of our history.

The visit to the Statue of Liberty was a perfect mix of adventure, learning, and fun. It left a lasting impression on me, not just because of the iconic monument, but because of the shared experience with my friends and classmates. It was a day filled with laughter, breathtaking views, and a sense of accomplishment that I will always remember.

After our climb, we were all pretty hungry, so we headed to the cafeteria on Liberty Island for lunch. The cafeteria had a variety of options. Since it was really hot, and I was really thirsty, I got two bottles of water, while my friends chose everything from burgers to pizza. We all sat at a table together and had so much fun sharing our experiences at the statue.

Having graduated from Saint Augustine Catholic School, Abigeya Ashenofi is enrolled to attend ninth grade this fall at St. John's College High School.



DC State Fair

We made some new friends at the DC State Fair on Sat. Sept. 7 at Franklin Park, N.W., including prospective parents and volunteers. Our Principal, Dr. Anika Logan, appeared there with Ms. Lynn Teran, tuition manager/enrollment support supervisor, Mr. Raven A. Wilkins, and Ms. Leslie Cameron, pastoral ministry coordinator, St. Augustine Catholic Church.



Thank you for stopping by our booth at the DC State Fair on Sept. 7 at Franklin Park, DC Councilmember Robert White (At Large)! He is a St. Augustine parishioner, standing here with Dr. Anika Logan, principal.

Parish Outreach

After all Masses on Sept. 7-8, our new school principal, Dr. Anika Logan, greeted parishioners and visitors at St. Augustine Catholic Church. Photos by Jacques Benovil





Alumni Notes

Ghelatia Petros Araia '12 won the Miss Eritrea 2024 pageant in Washington, D.C., earning with it a free trip to the East African country of Eritrea. The pageant took place in our nation's capital during the Eritrean Festival from July 26-28.

Ghelatia holds a Master's in Public Health from Columbia University and is a Pre-Med graduate student.

A Revamped Teacher's Lounge

A group of our parishioners helped Dr. Anika Logan, our principal, drastically improve our teacher's lounge in September! Thank you to our dear parishioners!



Opening School Year Mass



At the Archdiocese of Washington School Year 2024-2025 dedication Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Aug. 26, three long-serving staff members received certificates: Dr. Olga Williams (30 years in Catholic education), Ms. Helene Cropper (25 years), and Mr. Ronald Riley (25).

CFC/United Way Support

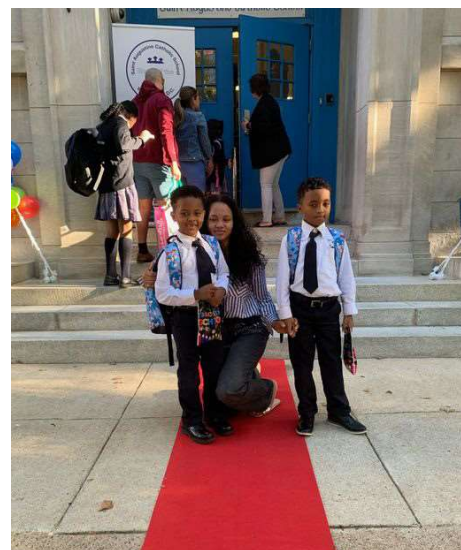
Do you work for an organization that participates in the United Way or Combined Federal Campaign programs? Please consider supporting St. Augustine Catholic



School (CFC #20000/United Way #9670) during this open enrollment season. We have been working in the community since 1858, faithful to our mission in promoting students in PreK-3 through 8th Grade and their intellectual and moral growth so that they may provide leadership in a global society.

If you have any questions or would like to let us know you have made a pledge, please contact Bill Murray, development director, at bmurray@saintaugustine-dc.org or 240-418-5427. You can also visit our website at www.staug-dc.org. Thank you!

First Day of School



We rolled out the red carpet for our students and parents on the first day of school, Sept. 3!



Dr. Anika Logan, principal (right) with Ms. Janine Nixon, kindergarten teacher on Sept. 3, the first day of school.

Office of Alumni Relations/Development
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As we worship the Creator through the beauty of His creation, such as nature, we thank the parish's Garden of Eden ministry for planting such lovely flowers near our parking lot.

www.staug-dc.org

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Story ideas for the newsletter? Please contact **Bill Murray** at bmurray@saintaugustine-dc.org.

Would you like to update your address for our records?
Please complete an alumni contact form at www.staug-dc.org/alumni.html.

We welcome inquiries from alumni, former students and anyone interested in our school.