

Ariel Winfrey '21
Determined to be at VASJ

Joshua Shumpert '21
No path too long for a Viking

2016-17
Donor Recognition Report

VASJ

MAGAZINE

Villa Angela-St. Joseph
High School
Faith. Family. Future.

Blessed
at VASJ

WINTER 2018



Villa Angela-St. Joseph
High School
Faith. Family. Future.

Annual Fund



THE COST OF OPERATING our Catholic, comprehensive high school **increases each year**. The tuition rate simply does not cover the costs involved in educating our students or operating our school. The Merici-Chaminade Annual Fund **helps close the gap** between what is collected through tuition and the actual costs of operating our school.



“VASJ was my #1 choice for schools but it would have been a struggle payment wise. Thank you for donating your money to help students you don't even know. Thank you for being there for us.”

— CHRISTOPHER BOYKIN '18

Every Gift Counts

NO MATTER THE SIZE, your tax-deductible contribution to VASJ's Merici-Chaminade Annual Fund directly and **significantly impacts our students** and is extremely important in helping us continue our mission of offering quality, Catholic education in the **Ursuline and Marianist traditions**.

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your gift to VASJ's Merici-Chaminade Annual Fund helps support:

- Tuition assistance for families in need
- Enhancements to academic curriculum
- Enrichments to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and fine arts programs
- Maintenance and improvements of facilities and grounds
- Faith-formation activities for students and staff
- Operational support of Viking athletics programs

How to Give



Check (made payable to VASJ) or **credit card** payment returned to VASJ in enclosed envelope



One-time and recurring donations made at vasj.com/donate



Call **216-481-8414 ext. 209** to make a credit card donation over the phone



Many companies offer **employee matching gift programs** or **United Way payroll deductions**

VASJ.COM/DONATE

CONTENTS



From the President	1
In the Village	2
Graduation 2017	12
Feature: Blessed at VASJ	14
Donor Recognition	21
Class Notes	27
In Memoriam	31

On the Cover: Joshua Shumpert '21 receives a blessing from Bishop Richard Griess while Ariel Winfrey '21 looks on. Photo by Emily Robinson.

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Love of God, Family, and School

We are excited to share with you another Issue of *VASJ Magazine*. It is our hope that you not only enjoy the stories and other information contained within, but that you also gain a better understanding of all the good things that take place at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School.

The cold and wintery months that follow the holidays are a time when our minds are full of thoughts about future goals and ambitions as well as hopes and wishes for the New Year. It is also a time to thank God for the blessings He has given us.

We here at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School have received many blessings in many ways and through many people.

As you read the stories about two of our freshmen, Joshua and Ariel, you will feel their strong love of God, family, and VASJ. The sacrifices being made so that they can attend VASJ are nothing short of amazing and truly display the strength of their character and their personal desire to become strong, successful individuals.

There are many students like Joshua and Ariel at VASJ with similar stories and similar wills to succeed. We must continue our work to ensure that students like Ariel and Joshua are able to become members of the Viking family.

Together we have all helped build Villa Angela-St. Joseph into a high school that is important to our students, their families, and our communities. Together we provide a strong Catholic education rooted in the Ursuline and Marianist traditions that encourages students to grow spiritually and academically in their journey to achieve their future goals and dreams.

It is clear that we are blessed by our students and their continued display of faith, dedication, and personal growth. It is also clear that we are blessed by you, our alums, friends, family, and supporters. Without your continued support, both financial and spiritual, students like Joshua and Ariel might not have the opportunity to receive the blessing of a VASJ education.

My sincere thanks to each of you and may you and your families be blessed with happiness, health, and good fortune throughout the New Year.

Bill Cervenik '72, President, VASJ



POWDER PUFF VICTORY // ALL SAINTS MASS // VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY

IN THE VILLAGE

Incoming freshman numbers continue to increase

The VASJ admissions team enrolled the biggest freshman class the school has seen in years, with students coming from 36 different schools from all over Northeast Ohio. The admissions process remained selective and only students who would be a good fit in the Viking Village, with strong recommendations in academics and behavior, were accepted.



Students hold annual Halloween on Campus event ► VASJ's Peer Ministers coordinated the school's annual Halloween on Campus event, a senior service project in which young students from Lakeshore Intergenerational and Oliver H. Perry schools are invited to a big Halloween party. Each senior is paired with a buddy who takes them around the school for trick-or-treating, games, and fun. ▼



Students raise money to help those in need

VASJ STUDENTS HAVE BEEN BUSY raising money for various causes. VASJ senior Antonia Furlan, an aspiring social worker and a member of the Catholic Students for Peace and Justice group, initiated a bake sale to support the victims of Hurricane Harvey. "Since I have been in Catholic school my whole life, there is a big emphasis on helping people," Antonia says. She was able to raise nearly \$600. The students in VASJ's Christian Leadership class held a fundraiser for the Marianist community in Puerto Rico who were affected by Hurricane Maria, raising \$3,000. The class also collected personal care items for the homeless in Cleveland.



“
...there is a
big emphasis
on helping
people.”

”

ANTONIA FURLAN '18



Three Viking football players selected as first-team all-district

VASJ seniors Delanoe Harris, Nate Dean, and Patrick Sheridan were named to the Division V All Northeast Lakes District first team. The teams are selected by a panel of local media members. Harris led the Vikings in both passing and rushing, Dean was the team's leading receiver and Sheridan was one of the top two-way linemen for VASJ. Devontae Glover, Kiras Kijauskas, Chase Harden and Chris Boykin all earned honorable mention honors for the Vikings.

Club Fair

Personal growth is an important part of VASJ's mission to educate the whole student. Involvement in the 25 extracurricular clubs and activities VASJ offers is a great way for students to receive a more well-rounded school experience. Club membership is highly encouraged and many students are involved in two to three clubs (or more). A Club Fair was held at the beginning of the school year so that students could learn about the variety of clubs offered. After the Club Fair, group membership nearly doubled in size.



Students accepted into ASPIRE Nurse Scholars Program

Five VASJ students were accepted into the ASPIRE Nurse Scholars Program, a Cleveland Clinic enrichment program designed for students who are interested in pursuing a career in nursing. In order to apply, students must be a junior with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. In the 12-week program, students learn critical nursing skills, receive real work experience, and important career information to help prepare them to enter into a higher education nursing school and beyond. One VASJ student, Schenley Blase '18, will be attending Tri-C on a full scholarship thanks to the financial support of The Howley Family Foundation who sponsors the program.



Seniors pull out a victory at annual Powder Puff game

VASJ's seniors celebrated a win at the annual Powder Puff game, a flag football game between the senior and junior girls coached by junior and senior boys. More than just a football game, it is a great bonding experience for the classes, builds school spirit and pride, and the entire student body enjoys cheering on the teams.



Students gain real-life experience through internships

Student interns with City of Euclid

Harrison McCreight '19, an aspiring politician, spent his summer interning with mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail '85 and the City of Euclid. He was able to observe a day in criminal court, helped with the production of a Euclid Historical Society Museum promotional video, which he starred in, and assisted with the designing of a new Euclid city flag. Harrison plans to attend The Ohio State University and would like to become a history teacher at VASJ before running for Euclid City Council and ultimately running for Mayor of Euclid.



Student selected for National Student Leadership Conference

Rhatia Hopkins '19 was the only student from the entire state of Ohio to participate in the Sports Management program during the National Student Leadership Conference internship program at Fordham University in New York. The program consisted of lectures, field trips, simulations, and workshops. Rhatia was given the opportunity to experience what it is like to be a sports agent, including managing events and exploring sports psychology.



Drama students write and produce One Acts

VASJ's Drama Club was fortunate to receive the Marianist Bicentennial Grant to fund student one-act productions. The One Acts, which were completely written, produced, and directed by VASJ students, brought to life several of the Marianist core values including Discipleship of Equals, People of Faith, People of Community, and Leaders in Mission. Many of the students involved in the One Acts were freshmen, a sign of a bright future for VASJ's Drama Club.





All Saints Mass Bishop Roger Gries, OSB, celebrated the All Saints Mass at VASJ. The theme of the Mass was, “Blessed are those who hope in Christ.” In his homily, Bishop Gries spoke about the importance of developing a relationship with God in order for souls to be welcomed into Heaven and to gain eternal life. VASJ students read the names of over 80 deceased members of the VASJ community. Bishop Gries asked the congregation to pray for their souls.



Faces of our Founders

EACH QUARTER, FOUR STUDENTS are selected by their peers to receive the Faces of our Founders award. This award recognizes students for living a Christ-like life and modeling the characteristics of the school's founders, St. Angela Merici and Blessed William Joseph Chaminade. The award began in 2015 and is distributed each quarter to one student from each grade level.



Veterans Day assembly honors those who've served

The VASJ community came together to celebrate and honor veterans with a special Veterans Day assembly. VASJ holds this assembly each year and finds a graduate who is also a veteran to come and speak to the students. This year it was Chuck Kortovich, a 1995 graduate of VASJ. Mr. Jim Tobin, Kortovich's father-in-law, gave an update about the improvements that have been made to the Veterans Memorial in the school's courtyard. Tobin was instrumental in getting the Veterans Memorial installed in 2016, which serves as a tribute to the seven veterans of the school who were killed in action, as well as honoring all who have served. Tobin, Kortovich, and Senior Class President Shirley Kennebrew, placed a memorial wreath at the monument. Candles were lit by students in honor of those who have served in each of the wars the United States has been involved in.



Student receives full bowling scholarship VASJ senior and President of her class, Shirley Kennebrew, signed her National Letter of Intent (NLI) on November 21 to attend Prairie View A&M University in Texas on a full bowling scholarship.



Bishop Nelson Perez Celebrates Mass at VASJ

"AS YOU DREAM YOUR DREAM, remember this: Never underestimate what God's spirit can do in you, through you, and despite you," Cleveland's newly-installed Bishop Nelson Perez told the VASJ students when he celebrated Mass there on November 28.

During his homily, Bishop Perez spoke about the importance of having dreams and not losing hope in them.

"Dreams are great things to have because they kind of guide us," Bishop Perez said. "God has a dream for you. He doesn't want us to lose hope."

Bishop Perez then asked all of the teachers to stand and be recognized for their dream to educate VASJ students.

"Thank your teachers for what they do for you," Bishop Perez said. "Thank your parents for helping you with your dream and don't let anyone take that dream away from you. Ever."

He expressed the importance of recognizing everything in one's life as a gift and being thankful.

"There is not one thing that you or I possess that is not a gift," Bishop Perez said. "That is why we have to be really grateful."

After Mass, in which Fr. Joe Fortuna of Our Lady of the Lake served as the co-celebrant, Bishop Perez toured VASJ's building and shared lunch with several students. The meal was prepared by students in VASJ's Culinary Arts program.





LEGACY STUDENTS

at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School are students with parents or grandparents who also attended the school. Each year, this group comes together to celebrate the proud history and tradition of our great school, from one generation to the next. With a total of 100 Legacy Students currently at VASJ, the breakfast was held in the gymnasium to accommodate the growing group. President Bill Cervenik '72, a proud Legacy Parent who sent both of his children to VASJ, gave welcoming remarks. He thanked the parents and grandparents for trusting VASJ with their children and for their support, noting the large role this support has played in the school's growth.



Christmas on Campus

THE SENIORS DECKED THE SCHOOL'S HALLS with snowflakes and trimmed the trees in the main lobby in preparation for Christmas on Campus, an annual event at VASJ. Christmas on Campus is one of two service projects seniors are required to complete in order for graduation. Nearly 100 kids from local elementary schools were paired with VASJ seniors to spend the morning doing a variety of Christmas activities, including a visit (and picture) with Santa Claus and their own gift to open and take home.



Congrats to the VASJ Class of 2017

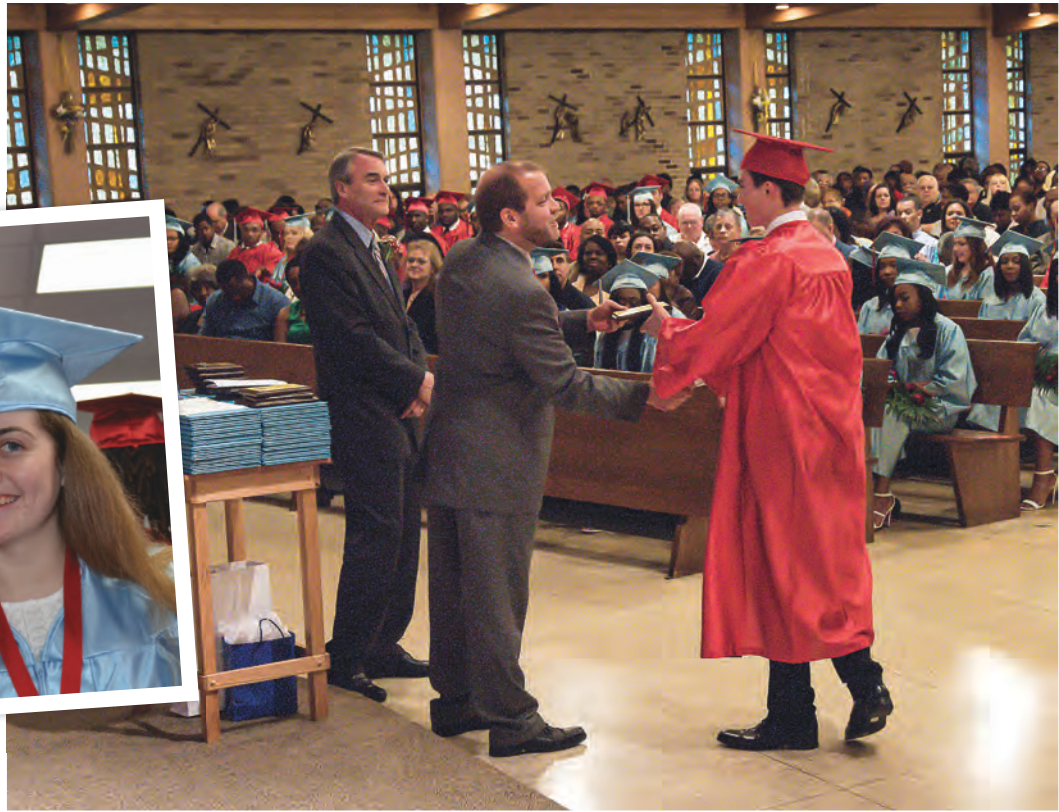
The Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School Class of 2017 gathered at Ss. Robert and William Church in Euclid for their commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 25.

As of that date, 38 members of the class of 2017 had reported a total award amount of \$5,720,400 in grants and scholarships!

The weather did not cooperate but the graduates were all smiles (and a few tears). Nothing was going to rain on the parade of the Class of 2017.

After all diplomas were distributed, those in attendance raised their right hands to bless the graduates before the class sang the alma mater together one last time.





89 members of the class

**18 members of the
National Honor Society**

6 received honors diplomas
(GPA of 3.5 or higher)

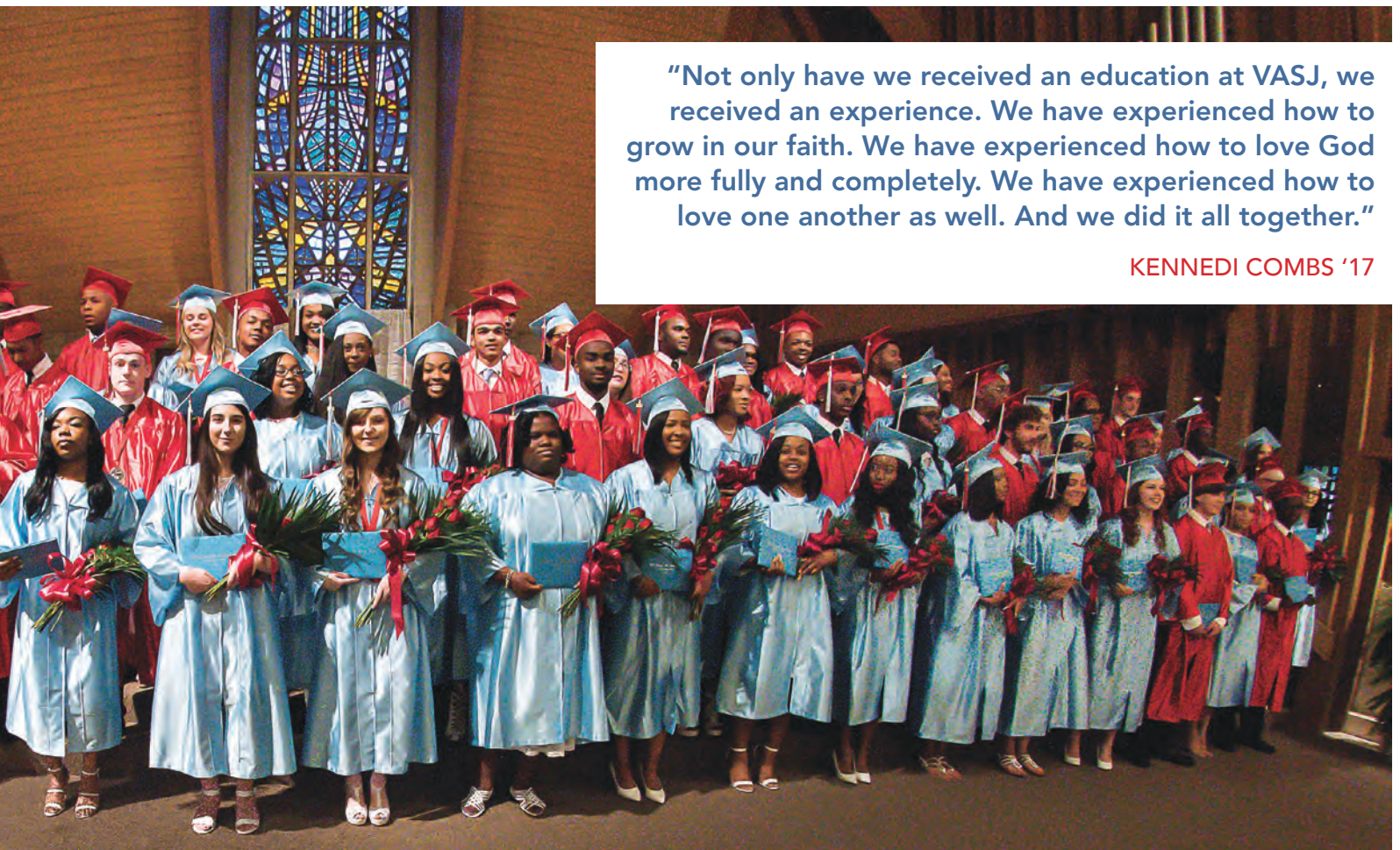
98% college bound
100% graduation rate

College acceptances from schools such as Malone University, Miami University, John Carroll University, University of Dayton, The Ohio State University, Ursuline College, Washington and Jefferson College, Xavier University, Gannon University, Loyola University, University of Pittsburgh, Syracuse University, and more.

Earned **\$5,720,400**
in scholarships



CLASS OF 2017



"Not only have we received an education at VASJ, we received an experience. We have experienced how to grow in our faith. We have experienced how to love God more fully and completely. We have experienced how to love one another as well. And we did it all together."

KENNEDI COMBS '17



Ariel Winfrey '21 and Joshua Shumpert '21 recite the Lord's Prayer during VASJ's All Saints Mass Celebrated by Bishop Roger Gries, OSB.

Blessed

AT

VASJ

*Two students. Two different paths.
One overwhelming feeling: Blessed.*

BY EMILY ROBINSON

Ariel Winfrey '21

ON THE NIGHT OF HER GRADUATION from Ss. Robert and William School, Ariel Winfrey '21 was already registered to attend Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School in the fall. That evening, she got some news that changed everything.

"My mom told me on the way to graduation that she was diagnosed with breast cancer," Ariel says. "I didn't really know what to say. It was hard."

Attending VASJ was something that Ariel had been thinking about from the time she was in sixth grade. She came to nearly every Open House event the school offered and attended the school's seventh grade shadow day.

"I left thinking it is definitely somewhere I can see myself," Ariel says. "The first time I walked in, everyone was open and welcoming. It felt like a completely

different atmosphere than other schools I looked at. I felt really comfortable with everyone."

Shadowing a current VASJ student during her eighth grade year confirmed what she already knew: Ariel wanted to be a Viking.

"When I actually shadowed here I knew this is where I wanted to be," Ariel says. "There's a lot of diversity here, everyone is so close, and it really feels like a family."

But with the news of her mom's diagnosis, Ariel immediately started thinking about the financial situation and the burden her VASJ tuition would be on her mom, Christy. She wanted to do anything she could to help eliminate stress for her mom, even if it meant giving up her dream of attending VASJ.

"I didn't want her to be stressed about my tuition," Ariel says. "So I told her I would go to public school. It kind of upset me because I was really looking forward to going there with all the people I had met and the opportunities I had been introduced to."

As much as she wanted to be a Viking, she wanted her



mom to be stress-free more.

"I was just set on her not stressing out about everything and that was my main focus," Ariel says. "I tried to stay positive about it and make it easier for her. I was really just focused on what was best for my mom at that time."

When news started to spread that Ariel would not be attending VASJ in the fall, she and her mom received overwhelming support from the staff at the school, and family friends who also attended VASJ. Thankfully, Ariel received two scholarships, the Dorothy Kazel Scholarship and the Howley Scholarship, which helped offset the price of tuition.

"If I didn't get the scholarships, and the overwhelming support from all the staff and family friends from the school, I probably would have been going to a public school, which I have nothing against, but this school is so warm and welcoming," Ariel says. "I think it's better to stay with smaller and closer groups so you don't feel out of place and you feel more comfortable."

It is clear that Ariel feels very comfortable at her new home-away-from home. Halfway through her freshman year, she is already heavily involved in a wide variety of activities like Drama Club, softball, engineering, yearbook, LIFE, GEM, Public Relations Club, manager of the JV and Varsity girls

Ariel Winfrey '21 serves as the manager for the JV and varsity girls basketball teams. She can often be seen taking pictures for the school's yearbook and Public Relations Club.

basketball teams, and a member of the student cheering sections.

"I've had a lot of fun," Ariel says. "It's been really great and I'm really glad that I was still able to come."

The surest sign that Ariel is happy at her new school is the fact that she can always be seen with a big smile on her face.

"I love it here," Ariel says. "It's been awesome so far and I'm excited for the next three-and-a-half years. Everyone has been really welcoming and helpful and there are so many opportunities that I'm able to be a part of that will set me on a good path for my future."



Despite the stress at home, Ariel remains happy and positive, qualities she gets honestly. Ariel's mom has taught her the importance of having a positive outlook, even through the hard times they are currently facing.

"She tries to stay really positive," Ariel says. "That's how my mom is. All the support we have I think really helps."

Most of the students, faculty, and staff are aware of her mom's battle with cancer, a perk of the small-school feel and close-knit family environment at VASJ. Ariel receives a lot of support.

"I'm even more grateful to be here now with everything with my mom," Ariel says.

"I'm even more grateful to be here now. I don't think I can really see myself anywhere else."

ARIEL WINFREY '21

“People ask me how she’s doing, they offer to give me rides. Everyone is very supportive and they make sure that I know that. I don’t think I can really see myself anywhere else. We’re just a strong community and we really are like a family.”

Ariel says the faculty and staff are a big part of the school’s family environment.

“They do all they can to help us succeed,” Ariel says. “They are willing to do whatever they can to make you have a great time here. They keep learning fun. They want you to be a kid and have fun but also work hard so you can be successful after school.”

Ariel is an honors student who wants to do well in school. During her time at Ss. Robert and William School, Ariel took three honors courses and is enrolled in honors Geometry at VASJ.

“I’m always worried about my grades,” she says. “I’m always trying to fix it if I have a B. I work toward straight As really hard.”

Even as a freshman, Ariel is already thinking about colleges and careers, and where she hopes to be after high school. She is interested in engineering and sports medicine.

“It’s good that I found an engineering program here and I can see if I like it,” Ariel says.

Being a positive role model for her little brother plays an important role in Ariel’s motivation to do well in school.

“I want to set a good example for him,” Ariel says. “He’s already saying, ‘I want to go to VASJ.’”

As her family navigates her mom’s illness, Ariel is most concerned about protecting her little brother.

“Being there for him is important,” Ariel says. “He’s my best friend already even though he’s only seven. I couldn’t live without him.”

It’s easy to see why Ariel is often told she is mature for her age. She says this can be attributed to her mom.

“It’s how she has raised me,” Ariel says. “She has never babied me at all.”

She is more grateful for that now than she ever has been before.

“I feel like if she didn’t raise me like that I

wouldn’t know what to do with myself in this situation,” Ariel says. “I wouldn’t know to go to people and ask for help and I feel like I wouldn’t have the strength to actually go and talk to anyone else about it or even feel comfortable doing that.”

Thankfully, she does reach out when she needs support and has many people she knows she can talk to in the Viking Village. Even students she doesn’t know are praying for her mom in class.

“That helps with the situation with my mom because I know I have many people here I can talk to.”

Her mom’s diagnosis, the reason she almost didn’t attend VASJ, has proven to be one of the reasons she needed the school the most.



“They want you to be a kid and have fun but also work hard so you can be successful after school.”

ARIEL WINFREY '21



Joshua Shumpert '21

JOSHUA SHUMPERT '21 WILL BE THE FIRST to tell you that he's not exactly a morning person. Yet, when his alarm goes off at 5:45 each morning, he gets up. If he doesn't, he risks missing his buses to school.

"I take two buses to get to VASJ," Joshua says. "The 1 and the 30. I get up at 5:45 to give myself enough time to get ready."

He makes sure to leave himself enough time for God, too.

"Before I leave the house, I do a daily devotion where I read a little book that I have," Joshua says. "I read a scripture from the Bible and then I pray."

His morning routine is longer than most, but you won't hear Joshua complain about his two-bus commute. In fact, he feels blessed to have the opportunity to attend VASJ.

"It's an honor to be at such a prestigious school," Joshua says. "It's a blessing I don't take for granted. I really like it here."

His mom, Monica, has made it her priority to send him to private schools from kindergarten to now, even when it meant driving 30 minutes out of her way.

"My mom is the most important person in my life because she is my #1 fan," Joshua says. "She's the only person that will have my back when nobody else does. She gives me advice about school and life in general."

It's not just his mom. Joshua says he gets support from his entire family.

"My other relatives, they try to help me as much as they can with school,

making sure that I get a good education, and they always stay on me about my grades because they know that it is the most important thing about school, focusing on your grades," Joshua says. "It's like they pour into me. They tell me how important it is to be an intelligent young man and they just want the best for me."

His family also helps to keep God at the center of his life.

"They talk to me about God and my relationship with Him and how important that is in my life."

With his family being such an important part of his life, Joshua was drawn to the sense of community he felt at VASJ, which he says he felt from the moment he entered the school for the first time.

"I liked the family environment," Joshua says. "They treated me like I already went here. Like they already knew me."

His mom attended an Open House and liked the school as well.

"She said that she got to talk to some of the teachers and she liked them and their teaching style," Joshua says.

Once Joshua and his mom decided that VASJ would be a good fit, they had to figure out how to make it work financially.

Mr. Tim Neary '03, VASJ's Dean of Academics and Director of the Marianist Urban Students Program (MUSP), visited St. Francis School in Cleveland during Joshua's eighth-grade year there.

"VASJ students visited my school to talk about the MUSP program so I decided to apply and help my mom with the tuition," Joshua says.

MUSP identifies high-potential students in urban Marianist elementary schools and offers them financial, academic and social support to succeed at Marianist high schools.

Joshua submitted his application and waited for his response.

"When I applied I wasn't nervous but while I was waiting on my letter to see if I got in I was," Joshua says.

The letter finally came and it was good news: he got in.

"It meant a lot to get accepted into the MUSP program," Joshua says. "It made me



If it weren't for the Marianist Urban Students Program, Joshua Shumpert '21 is confident he wouldn't be a student at VASJ.

feel like I was important and that they cared about me and my needs. And my mom's needs."

Now that he's gotten into a good high school, Joshua says his next focus is getting into a good college.

"Now I'm in high school so it's time to get good grades and be a part of this school as much as I can because I know that grades aren't everything and you have to be a well-rounded student to get into a good college," Joshua says. "And that's my main goal right now. To be a well-rounded student."

Having Joshua get involved in extracurriculars is something that is important to his mom. In fact, the long list of extracurriculars VASJ offers was one of the things that appealed to her.

"She says that to get into a good college you need good grades but grades aren't everything," Joshua says. "You need to show

that you've participated in some way, shape, or form in high school."

Joshua's current extracurricular activity is in the form of one of the managers of the boys basketball team. He hopes to also get involved with the schools Chef's Club and National Honors Society.

His long-term goal for the future is to be a judge.

"There's just something about being involved in the law that really draws me," Joshua says.

He applied to and was accepted into the Law and Leadership Summer Institute program at Cleveland State where he learned about careers in the legal field. The experience solidified Joshua's desire to pursue a career as a judge.

"I just want to be able to help people with justice," Joshua says. "I want people to have fair, equal rights."

More specifically, he wants to work with youth.

"I want to make sure that our youth grow up right and that they make the right choices," Joshua says. "All kids aren't bad, they just do bad things sometimes. I want to help them so they can make the right decision the next time they think about doing something that could hurt the community."

His passion for helping others is another quality he says he gets from his mom.

"She has compassion for people, even people who haven't treated her right, she forgave them," Joshua says. "That's where I learned it from."

He also learned from his mom the importance of ending each day the same way he started it: with prayer.

"Before I go to bed, my mom always tells me to pray because she says you never know what is going to happen and that I should thank God for giving me the day to live and ask that He protect us," Joshua says.

His education at VASJ and the Marianist Urban Students Program which is providing him the opportunity to be there, certainly make the list of his blessings each day, 5:45 a.m. wake up call, lengthy public transportation commute, and all.

"It's worth it," Joshua says. "Because of the family atmosphere that VASJ has, it's easy to meet people and make friends. I am happy here."

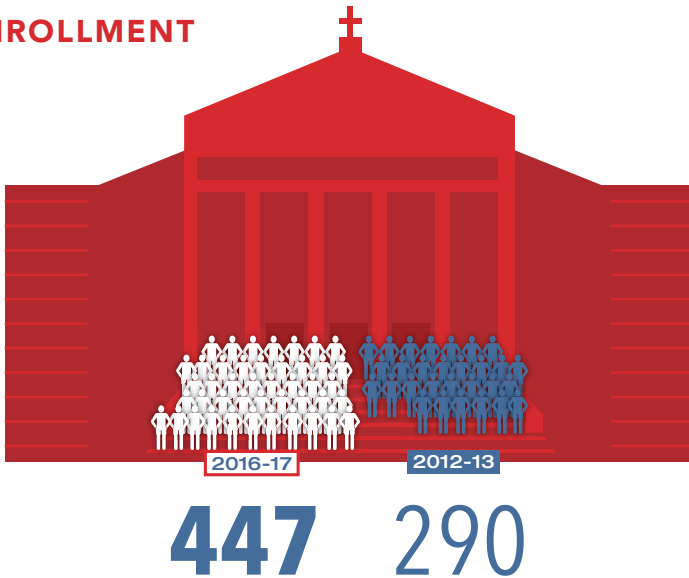
*"I want to make sure our youth
grow up right and make the right choices."*

JOSHUA SHUMPERT '21

BY THE NUMBERS: 2016-17 Fiscal Year

VILLA ANGELA-ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL IS BLESSED BY YOUR SUPPORT. Gifts to VASJ support our mission of providing a quality, Catholic education to tomorrow's leaders and helping them grow spiritually, academically, and personally.

ENROLLMENT



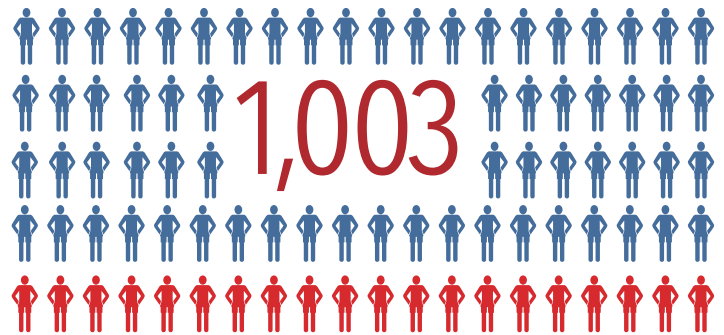
NUMBER OF GIFTS



AVERAGE GIFT SIZE: \$475.32

NUMBER OF DONORS

TOTAL: 2016-17

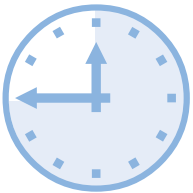


209 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE DONORS

93

LEGACY STUDENTS - students who are children or grandchildren of VA, SJ, or VASJ graduates

140 YEARS OF OFFERING QUALITY, CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN CLEVELAND



7,797

student service
hours completed

TOTAL MONEY RAISED

\$877,447



gifts received from

44/50 states

plus

gifts from around
the world, including
Brazil and Ireland

twenty Honors &
AP courses offered

5

College Credit
Plus offerings

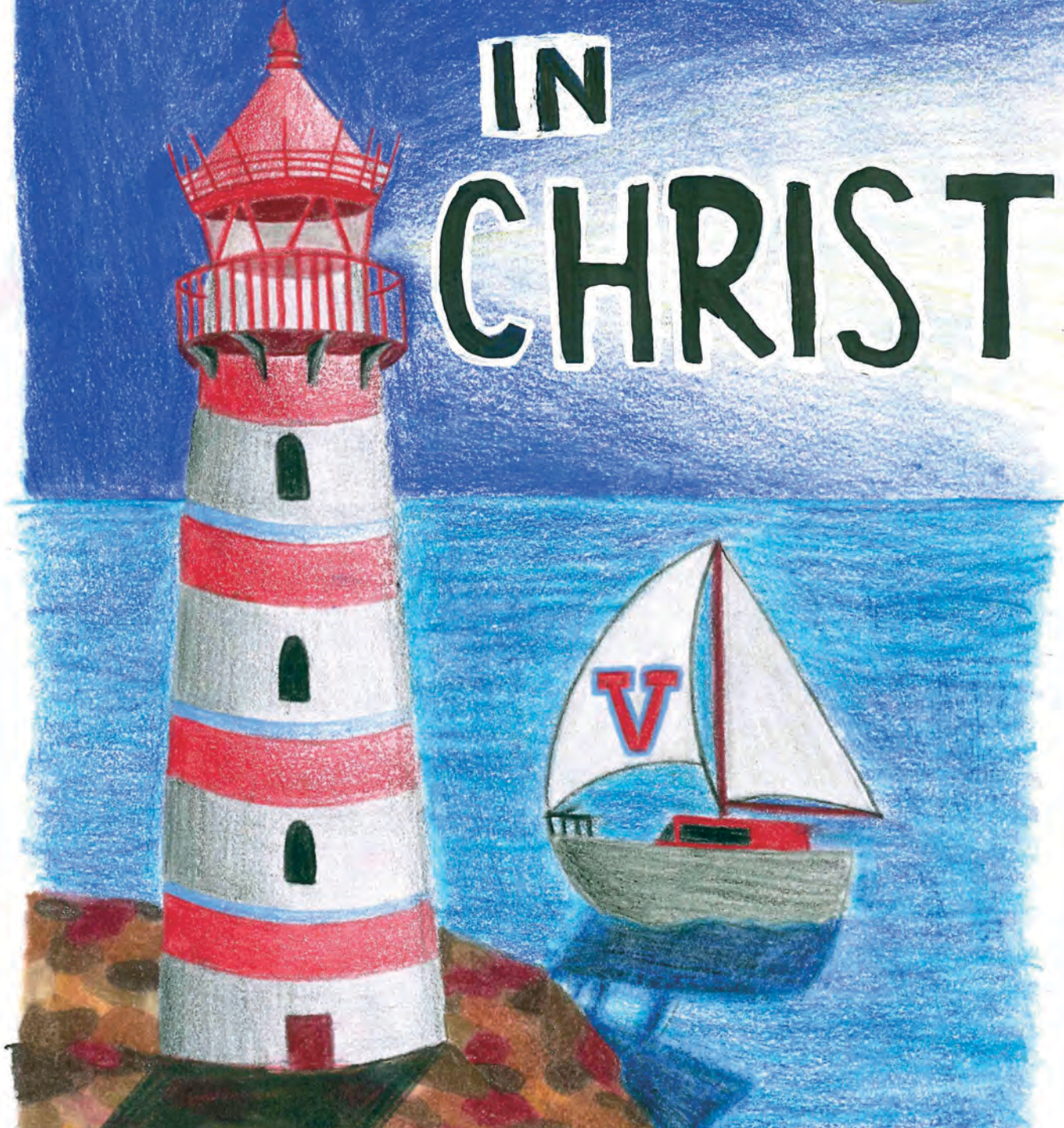
Award-winning
yearbook program

VASJ offers **25**
clubs and activities

HOPE

IN

CHRIST



2016-17 DONOR RECOGNITION REPORT

**ST. ANGELA/
BLESSED CHAMINADE**
\$10,000+

Dr. John '62 and Irene Blakemore
Bruening Foundation
Donald J. '70 and Mary Jo Dailey
Haskell Fund
Howley Foundation
Kerscher Family Foundation
Ladies Night Out
Marianist Province of the U.S.
Neil G. '70 and Maria McCormick
Raymond Murphy
Jamie M. Myers '76
Dr. Carole Rogel Poirier, PhD
Rooted in Faith - Forward
in Hope Grants
Roger J. '61 and Judy
(Ulepik) '61 Sustar
Jeff and Sandra (Pertekel) '66 Turner



**URSULINE/MARIANIST
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Dr. Roger F. '59 and Betty Sebenik
Mark F. Sejnowski '69
Dr. Terrence Sejnowski '64
John P. '65 and Alice Sferro
Rajon Sharpley '98
Mary Ellen Shaughnessy
Kevin M. Shea '71
Terry Sheridan
John H. '58 and Elaine Sheridan
Dr. John E. '69 and Cynthia Shinsky
Barbara (Yano) Shvak '57
Eva (Pasanovic) Sicvol '67
Michael Sierputowski '72
Mary Beth (Kander) Simon '73
Dr. Rudy Skerl '55
Thaddeus J. Sklad Jr. '61
David A. '72 and Kathleen (Cesen) '72 Skrajner
Mary Slak
James W. Slusser '67
Martin D. '68 and Anne Smalc
Barbara (Hanus) Smelter '71
Arthur D. '68 and Nancy Smialek
Michael Smith
Sr. Veronica Smrekar '56, OSU
John P. '56 and Leonor Smreker
Reverend Donald E. Snyder '64
Frank M. Sodnicar '61
Michael D. '65 and Linda Solma
Jeannie Somrack
Somrak Kitchens
Dr. Robert W. '82 and Debbie Spech
Jerome A. Spelic '86
William F. Spicuzza '56
Gregory Spies '92
Kathleen Spilar '77
Bud T. Stalker '66
Dennis M. '69 and Diane Stalzer
Phil and Evelyn Stanoch
Frank A. Stanonik '69
Kathleen (Welsh) Stasun '64
Dwight and Kathryn Stauffer
Edward A. Steigerwald '61
Father James R. Stenger '72
John M. Steverding '59
Molly E. (McGrath) Stewart '71
William C. Stief '60
Mary A. (Zurell) Stokes '55
John '59 and Linda Storey
Phillip T. Straniero '66

Roy J. '54 and Marlene (Laurich) '55 Streetz
Dr. Frederick V. '59 and Diana Strnisa
Donald H. '59 and Sharon (Justin) '60 Stupica
Richard J. Suglia
James J. Sukalac '66
Paul A. Sukys '66
Daniel L. Sukys '74
Mary Agnes (Gill) Sullivan '44
James F. '61 and Emily Sullivan
Louis S. Sumas '62
Veronica (Taraska) Susnjara '96
James Sustar '70
Christopher Sustar

Bruno and Mary Tilenni
Donna (Delic) Tizzano '81
Tizzano's Party Center
Donna (Bosco) Tobin '66
Michael P. Tobin '91
Lucille (Tizzano) Tomasic '57
Martin Tominic '67
Bartholomew S. Topoly '61
Constance (Nosan) Torgersen '59
M. Jane Toth '57
James Towey '72
Ralph F. Trepal '61
Floyd Trouten III
Brian Trueman '03
Frank W. '57 and Anna Marie Turk



Ronald J. '60 and Patricia Suster
Paul J. '61 and Charlene Svoboda
Brian M. Sweeney '63
Marilyn (Beck) Swope '60
Eileen (Osborne) Sykora '66
Jeanine Szalay
Vincent F. Sztul '68
Robert J. Tabernik '69
Michael W. '72 and Melodie Taisey
Peter A. Tanski '61
Edward J. '67 and Mary Tatman
Daniel W. Taylor '70
Thomas '67 and Karen Teare
Mary Jane Telford
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Arleen Turk '63
Lenore Ulichney
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Holly Urbanc
Richard J. Uritus '66
Joseph '70 and Joan Ursic
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Patricia (Dupan) Vitale '59
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Jennifer Walkling
D. Michael '69 and Barbara Walton
Linda (Mengay) Warren '73
Peggy Watral
Kellie (Clinton) Watrobski '03
Mark J. Weaver '88
Charles Webster '60
Karen (Kilroy) Weiss '60
Wells Fargo Foundation
Dennis J. Welsh '72
John Wert
Timothy J. Whalen '69
Karen Whitaker '58
John T. '59 and Nadia White
Patricia (Welsh) White '68
Marlene Whitmore
Linda (Obat) Williams '76
Donald Williams '01
Brianna Wilson
Kevin B. '80 and Silke Winter
Edward F. Winters '61
James A. Wojtila '79
Michael E. Wolanski '61
Vivian Woods
Ernest M. '61 and Joanne Woyma
Doris Zajec '74
John Zaller '67
Paul and Diane Zavell
Catherine (McGarry) Zbiegien '48
Joseph A. '73 and Lynne Zele
James '76 and Joan (Czyzycki) '80 Zele
Valdone (Karosas) Ziedonis '62
Louis S. Zigmund '90
George W. Zimmerman '65
Frances (Auer) Zingales '57
Sr. Susan Zion '67, OSU
Edward Zivkovich Jr. '70
Mitchel '74 and Juanita Zorich
Robert F. Zyck '73

CLASS NOTES



1



2



4

1950s

1 Members of the **St. Joseph High School Class of 1956** gathered for their 50+1 reunion on Saturday, August 19, 2017, at Alfredo's in the Holiday Inn in Mayfield Heights. It was a lively and festive bunch who shared many stories.

2 During a special Memorial Day ceremony in 2016, the Viking community came together to dedicate a monument honoring all Viking veterans and remembering six Vikings who were killed in action. By November of 2016, a seventh Viking, **Richard Thomas '57**, was identified as having been killed. His plaque was added to the monument on Veterans Day 2017.

A 60th class reunion was celebrated on August 17, 2017, by the **Villa Angela Class of 1957**. A group of 40 VA girls enjoyed a delicious lunch at Villa Croatia in Eastlake. A good time was had by all and a desire to meet a couple times a year at Muldoon's was decided. Any girls who would like to join in the gatherings should contact Barbara Yano Shivak at 216-731-1727.

3 **St. Joseph Class of 1958** classmates **Ray Centa, Larry Fistek, Ray Knauss, Tim LaGanke, Joe Mersnik, Gary Mishaga**, and their host, **Larry Reichert** and his wife, **Marilyn**, enjoyed a wonderful field trip to the Euclid Beach Grand Carousel in the Western Reserve Historical Society Museum. All rode the magnificently restored original 107-year-old carousel horses. It was a special occasion, worthy of note to celebrate the **St. Joseph High School Class of 1958** commemorative tile display, as well as all the many other features of the reunion.

1960s

4 Members of the **Villa Angela Class of 1960** gathered to celebrate their respective birthdays, as they have each year for the past seven years, a tradition that began after their 50th reunion. This year, they gathered at the Cabin restaurant for a wonderful lunch. Classmate **Therese Osborne**, who resides in Dublin, Ireland, traveled the farthest for the gathering. It was a wonderful afternoon as the classmates renewed friendships, remembered those who were not there, and laughed together.

5 The **1961 Vikings** hit the links at Chardon Lakes for their annual golf outing.



5

Members of the **St. Joseph Class of 1967** gathered for a two-day reunion event on June 16 and 17, 2017. They golfed on Friday at Legend Lakes and enjoyed a wonderful dinner after. On Saturday, the men were back at VASJ, gathering in the gymnasium for a catered meal, dancing, and nostalgia, with the opportunity to roam the school and relive moments in time.

1970s

Members of the of the **St. Joseph Class of 1972** continued their tradition of meeting every five years with a gathering on October 20 at Skinny's on East 222nd for a pregame get together before they trudged over to Euclid Stadium and watched the Vikings down Warren JFK. They continued the celebration afterwards at Cebars. On Saturday, they reconvened at the Viking Village for a guy's night with pizza and drinks.



Brian Duffy '82

Brian Duffy '82, an Emmy Award winner, is the co-anchor of Cleveland 19 News This Morning. "It's a dream come true to work in the city that I love," he says. He began his career in the sports department where he's worked as a reporter and anchor and as the host of Cleveland 19's Cleveland Browns coverage on Tailgate 19 and The 5th Quarter. Brian also hosted the Cleveland Cavaliers pre-game and post games shows on CLE43.

During his time at St. Joseph High School, he earned several letters in football and basketball. He carried his enthusiasm for sports with him to college at Edinboro University, where he received a B.A. in Communication. In college, he earned three letters in basketball, and ultimately became team captain for the Edinboro Fighting Scots. The Fighting Scots advanced to the NCAA Division II National Tournament during his senior year. Brian and his wife, Donna, have four children.



Michael Lazor '72 retired as Chief of the Willowick Police Department on April 4, 2017. Michael had a 33-year career with the Willowick Police Department, 17 years as the Chief.

Mark Bayer '80 recently celebrated 30 years with the U. S. Postal Service, serving as Union President for the past 15 years. Mark and his wife, Lisa, live in Grove City, Ohio, and welcomed their second grandchild into the world on September 15, 2017.

A group of 50 classmates of the **Villa Angela Class of 1972** gathered in the VA Room at VASJ on April 29, 2017, to celebrate their 50th reunion, renew old friendships and catch up. It was an energetic group with much storytelling and laughing.

1980s

After 18 years on the air, **Mike Golic '81** of ESPN's "Mike & Mike" show, signed off for the final time on November 17. Golic remains in the same 6-10 a.m. time slot alongside new partner Trey Wingo.

Members of the St. Joseph Class of 1977 hosted a two-day reunion on October 6 and 7, 2017. They rallied at the Oarsmen Clambake on the 6th and celebrated Mass at St. Bede's in Mentor on the 7th. **Father Tim Plavac '77** presided. A reception and dinner followed at Tizzano's Party Center (**Mike Tizzano '72**).

Joseph Frabotta '85 lives in Warner Robbins, GA, and is the Chief Engineer for Body Design at Blue Bird Corporation in Fort Valley, GA. He stopped by the Viking Village and while walking the campus grounds, was pleased to see the VASJ buses were Blue Birds.

Umberto Fedeli '78, CEO of the Fedeli Group, hosted a group of Viking alumni for lunch in October 2017. Attending were **John Storey '59**, **Kevin Flynt '70**, VASJ's Dean of Students **Thomas Erzen**, **Michael Flynt '69**, **Mike Moran '69**, and **Robert Mullin '88**.

Members of the **St. Joseph Class of 1987** celebrated a three-day reunion event August 6, 2017. Friday was a guy's-night-out with the Viking men gathering at the Standard. Activity continued on Saturday with golf at Pine Ridge Golf Course with the 19th hole being located at the Firehouse Grille and Pub in Willoughby Hills. The bolder ones took part in the Hofbrauhaus 5k, 10k, or half marathon on Sunday. The less ambitious met them for sausage and beer after.





9

1990s

9 London Fletcher '93 returned to John Carroll University, his college alma mater, on November 11, 2017, for a special celebration in honor of the school retiring his No. 3 jersey. Fletcher's Viking football Coach, **John Storey '59**, attended the event.

10 Chuck Kortovich '95, husband of **Erin Tobin Kortovich '93**, returned to VASJ to serve as the guest speaker for the school's Veterans Day assembly. Kortovich enlisted in the Marine Corps the summer after his junior year at VASJ. He left for boot camp right after his high school graduation and served in the Marines for four years before he was honorably discharged in 1999. After the events of September 11, 2001, he re-enlisted and deployed to Iraq in 2005.

2010s

Kierra Cotton '12 is a digital content producer at WKYC Channel 3 News in Cleveland. She returned to VASJ several times in the fall of 2017 to serve as a guest speaker for classes and clubs. She spoke to VASJ's government classes, Viking Mindset classes, and members of the Public Relations Club about her experiences at VASJ and in college at Ohio University as well as her current job at WKYC. Kierra is also serving on VASJ's Board of Advisors.

Nicholas Uitenham '14, who was a member of VASJ's Marianist Urban Students Program, recently graduated from Cuyahoga Community College receiving an Associate of Science Degree with honors (Cum Laude). Nick was on the Dean's List and had a 3.56 GPA.



10



11

Members of the VASJ Class of 1997 met at the Oarsmen Club Clambake on October 6, 2017. The clams were great but the conversation and reminiscing among classmates was even better.

12 John Henry Posey '16 graduated from Army basic training in August 2017. He will serve in the Army National Guard which is helping him to fund his college education at Otterbein. He returned to VASJ while home on fall break to visit his Viking family.

2000s

11 Jason Heil '01 was welcomed back to VASJ to teach the Viking Mindset class, a required course for all freshmen which touches on time management, study skills, organization, leadership, and what it means to be a Viking.

Members of the VASJ Class of 2007 had a three-day reunion event in June 2017. A meet-and-greet took place at Cebars on East 185 on Friday. A semi-formal gathering took place at VASJ on Saturday in the gymnasium with a DJ and a catered meal. The class took a field trip to Cedar Point on Sunday. It was an energetic bunch and a fun time.

13 Joey Tromba '16 is a sophomore at Otterbein University where he is majoring in Systems Engineering and a member of the wrestling team. Due to a torn ACL, Joey wasn't able to compete in the 2016 season. He returned to the mat in November 2017 for his first college wrestling match in which he won with a quick pin. His parents, **Joe '87 and Julie Tromba**, traveled to the Rhode Island match to cheer him on. Later that month, Joey and the Otterbein wrestling team participated in the John Carroll University duals. VASJ wrestlers and coaches came to show their support of Joey.



12



13

Your classmates want to hear from you!

Graduate from college? Get a new job? Get married? Have a baby? Win an award? Celebrate an anniversary? Get a promotion? Retire? Have a class reunion? Share your news with us at vasj.com/classnotes. Planning a class reunion? Please contact Kevin Flynt '70 with your reunion details. Call 216-481-8414 ext. 254 or email kflynt@vasj.com.

UPCOMING REUNIONS

The **St. Joseph High School Class of 1958** is formulating plans for their 60th reunion in 2018. Additional information will be forthcoming.

The **St. Joseph High School Class of 1968** will celebrate its 50th reunion on August 18, 2018, at the Croatian Lodge in Eastlake. Details will be posted on vasj.com/reunions when it becomes available.

Members of the **Villa Angela Academy Class of 1968** are formulating plans for their 50th reunion in 2018. Additional information will be forthcoming.

SAVE-THE-DATE: Join us on September 28, 2018, for an **All-Classes Reunion Weekend** with a special Happy Anniversary to those classes ending in '3 and '8. A full weekend of events are being planned. More information will be coming soon from the Alumni Office.

IN MEMORIAM

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School extends deepest condolences to alumni, family, and friends who have passed. We pause to remember and pray for the following losses in the Viking family:

Alice (Kushan) Ackerman '45
 Ronald Alic '54
 Edward Baitt '55
 Joan (Rossa) Baron '73
 John Barrett '61
 Robert Bell '65
 Rosalind (Rock) Beverick '56
 Thomas Cerjak '66
 Regina (Forman) Cox '49
 Fr. Edward Dhondt '60
 David Ellis '55
 William Exum '56
 Daniel Flannery '06
 Colleen Gallagher '80
 John Gaspar '54
 James Goslinski '72
 Arlene (Gruden) Hren '57
 Anthony Hughes '54
 Dennis Jonke '64
 William Kane '66

Carol (Salomone) Kelly '79
 Charles Kleinhenz '74
 Carla Klemencic '76
 Alex Koler '59
 Robert Kordet '63
 James Krann '62
 Emil Kresic '58
 John Lieske '57
 Marjorie Lloyd '42
 Kathleen (Kocsis) Long '71
 Richard Lucha '58

Rosemary (Madda) Luksic '56
 Richard Manning '57
 Michael Markic '61
 Terrance Markushic '74
 John Marusic '83
 Ernest Miklavic '61
 Richard Morano '58
 Charles Olivo Sr. '58
 Michael Pace '69
 Patricia Pate '61
 John Perme '61

John Pierce '59
 James Piro '66
 Jared Plesec '14
 Donald Plocica '56
 Katherine Pope-Malari '61
 Charles Rapinz '67
 James Roberts '66
 Gloria Rogers '63
 Donald Romano '60
 Bruce Schwarz '74
 Richard Siebert '57

IN MEMORIAM



Jared Plesec '14

Jared Plesec '14 was a tireless volunteer during his time at VASJ. He truly loved giving service to the community and went above and beyond the school's required hours of service. It was his student-volunteer hours that led the school to create the Viking Service Award to recognize students for these efforts. For the three years after his graduation, Jared worked for the Salvation Army Temple Corps Community Center in Collinwood serving as a youth mentor. The night he was killed, Jared was leaving his apartment to work as a Salvation Army Red Kettle Worker. He died holding his Bible. Hundreds of people gathered at the Salvation Army for a vigil and Cleveland City Council renamed a portion of Grovewood Avenue in Collinwood to "Jared Plesec Way" in honor of his service to the neighborhood. A prayer service was held at VASJ on December 15 where it was announced that the school's Viking Service Award has been renamed the "Jared Plesec Service Award."

IN MEMORIAM

Gerald Sowul '62

Robert Stech '68

William Valis '61

Paul Vargo '80

Richard Weybrecht '67

Julius Zimmerman III '72

Frank Zorman '62

Thomas George (*husband of Jane Kander George '85*)

Ann Jarosz (*wife of Marty Jarosz '69*)

Nicholas Schady (*father of Nikkia Schady '17*)

Eleanor Scotese (*mother of Charlend '63, Sheila '65, Vito '69, Renee '70, Terry '72, Lisa '80, and Lynette '85, grandmother of Scott '98*)

Christopher Swyt (*father of Jennifer '96 and Catherine '00, brother of Margaret '60*)

CORRECTION: In the Spring 2017 magazine Linda Carpenter, mother of Craig Skorich '93 was mistakenly listed as deceased. We apologize for this error.

Updates appreciated

VASJ deeply appreciates being notified when a graduate passes away. Please contact Kevin Flynt at kflynt@vasj.com with such news.

To honor your loved one with a memorial gift to VASJ, please contact Director of Advancement Kellie Mayle at 216-481-8414 ext. 259 or at kmayle@vasj.com.

What are you up to?

We need your help to stay current. Help us update our records or share information for our next issue by sharing your updated contact information.

MAIL TO:

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School
ATTN: Advancement Office
18491 Lakeshore Boulevard
Cleveland, OH 44119

OR UPDATE ONLINE:

www.vasj.com/alumni



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VASJ MAGAZINE

winter 2018

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OUR MISSION Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School is a Catholic, comprehensive college-preparatory school rooted in the Ursuline and Marianist traditions and committed to the spiritual, academic, and personal growth of each student.

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Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

CONTINUE
the Dream
ANNUAL BENEFIT

Saturday, February 17, 2018

LaMalfa | 5783 Heisley Rd, | Mentor, OH

Join us for a Mardi Gras gala featuring VASJ students and live auctioneer Mark Schroeder, former Fox 8 News sportscaster. Evening includes dinner, open bar, and both live and silent auctions.

VASJ.COM/CONTINUETHEDREAM



where friends become **family**



A welcoming educational community

WHEN YOU BECOME A STUDENT at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School, you become a member of a family where everyone knows you. It is a place where you can grow in your faith, be challenged academically, follow your passions, and create high school memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Our students proudly embrace our diversity and it shows in their school pride and the family spirit that makes our Viking Village something truly special.