

# Seasons of the Saints

Spring 2023



*Photo Credit: Jamie G Photography*

## From the Principals

We are excited to announce that All Saints Academy has been awarded \$53,493 from a grant through the Michigan Department of Education. Pursuant to Public Act 144 of 2022 and Public Act 93 of 2022, the MDE announced in the fall the availability of funding opportunities specific to school safety and student mental health in support of Goal 3 of Michigan's Top Ten Strategic Education Plan. This funding seeks to reduce the impact of high risk factors on students while improving the health, safety, and wellness of all learners.

With these funds All Saints Academy worked, or will be working, on the following projects:

- Critical incident mapping for both campuses.
- Assessments of both campuses in which strategic opportunities to increase All Saints' operational control and efficiency in predicting, mitigating, and responding to disruptions, continuity, and security issues were identified.
- Upgrades to security camera systems.
- Improvements to other areas identified in the assessment report.

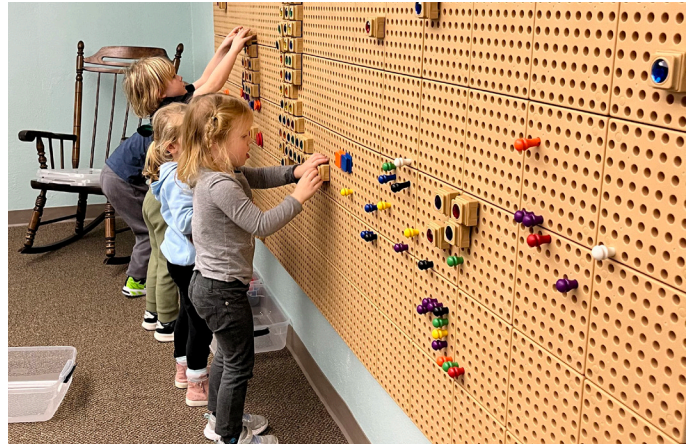
This grant is in addition to the other security grants received over the years which totaled over \$60,000. Previous grants helped to fund the initial implementation of surveillance equipment at both campuses, improvements on the PA system, and installation of protective film of all of the high traffic entry ways and exposed glass in other areas.

We continue to improve the safety and security of our buildings so that students can enter school ready and eager to learn without the stress and anxiety of not feeling safe. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of these projects and any other grants that help to improve All Saints Academy.





# Grants Make Dreams Come True: Garden Room Remodel



Did you know that All Saints Academy has a large motor room in the lower level, commonly called the “Garden Room” by the youngsters? For most kids, it is their favorite place to visit throughout the week. Imagine a playground inside. It is a place where kids can practice perfecting their large motor skills. They can run, climb on wooden structures, ride in coupe cars, push shopping carts, create designs on a giant pegboard, play basketball, crawl through a giant caterpillar, balance on stepping stones, put on a puppet show, build with giant blocks, use the activity wall boards, perfect their skills with kids size tools, or play organized games like “Duck Duck Goose”.

When ASA first formed, the space was used as a huge storage closet for all of those items we didn’t really need. We knew that there was a better purpose for the space, so with some hard work, we cleaned it out and created this fun zone. Initially, we furnished the space with a lot of donations and extra items just lying around. Overtime, we were able to add to the space through Eaglefest funds and additional family donations. However, thanks to a stabilization grant that the early childhood program received last summer, we were able to revamp that space even more this winter.

The Child Care Stabilization Grant was a \$700 million investment in child care providers across Michigan. The stabilization grant was a non-competitive grant for providers to help stabilize operations and support the health and safety of children and staff. In the summer of 2022, 5173 grants of various amounts were awarded to child care providers throughout Michigan. Thanks to this grant, the remodeling of the garden room came to be.

Over Christmas break the remodeling began. The walls and ceilings were painted with a fresh coat of paint. The lights even received an upgrade. Once the painting was done, a giant pegboard was added to the wall along with a giant caterpillar with five activity boards. We then loaded the room with some new coupe cars, road signs, a basketball hoop, wooden climbing structure, giant soft blocks, and even more. The space took on a new look and gave the kids a fresh, revamped place to play. Without the stabilization grant, this remodel would still be a dream. Sometimes dreams do come true!

## Market Day: It Was Worth the Risk!

“What if no one buys my product?”; “I’m worried about making change!”; “I don’t understand how I’m going to find my actual profit.” When these questions are asked and concerns are expressed, it is a sure bet that Market Day, a hands-on economics unit in which each student creates, markets, and sells a product, is upon the fifth graders at ASA.

For some, the prospect of creating a product was exciting. Isabella loved the process. “Being able to explore my creativity and what I liked was fun. I got busy right away.” For others, it was the hardest part of the process. “I wanted to make something that other kids would want to buy,” explained Demetrios, “but I wasn’t sure what that might be.” Parker shared that she had doubts at first until she received encouragement from her family, and ultimately, she was so glad she listened to them. “They were right! I even walked away with orders to fill over Spring Break.”

After settling on a product, the creating began. Amelia chose to make colorful bracelets and paintings from kits she had at home that were given to her as gifts to use for her products. Ashley painted beautiful ombre bookmarks, and Ben’s bookmarks were popular among the sports enthusiasts. There were no costs accrued, and Market Day brought these students pure profit. Jacob created scented soaps. He, along with some other classmates, took some risks when they borrowed from the bank (parents) to purchase supplies, hired labor to help (students could choose to pay family members .25 for every fifteen minutes of help), and then pay both of those costs back before they were able to calculate a true profit. Jacob determined it was well worth it though. “It was really nerve racking at first because I didn’t know if I would make all the money I spent back, but my hard work paid off.”

Whether students chose to go it alone or borrow from the banks, the next step was to create surveys and determine interest in the products. What colors would other students purchase most? What scents? What logos did they want to see on products?

Next came learning about marketing and propaganda techniques. “It’s everywhere!” Poppy said. “Once you know what to look for, you realize it’s all around you. I really liked marketing my products over the school PA right before lunch, too. That was fun.”

When Market Day finally arrived, students were excited but hesitant. For some, making change was a concern. What they found was after the first few minutes, they fell into a rhythm and giving change became easier and they gained confidence. The final goal? Simply to make a .05 profit. “At first, on the actual Market Day when people were walking around, I worried that maybe my magnets wouldn’t sell. But now I realize I just had to relax and have faith because I ended up with a good profit,” shared Andrew.

The risk was worth it all.



# Welcome, Megan Cooke!

*All Saints Academy is committed to supporting teachers. When teachers are well-supported, their flourishing bubbles over to the students. Even star athletes seek out quality coaching... so it makes sense that star teachers would do the same. Instructional coaches partner with teachers to help them improve teaching and learning so students become more successful.*

*Coaching is a partner relationship guided by goals chosen by the person implementing them. When done correctly, there is responsible accountability, and authentic learning takes place. As teachers are affirmed and committed to this process, students' learning and engagement positively improves. Below you can learn more about ASA's new instructional coach, Megan Cooke.*



Hello, ASA! My name is Megan Cooke, and I'm excited to be joining your team as an Instructional Coach. I've already been receiving a warm welcome (thank you!), and I look forward to meeting more of you.

My husband and I have three children who go to Grand Rapids Christian Schools. Miles is in 8th grade, Ramona (Mona) is in 6th, and Penelope (Penny) is in 2nd. As a family we love to camp, ride bikes, play games, and teach tricks to our bunnies, Daisy and Rudy.

I graduated from Calvin College focusing on Special Education and Learning Disabilities, and over the past 18 years I have had the pleasure of teaching many grades between PreK and Graduate-level students while also spending time supporting schools and school systems.

ASA is a place where love drives learning and where each child is cared for and known well. That's a place you want to show up to every day. I feel blessed to partner with this community in providing transformative faith-based education, through serving to meet the needs of teachers as they meet the needs of students.



# Beyond ASA: The Friend Factor

Written by Abby Druelle & Maddie Vos, ASA Class of 2020

Eighth grade brings many traditions: School leadership, designing the 8th grade t-shirt, Christmas caroling while delivering decorated sugar cookies, and May Crowning. As the months fly by, the reality of moving on slowly sinks in, and one very real question arises. Where is my best friend going to high school?

For Maddie Vos and Abby Druelle, this became all too real all too quickly in the spring of 2020. “Maddie and I had planned to go to West Catholic together for as long as I can remember. When I found out Maddie and I were attending different high schools, my stomach dropped,” Abby recalled.

Although Maddie made the final decision to go to Catholic Central after visiting, at the same time, she was terrified to go to school without Abby. They were each other’s best friend. So how did they do it? “Maddie and I made plans ahead of time. We decided we would set time aside on the weekends to get together and catch up. We picked out certain days of the year, like our birthdays, to spend together. Most importantly, we decided that nothing was really going to change, and that we would continue to make time for each other.”

There were hard times, though. “I missed Abby a ton that first year,” Maddie recollected. “I wanted to tell her so much about what was going on with school, friends, grades, everything. We even emailed each other during school to check up on each other. We still do that. Keeping that contact through the entire year was probably the biggest thing that helped us stay so close.”

Freshman year was difficult for

Abby, too. “I wasn’t a very outgoing person at the time, so it was tough for me to make friends on my own at first. It was hard to not see Maddie at school every day because I just wasn’t used to it. Even though I eventually stepped out of my comfort zone and made my own friends, I still missed Maddie. I realized that adding more people into my life wouldn’t ever change the spot I held in my heart for her. I think Maddie and I both agree that it felt weird not to see each other very often. Having to communicate over technology was hard, but we knew we had to make it work.”

Going to each other’s football games was another way they were able to spend time together. Taking time to catch a movie, going sledding, or grabbing some ice cream helped them stay tight. Once they were both able to drive, they found they could have quick visits with one another after school or at work. Going for drives while listening to music became a favorite way to catch up in the evening when they didn’t have other obligations. Fifteen minutes or an hour, touching base was what was important.

Both Maddie and Abby are getting ready to enter their senior years of high school. One is still at Catholic and the other is at West. Both can look back and admit they actually grew up going to separate high schools. “I see advantages to attending a different high school than your best friend because it forced me to get out of my shell and talk to other people. Without going to Catholic Central, I wouldn’t have made friends that I have today.” Maddie continued, “I feel like it also forced me to try other things

I wouldn’t have because I would’ve just stuck to whatever my limit was and what I was comfortable with.” Abby agreed with Maddie. “Going to separate high schools has made me step out of my comfort zone a lot. Not only with meeting new people, but also in school with presentations, group projects, etc. I think that being forced to try new things without any help from my best friend has improved me as a person. It has helped shape me into who I am today. Stepping out of my comfort zone has also helped me become more extroverted towards Maddie as well. Even though Maddie and I are already so crazy together, I think that a little more outgoing features added to our friendship and makes it just that much better.”

Their college years are right around the corner. What do these two see in their futures? “For me, I either want to go into school counseling or become a nurse. I feel like I’m leaning more towards the school counselor because I like to help people with problems and listen to people. I am doing the Nurse Teach KCTC program next year,” Maddie shared. Abby has some idea, too. “I’m not completely set on what I want to go into in the future, but I am leaning towards elementary education. I love working with kids, so I am thinking about second or third grade.”

And their future as friends? Maddie knows after the last three years, Abby and she have a true friendship. Abby was quick to agree. “We are still able to maintain a strong and healthy friendship together because we both put in the effort. Realizing this, I know at this point that Maddie and I can get through anything together.”

# Revive: Women's Basketball Group

Written by Mary Pereira, Blessed Sacrament Parishioner & ASA Parent



As I watched my 5th grade daughter play basketball this year, I couldn't help but think to myself how fun it would be if I could get the chance to play basketball again. I have always loved the sport, and seeing my daughter enjoy it caused a new passion (and a little jealousy) to brew inside of me. As I started to ponder the idea a little more seriously, it occurred to me that there are probably MANY women who feel the same way, and those same women are looking to not only revive their basketball skills, but also revive their self-care, their feelings of accomplishment, and their friendships.

When I started to reach out via Facebook, our parish, and the school, I was honestly surprised by how quickly women from all over the community began to express their interest. And in many cases, what I had suspected was in fact true: these moms had been not only dreaming of an opportunity to be able to play again, but had been looking for an opportunity to get out of the house and do something healthy and fun for themselves. I have become so proud of those moms who have been a little hesitant to emerge from their mom-shell and 'revive' in one way or another. There have been several who have even been apologetic for being out of shape, but aren't we all! One by one, these women are deciding to not only do what they love, but to connect with other women, thereby forming a wonderful faith-based community.

If you are interested in being part of this, don't be shy! Either reach out to me via phone/text or, just show up on a Thursday at 6:30pm at the All Saints Academy lower campus gym, otherwise known as the Blessed Sacrament parish center. We'd love to have you and you'd be more than welcome. Soon there will be a Facebook page where you can see updates and other info. Stay tuned! And until then, may God bless you and revive you in all the ways He sees best.



## Mission Statement

*All Saints Academy is a Catholic School inspired by the Holy Spirit and dedicated to teaching and living as Jesus did. Our mission is to serve and partner with our families, parishes and communities as we focus on the spiritual, intellectual, moral, social, and physical development of our children.*



## Lower Campus at Diamond

2233 Diamond Avenue NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
616.447.2997

## Upper Campus at Four Mile

1110 Four Mile Road NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
616.363.7725

## Walking with the Saints Video Series

Over this past year, we have released videos about each of the Saints in the mural at the Upper Campus and how they connect to our school community in a series we call, Walking with the Saints. This series has painted a picture of the life of ASA. You can watch the full series on our website at [asagr.org/saintvideos](http://asagr.org/saintvideos).

## Academic Calendar

### May

#### May 15 - 18

Lower Campus Book Fair

#### May 19

Third Grade Poetry Fair  
1 PM, Brophy Center

#### May 22 - 25

Upper Campus Book Fair

#### May 25

Leadership Mass  
8:30 AM, St. Jude

### May 29

No School & Child Care  
*Memorial Day*

### June

#### June 1

Sports Banquet  
6 PM, Brophy Center

#### June 5

8th Grade Graduation  
6:30 PM, St. Jude

#### June 9

Last Day of School

### July

#### July 4

No Summer Child Care  
*Fourth of July*

### August

#### August 21

Ice Cream Social  
5:30 - 7 PM, Both Campuses

#### August 23

First Day of School

*Save the Date*

## 8th Grade Graduation

June 5  
6:30 PM  
St. Jude