



EXCELSIOR

THE MAGAZINE OF ARCHBISHOP SHAW HIGH SCHOOL

It's been a
long road,
but he's
back
**Coach Hank
Returns 8**

Student
leaders
head to the
Big Apple
**Salesian
Leadership
Retreat 18**

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Senior Matthew Burnside, '23, shows his passion during the Football matchup against Helen Cox
by Jeffery Chiasson, '23

EXCELSIOR

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ARCHBISHOP *SHAW* HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENTS

BREAKFAST WITH *S*ANTA



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022

10a - 12 Noon

Doors Open at 9:30AM
at the Archbishop Shaw Cafeteria
(Verrett Hall)



DONATION FOR EVENT

Kids 3 & Under... FREE

Kids 4-12... \$10.00

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- **FULL BREAKFAST:** eggs, grits, sausage, biscuits, donut holes, coffee, milk, chocolate milk.

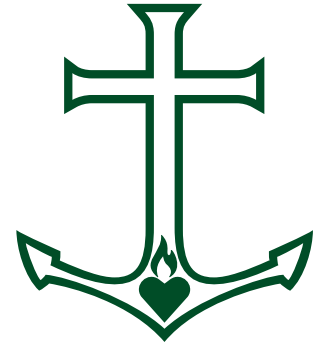


FACE PAINTING COLORING SHEETS ORNAMENT MAKING CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG

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WELCOME

We're always
looking to greater
heights



Mr. Nicholas Marchese
Associate Head of School
Class of 2005

O

ur goal for the 2022-2023 school year is to build on the positive energy and momentum from last year while still striving to improve in all aspects of our community. Our school's Salesian charism helps pave the way for Archbishop Shaw High School to excel in Academics, Athletics, Community Service, and Catholic identity. Our school's motto, Excelsior, is what we live by. We are constantly striving to be better each day. Our students are respected and loved. They are also held accountable for mistakes and put on the path of improvement. We follow the Preventive System of St. John Bosco which leads our young men with Reason, Religion, and Kindness.

Archbishop Shaw High School

Administration

Fr. Stephen Ryan, SDB
Director/Head of School

Mr. Nicholas Marchese, '05
Associate Head of School

Mr. Brandon Surrency, '09
*Assistant Head of School of
Advancement*

Mr. Benjamin DeMarais
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Mr. Thomas Alef
Director of Athletics

Mrs. Cheryl Reine
Director of Guidance

Mrs. Courtney Bond
Director of Admissions

Fr. John Langan, SDB
*Coordinator of Youth
Ministry*

Looking Ahead: Senior Vincent Fabro looks toward the future. This year at Shaw is all about new beginnings and new directions.

▼ Courtesy Alex Cormier



Archbishop Shaw High School
#GI[♥]INGTUESDAY

Chapel

BEAUTIFICATION

Campaign

Help us create a home for the hearts
of young men to rest in God.

November 29, 2022

ADVANCED GIVING STARTS NOV. 14

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#iGIVECATHOLIC



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Let's start practicing the "5 P's"

Dear Archbishop Shaw Families and Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving! All of us here at Shaw, especially the Salesians of Don Bosco, are grateful for you.

We are grateful for your generosity and support. We are grateful for your goodwill. We are grateful that you love Archbishop Shaw and believe in this mission of educating and evangelizing young men.

Yes, we are grateful for all of you.

This Thanksgiving, let's promise one another that we will live our lives with an attitude of gratitude. That way we can continue to respond joyfully to the blessings we have received from Almighty God.

Our gratitude to God and others is shown and exemplified in our attitudes and actions. In response to God's Love, let's get busy practicing the 5 P's. What are the 5 P's?

1. **Peace:** I will be a peacemaker. I am not "looking for a fight" with others. Even though things may not be going my way, I want to be an instrument of God's love to others. So, I will not take my frustrations out on those around me. I choose to be an instrument of peace. I am going to pre-empt negative attitudes by coming out with kindness, joy and gentleness in my relationships.
2. **Patience:** Things happen! People disappoint! Relationships are sometimes painful. The ordinary stuff of life always seems to get fowled up. So, I will be patient. I can't control much of what happens. Help me Lord to accept patiently the challenges of life. I am going to practice patience.
3. **Perseverance:** You gotta be tough to make it in this world. Keep going! I will persevere in difficult circumstances. I am a person of faith and THE ONE who is greater than me will give me the ability to endure. I will not despair or become despondent. I'm making up my mind with determination—I **want to be a saint**. Saints are sinners who keep trying. I will not give up!
4. **Prayer:** I'm going to keep praying out of gratitude. With a thankful heart I will make time each day to go to the source of all good and all blessings. I have scheduled some prayer time in my life. Also, when I feel the promptings of the Holy Spirit to pray—I'm going to pray. Prayer works.
5. **Praise:** I will Praise the name of the Lord. I will spend part of my prayer time praising God. I will also be generous in offering others praise for their goodness to spread encouragement to all.

Happy Thanksgiving.
God bless you,

Fr. Steve Ryan SDB

Fr. Steve Ryan, SDB



Fr. Stephen Ryan, SDB
Director/Head of School

PEER MINISTRY Senior Showcase

Dominic Allelo



Where are you from?

I am from Harvey, Louisiana.

Tell us about your family.

My family is relatively small, but close. My dad is an offshore project superintendent and my mom is a teacher. I have an older brother and a younger sister.

Why did you come to Shaw?

I came to Shaw because I felt that this school treated me more like a person, not just a *number*. I felt at home; I knew place would help me grow as a man in reason, religion, and kindness. Shaw is also really close to my home which makes the commute super easy.

When did you first become involved in peer ministry?

I got involved my Junior year. Despite the short time frame, it's become one of the most important activities I'm involved in. I'm the Vice President of Peer Ministry this year.

What have you enjoyed doing most as a part of peer ministry?

I enjoy preparing for the Mass with my friends. It gives a sense of accomplishment when you know that Mass was able to proceed because of your help. I also really enjoy being a Eucharistic Minister as well. I love being able to give the Body of Christ to my brothers.

How has your experience in peer ministry impacted your own faith life?

My experience in peer ministry has helped me form a closer relationship with God. Since I am actually able to hold his Body and give it to my brothers; I feel deeply honored. I also feel more connected with the Mass now that I've helped in setting up and learning the Mass parts.

How has your faith life grown while at Shaw?

I've learned so much about religion and what that word really means. I think that's in part to Don Bosco who's whole philosophy was based on reason, *religion*, and kindness. I've also learned that God is in everything we learn, not just Theology classes. My eyes have been opened to the messages and signs of God all around us, most especially in the Eucharist.

What are you planning to do after high school?

After high school, I plan on attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette majoring in Biology. I hope that after undergraduate, I can attend Medical School and become an anesthesiologist..

What advice would you give to your younger brothers here at Shaw as you move on?

Cherish high school because it goes by so quickly. Try to find the things you want to do for the rest of your life sooner than later and devote yourself to it. Strengthen your relationship with Christ; having God on your side makes high school so much easier!

Eagle Screech: Shaw students yell for their household. (foreground from left) Raymond Howard, '24, Aldrich Wilberg, Dominic Allelo, and Jason Brown, Jr., '23.

Courtesy Evan Anderson, '23



FEATURE

The Return

Shaw Football returns
to its roots

BY JASON BROWN, JR., '23



With an impressive record of 8-2 for the Shaw Eagle Football team and a district title, it's easy to see the difference that Coach Hank Tierney and his coaching staff have made for the program. The return of the beloved coach, however, means more than just a winning season: it's a homecoming for a figure who had long been separated from the place he believes he truly belongs.

Coach Tierney came to Shaw as an assistant coach in 1978 under Head Coach Joe Zimmerman. In 1983, Coach Tierney became Head Coach and led the Eagles to legendary heights. Out of 19 seasons as head coach, the team made it to the playoffs 18 times. After some reflection and hoping to bring his talents to other up-and-coming programs, Coach took his leave from Shaw in 2002.



Deep Roots: (left; from left) Coach Hank Tierney walks with Coach Joe Zimmerman in 1983 as the latter prepares to hand over the reins.

(right; from left) Coach Hank is just as involved as he was 40 years ago, here seen with No. 14, Daniel Sauls, III (Class of 2023).

Courtesy Alex Cormier

Coach Tierney would cement his talents as a coach over the next twenty years where he led successful programs and won a number of championships at public schools. Despite the successes and recognition, Coach Tierney found himself conflicted: he didn't have the same impact on the student's lives as he had when at Shaw. At the end of the day, he was *just* the football

coach. The relationship between coach and athlete ended when cleats stepped off the field.

Central to Archbishop Shaw's identity as a Catholic and Salesian school is the Preventive system of Saint John Bosco. Don Bosco famously devoted his life toward helping the young, especially young men who were often homeless or orphans. In his system, he emphasized three characteristics of a Salesian school: rea-



son, religion, and loving kindness.

This spiritual ethic had deeply impacted Tierney as a young coach and would continue to shape his character and spirituality. When Coach received the invitation to return to Shaw, his goal was simple: to bring this philosophy in a deeper way to the field. Despite the desire to win and to compete well, the hope is not to just make better football players, but better people.

At Shaw, however, the same disciplines preached on the field are found in the classroom. A student is not just an athlete or a scholar: he is a unique creation of God, destined for holiness off and on the field.

By combining the values gained from his many years as a coach with the full support of the school, Coach Tierney envisions football as an extension of the student's growth and formation. He upholds a high standard for his players: watching one's tongue in the locker room and the field, reprimanding unsportsmanlike behavior, benching anyone who received a detention

notice. These are all important aspects of a team that can go neglected, but because of this strict adherence to honorable, upright play, “developing the work ethic of the team has been easy” says Coach Tierney. He points to many examples in the past where a “star” player was benched for breaking these fundamentals while fully acknowledging the consequences that would bring to the team. The message was simple: talented players don’t win games: teams do, and when one person hurts himself by his actions, it



hurts his brothers, as well.

One of the biggest questions Coach has received from the moment he appeared under a banner emblazoned with “Welcome Home Coach” was “why”; why return to Archbishop Shaw after all these years? By his own admission, he had fully planned to retire, having had his 300th win and sitting comfortably as an accomplished coach. However, he couldn’t help but notice that the very place where he had gotten his start as a young coach and learned so many valuable lessons was, itself, in need of a restart. Despite declining enrollment and a malaise that seemed to define the school for years, faces both new and old resolved to start a new chapter in her history. Coach recognized his opportunity to become part of that story one last time.

Jason Brown, Jr. (Class of 2023) was born and raised in Marrero, LA. He is a member of the Archbishop Shaw Swimming, Lacrosse, and Wrestling teams. He is a member of the Robotics club, the Student Government Organization, Mu Alpha Theta Honors Society, and Science Honors Society. He is the Treasurer of the Spanish Honors Society and Secretary of National Honors Society. He and his family attend Visitation of Our Lady Catholic Church where he is a lector.



Coach Tierney’s return is more than just another chance at coaching football: it’s a mission to keep the spirit of Don Bosco alive in Marrero. His program understands that football is more than plays, games, and victories: it is a vehicle of growth for Shaw and of formation for her men, giving back to more than just the school, but the Salesians and the Westbank as a whole, as this was the place that made him the man he is today.



SHAW 101

*Not everyone can be a Shaw Eagle: it takes a young man who is dedicated to his education and community. However, every young man deserves the chance to **become** a Shaw Eagle. Mr. Benjamin Russo, Assistant Head of School of Student Formation, discusses his efforts to make this possible.*

The family spirit at Archbishop Shaw is no accident. It is one of the most important signs of the Salesian charism being alive and well at our school. How do we cultivate that family spirit, particularly among increasing large eighth grade classes coming from a diverse background of middle schools; public and private, Eastbank and Westbank, urban Gretna and rural Lafitte.

Our school decided to implement a Shaw 101 class for all eighth graders, a semester class that aims to prepare students for their time here at Shaw not just through math, reading, and writing practice but through teaching students about all of the elements of our school that make us Archbishop Shaw. In Shaw 101 we learn Shaw history, develop school spirit, learn about the Salesians and St. Don Bosco, explore the purpose and roles in the House System, and work on becoming the best young men we can be at Archbishop Shaw.

Shaw 101 is a course that forces the eighth graders to work with one another and encounter the members of their class that did not come from the same school they did, are not in the same extracurriculars, and those that have other interests. It helps them move from an eighth grade class composed of students from twenty plus elementary schools to becoming one unified Shaw class, ready to make the most of their next four years at Shaw.

Mr. Benjamin Russo grew up as the fourth of six children in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Dallas and earned his Masters in Education from the University of Notre Dame. This is his eleventh year teaching at Archbishop Shaw where he serves as Assistant Head of School of Student Formation.



Learning the Ropes: (top) Mr. Benjamin Russo assists Wilfred Woods, '27 with a writing assignment. A big focus of Shaw 101 is developing study skills and providing a smooth transition from middle school to high school for students.

(bottom) Dominic Zuniga, Hunter Cedotal, and Theophile Bourgeois enjoy Mr. Russo's class as they pose for a photo.

Courtesy Hayden Tassin, '23

SERVICE & SPIRIT

Dogs & Treats



New Friends: Senior Kobe Nguyen was one of five NHS students who helped JPAWS on a workday to help stray and abandoned dogs.

Courtesy Kobe Nguyen, '23

The National Honors Society is an academic organization that recognizes students' educational and athletic successes, acts of charity, and signs of character. To be considered a National Honors Scholar, students must be recommended by an educator. This recognition is a testament to how much hard work an individual has put into their school career.

This year, NHS members have performed acts of service that exemplify these characteristics. One of the major projects was assisting the Jefferson Parish Animal Welfare Society (JPAWS). JPAWS, in addition to their animal welfare work, offers shelter for the ever-growing number of stray and abandoned dogs. Five students (Seniors Kobe Nguyen, Dominic Allelo, Dylan Hyunh, Colin Crespo, and Josh Nguyen) attended a workday on September 28th and helped the workers clean, walk, and feed homeless dogs.

"We really wanted to be there; it's almost as if we didn't work at all," reflects Dominic Allelo, President of Archbishop Shaw's NHS Chapter. Despite the fun of working with newly-made furry friends, it's not all chew toys and treats:

"Certain dogs, especially the bigger ones, made it harder to control and groom because of their size." However, the students were unperturbed and handled them in stride. JPAWS workers were thankful for the students' concerns for the stray. Even though the students were there for only one day, their work and concern has inspired their peers to help in the cause.

Sometimes service looks a lot more like fun than a chore: NHS was also a part of this year's Trunk-or-Treat event for Halloween. Students and faculty came together to give children a smaller, safer version of trick-or-treating. NHS set up, in the trunk of a car, a spooky display and handed out treats to passing children. Over 500 children and their guardians were in attendance with not a *Kit-Kat* or *Twix* to spare.

NHS is looking forward to more service projects to come for the Christmas holiday and into the Spring.

Kobe Nguyen (Class of 2023) is from Marrero, Louisiana. He is a member of the Shaw Wrestling team and the National Honors Society. He is a parishioner of Saint Bonaventure Catholic Church in Avondale.

Rosary for Life

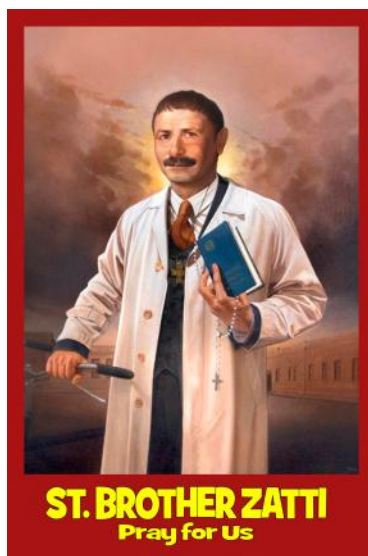
On Friday, October 7, in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, all of Shaw came together to pray, rosaries in hand, with one voice.

The prayer was led by members of Father Steve Ryan's Senior Theology class. A big part of Father's class is the idea of putting faith into action. In the past, the class has put on religious plays and has helped with such activities as reconciliation services. The school-wide Rosary is one of such activities.

In light of recent events in our country's history, the Rosary was offered in recognition of the dignity of life, especially of the unborn. To that end, the school welcomed Mrs. Hyuna Franklin, director of the Community Center for Life, a crisis pregnancy center. The center's mission is to educate future mothers who may be struggling to support themselves and their child.

The school then had the opportunity to put that mission in action by taking home baby bottles. Everyone was asked to fill up the bottles with donations meant to support the center.

The day was also important for our Salesian identity as the community celebrated the canonization of Saint Artemide Zatti. This event is an important moment for the Salesians as Brother Zatti is the first Salesian brother to be canonized as a saint.



Lucas Faircloth (Class of 2023) was born and raised in Westwego, LA. He is a member of the Robotics club, the ESports club, the Chess club, the Science National Honors Society, and National Honors Society.



For Life: (from top) a statue of our Blessed Mother reminds us that she is our greatest intercessor; Ms. Hyuna Franklin speaks on the importance of her center's work; Junior Kaden Fury grabs a baby bottle for donations; Father Steve and Senior Michael Williams prepare for the school-wide Rosary.

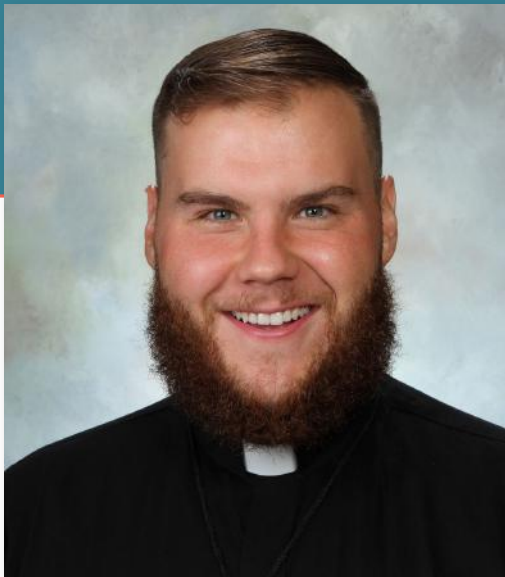


Courtesy Benjamin DeMarais and Hayden Tassin, '23.

New & Familiar Faces

This year has been one of big changes: so many people we miss and, yet, so many new friends to get to know better.

Senior Aldrich Wilberg took a moment to speak to two new faculty members as well as a beloved friend of the school.



Courtesy Romaguera Photography

catch
up

Br. Tom Junis, SDB

Brother Tom is a Salesian brother who is on his way to becoming a priest. He taught Theology at Shaw and was the baseball team's chaplain for two years. He is continuing his studies in Mexico.

How's life been since leaving Shaw?

It's going well. This summer I took six weeks of Spanish classes and got to work our summer camp. I am enjoying my classes (even with the challenge of them being in Spanish). I also get to do some ministry. We walk through a nearby poor neighborhood and talk to families to see if the kids can come for a time of games, prayer, and food.

Has your relationship with God grown since you left?

I have felt God calling me to trust Him a lot more during this time and also to grow in humility and to ask for help when I need it, which is often. God has definitely been my greatest support during this time of transition, which often times has not been easy. He's given me a lot of peace.

How would you describe your experience with your new lifestyle?

It has been a big adjustment getting used to a new language and culture. I have tried to be open to the differences. I always try new foods (most of which I've tolerated well except pickled pork skins). We have a very full schedule here: prayers and Mass from 6:30 to 7:45 in the morning, classes from 8:30 to 2pm, lunch and then a majority of the Salesians play soccer from 3 to 4, the afternoon for study and chores until prayers at 7:30 followed by dinner at 8. After dinner, some of us have ministry or more time to study.

Do you miss teaching?

Of course, I miss being in the classroom and seeing all my Shaw Eagles. It has been a big adjustment going from being a teacher to a student but it has given me a greater appreciation for my professors here and the work they do.

What are you looking forward to in the years to come?

The coming years will be a lot of big steps for me. In two years I will make perpetual vows to be a Salesian forever and then, at the end of that school year, I will be ordained a deacon, and a year after that a priest. I'm also excited to see a lot of ministries that the Salesians do here in Mexico, such as working with kids who live on the streets and prison ministry, two things that Don Bosco did.



Courtesy Romaguera Photography

meet

Matthew Collins

Matthew Collins (Class of 2017) is a member of the English department and teaches English 8. He is a distinguished graduate of Archbishop Shaw and Louisiana State University.

What career experience did you have before coming to Shaw?

I taught at the Laureate Academy Charter School as a third-grade educator.

How would you describe the transition to teaching the young men of Shaw?

The transition to teaching Shaw boys is still a tight-rope act. I am still a *Shaw boy* myself, so trying to find the balance of what I can do to serve you all the best has been interesting.

What's your faith life been like now that you are teaching in a fundamentally faith-focused environment?

My relationship with God is better this year than it has been in a while. I have been trying to go to a mass at lunch at least once a week. When paired with the amount of masses and prayer services that we have had I am feeling great spiritually.

What has life been like since taking on this role?

The lifestyle working at Shaw has been a great one. Last year I was torn, trying to do activities here as an alumni and working and committing myself to another school was difficult. Working here, with more similarly minded individuals, has made my life far better.

Colleagues: Matthew Collins ('17) and Chad Boyd ('09) step outside of the classroom and get to know their peers during the school's annual faculty retreat.

Courtesy Alex Cormier

What's been your greatest memory so far this year?

My greatest memory happened in one of my classes. I normally ask if there are any grievances anyone has before we get started for the day and one of my boys said the only genuinely funny thing I have heard from a student this year and it was awesome.

What are you looking forward to this year?

I am looking forward to a few things this year: My eighth-graders growing up, COR in January, and the seniors graduating in May.

Throwback

Mr. Collins is one of Shaw's best: besides being a member of Peer Ministry, he is also a recipient of the Silver Eagle Award.



Courtesy Romaguera Photography

meet Colin Donovan

Colin Donovan is a member of the Science department and teaches Chemistry and Physics.

Tell us about your history before Shaw.

I was born in St. Louis, Missouri and I lived there up until I graduated from high school. I attended Benedictine College in Atchison, Kentucky, where I studied chemistry and physics.

How would you describe the transition to teaching the young men of Shaw?

I went to an all-boys high school with a similar culture to Shaw, and it has been fun to be on the other side of things (as a teacher/coach instead of as a student). All this year, I've been very impressed with the community that I have walked into, and I hope that I can help contribute to build that community up even more.

What's your faith life been like since making such a big move?

Saying "yes" to moving down and teaching here took a lot of trust in God and His plan for me, but that initial leap of faith has paid dividends already. I think that by seeing the results of that moment of trust, I have deepened both my relationship with God and the trust in Him guiding my steps, even through those difficult decisions.

Are you enjoying this new chapter in your life?

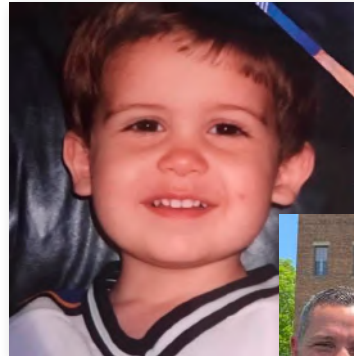
Absolutely! Whether it be teaching chemistry, physics, or coaching cross country, I don't think a day has gone by where I haven't had an immense feeling of gratitude for the opportunity to be here. I want to help serve in whatever way I can.

What is your greatest memory of this semester?

I know this is cheating, but I would say it's between two things: either watching my students excel in leading the demonstrations at our open house or the first cross-country meet of the year.

What are you looking forward to in next semester?

I am really excited for our regional and state cross-country meets coming up, as well as track season in the Spring.



All Grown Up: (from top) Mr. Donovan as a young lad, as a proud graduate standing beside his loving parents Michael and Julie, and with his younger brother Brendan during Christmas.


Courtesy Colin Donovan



Aldrich Wilberg (Class of 2023) was born in San Antonio, Texas and lives in Belle Chasse, Louisiana. He is a member of the Shaw Cross-Country team, Beach Volleyball team, Lacrosse team, Peer Ministry, and National Honors Society. He is the Vice President of Spanish Honors Society and a Shaw Ambassador. He is a parishioner of Assumption of Our Lady Catholic Church in Braithwaite.



New Chapter: Faculty members gather for new teacher orientation. (from left, clockwise) Coach Mike Baiamonte, Mr. Johnathan Flint, Coach Beau Briner (Class of 2003), Coach Chad Foret (Class of 1995), Mr. Nicholas Marchese (Class of 2005) Fr. Stephen Ryan, SDB, Mr. Colin Donovan, Ms. Darby Heuer, and Ben White, SDB.



"You do not realize sufficiently how fortunate you are in being given shelter at the Oratory... I want to leave you on the road which the Lord himself would have you. "

◀ **Fortunate Ones:** Senior Jesus Castro and Mr. Eric Budd exemplify the friendship Saint John Bosco exhorted Salesians to foster between one another.

Courtesy Courtney Bond

BUILDING LEADERS

The Salesian Leadership Retreat is more than a week away from home:
it's a week in the presence of God.

BY JOHN PAUL BUI, '23



Twice a year, selected Archbishop Shaw students have the opportunity to experience a privilege only few get to receive: the chance to join other Salesian students across the country for the annual Salesian Leadership Retreat held at the Marian Shrine in Stony Point, New York.

This is not a vacation: it is an opportunity to grow in virtue, holiness, and leadership in the hopes of bringing those lessons back home.

Senior John Paul Bui spoke to two students who attended this Fall's retreat.

John Paul Bui (Class of 2023) is from Marrero, Louisiana. He is a member of the Thalian club and the Bowling and Beach Volleyball teams. He is Vice Prefect of House Savio and President of Peer Ministry. He is a parishioner of Saint Agnes Catholic Church in Jefferson.

It sounded like a pretty good deal: a whole week off of school without any assignments, responsibilities, or worries. However, there was a catch: the whole week would, instead, be filled with sharing, reflection, and *prayer*.

“When I first learned about it, I was tempted to see it as a joke,” recounts Junior Austin Rudolph. “I didn’t see the seriousness of it at first”.

Austin is one of many students at Shaw who are seemingly involved in everything: he’s a drummer for the Eagle Band, a percussionist in the school’s choir, a member of many honors societies and clubs, a nationally-recognized cheerleader, amongst other things.

Despite his clearly visible love for Shaw, Austin found that, within himself, there were places in his heart where he felt walled-off and distant from others. While this emptiness was sure to be a topic of discussion during the retreat, he didn’t expect much to change.

That is until a few days into the retreat when everything changed.

Despite the privilege, Braden didn’t immediately consider it as such. On top of all of the responsibilities and duties he would have to make up after the retreat, Braden wasn’t fond of having to spend a week apart from his family and friends.

While there was some hesitation in his heart, Braden immediately realized upon arriving at the Marian Shrine that there was something at work that was much bigger than any of the excuses he could had given not to go.

PARTICIPATE, DON’T ANTICIPATE

The Salesian Leadership Retreat is a week-long opportunity for Salesian school students to come together for formation, spiritual growth, and community. The hope of the retreat is that each student will bring his or her experience back with them and share it with their peers. That’s where the leadership component comes in.

Perhaps the most unique aspect of the retreat is that most of it *is a bit of a secret*: students aren’t told what to expect once they arrive. For some, that can be a bit disconcerting.

“I think they were skeptical at first,” admits Mr. Eric Budd, a second-year social studies educator who was asked to accompany the young men. “They didn’t know the schedule or what really to expect, but we kept encouraging them to “participate, don’t anticipate”: to let go. Once they did, they finally realized why we kept asking them to do that.”

That moment of realization happened, ac-

Leaders Called to Brotherhood: (from left) Junior Austin Rudolph is well known around campus; after attending the Salesian Leadership Retreat, he feels like there’s a whole other dimension to his relationships. (right) Junior Braden Cortez feels that he’s discovered a part of himself that he’s now able to share with others like his friend Channing Corley.

Courtesy Alex Cormier and Evan Voisel, '25



cording to Budd, when all of the students finally met one another. “There was solidarity in the fact that they were all in this situation together,” prompting the students who, despite knowing nothing about one another, to trust in each other, the process, and the Lord.

“It felt good to express myself in that way; I don’t get that many opportunities in my daily life to express myself like that,” reflects Cortez. “It was weird, at first, but I saw the goodness in it; I knew it was good”.

“It was like a punch in the chest that I could feel in my soul.”

The week isn’t just hanging around: “I was impressed with just how jam-packed the schedule is,” according to Budd. “The kids are always doing something.” A big part of that hidden schedule are opportunities for reflection and spiritual formation.

“Specific talks [during those times] really resonated with me, it just really made me emotional,” admits Rudolph. “I don’t know how to explain the feeling I had. It was like a punch in the chest that I could feel in my soul.”

It’s that core feeling, that fundamental shift of mindset, that Austin describes as the true beginning of the retreat. “Faith is a journey and I am on my way, no matter how long it takes, I will get there and I will be better than I have been.”

FAITH IS A JOURNEY

“It was nice to experience... everyone just talking with each other and having fun,” Cortez reflects. What seemed to impress him most about the retreat was just how swift and profound was the transition from strangers to friends. It was in this intimacy that Braden says he got to know himself better: “It all connected back to me and my own life. It made me remember the spiritual sense of my life.”

While the phrase *leadership* often conjures up images of grand plans and heroic action, the journey for these leaders starts within: “They’ve resolved to start going to weekly adoration together and to invite kids they may have otherwise never spoke to,” says Mr. Budd. One takeaway for Braden that can be revealed is that leadership starts with one’s own journey of faith:

“I began to understand myself and my character... the relationship I’m called to have with my brothers, friends, and everyone. The retreat helped me to understand that.”

Both Austin and Braden know that this journey of faith is just the beginning and that the end result is to be more than ambassadors for the school, but evangelists and co-workers with Christ.

A trip to New York, however, would not be complete without sampling some of the culinary offerings the Empire State is famous for. The best thing according to Austin? “Pizza. New York pizza is the best.” For Braden, the answer is the same: “New York pizza has something special going on. It’s been hard eating ‘normal’ pizza since.”

The Big Apple: Retreat attendees had the opportunity to explore Staten Island, world-famous Time Square, among other thrilling sights. (top; from left) Mr. Eric Budd, Juniors Bradez Cortez, Carson Dalton, Enrico Tapia, Austin Rudolph, Senior Blake Dupre, and Fr. John Langan, SDB.

Courtesy Fr. John Langan, SDB



Basketball “All In” Heading into ‘23 Season

Step into the Eagle’s Nest for a Shaw basketball game and the energy is electric: the revitalized program has become a jewel of the school’s athletic program.

The team has experienced unprecedented growth: they’re winning more, raising more funds to support the program, and drawing in larger crowds. Their record in the past couple of years is a testament to their talent both on and off the court. Despite this, it takes much more than talent to become a successful team: it requires drive, fraternity, and faith.

That’s been the focus of the program under the leadership of Head Coach Wesley Laurendine and the results are evident: last year, the varsity team won their first district championship in 22 years, making it to the final four and coming close to the state championship after a solid performance at the Cajundome in Lafayette.



While Laurendine’s guidance and vision is crucial to the success, it’s the leadership and responsibility of every coach and team member that has made the difference. The team’s current motto is “All in All the Time” and describes their overall mindset: the team doesn’t end after practice or after a game but, rather, continues into their daily lives. The team is also known for acts of charity and outreach in the community.

The momentum continues to build for the 2022-2023 season and is an opportunity for the wider Shaw community to join the team in being “all in all the time”. Fans are encouraged to attend games and spread the word about this stellar program.

Kaden Manning (Class of 2023) is from Marrero, Louisiana. He is a member of the Shaw Basketball team, National Honors Society, and the Spanish Honors Society. He is a parishioner of Visitation of Our Lady Catholic Church in Marrero.

NEWS



Ballin’: (left) Junior Xavier Meyers goes for a lay-up. Junior Aidan LaSalle bringing the ball up the court.

Courtesy Dominic Allelo, ‘23

Unwavering Support: (left column) Archbishop Shaw’s Faculty and Staff are always serving the community: (left; from left) Shelley Cruice, Denise Vedros, and Alecia Alexander. (below) Patrons of Shaw enjoying an evening out together: (from left) Lloyd Songy (Class of 2009), Merisa Songy, Caitlyn and Rusty Matherne (parents of Peyton Matherne, class of 2027).
Courtesy Hayden Tassin, ‘23

Eagles in the Oaks a Continued Success

On October 15th, 2022, Shaw held its annual Eagles in the Oaks event. It has become one of the most well-attended and successful fundraisers for the institution. Many in the Shaw community gave their time and effort, pitching in to help make this event one of the best ones yet.

The event was sponsored by Falcon Law Firm and Russo’s Pharmacy and featured great food and live music. Local restaurants such as Raising Canes, Johnny’s Seafood, Gatusos, and Wingzone provided the seemingly endless spread.

Entertainment was also on the menu. Three large displays streamed the LSU vs. Florida college football game while 4x4 Connection, a musical ensemble led by Shaw alumnus Clark Knighten (Class of 1974), provided great music and kept everyone on their feet.



The most anticipated moment of the event was the silent auction. Shaw auctioned off items such as gift cards, a helmet signed by superstar quarterback Joe Burrow, and a day with Fr. Steve Ryan including dinner and a private mass.

Major contributors that made a huge impact were Mr. Jason Brown (Class of 1992) and Mr. Steve Daigle (Class of 1985) who both donated not only financially but were instrumental in setting up during the week preceding.

The event raised over \$20,000 to help Shaw continue its expansion and ongoing evangelization of the West Bank.

Hayden Tassin (Class of 2023) is from Waggaman, Louisiana. He is the captain of the Shaw Wrestling team. He is a parishioner of Saint Bonaventure Catholic Church in Avondale.

Spanish Honor Society Gives Desks to Honduran Students

BY COLIN CRESPO, '23

In the US, the standard of living is such that we often don't realize that there are those who live without even the most basic necessities.

Señora Natalie Murillo, head of the Foreign Language department at Archbishop Shaw, has taken this project very personally. Over the past few years, with help from her family and the community, Señora has spearheaded an effort to help improve the lives of school children in a small Honduran town.

Roger Danilo Murillo Palma - a school located in La Sierra Del Destino, Yorito Yoro, Honduras - is nestled deep in the Central American Cordillera, a vast and densely-forested mountain range that makes getting the goods necessary for education very difficult.

While the Spanish Honor Society has collected and donated school necessities in the past, the school was in

desperate need of classroom appointments. Since the school's construction (by Señora Murillo's brother-in-law), students have had to sit on old, uncomfortable benches that hurt their backs.

With the help of Señora Murillo, her in-laws, and the Shaw community, the Spanish Honor Society came together and set up a bake sale and car wash to raise \$1200 for these desperately-awaited desks. The fundraiser was a great success with the club raising over the set goal.

Colin Crespo (Class of 2023) is from Harvey, Louisiana. He is a member of the National Honors Society, Science National Honors Society, Spanish Honor Society, the Chess club, and Peer Ministry. He is president of Mu Alpha Theta society and a Shaw Ambassador. He is a parishioner of Holy Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Bridge City.



Last month, the excited students received their desks, eager to use them. While the students were clearly appreciative of the great gift their school had received, it is the friendship between their school and our community they are thankful for the most.



The effort was also an important learning and bonding experience for Shaw students. Their combined effort were just a small part of the Shaw family taking action. The Spanish Honor Society has no plans of stopping their ongoing relationship with their Honduran friends. The club intends to continue their fundraising to provide desperately needed school supplies for future students.

Behind the Scenes

Morning Announcements

Student Body President Evan Anderson, '23, brings us an inside look into the work that goes into producing the school's morning announcements.

GOOD MORNING EAGLES, and welcome to an inside look into the morning announcements. I appear on Facebook and YouTube at 8:15am every schoolday to bring the students and parents of Archbishop Shaw information and important notices.

It all started with an idea from Fr. Steve, our Director and Head of School: what if students could see what's happening instead of just listening over the P.A. system? While the school had run some tests in the past, it never amounted to anything long-term. The immediate solution was simple: online video conferencing. We had used such software during the COVID-19 pandemic, so it was an easy transition for most teachers and students. Every morning, students would set up a laptop, start a video meeting, and wait for everyone to join.

This obviously has some limitations with perhaps the biggest being that it was difficult to share with the outside world. Starting this year, we've been able to stream online and to the public.

Myself along with two of my classmates, Aldrich Wilberg and John Paul Bui, arrive at school thirty minutes before to setup. Presently, it consists of a computer with streaming software and a "broadcast" camera from the late 2000s (if anyone is interested in helping us upgrade, please contact Mr. Brandon Surrency in Ad-

vancement). While there's always room for improvement, I'm proud that we've been able to pull in what's on hand to make this possible. It's quite the accomplishment for those guys to pull it off every day!

My task is to find the day's gospel reading from the lectionary and to work with Mrs. Rhonda Bourg to organize and revise the morning announcements. With so many sports, clubs, and other events, there's a lot to go through! By 8:10am, we are running last minute tests before we go live.

Despite our hard work, things don't always go according to plan. While they've been few, we sometimes face network or software issues that can bring the production to a halt. Other times it can be the on-screen talent: I can get ahead of myself and start speaking faster than I'm actually reading.

The best way to cope with this problem is just laughing it off. Literally. That's probably why I smile so much during the announcements. It's also a great opportunity for us to see ways we can improve. For instance, it can be difficult to read from my iPad and keep eye contact with the camera. We're working on a solution in the form of a small *tele-prompter*. Unfortunately, we do not have a budget, but God always provides a way!

Overall, being the "Announcements Guy" has helped me develop skills that I don't think I would have been able to acquire otherwise. While I sincerely enjoy and appreciate being the "face" of Shaw, I simply relay the message. The people behind the screen deserve the real credit. One other person who is underappreciated here at Shaw that helps with everything tech (and everything not) is Mr. Alex Cormier.

I hope the second half of my *celebrity life* goes just as smoothly as the first. *Have a Shawesome day!*

Evan Anderson (Class of 2023) is from Marrero, Louisiana. He is a member of the Shaw Cross-Country team, Varsity Track and Golf teams, Beach Volleyball team, Respect Life club, Spanish Honor Society, Shaw Music Ministry, Dead Theologian Society, Peer Ministry, and E-Sports. He is the Student Body President and a Shaw Ambassador. He is a parishioner of Saint John Bosco Catholic Church in Marrero.



Lights, Camera, Please Stand for Prayer: The announcements are live from Fr. Steve's office every morning. The crew is able to setup up in less than five minutes.

(background from left) John Paul Bui, '23 and Mr. Alex Cormier.
(foreground from left) Aldrich Wilberg and Evan Anderson, '23.
Courtesy Courtney Bond



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