



Angelus Academy

Annual Report 2023-2024





Dear Friends of Angelus Academy,

I am delighted to share with you some of the highlights from Angelus Academy's 23rd school year! As a fundamental part of our school's mission, **we seek to cultivate in every student a reverence for the sanctity of human life and a rigorous intellectual formation.** Our continued attention to and discussions about the dignity of every person as an image of God help to foster students' moral development. Our small class sizes, classical liberal arts curriculum, and learning-resource support honor the nature of each student and his or her abilities and facilitate students' academic growth and success. Our faculty and staff are blessed with the privilege of **guiding our students to become young men and women who strive to live virtuously and seek what is true, good, and beautiful.**

Every year, Angelus Academy seventh and eighth grade students participate in the Diocese of Arlington Youth Apostles' Pro-life Multimedia Contest. Hundreds of students throughout the Diocese write essays or create posters in support of the pro-life cause. As a K-8 school, we compete in the junior division of this contest. In 2024, five (5) Angelus Academy students received awards. Eighth grader Bridget McCoy won 1st place in the essay contest, and seventh grader Adysen Bishop won 1st place in the poster contest. Eighth graders Evelyn Albanese, Andrew Kidd, and Edmund Slavin received Honorable Mention in the essay contest. The Youth Apostles Pro-life Coordinator has noted that **Angelus Academy's "wonderful participation" in its annual Multimedia Contest "bears witness to the excellent education and presentation of values"** provided to our students.

Angelus Academy is well-known for its Latin program, which provides a strong introduction to and foundation for continued learning of this beautiful language. **Each year, our students have been award winners in the National Latin Exam**, and many have gone on to excel in high school Latin courses. The National Latin Exam, sponsored by the American Classical League and the National Junior Classical League, provides every Latin student the opportunity to experience a sense of personal accomplishment and success in his or her study of the Latin language and Greco-Roman culture. Our seventh graders take the Introduction to Latin exam, and our eighth graders take the Beginning Latin I exam. In 2024, seventh graders Taylor Doan, Patrick Fisher, Sebastian Gisla, Leila Recalde, and Lorenzo Tesfaye received *Cum laude* award certificates, and eighth graders Andrew Kidd, Dominic Lalli, and Kaylee Maceda received *Maxima cum laude* award certificates.

Angelus Academy is a small school with an important mission. **We strive to ensure that the next generation knows what truly matters in this world:** the sanctity of life, moral courage, loyalty to family and the Church, love of country, and sacrificial compassion for those who suffer. With the loving dedication of our teachers and staff, the clarity of our Catholic convictions, and the perennial nature of our liberal arts curriculum, **we serve as an oasis of certainty and reassurance** for the impressionable students we serve. And we serve them and the Lord *joyfully*, relying on Divine Providence and the assistance of the Holy Angels for the success of our school mission.

May the Lord, His Holy Mother, Saint Joseph, and His Holy Angels bless you for your prayers for and support of Angelus Academy!

Gratefully,

Raymond St. Pierre, M.Ed.
Head of School

Honoring Members of Our School Community: 2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

THE ST. JOHN BOSCO AWARD

Marilyn Krause

Mrs. Marilyn Krause joined our faculty in 2019 as a catechist for our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) Atrium faith-formation program for our Little Messengers through 2nd graders. She has also facilitated CGS formation courses for Angelus Academy teachers, staff members, and parents. Marilyn has been a CGS catechist for 40 years and a CGS trainer for 35 years, facilitating CGS formation courses in Indiana, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and throughout Virginia. Her work has touched countless lives—both young and old(er)—and has borne much fruit throughout the Church. Marilyn and her husband, Mark—who celebrated 50 years of marriage this past summer—have four adult children and four grandchildren. They are longtime parishioners of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Alexandria. We were honored to present the 2024 St. John Bosco Award to Mrs. Marilyn Krause for her loving and tireless dedication to both Angelus Academy and Catholic faith formation.



THE ST. JOSEPH'S HAMMER AWARD

Jarod Forget

Mr. Jarod Forget and his family have been part of Angelus Academy since 2020. The Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the Washington Division for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Jarod has made presentations to and spoken with our students about his work and drug education. Additionally, he is an active parent volunteer and helps in numerous ways throughout the school year, including serving as a frequent field-trip chaperone, helping with the Jog-a-thon, and assisting with maintenance- and landscape-related work in and around the school building during the summer months. We were honored to present the 2023 St. Joseph's Award to Mr. Jarod Forget for his enthusiastic and devoted service to our school!



Mission and Philosophy

In union with the parents, who are the primary educators of the child, and in loyalty to the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church, Angelus Academy is committed to transmitting the rich and time-tested traditions of the Catholic faith and culture in a familial atmosphere characterized by mutual respect and generosity of spirit.

Commending ourselves to the patronage and prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Incarnate Love and St. Gabriel, Angel of the Incarnation, we invoke the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we seek to cultivate in every child:

Personal integrity and moral courage

A foundation for personal integrity and moral courage by encouraging personal prayer and devotion to Christ, to His sacraments and to His saints as winsome and compelling embodiments of Christian virtue;

Reverence for the sanctity of human life

A reverence for the sanctity of human life and regard for the dignity of every person, expressed in empathy and respect for one's fellows and compassion for all who suffer;

Loyalty to the family and the Church

Loyalty to the family and the Church, and love of country, expressed in obedience to competent authority and a willingness to make personal sacrifices for the common good;

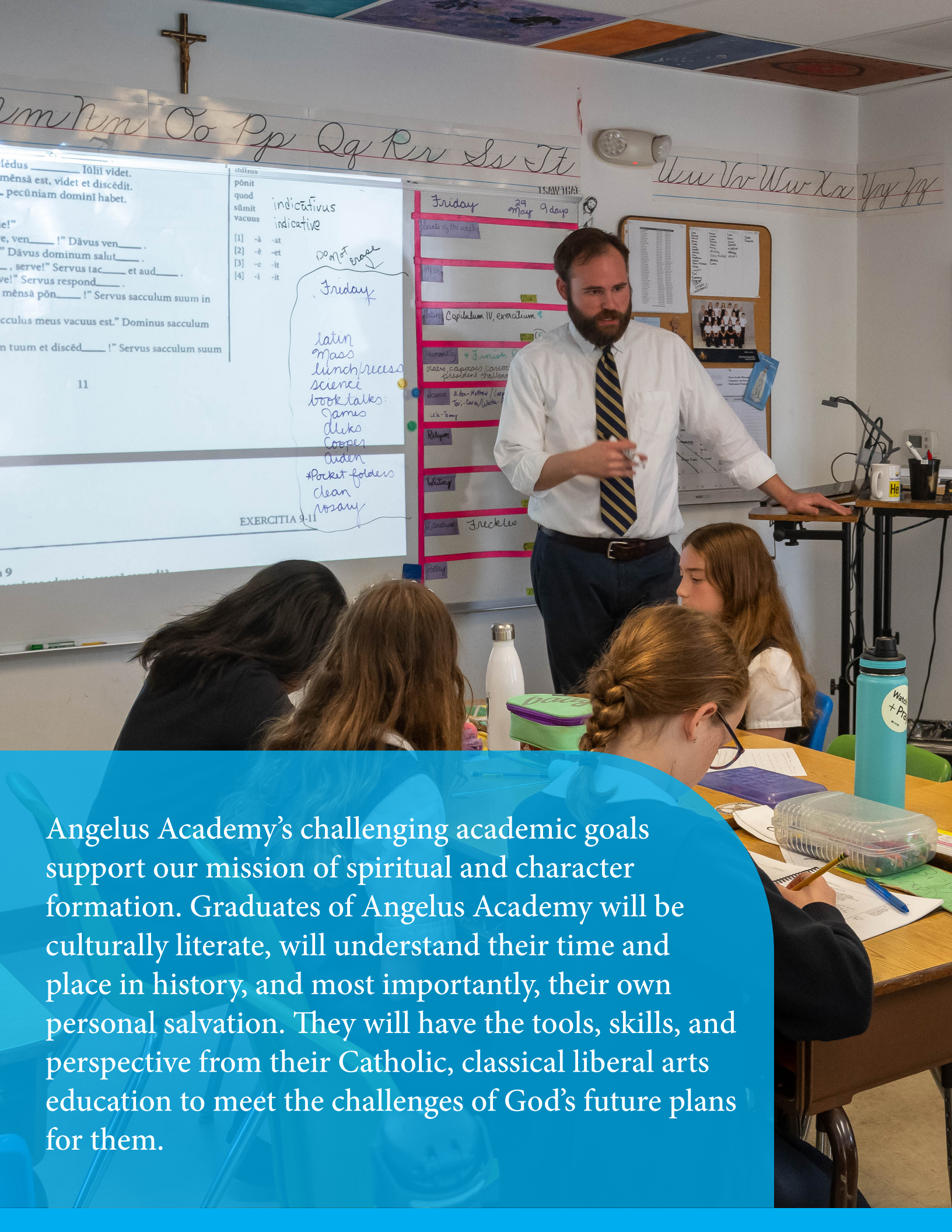
Creative imagination

A taste for excellence and a love for what is lasting and authentically beautiful in all aspects of human culture as the basis for the wholesome development of the creative imagination; and

Intellectual formation

A broad and rigorous intellectual formation through the training of the faculty of reason and a disciplined quest for the truth in every area of life.

To these ends, Angelus Academy employs teachers who recognize that no testimony is more eloquent or convincing than personal witness, and are therefore committed to their own ongoing intellectual and spiritual formation.



M N O P Q R S T

U V W X Y Z

sedus _____ Iulii videt.
mensa est, videt et discedit.
pecuniam domini habet.

indicativus
indicative

domo escape

Friday

latin
mass
lunch/recess
science
book talks:
James
Aleks
Cooper
Aiden

#Pocket folders
Clean
rosary

Friday 29 May 9 days

Capitulum IV, exercitium

Science: Aiden, Matthew / Cooper, Tara, Walker

Religion: Aleks, Cooper

Whitney

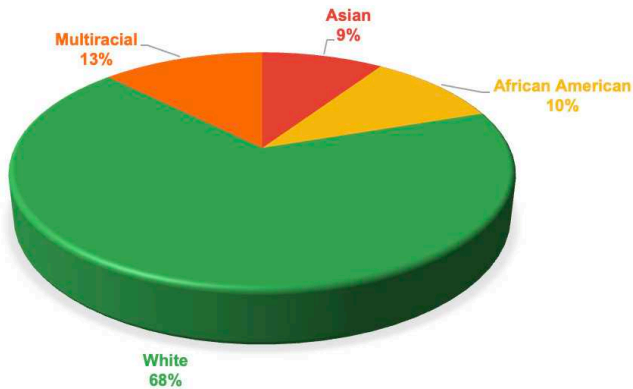
Freckles

EXERCITIA 9-11

Angelus Academy's challenging academic goals support our mission of spiritual and character formation. Graduates of Angelus Academy will be culturally literate, will understand their time and place in history, and most importantly, their own personal salvation. They will have the tools, skills, and perspective from their Catholic, classical liberal arts education to meet the challenges of God's future plans for them.

Demographics for the 2023-2024 School Year

Students by Race

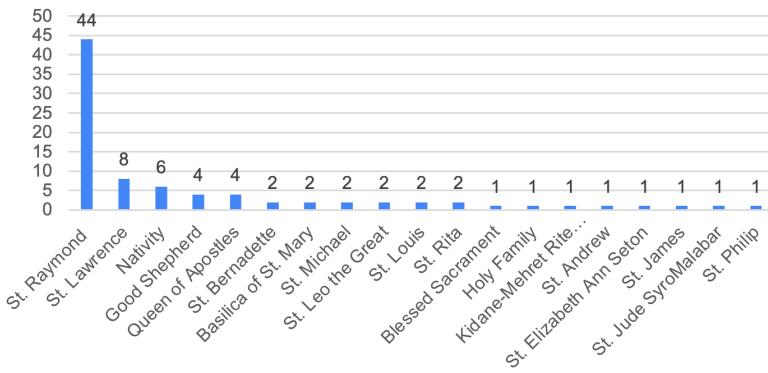


Enrollment by Grade and Gender

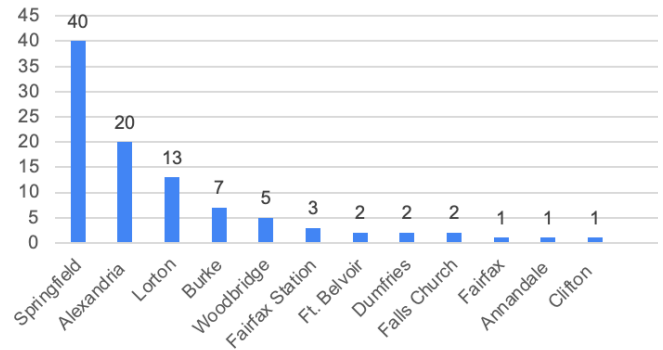
Grade	Male	Female	Total
LM	4	15	19
K	13	6	19
1	7	11	18
2	10	10	20
3	4	8	12
4	8	9	17
5	11	6	17
6	10	9	19
7	7	8	15
8	7	6	13
TOTAL	81	88	169

*LM = Little Messengers

Number of Families per Parish



Number of Families by City



A Catholic Liberal Arts Education

At the heart of a successful school is an intellectually challenging and well-constructed liberal arts curriculum designed to “free” students from the bonds of ignorance, vice, and wiles of the world. (“Liberal” is from the Latin *liberare*, meaning “to free.”) At Angelus Academy, we draw upon the Catholic, classical tradition for our liberal arts curriculum, which focuses on integrated content, skill development, and pedagogy in support of our mission of intellectual and spiritual formation.

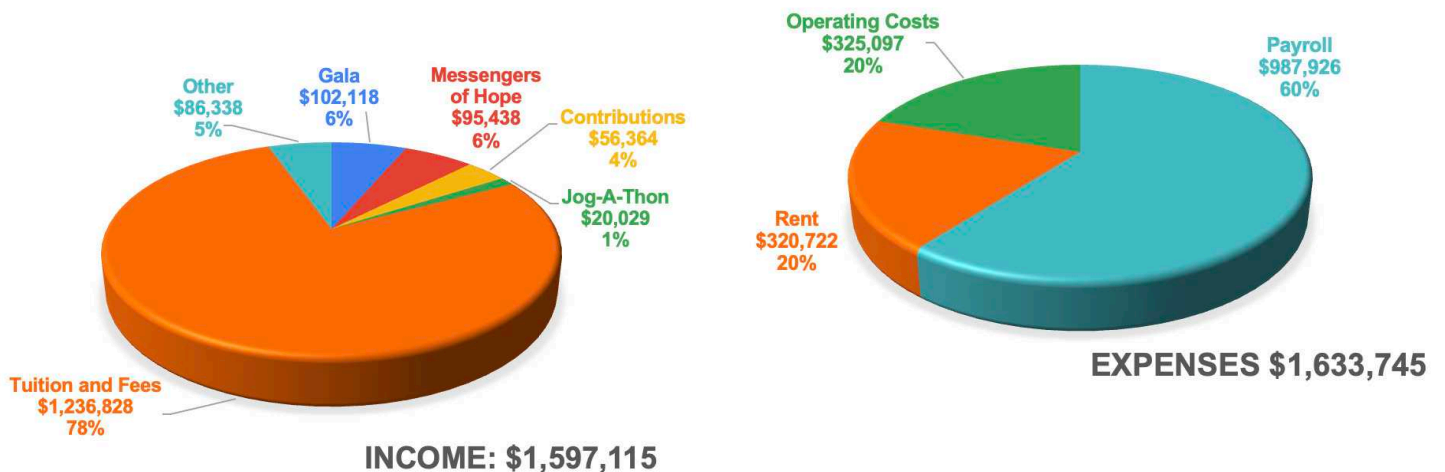
We aim to free our students...

...from ignorance and relativism, as we teach them to seek the **truth** in religion, math, science, history, and literature, and as we lead them to the Truth.

...from sin and moral relativism, as we provide them with examples of **goodness** and virtue, inspired by the lives of the saints, heroes, and heroines in history and literature, and embodied in the Good Shepherd and His teachings.

...from secular materialism and worldly distractions, as we immerse students in the **beauty** of nature, art, architecture, music, poetry, literature, and math, and draw their gaze toward God.

Income and Functional Expenses for the 2023-2024 School Year



What's New at Angelus Academy:

REFURBISHING AND ENHANCING OUR OUTDOOR SPACE

Several significant improvements were made to our school building in 2023, thanks in large part to the leadership of Mr. Joe Ammirati (our Director of Facilities), Board member Mr. Bob Brickner, and a team of parent and student volunteers. First, the security of our main entrance was strengthened by the installation of heavy-duty, steel-framed doors and reinforced glass windows. An awning was also installed to provide shade and shelter to our students, staff, and visitors. Inside the school on the lower level, a new adult restroom was constructed under the stairwell. We were grateful to receive new (gently-used) seating for our Chapel of the Holy Angels from St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church in Fairfax. Lastly, all the air vents and ductwork were thoroughly cleaned. In total, over 30 clean-up, maintenance, and upgrade projects were completed both inside and outside of our school building during the summer of 2023.



COMMUNITY-BUILDING EVENTS

HOME-ECONOMICS ACTIVITIES AND AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB:

Led by the enthusiastic efforts of Miss Maeve Randall, our 7th and 8th grade humanities teacher, students at nearly every grade level learned how to crochet during the 2023-2024 school year. Additionally, many middle school students learned (more) about cooking, baking, sewing, woodworking, and other skills in an after-school club centered on home economics. Miss Randall initially introduced crocheting as a means to help students who struggle with fidgeting during class, offering them a different, creative outlet. The middle school students then inspired the entire school to learn to crochet—everything from blankets to amigurumi. Older students would often accompany Miss Randall to other classrooms to teach younger students how to crochet, prompting wonderful opportunities for leadership and growth. Students' visible interest in handiwork prompted Miss Randall to form an after-school club to give students more time to learn new skills while having fun. She hopes that these experiences will not only help students begin to develop life skills but will also allow them to help their families more at home.





FAMILY FUN NIGHTS:

From its founding, Angelus Academy has always strived to provide frequent opportunities for school families to gather for faith formation, fellowship, food, and fun. During the 2023-2024 school year, under the leadership of Mrs. Karen Popp (Director of Development and Business Manager) and Mrs. Heather Ruffner (Development Associate), several Friday evening "Family Fun Nights" were organized—and thoroughly enjoyed!—by students and their families. Oktoberfest was the theme for the first Family Fun Night of the school year. St. Raymond of Peñafort Catholic Church graciously allowed a team of Angelus parent volunteers to use the parish's kitchen to prepare a delicious menu of bratwurst, German potato salad, cheese soup, and homemade pretzels, which were then transported to the Angelus gym. Students enjoyed face painting and a photo booth as well as free play outside. Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to visit the school library and to make purchases at the annual book fair/fundraiser provided by Bookworm Central. School families also enjoyed an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner at the January Family Fun Night. We are so grateful to Mrs. Popp, Mrs. Ruffner, and all the enthusiastic parent volunteers who help make the Family Fun Nights at Angelus a wonderful time had by all!

Faculty, Staff, and Trustee Spotlight:

WHAT MAKES ANGELUS ACADEMY SPECIAL



CHRISTY KARAKO: DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION/ LIBRARIAN

Mrs. Christy Karako holds a BA in history from the University of Dallas and a Master's of Library and Information Science from the Catholic University of America. While living in California, she taught third grade, fourth grade, and middle school. As Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Mrs. Karako supports teachers in their classroom routines and lesson planning. Additionally, with her knowledge of classical education, she supports the administration in monitoring and developing the school's classical curriculum. She

particularly loves teaching library classes, where she is able to share her love of books with Angelus Academy students. Mrs. Karako and her husband have three children, one attending Angelus Academy, and two who are alumnae. The Karakos are parishioners at Queen of Apostles Catholic Church in Alexandria.



REV. JOHN C. DE CELLES: CHAPLAIN AND CLERGY CONSULTANT

Father John De Celles is the Pastor of St. Raymond of Peñafort Parish in Springfield and Chaplain to both the Women's Apostolate to Youth (WAY) and Angelus Academy. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Texas at San Antonio, a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts (Moral Theology) from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, and a Sacred Theology Licentiate from the John Paul II Institute for Studies in Marriage and Family in Washington, DC. After college he worked as a certified public accountant (CPA) for 11 years, most of that time at the international accounting firm Arthur Young & Company (now Ernst & Young). He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Arlington in 1996 and served as Parochial Vicar in various parishes in the Diocese before being named to St. Raymond in 2010. Fr. De Celles is an ardent advocate of faithful Catholic education and has provided scholarships to Angelus Academy families who are parishioners of St. Raymond. We are grateful for Fr. De Celles' support!



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An independent Catholic school focused
on intellectual and spiritual formation for
the past 23 years.



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