



Message from the Director of Advancement

Greetings fellow alumni -

As the calendar year ends, I find myself reflecting on the events of the past year and all that I am thankful for both personally and here at Saints. The last year here at school has truly been amazing. We celebrated the 100-year anniversary of our school and the 50-year anniversary of welcoming girls to our campus throughout the year and culminating with a spectacular gala celebration. We held several class reunions and made lots of new alumni friends, along with many other alumni focused events and the largest holiday food drive I've ever seen. I know we say it a lot, but I am continuously overwhelmed by the tremendous kindness of our alumni family and the way we continue to live the lessons of Faith, Service and Community. Your generosity and support of Saints and our students is never taken for granted and is appreciated by everyone here at Saints, especially the students' lives that you are impacting every day.



I wish you and your families a very Blessed and Merry Christmas, a safe holiday season and best wishes for a very Happy New Year!

Once A Saint, Always A Saint!

Ron

Student Spotlight



Myles MacPhee '29

What is your favorite part of being a student at Saints? My favorite thing about being a student at Saint Raphael Academy is the friends I've made. They make school fun!

What is your favorite class? My favorite class is history because Mr. Kirejczyk is very passionate about what he teaches. His passion for the subject makes it easier for me to learn.

What activities are you involved in at school? I am a member of the cross country and track teams. I've had an amazing start to my cross country career at Saint

Raphael Academy and can't wait to continue my success through track season. I am also beyond grateful for Coach Magill - for the love he has shown me and how he pushes everyone on the team. He really cares about every single runner and treats them like his own family, making each one of us feel special.

Tell us something about your activities outside of school. Outside of school, I love to hangout with friends and play basketball, spend time with family, and learn new hobbies. Right now I am trying to learn guitar and soon it will be snowboarding.



Ella Taylor '27

What is your favorite part of being a student at Saints? My favorite part about being a student at Saints is how close we are as a community and how caring all the teachers are.

What activities are you involved in at school? I'm on both the tennis and softball teams here at Saints. It's on these teams that I've met all my closest friends. Together we recently won two championships: Division III tennis and Division II softball.

Tell us something about your activities outside of school. This community has influenced my life outside of

Saints by teaching the importance of giving back to the community as shown by my involvement in Lasallian youth, helping out with Thanksgiving baskets for those in need.

Alumni Spotlight



Harrison Grigsby '00

Can you tell us a bit about what you did when you left Saints?

When I left Saint Raphael Academy, I stayed rooted in the same things that shaped me there—community, leadership, and using my voice with purpose—but I started building a path that blended education, music, and media.

I went on to become a two-time graduate of Rhode Island College, earning my Master's in Educational Leadership and Administration, and over the next nearly 20 years I worked at the intersection of youth development and creative expression—designing programs, mentoring young people, and using Hip Hop

and storytelling as tools for learning, confidence, and career exploration.

That journey ultimately led me to founding Hope Scholars Initiative in 2019—a youth empowerment organization that's gone on to impact thousands of young people across New England through culturally responsive programming, mentorship, and creative education.

Can you share a little about some of the great work you are doing today?

Today, I lead Hope Scholars Initiative as Executive Director, where we use culturally responsive, Hip Hop-based creative education to help young people build confidence, social-emotional skills, and real pathways into education and careers. We partner with schools and youth-serving organizations across Rhode Island and Massachusetts to deliver in-school and after-school programming, mentorship, and studio-based learning that elevates student voice and strengthens school culture.

I'm also active in multimedia and storytelling—producing content that highlights artists and communities, and bringing that same skill set into commercial work. I've done commercial acting for brands like Pepsi and voiceover work for Verizon, and I've had the opportunity to speak at Harvard University about the power of creativity, education, and purpose-driven leadership. At the core, everything I do is about building access and opportunity—helping people, especially young people, see what's possible and giving them tools to move toward it.

How have lessons learned at Saints prepared you for life after graduation?

Saints taught me that community isn't just something you're part of—it's something you build through how you show up for other people. Being in an environment that emphasized service and responsibility helped shape my values early: be selfless, lead with empathy, and make sure people feel seen.

Those lessons prepared me for everything that came next because they taught me how to create safe spaces—places where people can have a humanized experience, not just be measured by performance or perception. As an educator and leader, that foundation has guided how I support young people, build teams, and use creativity as a bridge to belonging and growth.

Do you stay in touch with any of your Saints family?

Absolutely. I still have real friendships and brotherhood from Saint Ray's to this day—so much so that I've been a best man in two weddings that came directly from those relationships. I've also stayed close with mentors who helped shape my direction in life. I have a lasting relationship with Sr. Regina, and Saar has been a true father figure to me. Their guidance played a major role in who I became, and I try to pay that forward by coming back to speak with Saints students whenever I'm called upon.

What piece of advice would you like to share with our current students?

Be intentional about building relationships—don't just collect contacts—really invest in people. Introduce yourself, ask questions, follow up, and show love when it counts. The opportunities you'll have after Saints will often come through the trust you build, not just your talent. And step outside your comfort zone. Try the thing you're nervous about, join something you wouldn't normally join, talk to the person you don't know yet.

**Cindy Coyne '79****Can you tell us a bit about what you did when you left Saints?**

I'm very grateful to Saints for preparing me so well for the life I have led since graduating in 1979.

Following graduation, I earned a competitive swimming scholarship to the University of Rhode Island. Upon graduation, I felt a calling to devote myself to public

service and follow in my dad's footsteps by applying to be a Rhode Island State Trooper. In the early 80's, it was still a time when many were skeptical as to whether a woman had what it took to be a State Trooper, but I was proud to prove them wrong and became one of the first females to graduate from the Rhode Island State Police Academy. I served in all branches of the department: uniform, detective and administrative divisions during my 20 years and was honored to have earned the rank of Lieutenant before retiring.

I was also blessed to have married a wonderful man and raise four exceptional children while working full-time. They, along with my friends and neighbors have been an inspiration to why it has always been important for me to serve the public and keep our State safe.

Can you share a little about what you are doing today?

Today I am running for elected office as Rhode Island's next Lieutenant Governor and seeking the democratic nomination in 2026! You see, after my career on the RI State Police I wanted to continue serving the public and ran for local office in my town. In 2010, I was elected to the Barrington Town Council where I served 4 years. In 2014, I ran for a seat in the RI State Senate where I served for 8 years representing the communities of Barrington, Bristol and East Providence. In each of these roles, I worked to bring people of all parties and persuasions together to find bipartisan solutions to make our communities stronger. I feel that my background in public safety and finding common solutions to common problems is just what is needed to help our state during these challenging times.

How was your life influenced by your time as a student at Saints?

One of the best things about St. Raphael Academy is that they teach you both how to learn and how to lead. St. Raphael Academy goes even further, calling on each of us to

inspire and lead by example, while creating the community in which we want to live. Serving our community has been my calling. My education and years of experience has prepared me to be an effective leader.

How would you describe Saints in three words?

Courage, Character and Community. An education at St. Raphael Academy gives students the courage to know that they are well equipped to excel and handle anything life throws at them, the character to live a life of honesty and integrity necessary to be our best selves and the commitment to community service to improve the world in which we live.

What piece of advice would you like to share with our current students?

Never sell yourself short, and don't let others discourage you from pursuing your dreams. Through hard work, and being true to your values, you will end up in a place that is right for you.



Rob Masse

How long have you been teaching at Saints and what did you do prior to coming here?

This is my fourth year at Saint Raphael Academy and my fifth year as a teacher overall—but teaching wasn't my first career path. Before joining Saints, I spent nearly two decades working in media on both the local and regional circuit. I got my start in broadcasting at “that school on Exchange Street” and cut my teeth behind the microphone right here in Pawtucket as a PA announcer for both Tolman and Saints athletics. I also had the privilege of working alongside the legendary George Patrick Duffy for many years during Saints football games.

Beyond high school sports, I spent several seasons as a play-by-play broadcaster for the Plymouth Pilgrims and the Newport Gulls in the New England Collegiate Baseball League. I even ventured into the world of independent professional wrestling as both a play-by-play commentator and ring announcer—proof that you never quite know where a microphone will take you.

Like many working in media, I held various “pay-the-bills” jobs as well, including a decade as a pharmacy technician with CVS. But in 2018, with a lot of encouragement from my wife, Megan, I made the decision to return to school to pursue a new path. She believed I would thrive as a teacher long before I was convinced myself, and her support was a major reason I took that leap. Earning a degree in History and Education ultimately led me to Saints—and I am grateful every day that it did.

What subject(s) do you teach and what drew you to that subject?

I currently teach World Cultures and Civilizations (known to anyone born in the 1900s as “Western Civ”) to freshmen and U.S. History I to sophomores.

I’ve loved history for as long as I can remember. Growing up, my parents often took my brother and me into Boston, where we explored museums, historic sites, and every Revolutionary War exhibit we could find. Those trips sparked something early—but the real turning point came in high school when I read *1776* by David McCullough. After that, I was hooked.

American history fascinated me, especially as several members of my family served in the military from WWII through Vietnam. Their experiences gave me a personal connection to the stories of our nation. But my passion didn’t come from Pulitzer Prize-winning authors or family legacy alone. I was fortunate to have outstanding teachers in middle and high school—educators who made history feel alive. They pushed me to ask big questions, dig deeper through research, and never stop learning.

What is your favorite thing about working at Saints?

It’s hard to pick just one favorite thing about working at Saints, but if I had to speak broadly, it’s the genuine sense of “Saints Strong” and the reality of the “Saints Family.” Growing up, I attended “that school on Exchange Street,” so the deep-rooted community spirit that Saints is known for was—at least to me—something of a mystery. My wife, Megan, who graduated from Bishop Feehan, always talked about the “Feehan Family,” and I’ll admit that as a public-school kid, I assumed that was just Catholic-school rhetoric. But the moment I stepped on campus, I realized how real it is here. The Saints Family isn’t a slogan; it’s lived every day. You see it in our charitable work—from Thanksgiving food drives, to fundraising for local causes, to Saints for Tots at Christmas. You feel it at school dances, athletic events, theater performances, and even on field trips, where you inevitably bump into proud alumni from Boston to Greece. It is a community that lifts people up, takes care of one another, and reflects the very best of Catholic values. Being part of that atmosphere has been something truly special, and I try to contribute in any way I can. Yes, being the resident DJ doesn’t hurt my side business—but hearing students talk about those events on Monday mornings, and watching them experience different sides of who I am, has been incredibly rewarding. The Saints Family welcomed me from day one, and it’s an honor to help keep that spirit thriving.

What advice would you like to share with our students?

There are two pieces of advice I can share with our students. The first isn’t originally mine—it comes from my 8th-grade science teacher, Mr. Lupo, who once told me, *“Persistence pays off.”* It guided me as I pursued opportunities in broadcasting, returned to school later in life, and even worked up the courage to ask my wife out on our first date. So I pass it on to my students: persistence truly does pay off.

The second piece of advice is this: you are never too old to try something new. There’s this unwritten expectation that by the time you receive your high school diploma at eighteen, you’re supposed to know exactly “what you want to be when you grow up.” The truth? Life rarely unfolds in a straight line. Plans change. Opportunities appear unexpectedly. And sometimes the right path isn’t visible until you’ve lived a little. If my journey proves anything, it’s this: **be persistent, stay curious, and don’t be afraid to reinvent yourself.**

Former Faculty Spotlight



Allison Pantesco

When were you at Saints and what roles did you hold? I was hired at Saints in 1976 as a teaching intern in Boston College's MAT program. 1977 was my first year full-time at St. Ray's. I first taught just French, but later added German to the curriculum.

What did you do following your time at Saints?

Victor and I started a family after I left Saints in 1982. I have now sung lullabies, in French and German, to our two children and three grandchildren. Loving them all has been an enormous joy in Vic's and my life.

We moved to NH in 1988 where I taught 15 years of high school French and German and 15 years of college German, along with volunteering in our children's elementary classes. I've enjoyed teaching language to all ages and working with German teachers worldwide through workshops and cultural exchanges. From directing student events to running a Salzburg high-school exchange, teaching has been the perfect career for me—both inside and beyond the classroom.

What are some of your favorite Saints memories?

So many memories! My husband and I met there, so as my husband says, 'Saints gave us each other.' Forty-eight years later, we are still incredibly grateful for that. Memories of working hard, supporting and laughing with both faculty and students everyday and on Christmas shows, travels overseas, hilarious Auxillary Drive skits are what first come to mind.

What stands out in your memory about Saints?

My time at Saints was precious to me, both personally and professionally. The generosity and kindness of teachers and students are truly still in my heart. In my first years of teaching, I believe both my students at Saints and I learned that teaching and learning can be both fun and challenging.

Do you have any words of wisdom for our current Saints students?

Kindness is contagious. Even the smallest gentle gesture may send "waves" to people and places we could never anticipate.

Victor Pantesco

When were you at Saints and what roles did you



hold? When I first arrived at Saints it was by invitation from Brother Jerome Corrigan to come to his school to add to the faculty in 1971. I taught mostly English to juniors and seniors and one freshman General Science course.

What have you done since leaving Saints? I've had a long career: a year as a counselor at a residential facility for court-remanded boys, followed by six years at Wickford Middle School until beginning my doctoral work in psychology (1984–1988). I then served as Chief Psychologist at an inpatient addictions hospital in Dublin,

NH until 2000, spent four years as a high school Director of Counseling Services, and from 2000 to 2016 was Director of the Training Clinic and faculty member in Antioch University's Clinical Psychology doctoral program. Since retiring in 2016, I've maintained a small private practice.

Beyond work, raising a son and daughter with Ali—and now enjoying grandchildren—has been one of my life's greatest gifts. And the trust patients have placed in me throughout the years remains a profound privilege.

What are some of your favorite Saints memories? Many, many to choose from... the many relationships with students and faculty and being at the Thanksgiving Day game in 1977 when Saints beat Tolman for the first time in many years. (Note: I screamed so much at that game that I was hoarse and couldn't sing my song at my wedding the following Saturday. Ali's sister sang my song to Ali for me and I played guitar.)

Do you have any words of wisdom for our current Saints students? I would offer what I wrote for my offering under my picture in Saints yearbooks '76 and '77, from "Desiderata." I'm comforted to see that in the next 45 years they remained intact and relevant to my life: "Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others."



Brother Kevin Junk, FSC

When were you assigned to Saints and what was your role here at Saints?

I was at Saints for the two school years in the 80's. I taught four sections of freshman English beginning in 1984 and the following year I taught four sections of sophomore Word Processing and one of senior

What did you do following your time at Saints? After leaving teaching at Saints, I spent the next few years exploring different paths, all while staying deeply connected to education and the mission of the Christian Brothers. My journey began with a year in the Christian Brothers novitiate in Skaneateles, NY, where I focused on spiritual formation and discernment. After that, I spent six years teaching in RI and NY and then moved to Kenya, South Africa, where I continued teaching four more years. When I returned to the U.S., I took on a position at San Miguel School in Providence for a year and a half and then returned to LaSalle Academy for two years. My journey then took me to Saint Mary's University in Winona, MN, where I spent four years working in Development. Since 2012, I've been living and working at the Christian Brothers Center in Narragansett, where I continue to be involved in the mission of the Brothers while finding new ways to serve the broader community.



What are a couple of your favorite Saints memories? Teaching at Saints was a lot of fun! The kids were great, and my first year, before I became a Brother, I wore bow ties to school. The freshmen gave me a big box of old ties as a gift—fat ties, kid-sized ties, and bow ties! The football games were always exciting, especially with Denny O'Brien coaching a competitive team. Saints dances in the old gym were a blast, though I preferred monitoring the restrooms for some peace and quiet. There wasn't a tennis team at the time, so I started one with Brother 'Good,' and we had a great time. Cheryl Love, a fellow new teacher, and I had many laughs together. She was teaching objective writing, and we decided to stage a fake confrontation. I "confronted" her about an imaginary memo she supposedly sent to the administration, creating a heated scene. Mr. Kavanagh, the Dean of Discipline, heard the commotion and stepped in, only to find out it was all part of our planned event.

What stands out in your memory about Saints? What stands out is how phenomenal the faculty and staff were. They were supportive, encouraging, and great companions. It didn't seem to matter what the teacher was teaching - Brother or lay - we all enjoyed each other's company.

Do you have any words of wisdom for our current Saints students? I hope the students continue to savor their high school relationships.



variety of sports and are continuing to make us proud. We wish all our alumni athletes tremendous success in their chosen sport. Remember: Once a Saint, always a Saint!



Chandanney Boyce '24
Howard University
Track & Field



Addison Hazziez '25
CCRI
Basketball



Devan Kipyego '23
Iowa State
Track & Field



Pedro Mayol '23
UMASS Lowell
Track & Field



Alexandre Ramos '25
Catholic University
Track & Field



JJ Rocha '24
Bates College
Track & Field



Rory Sullivan '24
Furman University
Track & Field



Devan Tavares '25
URI
Track & Field





Homecoming



A group of students in a school setting, likely a church or auditorium, are seated in wooden pews. In the foreground, three students are smiling and holding small blue and white induction pins. The student on the left is wearing a black sweater over a white collared shirt. The student in the middle is wearing a white polo shirt. The student on the right is wearing a purple polo shirt. In the background, other students in purple shirts are seated, and a person in a white shirt is standing. The text "Junior Induction Ceremony" is overlaid at the bottom of the image.



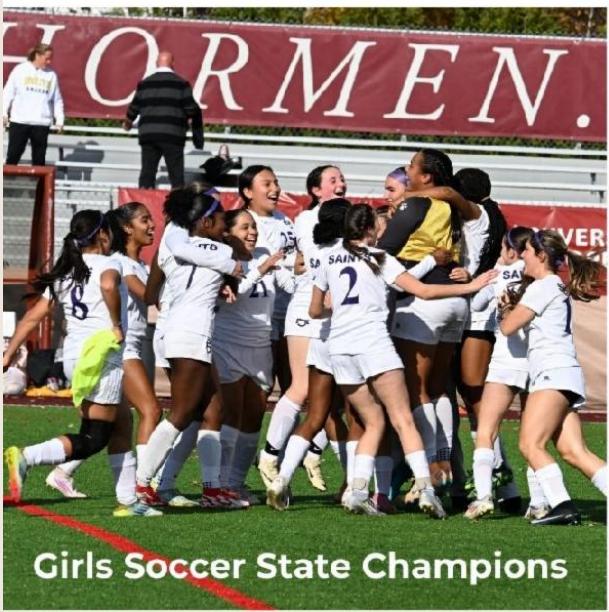
community service



Thanksgiving basket



walk-a-thon



Girls Soccer State Champions



Open House Tour Guides

Upcoming Alumni Events



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ADS



Classes ending in 1 and 6

This is YOUR milestone year! If you're a proud graduate of a class ending in 1 or 6, your reunion is just around the corner—and we're kicking off the planning now! Be part of the excitement and help shape an unforgettable celebration. Reach out to Jen Luiz today to get involved!

Classes ending in 2 and 7

Let the planning begin! Were you part of a class ending in 2 or 7? Your next big reunion is coming up—and we need your energy and ideas to make it amazing. If you're interested in helping plan the party, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out today and join the fun!

Upcoming Reunions



Class of 1967

Date: Oct. 3

Save the Date! Be sure your contact info is up-to-date and reach out if you'd like to be involved in planning.

[Confirm Your Contact Info](#)

Class of 1976

Planning has begun. Be sure your contact info is up-to-date and reach out if you'd like to be involved in planning.

[Confirm Your Contact Info](#)

Class of 2019

Date: Jan. 17

Location: The Guild

Campus Tour: 4:30 pm

Reunion: 6-9 pm

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Recent Reunions



Class of 1965's 60th reunion



Class of 1985's 40th reunion



Class of 2000's 25th reunion



Class of 2005's 20th reunion



Class of 2020's 5th reunion



Annual Meet & Greet



Erica Jackson '00 married James Bridge this year at the Cathedral of Peter and Paul. The ceremony was performed by Father David Gaffney, a Saints teacher in the 80's and the current pastor at their church in Wickford.

Saints pride was strong at last month's Rhode Island Family Turkey Trot 5K, with both alumni and current students taking part. **JJ Rocha '24** won the race and **Josh Farrell '22** placed in the top 10. Pictured: **Alex Bautista '21**, Coach **Chris Magill '90**, **Chandaney Boyce '24**, **Josh Farrell '22**, **JJ Rocha '24**, and **Alejandro Rivera '25**.



Have you recently landed a new job, gotten married, welcomed a new baby, or achieved something exciting?

Share your milestones with the Saints community — your news could be featured in our next alumni update! Email your updates to Jennifer at jluiz@saintrays.org — we can't wait to celebrate with you!



Saint Raphael Academy stands united in remembering the lives of those cherished members of our alumni family who have passed into eternal life since our last publication. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and loved ones. We remember the experiences, laughter, and the memories these individuals have left in their wake. Join us as we pause to reflect, to celebrate, and to perpetuate the flame of camaraderie that continues to burn brightly in the hearts of our alumni community. If we have missed the passing of a loved one who is a Saints alum, former faculty, or staff member,

please contact Jennifer Luiz at jluiz@saintrays.org so we can honor their memory in a future newsletter.

John Johnston '82
Thomas Kennedy '55
Theresa Malloy '82
Jena McNulty '82

Saint John Baptist de La Salle... pray for us.

Live Jesus in our hearts... forever!



Looking for a yearbook? Have one to spare?

If your yearbook disappeared somewhere along the way, let us know—our small archive may have a replacement for you.

We're also hoping to fill gaps in our collection, especially editions from before 1960. If you'd like to donate a yearbook, we'll make sure it's preserved and appreciated for years to come!



Do you know a friend or family member who is a Saint? Are they receiving our emails? If not, we must not have their correct contact information. Simply forward this email to them so they can use the link below to update their contact information, and we'll be able to send them future newsletters.

You can also use the link yourself to ensure that we have your correct mailing address, email, and phone number.

[Update Your Information](#)

The Saint Raphael Academy Alumni & Advancement Office

Ron Dalton '79 - Director of Advancement

Jennifer Luiz - Assistant Director of Advancement

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