

Fall 2023

# Alumni Newsletter

SAINT RAPHAEL ACADEMY



## Message from the Principal

Dear Saints Family,

After a relaxing and enjoyable summer for everyone, SRA students are back on Walcott Street! Last year was a tremendous school year for our students, and I cannot wait to see the achievements and milestones that will be attained by our current Saints.

The beginning of the academic year is always filled with student energy and enthusiasm, and this year I have already observed plenty of student excitement. As you read this newsletter, I am certain you will be as impressed as I am with the two students highlighted in the student spotlight.

This is my twelfth year as the Head of School at SRA, and I have learned during my tenure that our faculty and staff are second to none! The family connection that is shared by two of our employees is written about below and solidifies my belief.

Lastly, the kindness and generosity of the SRA alumni community has been unbelievable to witness. The final person we'd like to highlight in this newsletter is a Class of 1963 graduate who has always lived the adage of *"Faith, Service, and Community."* I hope you enjoy the newsletter, and I thank all of you for your prayers and continuous support.

In Peace,  
Dan Richard

# Campus News

## Our New College & Career Center

The White Building at Saints has undergone a remarkable transformation with the addition of our new College & Career Center. The center now features a beautifully restored fireplace, not only bringing charm to the space but also symbolizing the institution's commitment to nurturing the aspirations and dreams of its students. This revitalized hub will undoubtedly serve as a beacon of inspiration and guidance for generations to come.



## Grandparent's Day

On Friday, September 8th, Saint Raphael Academy celebrated Grandparent's Day in style! Our students and their grandparents came together for a beautiful Mass followed by a delicious breakfast in Alumni Hall.

The atmosphere was filled with love, laughter, and special moments. It's heartwarming to witness the strong bonds between generations within our school community.



A big thank you to all who joined us and made this day so special. Until next year, let's continue to treasure the love and wisdom of our grandparents.



# Welcome Class of 2027

A warm and enthusiastic WELCOME as the class of 2027 started their journey at Saint Raphael Academy. We can't wait to see the incredible growth, friendships, and achievements that will unfold during your time here. Get ready for an adventure filled with learning, laughter, and unforgettable memories. Your journey starts now, and we're thrilled to be a part of it. Here's to an amazing beginning!



# Student Spotlight



## Hannah Guevremont '24

**What year are you in at Saints?** I am currently a senior at Saint Raphael Academy. My favorite part about being at Saints is the welcoming community around me, along with the wonderful faculty and staff that help and support me daily.

**What is your favorite class at Saints and why?**

While I've had many amazing classes at Saints, it is hard to pick just one favorite. I would have to say either Spanish or science classes are my favorite. I am currently in Spanish 5, the highest level that Saints offers, and I thoroughly enjoy this class because I get to challenge myself in various different way by learning a new language, while also learning and celebrating new cultures. Also, the science classes that I have taken at Saints,

biology, chemistry, and physics have been some of my favorite as well. This is because I hope to graduate and major in nursing, and eventually become a diabetes educator to help children with diabetes, just like myself!

**What activities are you involved in at Saints?** Outside of classes at Saints, I am a part of varsity volleyball, the Kindness Club, Lasallian Youth, the Drama Club, and I am a part of the National Honors Society, Spanish Honors Society, and the National Thespian Honors Society! Outside of school I do lots of community service, I have had 3 self-led food drives donating over 30,000lbs of food to the Pawtucket Soup Kitchen, along with this I have spent countless hours as a Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) advocate. I have raised over \$30,000 with my walk team, "Hannah's Knights" and I even had the opportunity to participate in the JDRF Children's Congress this year. This opportunity included a trip to Washington DC, where I had the chance to talk to Congress about insulin affordability and the renewal of the Special Diabetes Program which allows funding for diabetic research. I am looking forward to a wonderful year and I cannot wait to see what senior year brings!

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## Sharbel Mikhail '24

**What year are you in at Saints?** I am a senior in the class of 2024.

**What is your favorite part of being a student at Saints?** My favorite part of being a student at Saints has to be the faculty and the administration, and the way they put their full support behind me in my projects, extra-curriculars, and passions.



**What is your favorite class at Saints and why?** My favorite class of all time at Saints is AP Human Geography with Mr. Kirejczyk which I took my sophomore year. I still believe it is a class that everyone should take because it offers such a holistic study of the modern world, teaching us seemingly unrelated topics from the establishment of suburbs and the medieval feudal system all the way to the development of language.

**What activities are you involved in at Saints?** I am involved in the Varsity Football team as a lineman, the SRA Culture's Club as a co-chair, and soon enough model legislature when we get that started.

**Can you tell us something about your activities outside of Saints?** Outside of Saints, I engage in both academic and recreational activities. I enjoy researching and creating proposals for my dream start-up company, and for fun I absolutely love swimming, soccer, and football.



## **Morgan O'Brien**

**How long have you been a teacher at Saints?** This is my second year at Saints!

**What classes do you teach, and can you tell us a little about the Benilde program?** I am a guidance counselor and the director of the Benilde program. The Benilde program is designed to help students who need extra support or have an IEP/ 504 plan to be more successful in the classroom. We work on things like time management skills, study skills, and organizational techniques, etc. We really focus on the details because I believe it is the little things that directly relate to academic excellence.

**What is your favorite thing about working at Saints?** My favorite thing about Saints is the close-knit community and family feel. I have the best coworkers and students!

**What activities are you involved in outside of teaching?** Outside of the classroom I love to coach and play basketball. Coaching boys basketball year was one of the highlights of my school year.

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## Mitch Carvalho

**How long have you been a teacher at Saints?** My teaching career at Saint Raphael Academy began in March of 2022. I was extremely fortunate to begin my teaching career alongside very talented and passionate educators who made the transition of teaching high school manageable. The 2023-2024 school year will be my third year of teaching Physical Education in Alumni Hall.

**What classes do you teach?** I am one of two Physical Education teachers at Saint Rays. I also teach Freshman Health and Freshman Study Skills. I would argue that I have one of the best jobs on Walcott Street. There is always so much passion and energy brought to Alumni Hall for Phys. Ed. each day that it makes leading the students an exciting

and rewarding experience.

**What is your favorite thing about working at Saints?** My favorite thing about working at Saints is having experienced how tight knit the community is. The administration, faculty, and staff here really look out for one another. That foundation of kindness and compassion is passed down to the students and that's how we're able to thrive as a high school. I am blessed with the opportunity to work with my mother who works as the School Nurse at Saint Rays. It's really special to share a work environment with her and to see her on a regular basis. Nurse Kathy is also a top fan of the baseball team, Coach Sarr and I appreciate the love!

**What activities are you involved in outside of teaching?** Outside of teaching, I am an assistant coach for the hockey and baseball team. There is nothing better than spending quality time with the students you teach, practicing and playing the sport you share a love for. It's very special to witness the growth and maturity of students into young adults. The hardest part about coaching/teaching is having to let go of the seniors when it's time for them to graduate. However, I look forward to the athletic seasons and championships that Saints has ahead!



## Kathy Freeborn '87

**Can you tell us about what you did after Saints and what you currently do?** I graduated from Saints in 1987 and attended URI. I did not become a Registered Nurse until much later in life, however I always knew I wanted to work in healthcare so once I discovered nursing, I fell in love with it!



**What are some of your favorite memories about your time as a student at Saints?** My favorite memories from my time as a student at Saints are the football games, pep rallies, and dances. I remember the caring staff and the great sense of community that Saints still has today!

**Do you have any friends from your time at Saints that you're still in contact with?** YES! I am in weekly contact with my best friends from Saints! We make time throughout the year to get together. Social media has also been helpful to reconnect with classmates that I have lost touch with.

**How long have you worked at Saints and what made you want to work here?** This is my 4th year working as the school Nurse. I immediately felt right at home coming back on campus. I wanted to work here because of the great administration, faculty and students that made me feel welcomed all over again. I have really enjoyed helping the Saints community in any way that I can and seeing the students grow has been my favorite part of working here!

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## Saints Wedding!

Liz LaRose (Class of 11') and Daniel Hayes (Class of 08') were married on June 15, 2023 at Mount Hope Farm Cove Cabin in Bristol, RI surrounded by their friends and family with a picturesque view of the Rhode Island waterfront. In attendance were approximately 20 Saints alumni, spanning classes from the first graduating

class with female students in 75' to the 07' football team that went 13-0 and landing themselves the State Division 1 Championship! While we were not high school sweethearts, it was so special to start our marriage celebrating with our tight knit Saints family, honoring the community that brought us together. We could not have asked for more beautiful weather and feel blessed to begin this new chapter!





TELL US  
**WHAT'S  
NEW?**

SEND US YOUR LIFE UPDATES TO BE  
FEATURED IN AN UPCOMING  
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER!

### What's New?

As Saints continues to build and strengthen our alumni network, we want to keep you updated with the latest news and events from our school. Equally, we are eager to hear from you and learn about your achievements, milestones, and life events such as weddings, new additions to your family, and career successes. Your stories inspire our current students and remind us of the incredible potential that lies within our alumni community.

You can update us by sending an email to [mcolvin@saintrays.org](mailto:mcolvin@saintrays.org). Feel free to include any photos or

videos that you'd like to share, and we may feature your updates in a future alumni newsletter!

In addition to sharing your news, we also invite you to reconnect with your alma mater. You're always welcome to come take a tour of campus, attend alumni events, or even consider becoming a mentor to current students who can benefit from your wisdom and experience.

# Saints Class Reunions

## Saints Class Reunions are back!

A few photos from the class of 1997, 2002, 2008, 2012 & 2013!



## Register For Your Upcoming Reunion!

Let's make these reunions a blast by uniting once more as the extraordinary Saints community. Your presence is what will truly make these events shine!

- Reconnect with classmates from your era.
- Share stories, laughter, and memories that time can't erase.
- Immerse yourself in nostalgia with photos and memorabilia displays.
- Make new memories and rekindle old friendships.

If you're up for a reunion in 2023 and still have not schedule one, contact [mcolvin@saintrays.org](mailto:mcolvin@saintrays.org) and we will help you plan one!

If your class year ends in 4 or 9, you will be up for a reunion in 2024! Let's start planning!

## CLASS OF 1973 REUNION

**Date:** October 14th, 2023

**Time:** 6pm-9pm

**Location:** Fountrain Street  
Grille at LeFoyer  
Pawtucket, Rhode Island

**Ticket Price:** \$50

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

## CLASS OF 1983 REUNION

**Date:** September 20th,  
2023

**Time:** 7pm-10pm

**Location:** R1 Indoor Karting  
Entertainment Center,  
Lincoln, Rhode Island

**Ticket Price:** \$55 per person

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

## CLASS OF 2003 REUNION

**Date:** September 20th,  
2023

**Time:** 5:00pm - 9:00pm

**Location:** Hillside Country  
Club, Rehoboth, MA

**Ticket Price:** \$50 per person

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

# Saints International Program



## Saints International Program

Saints is fortunate to welcome international students in addition to our domestic students for the 2023-2024 school year. We hope you will consider opening your hearts and homes to host an international student for a semester or complete year. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce a student to life in the United States while your family learns

about another culture. We have many opportunities coming up this year and in the near future including students from Spain, China, and Brazil. We are fortunate to work with many agencies and would be happy to connect you with one of them that will be sending students to Saints. If you are interested but unable to commit to an entire school year, there is also a need for Welcome Families. These are homestay families that host students for a shorter period. This occurs when there are unexpected circumstances and homestay families need to leave the area, or students are attending Saints for just a few short weeks. If you would choose to commit to an entire school year in the future, you would be well prepared! If you

know someone outside the Saints family that is interested in hosting a student, please feel free to have them contact me. I would like to answer any questions you may have by phone, email, or in person. Our international program is growing, and we need the help of our Saints community to continue providing this amazing experience for all our students.

In partnership,  
Bethany Couto | International Student Coordinator  
[bcouto@saintrays.org](mailto:bcouto@saintrays.org) | 401-723-8100 ext. 118



*upcoming*  
Alumni Events

2ND ANNUAL ALUMNI & FRIENDS

# 5K RUN/WALK



**SUNDAY**  
**OCTOBER 15TH**

**SLATER PARK | PAWTUCKET, RI**

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REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.SAINTRAYS.ORG/ALUMNI/5K](http://WWW.SAINTRAYS.ORG/ALUMNI/5K)

*The Saint Raphael Academy Alumni Board* is excited to announce the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Saints Alumni & Friends 5k Run/Walk** at Slater Park in Pawtucket, on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Join us, along with your fellow alum, members of your former running teams, students, families, and friends for this exciting, closed course, 5k through picturesque Slater Park. There will be Rhode Runner gift certificates for the top three male and female runners overall and medals for the top male and female finishers in age groups starting 12 and under right up to 70 years old and above so everyone has a chance to claim your top spot. Tech tee shirts will be provided to the first 200 entrants and with just under 200 runners and walkers joining us last year for our inaugural event, we are expecting an even bigger turnout this year. Register early before prices increase and secure your tee shirt.

There are also many levels of sponsorship opportunities available to help support this wonderful Saints event. All proceeds from the event will go directly to helping our current and future students. Stay tuned for more information on the race and to learn more about the upcoming Class Challenge to sponsor your on-course race sign and challenge other classes to do the same. Compete for bragging rights to see which class

can raise the most money and qualify for some awesome prizes. More details to follow on this and other great ways to get involved and help our Saints students.

You can use the following link to join our list of generous donors, purchase a spot on our race shirt for your business or click on the register button to take you directly into the Run Signup registration site.

***Do not delay, Sprint to the Finish Line to register and save your spot today before prices increase!***

**Register to Race or Sponsor**



### **Meet & Greet at The Guild**

**When:** Friday, October 13th, 2023

**Location:** The Guild | Pawtucket, RI

Join us at The Guild on October 13th as we host our Alumni & Friends Meet & Greet. Reconnect with old friends, relive memories, and forge new connections with our beloved alma mater. Whether you're a recent graduate or a seasoned alumnus, this event promises to be an evening filled with laughter and joy of coming together once more. Don't miss out on this opportunity to celebrate the bonds that unite us and the enduring spirit of our community. Mark your calendar, see you there!



### **Paint Night with Mike Bryce '85**

**When:** Thursday, October 19th

**Location:** Saints Navigant Art Gallery

*More details to follow.*



# SAINTS 3RD HALL OF FAME

INDUCTION CEREMONY  
April 6th, 2024

SAINT RAPHAEL ACADEMY

# THE NEXT 100 Years

BUILDING ON FAITH, SERVICE AND  
COMMUNITY FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

## 1924-2024

Saint Raphael Academy will be turning 100 years old in 2024 and will be celebrating throughout the 2024/2025 school year. Beginning with an opening mass in September 2024 and lasting through our Centennial celebration in June 2025, events will be scheduled throughout the year to celebrate this historic anniversary. More information will be announced soon highlighting events for our students, parents, faculty, and alumni.

Thank you for being part of our first 100 years!



## SAVE THE DATE

33RD ANNUAL ALUMNI + FRIENDS

# GOLF

**MONDAY,  
MAY 13TH  
2024**

TOURNAMENT

PAWTUCKET COUNTRY CLUB

# Ways to Give Back

Planned Giving



## Spotlight

### Henry '63 and Patricia Petcavage

Mr. Henry Petcavage, Class of 1963 is one of the newest members of the Saint Raphael Society following a gift to the school in memory of his lovely wife, Patricia.

Henry's upbringing, specifically, the lessons he learned from his hardworking parents that enabled him to come to Saints, and his brother and two sisters to also receive a Catholic education, are the foundation upon which Henry has created his legacy at Saint Raphael Academy. Henry's parents instilled the lessons of

faith, family and helping others at a very young age, and those lessons were then reemphasized upon his entering Saints. Henry fell in love with our school and the teachings of the Christian Brothers and Priests that were teachers here at the time. Henry participated in variety shows and played basketball, but his real love was playing football and opening holes for his lifelong friend, Steve Levitt. Steve and Henry continue to attend as many Saints football games as possible and cheer on the boys in purple and gold. Henry remains friends with all his classmates and fellow Saints which was part of why Henry enjoyed his time here so much, "we were small enough that everyone was my friend".

As the years went by, Henry and Patricia were models of kindness, compassion, faith, and family. Their faith and desire to help others has cemented their legacy here at Saints. Henry's strong belief in the importance of education and the admiration he has for today's Saints students and families, would have him do anything to support our current and future students. Henry, like our mission here at Saints, wants all students that desire a great comprehensive secondary education to have that same opportunity that his parents worked so hard to provide for his family and the chance to continue their education at the college level. Henry prays for success for all our students and hopes that his legacy of helping others will influence all Saints students and alumni to always remember to help those in need and to pay it forward to future generations.

All of us at Saint Raphael Academy thank Henry for his kindness, generosity, and for remaining a faithful "Saint" and **great friend** to the academy.

### Planned Giving Information

#### United Way

Did you know that you can designate Saint Raphael Academy as the beneficiary of your United Way gifts? United Way brings people together to build strong, equitable communities



where everyone can thrive. As one of the world's largest privately funded charities, United Way serves 95% of U.S. communities and 37 countries and territories -- making life better for 48 million people every year. Through United Way, communities tackle tough challenges and work with private, public, and nonprofit partners to boost education, economic

mobility, and health resources. Your support empowers people across the world to succeed in school, get on solid financial ground and live healthier lives. United Way is the mission of choice for 1.5 million volunteers, 6.8 million donors, and 45,000 corporate partners in more than 1,100 communities worldwide.



## Make a Gift Tax-Free With an IRA

### A Tax-Saving Way to Help Saint Raphael Academy

Make a difference today and save on taxes. It's possible when you support Saint Raphael Academy through your IRA.

### A Special Opportunity for Those 70½ Years Old and Older

You can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as Saint Raphael Academy without having to pay income taxes on the money. Gifts of any value \$100,000 or less are eligible for this benefit and you can feel good knowing that you are making a difference at Saints. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short.

### Why Consider This Gift?

- Your gift will have an immediate impact at Saints, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making to the school and our students.
- Beginning in the year you turn 73, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD).
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.

### For Those 59½ Years Old or Older

If you're at least 59½ years old, you can take a distribution and then make a gift from your IRA without penalty. If you itemize your deductions, you can take a charitable deduction for the amount of your gift.

## At Any Age

No matter your age, you can designate Saint Raphael Academy as the beneficiary of all or a percentage of your IRA and it will pass to us tax-free after your lifetime. It's simple, just requiring that you contact your IRA administrator for a change-of-beneficiary form or download a form from your provider's website.

**Important Note:** Many popular retirement plan administrators assume no obligation to notify a charity of your designation. We encourage you to reach out to us as we would love to talk to you about your intentions to ensure that they are followed. You can also make us aware of your plan by clicking on the following link to our Give page and providing your information. **[Planned Giving - Saint Raphael Academy \(saintrays.org\)](https://saintrays.org)**

On behalf of all of us at Saints, we thank you for your consideration and generosity.

***Once A Saint, Always A Saint!***

# Stay Connected



## Class Reunions

The alumni office is excited to work with classes on planning upcoming reunions. To talk details, please send an email to [mcolvin@saintrays.org](mailto:mcolvin@saintrays.org)



## Yearbook Collection

We are trying to complete our yearbook collection and are missing a few years.

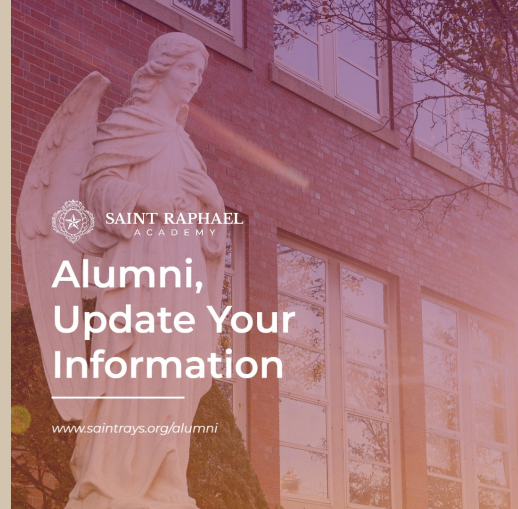
If you or someone you know has yearbooks between the years **1924-1965**, please email [mcolvin@saintrays.org](mailto:mcolvin@saintrays.org)



## School Store New Spring Arrivals & New Alumni Hoodie!

You can use the link below to shop and have your purchase shipped directly to you or make arrangements to pick up in store. Whether shopping for yourself, former or current students, the **Purple and Gold Zone** has you covered.

[Visit the Purple & Gold Zone](#)



## Alumni, Update Your Information

[www.saintrays.org/alumni](http://www.saintrays.org/alumni)

## Alumni, Update Your Information!

Have you updated your information lately? We are missing so many wonderful alumni current addresses and emails and would love to keep you informed on all the great happenings at Saint Rays! Click this link to update your info today!

[Update Your Information](#)



Mel Colvin '02  
Alumni Coordinator

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Saint Raphael Academy  
123 Walcott Street  
Pawtucket, R.I. 02860

We're an accredited, co-educational high school where students are welcomed, inspired and challenged.

Saint Raphael Academy | 123 Walcott Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860

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