

SPRING 2024 Alumni Newsletter

SAINT RAPHAEL ACADEMY



Message from our Head of School

Dear Saints,

As the tree blossoms begin to bud on Walcott Street, I extend my warmest Easter greetings to each of you, our cherished Saint Raphael Academy alumni. May this season of renewal and rebirth fill your hearts with joy, hope, and the promise of new beginnings.

In the spirit of Easter, may you find moments of reflection, gratitude, and happiness. As you gather with loved ones to celebrate this sacred time, may your bonds be strengthened, and your spirits uplifted. Though we may be miles apart, the memories and values we share continue to unite us in a special way. Your contributions to our school community have left an indelible mark, and we are grateful for the enduring connections we hold dear. Thank you for being part of the Saints Family. Please remember you always have a home at Saint Raphael Academy!

Wishing you and your families a blessed Easter filled with peace, love, and the beauty of springtime.

In Peace,
Dan Richard | Head of School





Campus News - Saints Partners with KyleCares

In an effort to support all Saint Raphael Academy students, we have partnered with the KyleCares Foundation to help address student mental health at Saints.

KyleCares is an organization dedicated to promoting student mental health awareness by partnering with high schools

and colleges. The organization provides funding for awareness and education and works with school personnel to develop strategies and resources to address student mental health. Through this organization, Saints was introduced to Active Minds.

We have started an Active Minds chapter and students can join at any time. Active Minds chapters are student-led, and work to change the culture centered around mental health. Recognizing that suffering in silence is not helpful to anyone, school chapters encourage open dialogue among peers and caring adults, a change in school culture and associated programming. The chapter will be supported by the Active Minds organization with ideas and resources for reaching students. Programs and activities at Saints will follow this spring.

Teens and young adults are experiencing more depression and anxiety than ever before. Saint Raphael Academy and KyleCares aim to work together to empower our students to have open communication, talk to one another and trusted adults, understand the challenges of others, and seek assistance from health care professionals.

Alumni Spotlight



Pat Fisher '83

Can you tell us a little something about what you did after leaving Saint Raphael Academy?

After graduating from Saint Raphael Academy in 1983, I was accepted to Johnson & Wales University. I started in the two-year Fashion



Merchandising Associate Degree Program thanks to my mentor Sr. Regina. After the first two years in the program, I realized I wanted to continue my education to complete my Bachelor of Science Degree in Retail Management. After I graduated, I started my career in merchandise management at Zayre discount stores. There, I was responsible for distributing men's basic apparel to 500 stores on the east coast. After two years at Zayre, I continued my merchandising career as an analyst at Hills Discount Department Stores. At Hills, I allocated toys to 300 stores in the northeast. I spent three years at Hills, and in 1991, I was recruited to manage a women's boutique owned and operated by Johnson & Wales University called

Gladding's. Gladding's was a practical educational facility where JWU students learned about fashion merchandising and retail sales. While working full-time at Gladding's, I went back to school and earned my MBA in International Business. I spent 10 years as the store manager of Gladding's before moving into an academic role for the JWU College of Business. In the College of Business, I have served in many roles including Department Chair of Marketing, faculty member, and program lead to name a few.

Do you stay in touch with any of your former classmates? During my time at Saint Raphael Academy, I joined the drama club with Mr. Murray, where I performed in a musical and few plays. Over the years I stayed connected with my drama club friends, Mr. Murray and Sr. Regina. I have volunteered for Sr. Regina as a guest speaker at SRA career days, and I frequently attended the drama club musical performances with my daughter. I am happy to share that because of my connection to the Saints community, my daughter asked me during her freshman year at Lincoln Public High School if she could shadow at Saints and be a "Saint for a Day". This came as a surprise seeing she had spent 10 years in the Lincoln Public School system. She joined Saints in her sophomore year and graduated in June 2020. While at Saint Raphael Academy she also participated in the drama club and dance club. I continued to stay involved as a parent at Saints and in 2022, I was asked to manage the school store better known as the "Purple and Gold Zone".

Can you tell us something about your work with the Saints School Store? I now work part-time at the school store. I manage the inventory, visual merchandising, and online orders. It is so rewarding to be back at SRA. I am looking forward to celebrating the 100th anniversary of SRA and 50 years of women at SRA. Saints is truly a special place.

"Once a Saint, Always a Saint".



Student Spotlight



Samantha Superczynski '24

What is your favorite part of being a student at Saints?

My favorite part of being a student here at Saints is the loving family we are all a part of. Through going to games and cheering on our friends or helping out with events with classmates and meeting new faces, there is always fun and joy to be had here at Saints.

What is your favorite class at Saints and why? My favorite class at Saints would have to be APUSH with Mr. Corrain. It isn't just for the class but the teacher and classmates I had in there struggling to learn about the titans of industry and Thomas Jefferson beside me. We encouraged each other, goofed off with each other, and just genuinely had a great time regardless of the AP score we got.

What activities are you involved in at Saints? I am involved in Varsity Volleyball, Varsity Track and Field, Varsity Softball, Mock Trial, Spikeball club, Newspaper club, Bowling club, Kindness club, Lasallian Youth, and National Honors Society. I try to make the most of my 4 years.

How has your time at Saints prepared you for college and what are your plans for next year? My time here at Saints has prepared me for college in more ways than I can even recognize. First off, the walking to classes seems normal to us but it is what you'll be doing in college so that is good. Classes are offered as EEP or AP which are college classes. The guidance counselors also are a huge factor and blessing.

Alex Ramos '25

What is your favorite part of being a student at Saints? My favorite part of being a Saints student is the small, close-knit community. This community is something my parents were a part of, as they both graduated from Saints. Now their legacy is continued on through me. The small community has allowed me to create strong bonds with my classmates and teachers. In addition, being placed in a small setting has challenged me academically.

What is your favorite class at Saints and why?



Choosing just one class is a hard choice but if I had to, I would choose AP Precalculus. This is partially because of my love for mathematics and problem solving, but mostly due to my teacher, Dr. Costanzo. I have had Dr. Costanzo for two years now and plan to have him again for AP Calculus next year. He has taught me valuable lessons that I will be able to take with me from high school to college and into life. Senora Coulombe's Spanish 3 Honors was a close second.

What activities are you involved in at Saints? Outside the classroom, I am involved in multiple sports teams as well as clubs. I am part of Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field, and Basketball. Over my three years at Saints, I have fostered a passion for running and throwing the javelin. A few clubs I am involved in are the Math Team, the Garden club, and Kindness club.



Gabby Leon '25

What is your favorite part of being a student at Saints?

There are numerous things to enjoy being a student here at Saints, but my favorite thing is being able to engage in a diverse, welcoming, and loving family-like community. Being a student here at Saints has granted me the opportunity to meet and engage in a diverse community as well as meet classmates that have become friends that I will have for a lifetime. Not only that, but it allowed me to form relationships with the lovely faculty and staff as well here at Saints that are extremely supportive, compassionate, and kind who help me to excel and do my best each and every day.

That is my favorite thing about being a student at Saints as being in this loving and welcoming community allows me to make the most out of my four years of high school and make memories that I will never forget!

What is your favorite class at Saints and why? My favorite class at Saints is AP Language and Composition. This is because I love English, but also this class takes a different approach to normal English courses which has opened my eyes to so many new ideas and perspectives on a variety of subjects about our every day lives and education. It truly is an amazing class and is taught by such an amazing teacher, Mrs. Nelson. Mrs. Nelson is a kind and compassionate teacher who works with her students to put forth their best effort every day. Not only that, but Mrs. Nelson makes the class very enjoyable as well as supports her students and makes them believe in their ability and skill, despite the course being challenging and rigorous.

What activities are you involved in at Saints? Some of the activities I am involved in here at Saints include student government, cultures club, social justice club, kindness club, girls' volleyball, and outdoor track and field.

Faculty Spotlight



John Donnegan

How long have you been a teacher at Saints? I joined the faculty at Saints as a member of the Social Studies Department in the Fall of 2021.

What classes do you teach? I teach a wide range of classes. I teach US History I to Sophomores, US History 2 to Juniors (and some Seniors), and the American Government, and Sociology elective classes for upper-classmen.

What is your favorite thing about working at Saints? “Enter to learn, leave to serve.” These words adorn each classroom at Saints. Every day at Saints is an

opportunity to inspire students to learn, build connections between the past and present, and think critically about what role they can play in transforming the ever-evolving world around them. It’s this process of learning, for both the students and myself, that makes me so excited to come to Saints each day.

Can you tell us a little about life outside of Saints? Outside of school, life is always interesting. I live in Cranston, where I grew up, with my wife Laura, a science teacher in Barrington, our four-month-old son Liam, and our dog, Simon, a 3-year-old husky-mix rescue. The past four months, since Liam was born in October 2023, have been the most joyous, chaotic, and sleep-deprived months of our lives; but we wouldn’t trade it for the world. My entire perspective in life changed instantaneously in ways that were previously unimaginable. Regardless of what else is going on, it is impossible for me to not look into his eyes (he has his mother’s eyes) and not immediately be overflowing with the feeling of excitement and hope for the possibilities the future holds for him, and our family.

Beyond teaching and family, I also serve my community as an elected official on the Cranston City Council, a position I have held since January 2019. I became involved with local politics following the 2016 elections. I began regularly attending City Council meetings and helping organize a community group to focus on municipal issues. When the City Council for the district I lived in opened up due to term-limits in 2018, I was encouraged to, and ultimately decided to run. I ran on the promise to seek compassionate solutions to issues facing our city, and was elected at the age of 28, becoming one of the youngest to serve on the Cranston City Council in decades. Since then, I was re-elected in 2020, and 2022, both terms elected by my peers to serve as the Leader of our Caucus.

Service to one's community was instilled in me from an early age by my parents. Both my mother, Nancy, and father, Emmett, are high school teachers. My father, a biology teacher, ingrained in me a deep appreciation for our environment, and my mother, a Theater and English teacher, through her work inspired me to always look towards and prioritize the human story. I also credit my upbringing in the Catholic faith, and Catholic education - La Salle 09', Assumption College '13, and Providence College G'16 - for encouraging me to seek opportunities to serve others, especially the less-fortunate.

Although this term will be my last, I am appreciative that I have had the opportunity to serve the community in this capacity; a city I have called home since I was born. I was able to have many proposals pass and/or become law and would like to think I played a small role, alongside a list of countless others, who helped the city navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic and make a positive impact on many of the challenges facing our city. With that said, I am looking forward to spending more time at home with family, watching Liam grow (particularly making sure that History is his favorite subject, not science [sorry, Laura]), and finding new ways to serve our community.

Sr. Lisa Palazio, SSD

How long have you been a teacher at Saints? This is my third-year teaching at Saints.

What classes do you teach? I teach Theology 12 - Catholic Social Teaching as well as being the Department Chair.

What is your favorite thing about working at Saints? My favorite thing about working at Saints is the caring family atmosphere and the great support from administration.

Do you have a special Lenten message you would like to share with our alumni? Don't ever lose sight of the unconditional love God has for us - "For God so loved the world that He gave us His only begotten Son." John 3:16



Saints Class Reunions are back!

Below are a few photos from some of our class reunions and Meet & Greet Events.



2024 Class Reunions!

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.
- 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 your class year ends in 4 or 9, you will be up for a reunion in 2024! Let's start planning! Contact Mel Colvin-Johnson at alumni@saintrays.org



Upcoming Alumni Events



SAINT RAPHAEL ACADEMY
33RD ANNUAL ALUMNI + FRIENDS

GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, MAY 13TH, 2024
PAWTUCKET COUNTRY CLUB



SAVE THE DATE
SAINT RAPHAEL ACADEMY
1ST ANNUAL ATHLETIC FUND

GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2024
PAWTUCKET COUNTRY CLUB



3RD ANNUAL ALUMNI & FRIENDS

5K RUN/ WALK



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2024
SLATER PARK | PAWTUCKET, RI



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!

SAINT RAPHAEL ACADEMY
IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR
2024 HALL OF FAME CLASS



Kevin J. Donahue
Class of 1971

Peter J. Miniati III
Class of 1980

Fr. Anthony D. Iwuc
Class of 1945 | *(Posthumous)*

Terry F. Murphy
Class of 1961

Keith J. Lacy
Class of 1985

Tracy Maddaline Rabar
Class of 1987

Paul R. Masse
Class of 1977

Terry P. Tracey
Class of 1972

Alumni Spotlight on Giving



Chris Mutter '73

Can you share with me a few sentences why Saints is still important in your life and why you have made the decision to create your legacy here at Saints? The four years I attended Saints (from 1969 to 1973) were absolutely the best times for me personally.

The late 60's/early 70's was a very turbulent time in our history. Still an all-boys school at that time, we shared a commonality and bond that still holds true to this day. In fact, we just celebrated our 50th reunion and had 60+ fellow classmates attend! Even after 50 years, we still can remember classic stories from our time at Saints.

Saint Raphael Academy is and will always be such an important part of my life and one that I continue to reflect on and be grateful for each and every day.

What did you do following graduation?

After graduating from Saints in June 1973 I attended Providence College from September 1973 to May 1977 with a BA in Political Science. After college, employment followed in the public sector (water quality management) and then in the private sector (Finance; Project Management)

Are you still in contact with any of your former classmates?

I am in contact with many of my former classmates and, in fact, see several of them throughout the year.

What is one of your fondest memories from your time here at Saints?

I have so many great memories from my years at Saints, and it is hard to choose just one - but my most cherished memories are from the time I spent with the Drama Club and all of the productions we were part of in my four years there. (My Sister Eileen, Inherit The Wind, Teahouse of The August Moon, Our Town, Auntie Mame, The Lark and You Can't take It With You). In fact, I met my wife in the Drama Club as we combined with St. Jean de Baptiste Academy to produce all of these plays (and we have been married now for 45 years).

Why did you decide to create your legacy here at Saints.

My dad attended Saints and after my graduation, my two brothers and sister also attended. I can think of no better way to show my appreciation and love for Saints than to provide a way through planned giving that may, in some small measure, allow other potential students to experience all of the benefits that an education at Saint Raphael Academy provides.

Alumni In Memorium



Saint Raphael Academy stands united in remembering the lives of those cherished members of our alumni family who have passed into eternal life during 2024. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and loved ones. Please join us in remembering to honor the legacy, spirit, and the lasting impact of those who, as students, breathed life into the halls of Saint Raphael Academy. 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 Mel Colvin Johnson at alumni@saintrays.org so we can honor their memory in a future newsletter.

James DeGuillo '45
Eugene McKee MD '51
Mrs. Jannine Rondeau (Guidance Secretary 1975-1995)
Maurice Carrier '55
Robert Yabroudy '55
Gerard Gregoire '60
Henry Crombie '60
Ron St. Pierre '73
Ricardo "Kiki" Pognon '11
Willie K. Washington Jr. '17

*Saint John Baptist de La Salle...Pray for us,
Live Jesus in our hearts...Forever!*

Ways to Give Back



3 UNIQUE WAYS TO GIVE BACK TO SAINT RAPHAEL ACADEMY

3 Unique Ways to Give Back to Saints

Over the next few weeks, there will be 3 opportunities for you to show your support to Saint Raphael Academy.

- Our **Lenten Appeal** is underway and will continue through the season of Lent.
- On *April 1st, at 5:00 AM through April 2nd at 6:00 PM* Saints will be taking part in the 401 Gives campaign through United Way. This is a great way for alumni to make their first gift to Saints. If you are familiar with the 401 Gives campaign, there are specific times

during the campaign where your gift can get matched, doubling your donation in support of our students. **Give to Saint Raphael Academy | 401Gives**

- On Monday, April 8th, we will celebrate the feast day of St. John Baptist de La Salle (April 7th) with our own *"Saints Day of Giving"*. There will be special challenges throughout the day encouraging participation. It will be a fun day to support the school while honoring the founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, a religious order committed to accessible education for all. De La Salle is the patron saint for teachers of youth and remains an inspiration for educators, and a beacon for compassion and dedication to learning through his commitment to uplifting the lives of young learners. Stay tuned for more details about this first of its kind day at Saints.

On behalf of all of us here at Saints, *THANK YOU* for all your support of Saints and most importantly, our current and future students!

United Way



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.

TELL US
**WHAT'S
NEW?**

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

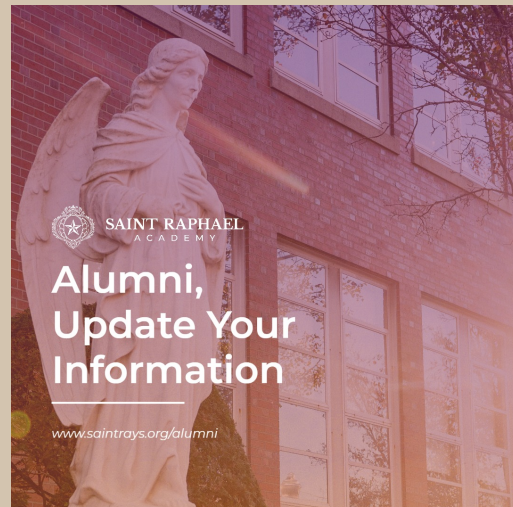
What's New?

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 alumni@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.



The Purple & Gold Zone has New Spring Arrivals & a New Alumni Quarter Zip

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!

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 Saints! Click this link to update your info today!

[Update Your Information](#)

Happy Easter and Lenten season to all our alumni from the Saint Raphael Academy Alumni and Advancement Office! As we journey through this sacred time of reflection and renewal, may the spirit of hope and rebirth fill your hearts with joy and peace. Let us celebrate the blessings of this season together, cherishing the memories of our shared experiences and the bonds that unite us as a community.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Easter filled with love, faith, and abundant blessings.

Mel Colvin '02 - **Alumni Coordinator**
Ron Dalton '79 - **Director of Advancement**



Mel Colvin Johnson '02
Alumni Coordinator

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

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