



FALL 2020

The Messenger



Guardian
Catholic School

Protecting potential.

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Early Learning Sets A Strong Foundation

Never underestimate the importance of a strong foundation. At Guardian Catholic School, we know how critical learning is during a child's early years. Children from lower income families typically enter school with below average language skills. Language skills deficits increase the odds of dropping out of school in the future. The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the educational disparities of all our children; perhaps the hardest hit are low income pre-school age children.

Recognizing this reality, Guardian Catholic keeps early learning as a priority and has emerged over the years as a model early learning program in Northeast Florida.

For 18 years, Sister Darlene Siebeneck led Guardian Catholic's Early Learning Program. She teamed with teachers and staff to lay the foundation of a high quality program recognized for its successful learning outcomes. Her many local, state and national awards attest



Susan Main, retired CEO/President of the Early Learning Coalition, presents a Gifts of Service Award to Sr. Darlene Siebeneck, SND.

to her commitment and effectiveness. Sr. Darlene retired recently, after 54 years as an early childhood educator in Catholic schools in Ohio and Florida. Our Guardian community has been truly blessed by her service; she is loved and missed. We are committed to continuing Sr. Darlene's legacy of excellence on behalf of the thousands of colleagues, parents and children whose lives she influenced and the many more yet to come.

Is a strong foundation needed? Never underestimate it!



Thank You Southeastern Grocers & Romay Davis

Guardian Catholic School is the proud recipient of a \$17,500 grant from **Southeastern Grocers**. The monies will fund a shaded outdoor picnic area to enable social distancing among our students during lunchtime. The funding was provided from the **Romay Davis Belonging, Inclusion and Diversity Grant Program**, named in honor of a beloved employee of Winn-Dixie for more than 20 years. The grant recipients were announced on October 29 — Romay's 101st birthday, also known as "Romay Davis Day" in her hometown of Montgomery, AL.

Our mission is to participate in God's work by providing advocacy, resources and governance to Guardian Catholic School. These resources enable the school to provide educational and spiritual opportunities to children and families regardless of financial situation or religious preference.



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Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Guardian Catholic School Board of Directors, we hope this greeting finds you and your family well.

So much has happened since the *16th Annual Ron Townsend Golf Classic* in March. We were very fortunate to be able to hold the tournament before the COVID-19 pandemic created a massive shift in the way we gather in community. I would like to express a heartfelt thanks to the Golf Classic's Honorary Chair Josh Scobee, Chairman Jason Burythe, and our many sponsors, participants and volunteers. Together, you helped raise **more than \$200,000 in scholarship assistance** for Guardian students. Your generosity has helped our families who have been hit hardest during this crisis, and we are all very grateful.

While the 2020-2021 school year is well underway, it is certainly unlike any other in memory. I am pleased to report that Guardian is able to safely host students, teachers and staff due to the generosity of our many supporters. Health and safety are paramount and I would like to particularly acknowledge the generous support of Vince and June Schuppert who made it possible to employ a full-time nurse in the Florida Blue Health Clinic at Guardian Catholic School.

We are more determined than ever to provide each student with every opportunity to not only succeed, but to thrive. This important work could not be accomplished without your support!

Sincerely,

Steve Foody, *Chairman*



SUPPORTING MIND, BODY & SPIRIT

On Saturday, October 17, Guardian partnered with **Catholic Charities Jacksonville** and **Feeding Northeast Florida** to distribute fresh produce, protein and pantry staples to families in need at Guardian Catholic School. Approximately **100 families** were served during the touchless, drive-thru food giveaway where recipients followed school

pick-up protocol, remaining in their cars while volunteers placed food and goods inside the trunk of each vehicle. We are grateful to the volunteers from Catholic Charities, Feeding Northeast Florida, and the **Order of Malta** for helping to provide this much needed service to Guardian families during a time of heightened stress and uncertainty due to COVID-19.

Introducing the 2020 Inaugural Guardian Ambassadors Board

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Message from Sr. Dianne

Dear Friends,

Guardian opened the 2020-2021 school year on August 19 with 402 children enrolled. Our teachers are fully engaged in guiding learning, and our students are eager to learn, whether they are in the classroom or joining from home via distance learning.

Unfortunately, the families we serve reside in ZIP codes that have been hit the hardest by COVID-19, causing even greater economic disparities. Many have experienced loss of jobs or interruption in wages and are struggling financially.

With no clear end to this pandemic in sight, we need your help. Our students need financial assistance more than ever. *Guardian must raise \$400,000* to help close the opportunity gap for our students. A gift of any size will help, and thanks to the **Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock Foundation, all gifts will be matched up to \$200,000.**

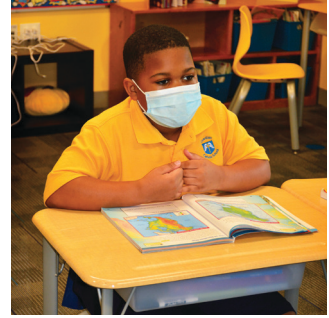
Please help us ensure that no child will be denied the opportunity to receive a high-quality education, especially during this overwhelming time. You can make a gift online at www.GuardianCatholicSchools.org or by mailing a check in the enclosed remittance envelope.

You are a blessing to our children! We pray that God's abundant blessings protect you, your family, and our school community.

Sincerely,

Sister Dianne Rumschlag, SND.

Sister Dianne Rumschlag, SND
Head of School



COVID CHALLENGE DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

The Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock Foundation is committed to doubling your gift and has offered a 1:1-dollar match of all donations up to \$200,000.

This means that if you make a gift of \$200, your gift will provide \$400 of support to Guardian. Or, if you make a gift of \$50,000, you will be making a gift of \$100,000!

Alumni Spotlight

"My hope is to be a positive influence within my community, just as Guardian Catholic School was to me."

Charmayne Anderson graduated from a Guardian Catholic School in 2009 and went on to attend Bishop John Snyder High School. While at Bishop Snyder, she achieved incredible academic success, graduating with honors in 2013 and receiving a full scholarship to Florida State University (FSU) through the Leonard Family Foundation.

Throughout college, Charmayne maintained a 4.0 GPA and was named to the President's List while on a pre-med course track. Additionally, she was invited to join both the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society. After graduating from FSU in May of 2017 with a BS in Biological Sciences, Charmayne

was accepted into FSU's Master of Public Health Graduate Program and graduated with her MPH degree in May of 2019.

Since that time, Charmayne has worked for the Florida Department of Health (DOH) in Leon County as a community health worker for the Florida Breast & Cervical Early Detection Program and as a COVID-19 case investigator and contact tracer. Currently, Charmayne is transitioning into the DOH epidemiology department as a data analyst specifically focusing on COVID-19. Although work has kept her quite busy, she still plans to attend medical school and is studying for the MCAT.



Donor Spotlight: Gase Family Foundation



Meet Art and Nancy Gase, Gase Family Foundation

The Gases have always loved reading and learning new things. Their love for reading is evidenced by a great accumulation of books that now reside in their home library. Over the years, the couple has shared their passion for reading with their three children and five grandchildren. In fact, gifting books to family members is a favorite form of celebration for Art and Nancy.

Art and Nancy firmly believe that reading has helped them grow and change into the better people they aspire to be. Through their generosity, they have shared their love of reading with the

children at Guardian Catholic School by providing funding to support the Learning Commons.

"Reading is something that can significantly help children grow, learn, and achieve the best version of themselves," says Nancy. "It is a dream come true for us to share the gift of reading with current and future students," adds Art.

Their philosophy ties in with the quote by St. Frances of Assisi that appears on their recognition plaque outside the Learning Commons: "Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

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Our special thanks to those who have given generously in 2019 and 2020. Thank you for designating your giving to Guardian Catholic School!

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