

EXTRA MILE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

REPORT Card

ISSUE NO. 2 | JUNE 2023

Sue's Report

Dear Friends of Extra Mile,

Congratulations are in order! On April 20th we successfully launched thirty-four eighth grade students on their path to high school. Their chosen high schools include Oakland Catholic, Central Catholic, Seton LaSalle, Our Lady of Sacred Heart, Shaler, Perry, Propel Montour, Bishop Canevin, and the Neighborhood Academy.

Of those 34, 16 will be attending those high schools as Crossroads scholars. You helped make this happen and we are grateful for your continued support of our schools and our students.



Their stories are inside. I invite you to get to know them.

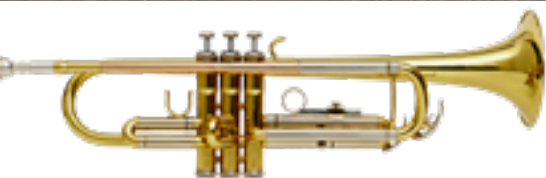
In this edition of Report Card we are also recognizing the great work of some significant partners. An enviable list of institutions of higher learning call Pittsburgh home, and we have had the good fortune to partner with many of them in our schools. For over thirty years they have provided professional expertise, brought the joy of music, dance and theatre, assisted with out of school programming, and made numerous resources available. See what we have been able to accomplish together.



Suzanne M. Vertosick
Executive Director, Extra Mile Education Foundation



Duquesne Partnership Establishes Vital Band Program



St. Benedict the Moor opened in its current Watt Street location ten years ago, under the leadership of Mrs. Joelynn Parham. As part of the transition to the new space, McAuley Ministries gave a grant to the school for the purpose of establishing an instrumental music program. A band program had long been a dream of Mrs. Parham's but how to create the program from scratch? Enter Duquesne University with its talented faculty and students. From this partnership, one of the most beneficial programs for students and partners within the Extra Mile Schools was born.

of music education at Duquesne, four to five college students gain the opportunity to manage a classroom of budding musicians at St. Benedict each year. These students range from sophomores to seniors and have eyes toward careers in music education. First, they are interviewed. Those who make the cut develop lesson plans and conduct practices as professionals. Each student is responsible for a section of the band. Practices are scheduled between their courses. These students develop an essential base of field experience that leads them to be excellent student teachers. Their time with the St. Benedict band is invaluable, as it is to the students of St. Ben's.

In third grade, the kids are introduced to many different instruments and select one to learn. The following year they begin playing. The band includes students from fourth to eighth grade. They perform two concerts; a holiday winter concert and a big concert in the spring, which is often held on Duquesne's campus. This gives the students a glimpse of college life and a day to feel like a superstar.

Duquesne's music department performs for them, and after dinner, they change into formal concert attire for their own performance – and it's always a packed house. Family, faculty, and friends gather to support the band as well as the student mentors. It's a big night for everybody in the program.



Without the support of Mrs. Parham, Duquesne's faculty, the sponsors and volunteers, the band at St. Benedict would not be possible. All in all, over fifty student mentors and five hundred students have played a part in the band, and have continued on to be successful musicians and educators alike. We are proud of and grateful for this vital program and are excited for many more years of their music to come!



Instruments were acquired. A custodial space was renovated into a practice room. All that was left before inducting students was finding instructors. Under the mentorship of Mrs. Parham and Dr. Paul Doerksen, professor



For over a decade, the Young Professionals' Advisory Committee (YPAC) of the Extra Mile has helped with student engagement, event planning, fundraising, and much more. The committee offers young professionals the opportunity to develop skills essential to their careers via aiding the Extra Mile. Get to know the current co-presidents, Cara Nicoletti and Madison Taylor, who've been an integral part of YPAC for the last ten years.

CARA NICOLETTI, Maher Duessel CPAs

I joined YPAC in 2013 after attending Extra Bases for Extra Mile, a YPAC event at PNC Park. A coworker at Maher Duessel was a member then and invited me to join. My time with YPAC has really taught me that I can make a big difference. There is so much value that young professionals bring to the table when it comes to helping non-profits. We have access to resources that the foundation doesn't always have, and it's important for us to extend that access to the Extra Mile as much as

EXTRA MILE SALUTES YPAC

possible. It can be hard work, but it's worth it. The most fulfilling part is getting to interact with the kids. I love visiting the schools and seeing how much Extra Mile impacts their lives daily. They are always excited to see us and grateful for the work we do. It's such a great feeling - getting to see their smiling faces in the classroom!

MADISON TAYLOR, Duquesne Light Company

I joined YPAC in the fall of 2014 after a friend introduced me to the committee and Extra Mile. I had recently graduated and moved back to Pittsburgh, and I wanted to get

involved in something bigger than myself. I was instantly drawn to the Extra Mile and the impact of the foundation within Pittsburgh. From my time as a member, I've learned to go out of my comfort zone, and I've learned that working as a team can accomplish more than what we can do on our own. It's also taught me patience, for sure! The most fulfilling part, though, is getting to know the students. It's great to see how the money we raise directly improves their education, their schools, and the opportunities offered. It's been a tough few years for the whole world but being involved in YPAC has kept me focused on the bigger picture – the future!

Currently, along with Cara and Madison, Bill Stewart, Courtney Behling, Mario Posteraro, PJ Wycech, Cam Viney, Kaitlyn Tunney, Marissa Dreliszak, and Kevin Dick make the committee. The Extra Mile extends a big thank you to YPAC for all the great work they do!

OUR EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

FROM SISTER THEA BOWMAN CATHOLIC ACADEMY MR. BALDAUF'S HOMEROOM



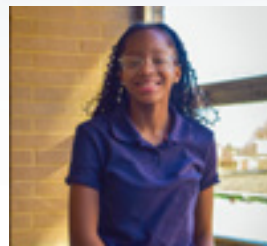
Tankermi Ipala enjoys drawing and hopes to pursue the creative arts. He will attend Central Catholic High School. His best advice for seventh graders is: "Start thinking about your future, but don't stress about it." Good luck, Tankermi!



Ahmad Williams enjoys creating TikToks, playing soccer, and has goals of becoming a social media influencer. He is excited to attend Central Catholic High School. His best advice for seventh graders is: "Don't give up and do all of your work!" Good luck, Ahmad!



FROM NORTHSIDE CATHOLIC ASSUMPTION ACADEMY MR. MULLIGAN'S HOMEROOM



Amari Morris loves to travel and play volleyball. Looking to the future, she hopes to become a lawyer. She will attend Seton LaSalle Catholic High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Always do your homework, stay out of trouble, and respect each other." Good luck, Amari!



Amir Hightower enjoys playing soccer and spending time with friends. When he grows up, he wants to become a chef. He will attend Seton LaSalle Catholic High School. His best advice for seventh graders is: "Be good, don't worry about others. Focus on yourself and get good grades." Good luck, Amir!



Andreana Flanigan enjoys riding horses and learning. In the future, she hopes to become a firefighter. She will attend Seton LaSalle Catholic High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Stay golden, ponyboy – from the Outsiders." Good luck, Andreana!



Antonio Ruffin likes to play with Pokémon cards and basketball. When he grows up, he wants to become a veterinarian. His best advice for seventh graders is: "Look at your future, not your past." Good luck, Antonio!



Clark Murray-Marcum enjoys playing video games and hanging out with friends. He hopes to become a crime scene investigator. He will attend Our Lady of Sacred Heart High School. His best advice for seventh graders is: "Try hard, but not too hard. You don't want to become burnt out." Good luck, Clark!

OUR EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

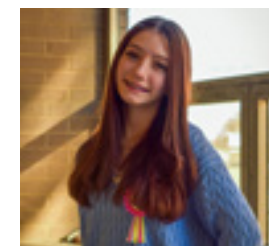
FROM NORTHSIDE CATHOLIC ASSUMPTION ACADEMY MR. MULLIGAN'S HOMEROOM (CONTINUED)



Daniel Kapetanovich likes to listen to music and play games. When he grows up, he wants to be a radiologist. He will attend Shaler Area High School. His best advice for seventh graders is: "Mr. Mulligan will tell your parents when you sleep in class." Good luck, Daniel!



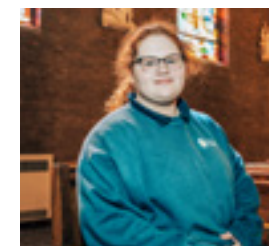
Devin Matasich loves biking. In the future, he hopes to be rich. He will attend either Seton LaSalle Catholic High School or Shaler Area High School. His best advice for seventh graders is: "Study. Work starts getting harder and you can't use common sense anymore." Good luck, Devin!



Elizabeth Smith enjoys playing softball and is still figuring out what she wants to be when she grows up. She will attend Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Turn in your homework." Good luck, Lizzie!



Fiera Magnone likes to play basketball and participate in gym class. When she grows up, she hopes to be a basketball player. She will attend either Seton LaSalle Catholic High School or Perry High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Don't get on the teacher's bad side." Good luck, Fiera!



Kathryn Freyvogel loves reading and interior design. In the future, she wants to become an OBGYN. She will attend Seton LaSalle Catholic High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Be honest. Honesty is what will get you through eighth grade." Good luck, Kathryn!



Laila Combs enjoys reading and having fun with her friends. She is still figuring out what she wants to be when she grows up. She is excited to attend Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Stay out of drama and just have fun before it's over." Good luck, Laila!



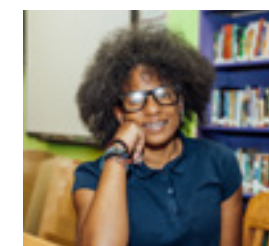
Masyn Pudis likes to play baseball and video games. While he figures out what he wants to be when he grows up, he will attend Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School. His best advice for seventh graders is: "Don't wait until the last minute to finish your work." Good luck, Masyn!



Sahara Calhoun loves to create art and wants to be a designer when she grows up. She will attend Propel Montour High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Always have a pencil in math." Good luck, Sahara!



Samantha Lang loves to draw. While she discovers what she wants to be when she grows up, she will attend either Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School or Seton LaSalle Catholic High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Talk to people, have and make friends. You will regret not having any." Good luck, Samantha!



Taylor Harris is a gymnast and likes to create art. When she grows up, she wants to work for the FBI. She will attend Propel Montour High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Don't let anyone pull you down and stay out of drama." Good luck, Taylor!

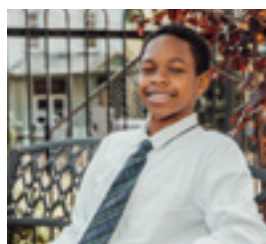
OUR EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

FROM SAINT BENEDICT THE MOOR SCHOOL
MR. RAMBERG'S HOMEROOM

Ayomide Agbasi likes to play basketball and video games. He dreams of being an entrepreneur when he grows up. In the fall, he will attend Seton LaSalle Catholic High School. His best advice for seventh graders is: "Be quiet and listen to the teachers." Good luck, Ayomide!



Cam'Ron Wynter plays squash and basketball, and loves to be with friends. In the future, he wants to be an entrepreneur. He will attend Bishop Canevin High School. His best advice for seventh graders is: "Focus on yourself and have fun – it's your last year at Saint Benedict." Good luck, Cam'Ron!



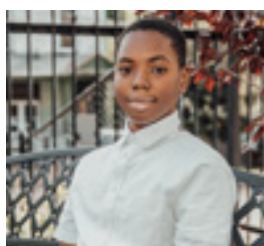
Darnell Turner-Clay enjoys playing basketball and dreams of being a professional basketball player when he grows up. He will attend the Neighborhood Academy. His best advice for seventh graders is: "Do whatever that is in front of you and don't give up because it's hard." Good luck, Darnell!



DayVaughn Williams loves to play basketball. Someday, he hopes to play in the NBA. He will attend Seton LaSalle Catholic High School. His best advice for seventh graders is: "Get your work done beforehand if you're going to talk in class." Good luck, DayVaughn!



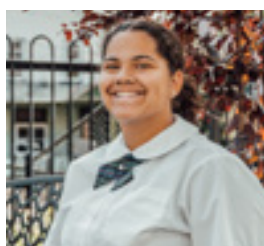
Dorothy Roach enjoys any kind of artistic activity. When she grows up, she wants to work at Western Psych. She will attend Oakland Catholic High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Focus on your mental health first so you're able to be in a good space to do the rest of things."



Duane Scott likes playing video games. Someday, he hopes to be an engineer. He will attend Seton LaSalle Catholic High School. Good luck, Duane!



Dy'Laizah Thompson loves to do any type of art and swimming. In the future, she wants to be an interior/fashion designer, a writer/poet, an architect, or an entrepreneur. She is still deciding which high school she'll attend in the fall. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Don't start drama." Good luck, Dy'Laizah!

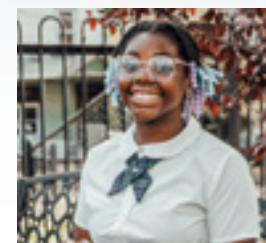


Gianna Matthews likes to read fiction and play squash. She hopes to become a prosecutor and an author when she grows up. She will attend Bishop Canevin High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Just mind your business and do your work." Good luck, Gianna!



Hakeim McKenzie V loves to compete in Rocket League tournaments. He wants to be the head of a cyber security company. He will attend Seton LaSalle Catholic High School. His best advice for seventh graders is: "Put yourself in situations you wouldn't usually be in. You only live once – make the most of it." Good luck, Hakeim!

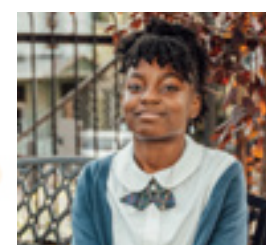
OUR EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

FROM SAINT BENEDICT THE MOOR SCHOOL
MR. RAMBERG'S HOMEROOM (CONTINUED)

Jade Lee-Green plays squash, volleyball, and basketball. She wants to become a cosmetologist and make hair products. She will attend Oakland Catholic High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Keep your grades up, be confident in everything you do. Never second guess yourself. And, have fun." Good luck, Jade!



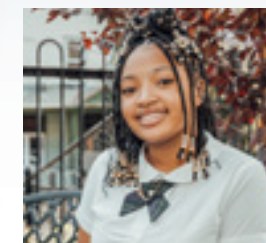
Jeda Robinson likes to play squash and solve puzzles. She dreams of being an entrepreneur when she grows up. She will attend Seton LaSalle Catholic High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Do your work and you'll make it to the end." Good luck, Jeda!



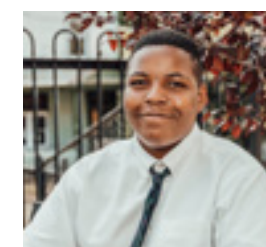
Legend Jenkins enjoys drawing, writing, reading, and listening to music. She dreams of pursuing art and animation when she grows up. She is still deciding what high school to attend in the fall. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Look at high schools as soon as you can." Good luck, Legend!



Morgan Holland-Collins loves to play squash. In the future, she hopes to be an oncologist. She will attend either Sci-Tech Academy or Oakland Catholic High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Don't get in any drama because that will distract you from doing what you need to do." Good luck, Morgan!



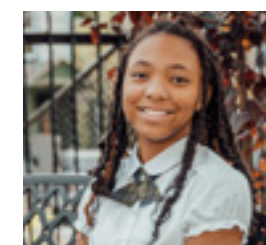
Nyeema Norwood loves to play volleyball with her dad. In the future, she hopes to become an anesthesiologist. She will attend Bishop Canevin High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Don't let people get to you with their words and stay on top of your work." Good luck, Nyeema!



Quincy Wells enjoys making music, playing basketball, and video games. He wants to be a businessman when he grows up. He will attend Central Catholic High School. His best advice for seventh graders is: "Have fun. Don't bully other seventh graders." Good luck, Quincy!



Reuben Jenkins loves to play basketball. He hopes to become an engineer when he grows up. He will attend Seton LaSalle Catholic High School. His best advice for seventh graders is: "Do your work, pay attention in class, and just do your best." Good luck, Reuben!



Tayden Scott loves to ride horses. When she grows up, she hopes to become an entrepreneur or an exotic animal veterinarian. She will attend Seton LaSalle Catholic High School. Her best advice for seventh graders is: "Enjoy the last year you have with some of your friends because it'll be over before you know it." Good luck, Tayden!



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Take a look inside to see how your support
is helping our work make the grade.



REPORT Card

Welcome to our second issue of Report Card:
an in-depth report on the work and impact
of the Extra Mile Education Foundation.

