

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



REPORT Card

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



Our Eighth Grade graduates

The results are in! Our eighth grade graduates will be attending the following high schools this year:

- › Bishop Canevin High School
- › Central Catholic High School
- › City High
- › CAPA (Creative and Performing Arts)
- › Gateway High School
- › Fox Chapel High School
- › Imani Christian Academy
- › Nazareth Prep
- › Neighborhood Academy
- › Oakland Catholic High School
- › Penn Hills
- › Seton LaSalle High School
- › SciTech
- › Taylor Alderdice
- › Woodland Hills



REPORT Card

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Sue's Report

We are one month into 2023 and the school year has been amazing. We are enjoying a year that has a normal feel about it – something very underappreciated in the past, I think.

Our students are achieving. National test scores were very concerning, showing a wide number of children who were far behind in math and reading as a result of the pandemic disruptions. The Extra Mile-supported schools, however, continued to do well. Students never missed a beat, completing each school year and moving ahead.

We do see the effects of time spent isolated and limited in social interaction. We don't yet know how social distancing in the classrooms will affect those students who were only beginning their school journeys. We are concerned that sometimes it appears that students have forgotten how to relate to one another in person, but each day is better, and we have full-time counselors in each school to guide and support students in need.

We may not be able to say with certainty what the coming will bring, but we know that with the commitment, courage and dedication of amazing educators and administrators we are ready to face any challenge.

Thank you as always for your support.

Suzanne M. Vertosick
Executive Director, Extra Mile Education Foundation





Launch Party is a celebration of our eighth-grade graduates as they head to high school. Last year, we recognized 54 students, and nearly 70% of these students chose a Catholic, private, or Pittsburgh Public magnet high school, including Oakland and Central Catholic, CAPA, and Nazareth Prep.

With over three hundred family members and friends joining in the fun, we also celebrated our eighth grade Students of the Month, and the Students of the Year.

This year, our students launch on April 20th at the UPMC Club at Acrisure Stadium. You are invited! Contact the Extra Mile office at 412-456-3103 for more information.

Students of the Month

Every first Thursday of each month, Dr. Robert Paserba and I get to start our day with a celebration of our Students of the Month. Across our schools, we honor nine kids per month for being outstanding classmates and scholars. Each awardee receives a certificate, Visa Gift card, many congratulations, and a portrait.

The first time I accompanied the tour I was nervous. I hadn't been around young children since I was one myself. But my nerves quickly

dissipated as I realized I was amid something truly special: an undaunted capsule of warmth and welcome.

I didn't realize how weathered I'd become from the pandemic, graduating college, and growing up until being among our students. As Dr. Paserba announced each awardee, the classrooms erupted in their own manner of applause and cheer – and there aren't

enough words to capture how beautiful it was (and is) to see such joy still alive and well. Granted, disappointment flashes across a face every now and then, but these kids really have each other in their corners. And what's more, they're brazen in sharing their happiness with us, too.

What tangles us up in so many knots that we lose sight of each other as we get older? What dampens the little joys? I ask myself these questions every time I'm with our students because they embody how vital community and laughter is to the wellbeing of our hearts.

I'm grateful for this reminder, and hope that through all editions of this newsletter, we can carry some of their light to you, too.

Elyse Leskovic, *Development and Programs Assistant*



MEET OUR TEAMS!

Every day, the hard work and attention these amazing administrators pour into their duties astounds us. To learn more about them and what motivates them to be as great as they are, we asked them: What has been your greatest joy working in education? Here's what they had to share.



Dave Barr, *Principal of Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy:*

My greatest joy is the relationships I have built over the years. My wife and daughters always say we can't go anywhere without me knowing someone. Seeing my students grow, learn, be happy and become amazing adults will always be my greatest professional joy.



Rosanne Kwiatkowski, *Principal of Northside Catholic Assumption Academy, and Saint Benedict the Moor School:*

My greatest joy has been the same – getting to know the children, families, teachers and staff at Saint Benedict the Moor. The first time, after only a few days at Saint Benedict one of the 8th grade girls asked me how I knew her name. I was so pleased that I had made it a priority to get to know the older children first – I knew that it would matter to them. I wanted them to realize that getting to know them was a priority, that I cared and that I plan on being there for quite a while.



Kayla Quast, *Lead Administrator of Northside Catholic Assumption Academy:*

The greatest joy of my professional life is the rapport

and connections built with our students and families. Every day I have the joy of seeing youth growing and learning. I began my career in the classroom working to teach and mold young minds and inspire growth and greatness in them. I am now able to not only continue with this joy, but I have also been blessed with the opportunity to lead a faculty and inspire them to work diligently and lovingly to see this same joy.



Kayla Edwards, *Lead Administrator of Saint Benedict the Moor School:*

My greatest joy professionally is the pride that I get when I am able to

see a Saint Benedict the Moor Student grow and progress from Pre-School all the way through 8th Grade. The growth and development that takes place is amazing, I have been lucky as a teacher to teach a class that covers every grade level, and now as an administrator I get to continue to foster that growth. When my first class I had in kindergarten graduated 8th grade it was such a powerful feeling and to continue to see students grow in that way is such a reward.



Carolyn Perteete, *Lead Administrator of Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy:*

My greatest joy as an educator is being able to say

I truly love coming to work each and every day.

School Leadership Teams

Leadership teams: principals and lead administrators who share the responsibilities of guiding teachers and students to excellence.

The principal at Sr. Thea Bowman Catholic Academy is Mr. David Barr. Mr. Barr brings considerable experience to the position having served in leadership at several schools, including the now closed East Catholic School in Forest Hills. He is assisted by Mrs. Carolyn Perteete, Lead Administrator.

Mrs. Rosanne Kwiatkowski serves as principal of both North Catholic Assumption Academy and St. Benedict the Moor School. She is assisted by Lead Administrators Kayla Edwards at St. Benedict the Moor, and Kayla Quast at Northside Catholic Assumption Academy.

What do our Lead Administrators do? For our schools, they are an essential "right hand" to the principal. Our Lead Administrators are all experienced teachers, with knowledge of school families and students, school policies and procedures, and their specific buildings.

THANKS!

Extra Mile's Young Professionals Advisory Committee hosted the first 'Sips for Students' at Threadbare Cider House on the North Side. A group of around forty young professionals gathered for cider, pizza and conversation – all of it to support the students of the Extra Mile Foundation schools.



And join us for "Fore Our Future" coming March 9th!

