

SAVIO NOW

June 2024

SENDING FORTH:
Celebrating our
2024 graduates

page 8

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dear Savio Family and Friends,

We were blessed and thankful for the past school year. Now we turn our energy towards the 2024-25 school year with the following focus:

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP: Enhance administrative leadership structures, governance effectiveness, and explore opportunities for collaboration and growth.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY: Ensure financial stability and sustainability through proactive budget forecasting, timely reporting, collaboration with the Advancement Office, and exploration of endowment fund options.

ADVANCEMENT AND FUND DEVELOPMENT: Strengthen advancement efforts to support the school's mission and financial sustainability through the establishment of an Advancement Committee, annual review and update of the Advancement Plan, collaboration with the Business Office, and promotion of long-term giving options.

CATHOLIC MISSION, IDENTITY, AND CULTURE: Foster a strong sense of mission, identity, and community at St. Dominic Savio through the ongoing efforts of the Mission and Identity Committee, the development of a comprehensive written plan, implementation of school-wide initiatives to increase student engagement and respect, and the cultivation of collaborative relationships with key stakeholders.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: Enhance academic excellence through the development and implementation of comprehensive curriculum plans, pacing guides, student support models, professional development programs, and technology plans.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS: Enhance student engagement, enrichment, and well-being through the review and optimization of athletic programs, student clubs and activities, and innovative educational initiatives.

FACILITIES, GROUNDS & BEAUTIFICATION: Enhance the quality of facilities and grounds through the implementation of the Facilities and Grounds Master Plan.

COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING: Enhance communication and marketing efforts through the optimization of staffing, establishment of a Communication and Marketing Committee, development of the Communication and Marketing Plan, and continued publication of "Savio Now" and Annual Report Document.

May we all find the time to recharge over the summer. We expect 2024-2025 to be an excellent school year! Take care and God bless!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Cullen'.

TIM CULLEN | PRESIDENT



DID YOU KNOW?

... SAVIO STUDENTS HAVE CONSISTENTLY PERFORMED ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGES IN BOTH PSAT AND AP TESTING?

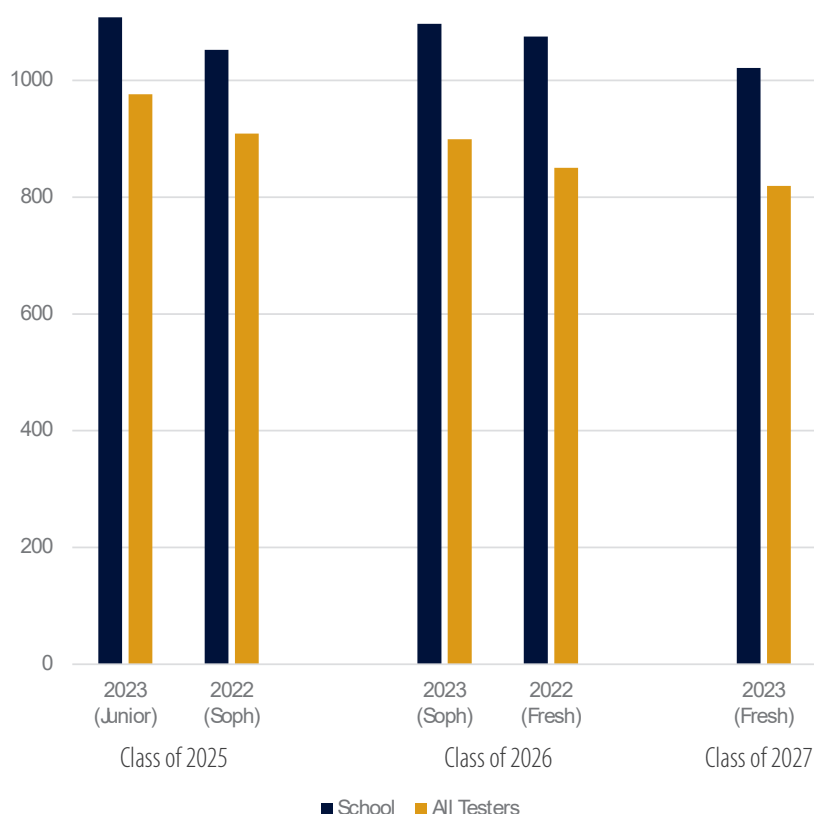
PSAT TEST SCORES

The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is offered in grades 9-11. The test not only prepares students to take the SAT but also helps to track test improvement and identifies potential AP course options and career interests. At Savio, students have consistently performed above national averages at all grade levels. As you can see from the attached graph, students are improving each year while tracking well above national averages. Students who meet entry requirements also compete in the National Merit Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. 🔥

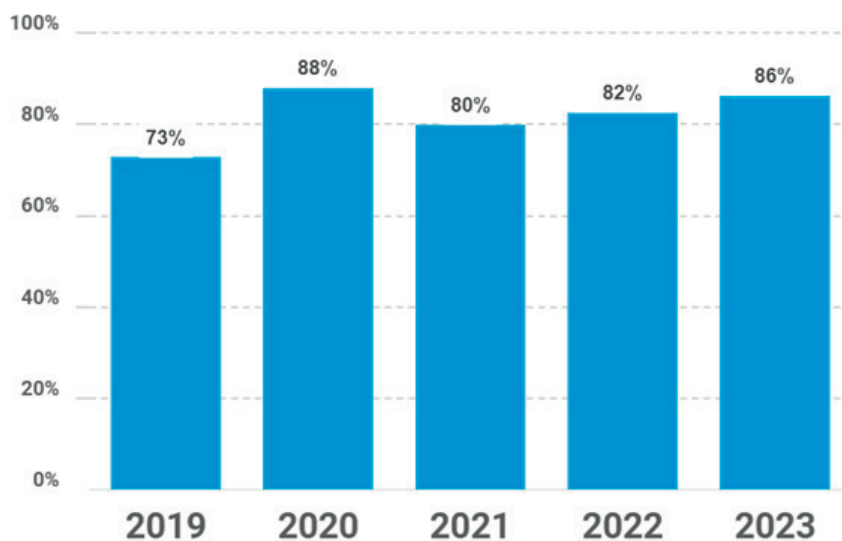
AP TESTING SCORES

The Advanced Placement (AP) program enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. At Savio, 77% of students take an AP level course during their high school years. Thirty-five percent of Savio graduates took 5 or more AP exams over the course of four years. Courses offered at the high school level prepare students to take exams that will allow them to earn college credit and/or skip introductory courses in college. The challenging course content also allows students to stand out on college applications. Since 2020, over 80% of Savio students have consistently received a score of 3 or higher on AP tests. Many U.S. colleges offer credit for AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. 🔥

SAVIO PSAT DATA COMPARED TO ALL TESTERS



PERCENTAGE OF SAVIO AP STUDENTS WITH SCORES 3+




IMAGO CHRISTI

Servant leaders work, learn in the “image of Christ”

From cleaning up a park, playing games with senior citizens, working in the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, or painting fences on a farm, St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School students, faculty and staff joined together on April 26, for a day of service to our community.

One group of students attended the Diocese of Austin Catholic Charities program to work around the offices and clean up the storage unit for St. Gabriel’s Pregnancy and Parenting Program. Another group visited the Community First Village in Austin to serve lunch to the formerly homeless neighbors. The community residents came out to talk with students and many brought their pets to say hello.

Each group returned to school exhausted but fulfilled through their service. While Imago Christi is for the whole school, Savio seniors logged 14,049 service hours this year. 





Junior Ring Blessing

The St. Dominic Savio Junior class participated in the annual rite of passage known as the Ring Blessing and Senior Pinning Ceremony on Wednesday, May 17 at St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church.

The Junior Pinning and Ring Blessing was a special one with Fr. Jonathan Raia, from the Diocese of Austin Vocations Office presiding at the Mass.

Every Junior student received a school pin, and those who purchased rings also received their ring. The blessing and receiving of these Savio pins and class rings are a sign of our junior class's growing responsibility to lead with the heart of Christ in our community.

This formally marks the transition students will make



as they become Savio Seniors and take up the mantle of servant leadership in the Image of Christ in a new way. Congratulations to the class of 2025!





Spring Musical draws record-breaking attendance



Savio's Spring Musical, *Freaky Friday*, was performed on April 18-20 to record-breaking attendance. Each of the three performances had over 200 people in the audience. Since January, the students working on the show did an amazing job each night and enjoyed the applause for a job well done! Thank you to all who helped us during tech week and to all who attended the performances. 🙌




Savio students receive high honors on language exams




Toutes Nos Félicitations!

FRENCH EXAM RESULTS

We had 26 of 42 students who took the National French Exam receive national recognition! This included two gold medals (Sharon Ajufo & Joanna Gonzalez), 9 silver medals, 5 bronze medals, and 10 certificates of honor. 

Gratulations!


LATIN EXAM RESULTS

Thirty Savio Latin students this year were honored for their outstanding performance on the National Latin Exam. Over 100,000 Latin students nationwide participate in the National Latin Exam each year. This year, 54 Savio Latin students took the exam, and more than half achieved recognition for their scores. 



¡Felicidades!

SPANISH EXAM RESULTS

St. Dominic Savio students celebrate their exceptional performance on the Spanish National Test, placing 10th out of 110 Texas schools. Among the 202 students who undertook the examination, an impressive 97 have garnered national recognition for their achievements. Eighteen students were awarded a National Gold Medal and 22 earned Silver Medals. 



ANGELUS WINS HOUSE CUP!

Congratulations on a job well done! As winners, Angelus will have the honor of holding the Evangelist Cup for the year.

Congratulations Class of 2024



With the anticipation of completing their high school careers, the annual St. Dominic Savio Baccalaureate Mass was held at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church on May 24, with Celebrant Pastor Fr. Tom Reitmeyer, JCL, and concelebrants Rev. Dean Wilhelm, Pastor, St. John Neumann Catholic Church, and Rev. Kyle Nesrsta, Parochial Vicar, St. William Catholic Church. Deacon Rudy Villarreal from St. John Vianney Catholic Church assisted.





Honoring Savio 2024 Graduates



**GOOD & FAITHFUL
SERVANT AWARD**
Elizabeth Brunner



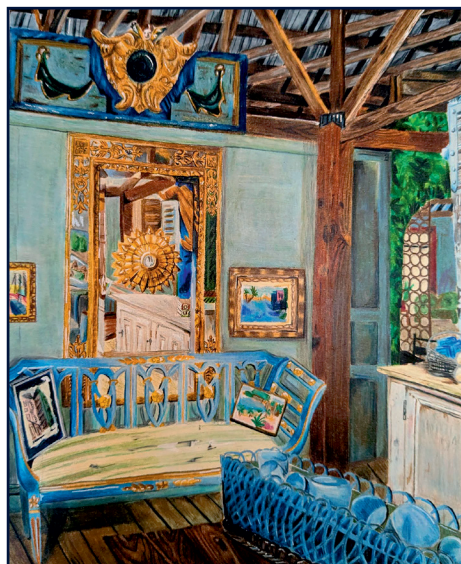
**ST. DOMINIC
SAVIO AWARD**
Noemi Carrillo-Barajas



VALEDICTORIAN
Joselyn Sommer Tupa
SALUTATORIAN
Grace Ann Parker

ART AWARDS

Savio students demonstrated amazing creativity in the art program. Notably, Bella Herold was awarded the Savio Gallery Award. Her piece “Heads in the Clouds” (*pictured, right*) will be added to our graduate gallery and will be on permanent display in the Savio Fine Arts hallway. The St. Luke Award for AP Art went to Sarah Pettinato. Olivia Andrews (*colored pencil artwork below*) won the St. Luke Senior Art Award for Overall Achievement. Students received 2 Gold Key, 4 Silver Key, and 5 Honorable Mentions in the Scholastic Art & Writing competition. 🏆



BAND & ORCHESTRA

The Savio Band and Orchestra had another successful year. Both the band and orchestra received superior ratings in both the Concert and Sightreading Contests. Individually, several students qualified for all-state and all-region. In individual competitions, seven Savio ensembles and nine Savio soloists received superior ratings. Pictured below is Alex Boecking who qualified for all-state on the violin. 🏆





EAGLE UPDATES

As we draw another successful academic and athletic year to a close, it is my pleasure as the Athletic Director to reflect on the remarkable achievements of our student-athletes and coaches. This year's TAPPS Honors Awards event was a testament to the dedication, hard work, and spirit of excellence that defines our Savio athletic community.

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Leyton Riviere's unwavering commitment, both in practice and competition, has set a high standard for his peers. His performance this year has been nothing short of stellar, showcasing his skills and sportsmanship across multiple sports. Leyton embodies the values of our school and serves as an inspiration to all who aspire to achieve greatness through perseverance and dedication.

OUTSTANDING MALE ATHLETE

Connor Leach's exceptional talent, combined with his strategic mind and leadership on the field, has made him a standout in our athletic program. His contributions have not only led his teams to numerous victories but have also fostered a sense of unity and teamwork among his teammates. We commend Connor for his outstanding achievements and look forward to his future successes.



OUTSTANDING FEMALE ATHLETE

Avery Frank's relentless drive and passion for her sport have propelled her to new heights this season. Her commitment to excellence and her ability to perform under pressure have made her a key athlete in our athletic program. This year, she also broke the Savio records for 1600m and 3200m. Avery's achievements are a source of pride for our school, and we celebrate her dedication and hard work.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Coach Chris Zigrossi's leadership, strategic vision, and ability to inspire his athletes have been instrumental in the success of our girls basketball program. His dedication to developing not only skilled athletes but also well-rounded individuals has left a lasting impact on our athletic program. We are grateful for his tireless efforts and are thrilled to see him receive this well-deserved recognition.

GOLDEN EAGLE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Bill Zamora is the 2024 recipient of this prestigious award to honor those who have shown extraordinary commitment and service to our athletics program. Bill's contributions have been invaluable, from his behind-the-scenes support to his active involvement in our events and activities. His dedication and passion for Savio athletics have made a significant difference, and we are deeply appreciative of his unwavering support.

TEAM RECOGNITION

Girls Cross Country: State Champions

Boys Soccer: Area Champions/Regional Finalist

Girls Basketball: Bi-District Champions/Area Finalist

Swim Team: 2nd in the state

Baseball: District Champions/Area Finalist

Track: District Champions



Lighting the Way

SOIRÉE

A Night of Celebration and Support for Savio

On April 6th, the parent community of St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School joined together for this year's Lighting The Way Soiree at the elegant Hyatt Regency in Austin. The event marked a departure from previous years, as the hotel setting provided a fresh backdrop for an unforgettable evening.

As attendees arrived, they were greeted with a delightful fruit and cheese reception in the spacious silent auction area. The ambiance was perfect, aligning with the social trend of the weekend—the highly anticipated big eclipse on April 8th.

The heart of the evening was the live auction and fund-a-need segment. Parents, teachers, and supporters eagerly raised their paddles to contribute to the cause. This year's "Fund-a-Need" focus is the training, support, and additional resources needed for all faculty and staff as they support the variety of student needs at Savio. Some areas benefiting from this effort:

- ***Differentiated Learning Modalities:*** Providing tailored support for students with diverse learning needs.
- ***Positive Social-Emotional Resources:*** Proactive support to address stressors and build resilience.
- ***School-Wide Character and Virtues Program:*** Enhancing the culture and climate of the "family" experience at Savio.

- ***Elevated Technology Options:*** Ensuring students have access to additional technology, connectivity, and accountability.

The highlight of the evening was the dueling pianos performance. Our very own version of the Blues Brothers—President Cullen and Mr. Psencik—captivated the crowd. Their lively performance had everyone singing along and dancing in their seats. Singo Bingo added an element of fun, with audience requests keeping the entertainment energy high.

The collective efforts paid off. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we raised an impressive \$51,000. These funds will directly benefit our students, empowering them to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.

As we reflect on the Lighting The Way Soiree, we celebrate not only the dollars raised but also the spirit of unity and commitment that defines our school community. Together, we continue to light the way for our students' success. 🌟



THE SAVIO DIFFERENCE

Savio alumnus spends time on submarines



"The priests are usually on the aircraft carriers, so if we are out on a submarine, we have lay ministers who offer prayers for us."

Matthew Ryan French, Savio '14

In just 10 years, Savio alumnus Matthew Ryan French (2014) has become a Navy Lieutenant since leaving the Home of the Eagles.

Matthew was the first Savio student to accept (and complete) his undergraduate degree from Rice University, and he joined the Navy two years before graduating. He was admitted into the Navy's Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate program (NUPOC) and would eventually become the first commissioned officer from St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School.

Today, Matthew writes exercises and performs training instructions for submarines on the Pacific Coast. He says the Catholic Mass is not always available on submarines.

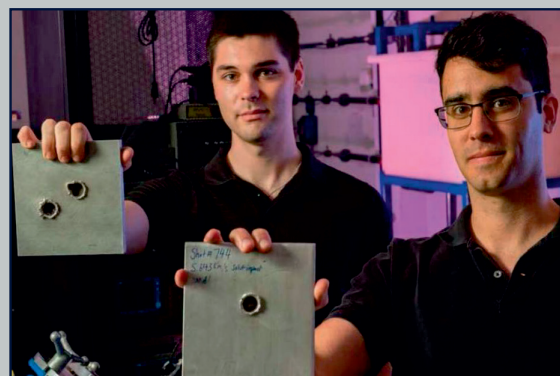
"The priests usually are on the aircraft carriers, so if we are out on a submarine, we have lay ministers who offer prayers for us," said Matthew, from his home in Washington State.

A man of strong faith today, he met his future wife, Kennedy, at a local parish where he lives. They married in 2022, and just welcomed a son, Frank, in 2024.

During his time at Savio, Matthew scored a field goal in the first varsity football game in September 2009, and he scored the first varsity points in any sport for Savio.

He set various records for Savio football as a kicker/punter and a forward for soccer. He was named all-district multiple years in soccer. He was extremely active in STEM, Music, and Academic competitions placing at state many times.

Currently working in Bangor, Washington, Matthew has been across the country while training for the Navy. He also has multiple published research papers on Nanotechnology and Materials as a researcher while at Rice University. See some of Matthew's research by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/savioalum>.



If you are a St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School Alumnus and would like to be featured in our Savio Now! magazine, let us know at advancement@saviochs.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 1-17
Offices Closed

JULY 31 - AUG 9
Teacher In-Service

AUGUST 8
New Student
Orientation

AUGUST 9
Freshman Retreat

AUGUST 12
First Day of School

AUGUST 15
Feast of the
Assumption

AUGUST 18
Family Reunion BBQ

AUGUST 28
Back to School Night

SEPTEMBER 2
Labor Day Holiday

SEPTEMBER 20
Teacher In-Service
No School

SEPTEMBER 27
SPA Parent Social

OCTOBER 14
Teacher In-Service
No School

OCTOBER 16
PSAT (9th-11th)

OCTOBER 18
Student-Led
Conferences

NOV 25-29
Thanksgiving
Holiday

DEC 21 - JAN 5
Christmas Break

JANUARY 6
Teacher In-Service
No School

JANUARY 7
Return from Break

Scan to see more events on
the school calendar:



Congratulations!



Mr. Jack Janecek, Math Instructor
Outstanding
Servant Leader Award (Faculty)



Mrs. Lisa Pettinato (left) and Mrs. Teresa Shaw (right)
St. John Bosco Award Winners
St. Dominic Savio President Tim Cullen (inside left)
St. Dominic Savio Principal Mr. Evan Psencik (inside right)



Mrs. Mendy McLaughlin
Outstanding Servant
Leader Award (Staff)

Thank You

Savio Parent Association

2023-2024



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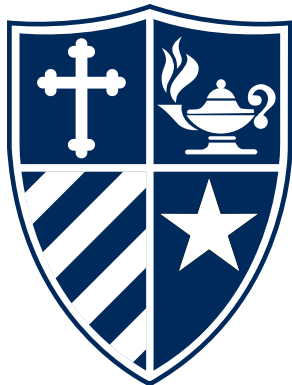
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Forming Servant Leaders in the Image of Christ

HATS OFF!

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2023-24. May your futures be filled with the light of Christ! The Savio community will keep you in our prayers.

