

SAVIO NOW

June 2023



**SENDING OFF IN STYLE:
Savio celebrates, sends forth
another class of graduates**

page 8

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Savio Family and Friends,



Commencement:

A ceremony in which degrees or diplomas are conferred on graduating students.

A beginning or start.

It all depends on how you look at things. Some people see a commencement ceremony as a “conclusion” or an end to something. Others see it as a “new” beginning to the next stage in life. I prefer to view it as a “transition” between chapters in our story, our journey. Our senior class, now alumni, is going through this “in-between” time and we wish them all the best when they start their next chapter in the fall.

As we wrap up the 2022-2023 school year, we continue planning for the start of the 2023-2024 school year. We have said “goodbye” to the past and “hello” to the future. This time of commencement, or transition, is filled with sentimental reflection and hopeful anticipation. All of this is impacted by our personal and unique view of life. We crave consistency and continuity, yet we desire to see change and growth. Do we hold on tight to what is known, or do we reach out our hand to what “can be?”

Our challenge, and opportunity, is to find a healthy balance of each. Think about your life as it is now. Is there a nice balance between steady and new, or are you tilted over in one direction more than another? Do you avoid settling into a routine by chasing after the next idea or option, or do you dig in and build a wall from the unknown or uncertain?


As a school, and as a school family, may we all find the right balance. Let us turn to Christ when confused. Let us work together to build a solid foundation at school and at home, and to call on the Holy Spirit to push past fear into what He has waiting for us. Our students and our children are counting on us to model for them the way to do this. We all have a story to tell. We all write a new chapter each day. May your story have balance, faith, hope, and love. Enjoy this time of transition, this time of commencement, and have a blessed summer break.

Take care and God bless!

TIM CULLEN | PRESIDENT



DID YOU KNOW?

- **... THAT MR. EVAN PSENCIK WILL BE THE NEW PRINCIPAL** at St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School and he looks forward to meeting all of you next year? Mr. Psencik will be facilitating Zoom conversations with various groups over the summer. Please keep him and his wife in your thoughts and prayers as they go through the process of moving from the East coast back to the heart of the country.
- 
- **... THAT THE HOUSE SYSTEM WILL BE EXPANDING** because our enrollment is growing, and we need to have smaller groups within each house? This is a core part of our school program and provides opportunities for students to build connections in 9th grade that will last through graduation. Also, next time you visit Savio, look for the beautiful display case that now holds the House Cup.
 - **... THAT WE ARE BRINGING IN A NEW VENDOR FOR LUNCH SERVICE** that provides multiple meal options, various meal sizes, A La Carte sides and drinks, and more flexible ordering during the week? We have listened, we have learned, and we are excited to provide a new vendor that is focused on customer service and quality products. Families will receive information on how to establish an account before the start of school.
 - **... THAT WE ARE WORKING ON ESTABLISHING A “HALL OF FAME”** and will be sending out requests for nominations in the fall? We have many students who have earned recognition for excellence in athletics. The time has come to start the enshrinement process for those alumni who will be selected for the St. Dominic Savio Athletic Hall of Fame. Look for the application process in the fall as it will explain the criteria, selection process, and timelines.

IN THE LIFE OF SAVIO

CUTS 4 CANCER

The cheerleaders of St. Dominic Savio held their 10th annual “Cuts for Cancer” fundraising event on April 17 with a record turnout! Two students spoke about their personal experiences with cancer before the stylists began cutting six inches of hair from faculty, students, and friends of the school. This year, Cuts 4 Cancer raised \$3006.99 for cancer research at St. Jude Children’s Center. Thank you to all of the sponsors and supporters who made this event a huge success in the ongoing battle against cancer.



HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

The St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held on March 9, with many students being welcomed into the Society. There are eight Honor Society Chapters recognized at Savio including the following: National Honor Society (38 students inducted), Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society (49 students inducted), CSTA National Computer Science Honor Society (4 students inducted), Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (92 students inducted), La Société Honoraire de Français (11 students inducted), National Junior Classical League Latin Honor Society (8 students inducted), Tri M Music Honor Society (9 students inducted), National Art Honor Society (10 students inducted).



CHRISTINA OUTREACH/TIM TEAM

The students of Tim Team and Christian Outreach presented the Formation & Ministry Annual Report on Tuesday, May 16 at Savio to faculty, staff, parents, the school board, pastors, and deacons of neighboring Catholic churches. The students of these leadership groups showcased their work and experiences from the school year. This report, and its presentation, is an excellent opportunity to hear directly from the students how the Catholic Mission of Savio is being lived out day to day in their lives, and the impact their ministry work has had on the school community. View the Annual Report at <https://tinyurl.com/2023christianoutreach> or watch the presentation on YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/2023cavideo!>



INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

On May 6, the Savio family learned that Arron George (pictured third from left), a rising junior, took two awards from the 2023 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair held in Dallas. The first award is from the United States Air Force Research Laboratory, where Aaron placed FIRST in his category! The second award is from the United States Patent and Trademark Office Society, where he was one of the ten students who won the award out of the whole fair of 1800+ participants across 60 countries. Congratulations, Aaron, on your OUTSTANDING accomplishments!



INAUGURAL PROJECT GRADUATION

The Savio administration extends our deep appreciation to the parents who made “Project Graduation” a huge success as a fun, safe option for Savio graduates! Mrs. Kathryn Whitaker said following the event, “The inaugural Project Graduation was a blast! Graduates were entertained by [Magic of Giancarlo Bernini](#) and enjoyed karaoke, hamster ball, game truck, basketball, s’more pits, silent disco, photo booth, movies, laser tag + food, and lots of caffeine all night long. Many thanks to the parents, donors, volunteers, and especially the Class of ‘23 for being a part of a special evening/morning!”



WHEN YOU'RE AN ADDAMS...

The Addams Family School Edition Spring Musical brought down the house with deep belly laughs during St. Dominic Savio’s successful run on March 30, 31, and April 1. The play had all the hit songs and a familiar storyline with Wednesday, (Kate Merrill) wanting her strange family to host a dinner party for the family of her new love interest, Lucas (Jake Espinosa). Morticia (Marissa Mathew) is certain her husband Gomez (Juan Pablo Basualdo) would never lie to her about anything, especially something as important as her daughter wanting to get married. The ensemble cast of ancestors was very good at being “dead” while being present at most family functions. Great job Mrs. Mink, Mrs. Weis, cast, crew, and staff volunteers!



House competition fierce, Aquila pulls out the win

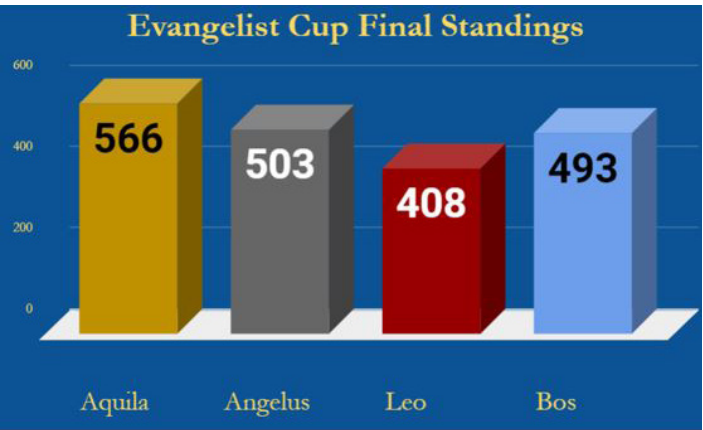
The Competition was fierce throughout the year as the four Houses—Angelus, Aquila, Bos, and Leo—vied for victory in various events, all in pursuit of the prestigious Evangelist Cup. Angelus took an early lead in the standings during the first semester, fueled by impressive wins in Senior Kickball and Pumpkin Carving. However, Aquila was never far behind, showcasing their strength in Tug of War, House Volleyball, and the International Quiz. Bos had notable triumphs in the Ugly Christmas Sweater contest and the Head-Shoulders-Knees-Cup game, while Leo made their mark in the Inaugural Bake-Off and the New Faculty Quiz. Nonetheless, Aquila surged ahead during the Olympic Runner race early in the second semester and maintained their lead till the end. Even though Angelus made valiant efforts with victories in Pi Day and Canstruction, Aquila’s dominance in the Winter Olympics proved insurmountable.

This year also witnessed the spectacular debut of a highly successful Mardi Gras Parade, which promises



to be even grander in the coming years. Congratulations to Aquila for clinching their 2nd Evangelist Cup Championship, demonstrating their exceptional talent and dedication throughout the year.”

Looking ahead to the next year, we are thrilled to announce the return of four beloved friends: St. Blaise, St. Lawrence, St. Joan of Arc, and St. Sebastian. As our school continues to grow, so do our Families. This coming Fall, each House will welcome a new addition to their Family. These Family names harken back to the original 16 Families (then known as ‘Houses’) from the early years of Savio. After a decision was made to consolidate to 12, we are now bringing back these cherished names. Our aim is to create smaller, more intimate Family units, fostering increased opportunities for fellowship and a stronger sense of community within each group.



Savio wins TAPPS 5A State Academics Competition

Not only did Savio win the TAPPS 5A State competition but we also won the overall Academics/Speech/Debate competition as well even though we had no students competing in the Speech/Debate competitions!

NUMBER SENSE	SCIENCE
Ryan McDonald (8th)	Michael Synstegard (5th)
CALCULATOR APPLICATIONS	*Highest Overall Chemistry
Stella Li (5th)	Matthew Synstegard (3rd)
ADVANCED MATH	SPANISH
Matthew Synstegard(8th)	Natalia Arellano - Palma (2nd)
Michael Synstegard (3rd)	Noemi Carrillo - Barajas (1st)
Andrew Rosen (1st)	SPELLING
	Alfonzie Stepney (3rd)
	Theda Wilkens (1st)

READY WRITING	CURRENT EVENTS
Alfonzie Stepney (3rd) Noemi Carrillo - Barajas (6th)	Alfonzie Stepney (7th)
Theda Wilkens (3rd)	LITERARY CRITICISM
	Theda Wilkins

Servant Leaders, Capstone Presentation Night

On Wednesday, April 26 freshmen and seniors presented their Capstone and Servant Leader Projects to families of St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School. There were 180 presentations in 20 different classrooms!

The Freshman Capstone Presentation is the culmination of a research project completed in the Servant Leader Seminar class, taught by Mrs. Weis. Students propose a topic that is of interest to them, complete extensive research, interview an expert in that field or topic, and then use the information to create a formal presentation and abstract. There were many interesting topics covered throughout the night, such as the benefits of traveling abroad in college, auto-tune and its effect on the music industry,

the psychological effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the challenge of baking a French Gâteau pastry, and the human/canine bond.

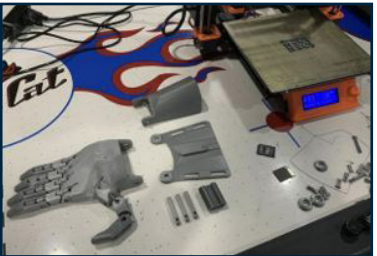
The Senior Servant Leader Presentations were a new addition to the presentation night this year. The seniors have worked throughout the school year on their Senior Projects - a service project that utilizes the student’s own talents, gifts, and interests. Seniors have been completing the Senior Project since the beginning of Savio’s existence; but this year, in Theology IV with Mrs. Heyl, students used the Catholic Entrepreneurial Design Experience curriculum to explore topics such as values, drive, the common good, the meaning of work, leadership, vocation, and

virtues; all from the perspective of the Catholic worldview and the teachings of the Church. They identified a need in the world and asked themselves how they could help solve that problem or need. Many students connected with existing non-profit organizations and charities while others created new ways to serve their school or parish community. Ultimately, the Servant Leader Project was an opportunity for the senior class to put servant leadership into action. Students combined their study and service work in a presentation, showing how this project provided value to others, fulfilled their motivations, and supports a better world for God, ultimately answering the question, “What does servant leadership look like for me?”



SENIOR PROJECT: E-NABLE - 3D PROSTHETIC PRINTING OF HANDS AND ARMS

Seniors Robby Teal and Austin Nguyen served with an organization called e-NABLE, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing prosthetic hands and arms to those in need around the world. Volunteers design and print parts for these prosthetics using 3D printers. During their presentation, Austin described the extensive research they had to do on the best prosthetic hand design to print and build. He described how intrigued they were by the idea of crowdsourcing in order to help others and how they were able to utilize the technology of the 3D printer that they often now take for granted in robotics. They are grateful to have the luxury of this technology and hope to be able to continue to use it and future technology to help people in need.



SENIOR PROJECT: DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL TEXAS - TEEN DANCE PARTY

Seniors Emma Lacayo, Mia Morales, Carolina Arrieta, and Lyla Maxfield served with the Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas for their Senior Project. DSCAT’s mission is to provide education, support, and resources to individuals with Down Syndrome and to their families. The students helped plan, set up, host, and clean up a Teen Dance Party. In their presentation, Carolina explained that they really liked this type of service because they had a lot of fun getting to know the participants, who were all so joyful and loved to dance.

Congratulations Seniors



Valedictorian Evan Kuo

Good & Faithful Servant Award Robbie Teal

text



St. Dominic Savio Award Juan Pablo Basualdo

text



Class of 2023: By the Numbers

93 graduates

18 National Merit
accolades

11
seniors completed over 200
service hours during their time
at Savio. Senior Anna Laura
Whitaker completed 481 hours!

8,046
service hours completed by seniors
during the 2022-23 school year

40 colleges & universities
attended

\$9,200,000+
in scholarship awards offered

Class of 2021 Senior Commitments



Texas A&M University

Nicholas Abadie
Ethan Andrew
Justin Brown
Donnell Fulwiler
Ryan Hallenberger
Gabriel Helal
Andrew Kologinczak
Brennan Krebs
Mia Le
Julian Lopez
Daniel Madison
Marissa Mathew
Megan McNaughton
Sai Hritish Nannapaneni

U. of Texas – Austin

Elena Antenora
Cecilia Baker
Juan Pablo Basualdo
Yuhan Cheng
Matthew Escamilla
Kieran Crowley
Evan Kuo
Luke Mikosh

U. of Texas – Dallas

Jared Lillie
Robert Teal
Xuran Zhou

U. of Texas – San Antonio

Myah Kuenstler
Emma Lacayo
Mykayla Means
Angelica Melendez
Thomas Belomestnov
Isabella Castillon
Shuxuan Jiang

U. of Texas – Tyler

Liliana Arrieta

University of North Texas

Michael Bacon
Erin Callihan
George Hernandez
Ethan Carson
University of Houston
Anna Laura Whitaker
Christian MacDonald

Texas Tech

Jacob Barclay
Olivia Cordova
Salem Hello
Sofia McCuskey
Matthew Phipps
Raul Ramirez
William Reeb
Dillon Swain
Anna Sweeney
Alexis Yax

Austin Community College

Natalia Arellano Parmer
Dianna Cruz-Arzate
Brian Laster

Northwestern University

Samuel Carrillo Barajas

George Washington U.

Mitch Archer
Anahuac Mexico
Jose Arrieta

Texas Christian University

Chloe Boullion

Texas State University

Faith Poe

University of Dallas

Sophia Cabello

Belmont University

Ava Callas

Boston University

Phuong Cao

Glion Institute of Higher Ed.

Yen Cao

Stephens Inst. of Technology

Tsz To Lorenz Chan

Catholic University of America

Maeva Charvet

Florida State University

Makaylah Haygood
Mary Hardin Baylor
Helene Chaumont
Pyper Stevens

University of Washington

Hongyi Chen

Sam Houston University

Estella Falch
Rebecca Hughes

Baylor University

Amaryllis Guevara

Savannah College of Art & Design

Mikayla Leal

Colorado School of Mines

Donovan Lublin

Ohio State University

David Mackowski

Undecided

Lyla Maxfield
John Sustaita

Clemson University

Jacquelyn Miller

University of Missouri

Alejandro Mitchell

Southwestern University

Mia Morales

University of Tulsa

Austin Nguyen

University of Tampa

Matthew Perez

Utica University

Melissa Pinckard

U. of the Incarnate Word

Caitlin Poblete

U. of Minnesota Twin Cities

Erin Raasch

St. Mary's University

Avery Schiesser

University of Arkansas

Ben Schiesser

University of Oklahoma

Alfonzie Stepney

University of Mary

Samantha Taylor

Fordham University

Theda Wilkens

University of Notre Dame

Anne Zimmerman
Luke Zimmerman

University of Miami

Katherine Zografos



SENDING FORTH

Seniors join Bishop Joe Vásquez after the Baccalaureate Mass on April 26, 2023.






Thank You Savio Parent Association Members!

The Savio Parent Association -better known as SPA- is the largest and most active group on the Savio campus. SPA is composed of an Executive Board of nine parents and four school administrators as well as seven leadership committees. Many of these roles have co-leadership and as a result, there are 26 active parent leaders on the Savio Board. Best of all, any parent/guardian of a Savio student is also a member, automatically. So, the membership of the Savio Parent Association is around 750 people!

The mission of SPA is to promote the communication and cooperation between the parents/guardians and the school along with supporting the faculty, staff, and administration in their mission to foster the students into servant leaders in the image of Christ. SPA does this by collecting dues and managing a budget, meeting monthly, maintaining a monthly calendar of activities for the community, and regularly soliciting volunteers for those activities. Some of the events that are hosted by SPA are Community Sessions, Class Breakfasts, and MANY teacher appreciation events including

monthly birthday treats for faculty/staff. In conjunction with the Dept of Liturgy and Ministry, SPA assists with the Weekly Mass, all the Class Retreats, Catholic Schools Week, and celebrating Savio Feast Day. SPA also supports the Dept of Admissions with various events throughout the year, such as the New Student Orientation and the New Family Ice Cream Social. SPA members will also be found at student-led events like Friendsgiving and International Food Fest.

Some of the best-kept secrets about SPA are all the behind-the-scenes activities...praying the Rosary daily, maintaining inventory for the Uniform Resale events, managing the Supplies for all the events, organizing the volunteers, and keeping the teachers' lounge stocked with coffee!


The absolute best part of SPA is experiencing the joy and gratitude that comes from the SAVIO community. It is a genuine pleasure to serve Savio in such a robust way and the example of servant leadership is prevalent in every SPA action. It truly takes a village - all 750 of us - to make the world of Savio go around! 

Booster Club thanks you for your continued support!



Your contributions (both financially and time/talent) helped raise a record-breaking \$100,000+ for Savio Athletics! A huge portion of the funds raised - over \$30,000 - was a result of the Booster Golf Tournament and Golf Ball Drop.

This year, funds raised by Booster have already allowed for the purchase of new parkas for Swim, new uniforms for Cross Country, additional uniforms for Baseball, new training equipment for Golf, and new strength and conditioning equipment for training by all student-athletes.

Because Savio does not charge a per-sport fee, the money raised by Booster goes solely to supplement Savio Athletics, and we could not do all that we do without your generous support. Thank you again for investing in Savio and we look forward to an amazing 2023-2024 school year. Go Eagles! 




EAGLE UPDATES

WOW, WHAT A GREAT YEAR WE HAVE HAD!

Putting the slideshow together for the Athletics Awards last month was an emotional time, reflecting on the year and remembering our athletes' hard work and determination throughout the year along with their achievements and successes.

A special shout-out to our coaches - they bless us every day with their knowledge and commitment to our athletes and athletics program. They go above and beyond to challenge and support our athletes to be the best version of themselves. We are blessed to have each of you working with our students!

Finally, parents - thank you! Being a parent of a student-athlete can be hard - the time you put in to watch and support your child's growth, the early mornings and late nights, pickups, and drop-offs, ensuring they are fueled for their sports! We thank you and everything you bring to our athletics program.

My favorite quote 'Teamwork makes the dream work' is in action at Savio. What a great team we have! Thank you for your support, *Coach Swain* 





Lighting the Way SOIREE

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



Steve and Dot Ammons
Greg & Pam Rabaey
Joseph & Beth Leary
Savio Board of Advisors
Friends of Los Niños

On Saturday, April 15th over 125 members of the Savio parent community gathered together at Casa Blanca on Brushy Creek for fun, fellowship, and fundraising. This event was a perfect example of everyone coming together for the good of the students of St. Dominic Savio. Staff, parent volunteers, student volunteers, and corporate/family sponsors worked together to raise important funds for the overall Savio student experience as well as our STEM program-related fund-a-need.

Our Robotics Team Members were in attendance to demonstrate their award-winning robots and talents that took them to the World competition just days after this event. Aaron George, a rising Savio Junior with National AND International Science Fair award accolades, spoke to attendees about how Savio has helped support him and fuel his passion for the sciences. His career goal is to match that desire with his talents and dreams of making an impact in global medical advances. Soiree attendees were so inspired, Savio raised over \$23,000 for STEM-related programs including Robotics, Engineering, and Cyber Security programs.

Many thanks to all our student volunteers, sponsors, and our Volunteer Event Coordinators: Kelsey Bookmyer, Stacy Brown, Taunya Conte, and Kristen Ray.

We are blessed to have parents who believe so strongly in our Mission that they give generously of their time and talent to volunteer on campus, at athletic events, at school wide events and of course in support of the students and staff of St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School.



THE SAVIO DIFFERENCE Savio Grad Ordained Transitional Deacon



Photo Credit: Beth Leary

When Andrew Smith was younger, he thought about becoming a priest, but when he graduated from St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School in 2013, he said the priesthood was not on his mind. He attended Stephen F. Austin State University where he decided to attend a retreat to make new friends. It was there, he says, the re-version happened for him with the deeper knowing that Jesus Christ died for our sins.

After college graduation, Andrew met with the Diocese of Tyler Vocations Director, and his future became clearer. Andrew Smith was Ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on May 27, 2023, at St. Jude Catholic Church in Gun Barrel City. His priestly ordination is expected to be held in 2024.

If you want your alumnus story shared in a future edition of Savio
Now, contact Susan Laielli at slaielli@saviochs.org, or 512-244-4811.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 30
Flynn O'Hara
Uniform Measuring
1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

JULY 3-16
Gym Closed for
Resurfacing

JULY 10-13
Savio Strength &
Conditioning 5
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

JULY 10-14
Summer Football
Training
8:30-10:30 a.m.

JULY 17-20
Strength &
Conditioning 6
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

JULY 17-20
Football Team Camp
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

JULY 31
Volleyball Tryouts
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

JULY 31
Band Camp
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

AUGUST 14
First Day of School

AUGUST 15
Combined School
Mass

AUGUST 17
Feed My People

AUGUST 19
Second Annual Savio
Family BBG Picnic

AUGUST 26
Early Bird Cross
Country Meet
Garey Park,
7 a.m. arrival

AUGUST 30
Back to School Night

Scan to see more events on
the school calendar:



Congratulations! Sophomore Aaron George

2023 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair Winner

First Place Winner: United States Air Force Research Laboratory
Top 10 out of 1800 - United States Patent and Trademark Office Society



ADVERTISE HERE WITH US!



Contact: Susan Laielli
St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School
Director of Communications
512.244.4811
slaielli@saviochs.org

1/4 page, 1/2 page and full page ads - limited space available in quarterly Savio Now! magazine

Congratulations!



Mr. Juan Flores Outstanding
Servant Leader Award (Faculty)



Mrs. Holly Bologna, Admissions
St. John Bosco Award



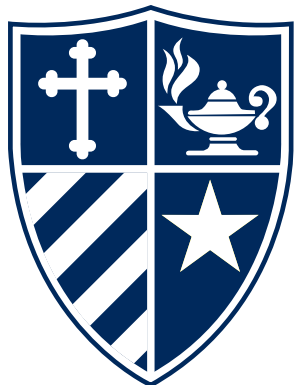
Mrs. Marina Glava
Outstanding Servant
Leader Award (Staff)



ST. DOMINIC SAVIO

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

9300 Neenah Avenue | Austin, TX 78717



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTIN, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 1109

FOLLOW US ONLINE!

www.saviochs.org



Forming Servant Leaders in the Image of Christ



JUNIOR PINNING CEREMONY

Junior Bobby Humphries receives his Senior Pin during the Junior Pinning Ceremony on April 19, 2023.