



Two Gateway Center | Suite 348  
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Take a look inside to see how  
your support is helping our  
work make the grade.



## REPORTCard

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



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9.26.24 | Tickets at [extramilefdn.org](https://extramilefdn.org)



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EXTRA MILE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

# REPORTCard

ISSUE NO. 3 | AUG. 2024

## Sue's Report

It's hard to believe that school year 2024-25 has begun. We are all wondering, what happened to the summer?

School year 2023-24 was a remarkable success, and as we ease into the new year we want to share some of the high points of the last school year. Parents, teachers and staff would all agree that school feels very much like normal again and that is a great measure of achievement today.

We have also scattered a few excerpts from the student pen pal project. Each year, our professional advisory committee engages in a program of letter writing with students from the Extra Mile-supported schools. These are letters exchanged between members and our eighth-grade students.

Be on the lookout for much more in our next edition about our professional advisory committee and how much they have done to enrich the programs (and the students) of Extra Mile.

Finally, we had 44 eighth grade students graduate this past year. 77% of those students are going on to Central Catholic, Oakland Catholic, Seton LaSalle, Serra Catholic, Shadyside and Neighborhood Academies. Congratulations to our young scholars.

Thanks for your support of Extra Mile!

Suzanne M. Vertosick

Executive Director, Extra Mile Education Foundation







# THAT'S A WRAP

Check out some of the events in our schools that made our past year truly memorable.

## Northside Catholic Assumption Academy

### 4TH-6TH GRADE SPELLING BEE

The annual Spelling Bee for 4th-6th Grades was held early last May. The winner, Luke, later represented NCAA at the Diocesan Spelling Bee for the third time!



### KINDERGARTEN PASTA WORKSHOP

In Kindergarten, Mrs. Levarse's mom visited the classroom and taught everyone an old family tradition of making pasta.



## Saint Benedict the Moor

### SPRING CONCERT AT DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

Saint Benedict's band returned to Duquesne University to perform in the Student Union Ballroom. The students were able to tour the campus and learn two new pieces from Dr. James Gourlay, adjunct professor and current Music Director of the River City Brass.



### 8TH GRADE KENNYWOOD TRIP

Despite the rain, the 8th graders of Saint Ben's enjoyed an awesome day at Kennywood!



## Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy

### DANCE COMPETITION

Students from STBCA competed in the ESTEEM Dance Competition held at Phipps Conservatory. Dancers performed the salsa, rumba, cha cha, jive, tango, and line dances!



## All Schools

### TOLTON: FROM SLAVE TO PRIEST

Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade gathered at Saint Benedict the Moor for St. Luke's travelling production of Tolton: From Slave to Priest. Bishop Zubik made a guest appearance to enjoy the show with the students, and parishioners were invited back for an evening showing.



### YPACS CAREER FAIR

To help students start to think about what their futures might look like after high school, YPAC organized a career fair at Sister Thea Bowman where the 8th graders from each of our schools attended! The fair hosted representatives from eleven different careers, and each rep offered the students valuable information and advice.



## In the Future...



*We're immensely proud of 2024's forty-four eighth grade graduates, and wish them the best as they succeed in high school and beyond!*

*Through our Pen Pal program, our eighth graders got to share with our PAC pals some of their excitement for high school and goals for the future.*

"Seton Lasalle was a very good choice for me, they have a whole bunch of sports...The football team will be very good and I also will be able to play with my last year's football team because they are going to Seton, too." – **Dorian**

"Something I would like to do post-high school is to go to college and get a degree in Microbiology. You're probably wondering, "Wow, microbiology," but yes, I love microbiology. Looking under microscopes and seeing organisms that you can't see with the naked eye is so cool to me. I've been wanting to be a biologist for a long time, since I was like six. So that's another goal I'm trying to achieve." – **Shia**

"After high school, I want to go to college and be a labor and delivery nurse. I can't wait to graduate school. I LOVE school." – **Toryana**

"For high school, I'm going to Seton LaSalle. I'm super excited to experience something new. I'm definitely playing football and basketball, but I wanna try soccer and baseball. This summer I'm gonna work out every day to get ready for high school." – **Kymarr**