



SAINTS SCENE



NICE GOING. After the final reading of our accrediting team's report the Saints faculty and staff celebrated the three people responsible for the school's tremendously successful accreditation visit. [Left to right:] Congrats to Kate Crachy (Religion Dept. Chair), Greg Hecht (Asst. Principal for Academics) and John Lamerato (English Dept. Chair).

Parents as the Primary Educator Dear Saintsmen, Families & Community



Principal James Horne

Throughout the school year we have seen much evidence that students are achieving great things at Saints.

Students in all grade levels have been highlighted for their accomplished efforts from National Merit Scholar recognition, league championships in athletics, fantastic performances and productions in the Fine Arts, and unselfish contributions to the larger community by way of the Christian service program. Although many of the achievements are due in large part

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Senior Events Check List

- **May 4** - Prom. Tickets now available on the website.
- **May 10** - Senior Ditch Day and then Grad Nite at Disney. Tickets now available on the website.
- **May 17** - Senior Awards Assembly followed by the Senior March and Graduation Practice. Practice is where the boys will get their tickets for graduation!
- **May 23** - No school.
- **May 24** - Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation.

Note: For a more detailed list, check Saints Scene's back page.

Who Grades the School?

Saints Earns Highest Marks

By Edwin Hearn, President, St. Augustine High School



President Edwin Hearn

If my calculations are correct I have been part of 8 or 9 Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditations in my 54 years in Catholic education. It is an educational process that all secondary and colleges in the West must undergo every 6 years. It is a school

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A Tradition Continues

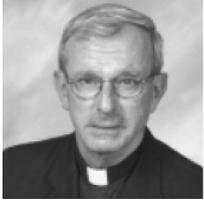
EN MASSE. In 2014, Saints ASB, in conjunction with the OLP ASB, came up with the concept of having a senior-only, joint Mass to celebrate four years of faith life. Since we have so many events with OLP, it seemed to make sense that we should also participate in a Mass together. Today, that tradition was continued in the Raymond Center with a Mass lead by Fr. Max.



Co-ed Mass at the Raymond Center.

Take Your Diplomas and Run!

Remembering one of the classic speeches in school history. We recapture the spirit, scholarship and wit of Fr. John Keller, O.S.A., Class of 1955 in his address to the Graduating Class of 2006 St. Augustine High School, June 1, 2006.



Fr. John Keller, O.S.A.

This is a great evening—Class of 1956, Wonderful and Marvelous Class of 2006, we celebrate your accomplishments and your promise, with gratitude.

“Gratitude” and “giving thanks.”

Tempt me to use my Thanksgiving mnemonic—you know, a short reflection on each letter of something like “Saintsmen Give Thanks for Four Years of the Saints Experience.” That’s 57 letters. But that won’t do. The talk might be a little long.

So I consulted my Merciful Muse, and she said, “Be brief, be clear and be gone!”

To the 2006 and to every class in the history of the school, four years ago you gathered at Saints from schools all over the San Diego Region. You began an experience that has changed a little of your DNA. All of us, who have been companions with you on this four year journey are extremely proud of you tonight.

“Twilight shadows gather on the campus green,” and you leave Saints’ “shelt’ring walls” to be Saints Alive (alums) in 21 States and the District of Columbia—from Alaska to Florida, California to Vermont.

For now, and for tonight, I urge you to do two things:

Take your diplomas and run!

Take your diplomas now—and—run...
To form new friendships and community.
To deepen and sustain old ones.
To serve the common good.

Take your diplomas—now—and run...
Run forward in your search for the truth of things.
Fly to truth on the wings of both faith and reason.
You are the citizens of both Athens and Jerusalem.

Take your diplomas—and run...
With compassion for yourself and others.
In service to the world.
With passionate love for God and neighbor.

You don’t run alone. The wind of God’s love surrounds you and is at your back. Tongues of fire, as Pentecost which we will celebrate on this Sunday, gives light to your path and puts fire in your belly.

Your accomplishments are many, your promise is great.

With profound gratitude to your parents, family, friends, teachers, coaches, and classmates who have made the Saints Experience possible, take your diplomas Saintsmen of the Class of 2006 (and future classes of Saintsmen), and run!

For God’s sake, take your diplomas and run!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John D. Keller, O.S.A." with a flourish at the end.

(Rev.) John D. Keller, O.S.A. ('55),
President of the School





St. Augustine High School

Textbook Returns & Buyback



- **If you rented books from Follett:**
 - Check the email account you used to create an account with Follett.
 - You should receive 2-3 email notifications, between May 15 – June 4, with instructions on how to print a return shipping label and return your rental books to Follett. You will have to ship your returns.
 - Please do this as soon as possible to avoid late fees. All rental books must be received within 2 weeks of the end of school.

- **If you purchased a book through Follett or another source and wish to sell it back:**
 - Please use Valore Books to handle all potential sell-backs for purchased books. This is NOT your rented books.
 - Go to www.valorebooks.com/sell-textbooks
 - Enter the ISBN of the book you want to sell. You will receive a price offer. If you accept, you will set up an account with Valore where you will print a shipping label and designate how you want to receive your buyback money.

ST. AUGUSTINE Summer Session 2024

Come join our Summer Session
Academic Classes and Sports Camps
Classes for Credit and Enrichment
Sports Camps for Boys and Girls ages 6–15

See our Summer offerings at:
www.sahs.org

AP Exam Testing Schedule

The 2024 AP Exams will be administered over two weeks in May: May 6–10 and May 13–17.

Date	8 a.m. Local Time Students report at 7:15 a.m.	12 p.m. Local Time Students report at 11:15 a.m.
Monday, May 6, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United States Government and Politics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chemistry
Tuesday, May 7, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Microeconomics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seminar ▪ Statistics
Wednesday, May 8, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ English Literature and Composition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Computer Science A
Thursday, May 9, 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Psychology
Friday, May 10, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United States History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Macroeconomics ▪ Spanish Literature and Culture
Monday, May 13, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Calculus AB ▪ Calculus BC 	
Tuesday, May 14, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ English Language and Composition 	
Wednesday, May 15, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ French Language and Culture ▪ World History: Modern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Computer Science Principles ▪ Music Theory
Thursday, May 16, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spanish Language and Culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biology
Friday, May 17, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Physics 1: Algebra-Based 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Latin



AROUND CAMPUS



THE BEST. After his Saints Varsity Soccer team won this year's State championship, Head Coach Brendan Johnston ('94) was recently named CIF's State Coach of the Year. Holding the "gold," Mr. Johnston is surrounded by his coaching staff (left to right): L-R Andy Pruter, Paul Sipper, Alex Menas ('19), Patrick Thomsen, Brendan Johnston, Shaun McGhen, Bill Pollan, Jose Kruer ('18).



Top Ten in the World

Back In January we highlighted that Saints Hall of Famer, Paul Greer ('83), would be coach of the national team at the 2024 World Athletics Cross Country Championships. Paul has just returned and the USA Under 20 Team finished 7th in the world. Here is a photo of Coach Greer (far right) and the Under 20 Men's team at the finish line of the World Cross Country Championships in Belgrade, Serbia.



Newest Eagle Scout

Senior Saintsman Cenzo Zoni has been involved in Scouts for 12 years, starting with Cub Scouts in first grade. He is a member of Troop 506 in La Jolla. He held many leadership positions and earned 38 merit badges. For his Eagle Scout project he created an outdoor worship space at his church, Foothills United Methodist Church in La Mesa.



The Untitled Tangle

The nameless black and white drawing was created by Saints AP Art student Dom Bartel ('25) using pencil and marker.



Saints Earns Highest Marks

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improvement process that is imposed on all schools by an outside organization to ensure compliance with existing educational standards.

At Saints, the accreditation process is taken as the most important school evaluation process undertaken by the school. It is a system when completed helps schools understand their strengths and challenges as they move into the next six-year cycle.

The accreditation process for Saints began 18 months ago. Principal James Horne and Assistant Principal Greg Hecht set the structure, calendar, and the myriad of meetings and study sessions that would have to be undertaken. To lead the process, Mr. Horne selected Mrs. Kate Crachy, head of the Theology Department and master teacher, and Mr. John Lamerato, the English Department Chair and senior moderator. Both were chosen for their leadership and respect for their contributions to the Saints Experience and their ability to lead a collaborative process for the Saints Community

A data library had to be created, and study groups formed with not only faculty, staff, and administrators, but also students, parents, and alumni sprinkled in each of the committees. Some meetings happened before school, some were all day, and I am sure for leadership team worked on the weekends. The major problem for the Saints Community is a school schedule that is already packed with activities. To accomplish the accreditation task forced an even tighter schedule for the entire school.

At most schools, the process is a grinding nightmare which results in poor participation with the work accomplished by a small cadre of teachers and administrators. Although Mrs. Kate Crachy, Mr. John Lamerato, Mr. Greg Hecht, and Mr. James Horne did a preponderance of the work, the attending integral groups prepared the reports in the key areas of school life: Catholic Identity, School Organization, Teaching and Learning, Student Support, and Material Stewardship.

The report and data library are printed into separate documents that are sent to a visiting committee of outside educators who provide the school with an objective analysis of seven key areas of school life. The committee studies the documents for approximately a month and then visits the school to

verify everything stated in the documents is accurate. This is accomplished through a series of meetings of the Visiting Committee with key stakeholders regarding the involvement of the entire community in the process.

The visit began on Sunday afternoon on March 3 with a meeting between the Visiting Committee, administration, key parent leaders, the Board of Directors, and the Augustinians. In this meeting, each member of this six-member visiting team asked open-ended questions to the assemblage. When this was concluded everyone gathered in the DanVera Lobby for an introduction of the committee to the faculty and other members of the Saints Community. One member of the visiting committee as she walked into the lobby asked a member of the committee, “How were you able to get all of your teachers, staff, and administrators to this gathering?” It was an interesting moment as the answer was simply, “We invited them.” From the nature of the question, this might not happen at other schools.

On Monday and Tuesday, the visiting team met with each of the Integral groups, visited classrooms, talked to students in the hallway, and began the process of verifying the school report. Wednesday, the last day of the process began with Mass, followed by Mr. Gary Osberg asking for the Southern Section Champion Saints soccer team to be recognized in a wild celebration that was on the verge of chaos. When the visiting committee was told they could leave right after mass, one member retorted, “We are not going to miss this!”

Later that morning the visiting committee met with the Saints Leadership team and read their report that would be submitted to WASC. It was a time for a conversation if there was disagreement. There was none—only praise.

Later that morning the faculty, staff, administration, parents, alumni, and members of the Executive Committee of the Board gathered in the Chapel for a reading of the report. Schools are judged in seven critical areas. The highest praise is “commendable.” Saints received commendable in all seven areas of the WASC Accreditation process. In speaking with Mr. Horne, this may be a “first for Saints.” Commendable is a difficult attainment.

Ensuring Educational Excellence (E3)

Western Catholic Education Association

A Self-Study for:
 St. Augustine High School
 5260 Hartweg Street
 San Diego, CA 92014

March 2024
 WCEA CODE 8006
 WASC CODE 37160864 000

Very Rev. Gary E. Sanders, O.S.A., Prior Provincial
 Mr. Edwin J. Heam, President
 Mr. James W. Horn, Principal

Mrs. Kate Crosby, Self-Study Co-Coordinator
 Mr. John Lamerato, Self-Study Co-Coordinator
 Mr. Gregory Heintz, Self-Study Co-Coordinator

St. Augustine High School - Ensuring Educational Excellence

its students. Saints Scene, the school's monthly newsletter, has won a special award by San Diego Press Club for its communication value. Making Saints more affordable and utilizing social media to promote the school have continued to strengthen our admissions program.

With construction on the physical plant complete, Saints has initiated a SACM Endowment Campaign. From 2016 to present, the Endowment Fund has grown from \$4.8M to \$12.1M. One of the continued goals is to make Saints affordable for any young man who would like to attend. Over the course of the next accreditation cycle we will explore avenues to cultivate gifts and giving programs that will support the growth of the Endowment Fund to support financial aid (DL E42, E43, E44, E45, E47, E48, E49, E50).

The administrative team, in partnership with the Board of Directors, adheres to the Strategic Plan through annual strategic goal meetings. The continued focus has allowed for the completion of the Strategic Plan and constant improvement in all areas of school life. A 10-year capital needs assessment has been created. The president's team interviewed representatives from all stakeholder groups to collect data for the Endowing Committee and accreditation process. Some of the long-term issues brought forward by the Endowing Committee are being integrated into the Strategic Plan 2024-2030 (DL E1, E31, E52).

Key Strengths:

[E1] The admissions process has annually generated more applications than available spaces.
 • Evidence: DL E1

[E2] St. Augustine High School maintains strong relationships with Catholic elementary schools.
 • Evidence: DL E1, E4, E5

[E22] Students have access to technology that prepares them for a changing world.
 • Evidence: DL E9, E10

[E4] The school's five-year strategic financial plan to aid budget preparation and responsible financial management.
 • Evidence: DL E15, E16, E17, E18, E22, E23, E24, E25

[E5] The Board appointed Finance Committee reviews business operations, sets and reviews economic policies, measures financial performance, and prioritizes operational needs.
 • Evidence: DL E13, E15, E16, E17, E18, E22, E23, E24, E25, E28, E29

[E7] The administrative team in partnership with the Board of Directors maintains adherence to the Strategic Plan through annual Strategic goals.
 • Evidence: DL E13, E51, E52

Key Growth Areas:

[E1] Continued growth of the Endowment Fund.
 • Evidence: E20, E21, E22, E23

[E3] Improve current fine arts classroom space, specifically the ceramics lab and painting studio.
 • Evidence: E12, E13, E14

[E5] Create a marketing and communications oversight group composed of: President, principal, admissions, webmaster, all letters, arts, technology, social media to streamline communication to the greater community.
 • Evidence: E47, E48, E49

St. Augustine High School - Ensuring Educational Excellence

Vital Areas for Growth:

Vital Area for Growth (A1)
 Catholic Identity - Catholic enrollment is on the decline.
 • Goal: Study and monitor the trends in student enrollment to nurture a robust Catholic population.

Vital Area for Growth (E2)
 Teaching and Learning - Teachers will study and respond to the impact of AI on teaching and learning.
 • Goal: Study and respond to the impact Artificial Intelligence (AI) - i.e. ChatGPT) will have on teaching and learning.
 • Train faculty in effective uses of AI to modernize their classrooms.
 • Train students on the appropriate and responsible use of AI in their studies.
 • Educate parents about AI and its impact on their sons' education.

Vital Area for Growth (E3)
 Student Support - Provide a variety of effective and engaging academic support services.
 • Goal: Evaluate our Learning Accommodations program and study the need for expanded services.

Vital Area for Growth (E1)
 Stewardship and Resources - Continued growth of the Endowment Fund.
 • Goal: Cultivate benefactors and develop advancement programs that will support the growth of the Endowment Fund and financial aid.

Although each member of the visiting committee gave this rating, it is what they said about their experience at Saints that was even more powerful. While this amazing moment cannot be recreated, it is important to note that they saw Saints as a school that knows who it is and one whose strong relationships with students and members of the community are rarely, if ever, seen. Many of them wanted to establish connections with Saints in their schools. They were interested in how we have created a school environment that makes such a positive impact in the lives of the young men we serve. This high praise came from each member of the visiting committee.

Although I think Saints has felt and seen this for a long time, our humility and our critical nature sometimes preclude us from the ability to celebrate who we are. To hear high praise expressed by an outside group with one member from Cathedral and another from Mater Dei says a great deal about a four-day experience that has catapulted our school forward with new goals that we will achieve. The prayers and support of the entire community, the work of becoming better Augustinian educators, the work of capturing young boys' imaginations, and the inspiration that comes from the faculty, are a testament to the journey we have taken together as we begin the next 100 years of our service to the Catholic Community in San Diego and Tijuana.



Parents as the Primary Educator

Continued from page 1

to a student's motivation and talents, we must also remember and applaud the contributions of teachers, coaches and parents in making these achievements and a holistic education of our students a reality.

In an address for educators more than a decade ago, Thomas Groome, a professor and director of Boston College's Institute for Religious Education, emphasized the need for us to re-embrace parents as the primary educators of students. Groome encourages schools to see themselves as ancillary to the work of parents and not as parental substitutes. Research supports this idea and indicates that schools who actively engage parents as agents in the education of their students are more successful than schools who fail to do this.

Saints has a great tradition of parental involvement and support. The Austin Parent Association along with parent support groups for our sports teams and art programs have several opportunities for parents to serve as volunteers and leaders. And the success and achievement of Saintsmen is due in no small part to the commitment of parents who work hand in hand with the school to provide a strong values and faith-based education. As we conclude another great school year I want to thank all parents who've contributed so generously to our programs. Further, I encourage and challenge you to continue to embrace your role as the primary educator of your student by playing an active role next year at Saints.

Yours in the Spirit of Catholic Education,



James Horne



Upcoming!

For most of its Spring season Saints Varsity baseball team has been ranked #1 in the County and Western League play. See the June 2024 issue of Saints Scene for a special photo essay on this terrific team. Photo: Varsity pitcher Grayson Boles. *Union-Tribune* image by Meg McLaughlin.

Grad Day Check List

Senior Prom

A joint venture of Saints and O.L.P., will be held at the Westin Gaslamp on **Saturday, May 4th**. Check-in begins at 6:30pm. The prom begins with dinner served at 7:30pm. Couples must be in attendance by 7:00pm and will not be allowed to leave the prom until 10:30pm. The dance will end at 11:00pm. The cost is \$170 for a bid (Saintsman + date). There will be no school sponsored event after prom. Parents are strongly cautioned against renting hotel rooms for their sons for prom parties before or after the prom.

Senior Awards Assembly

Friday, May 17th at 8:50am. Winners of a variety of awards will be announced at this assembly. Though space is limited, parents are welcome to attend. Graduation practice and Senior March will take place after the awards assembly from approximately 10:00am until 12:00pm. All seniors must be present for this practice. Caps, gowns, graduation tickets and yearbooks will be distributed immediately after graduation practice and the Senior March.

Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Exercises

Friday, May 24th at 9:30am in the Fr. John Sanders Gym. Parents and relatives of graduating seniors are invited to attend. It is always a beautiful event. Each graduate will receive 8 tickets for Baccalaureate and Graduation seating with seating available on a first come basis. There will be NO additional seating. Only ticket holders will be admitted. The school will stream the entire Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation live on the Saints News Network YouTube channel.

Caps and Gowns

Graduation gowns must be returned to the office no later than **Tuesday, May 28th** during regular office hours, 8:00am until 2:00pm. Once gowns are returned, all fees paid in full, and any school issued equipment is received, the student will receive his diploma.

Pictures

Saints will hire a professional photographer for graduation to catch a great shot of each graduate with his Diploma. A complimentary 5x7 copy of this picture will be mailed to your home.

Summer Trips

Your son's post grad travel and party celebration involvement are family decisions. However, the school does not sponsor and does not encourage graduation trips outside of the USA or other places sponsored by travel agencies who are out to make a profit with no regard for student safety or growth. The school believes it is unwise to participate because there is little or no adult presence at these events. Alcohol is plentiful. Government* and private researchers estimate that each year: Deaths: 1,519 underage and college students alone between the ages of 18 and 24 die from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor-vehicle crashes. By comparison 1,519 persons would fill Saints Gym, a sobering thought, indeed.

**National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.*



SAINTS SCENE

Your Award-Winning* monthly report on the St. Augustine High School Experience

Publisher: Edwin J. Hearn, Jr. Saints President

Editor-in-Chief: James Horne, Saints Principal

Senior Advisor: Fr. Gary Sanders, O.S.A., Augustinian Provincial

Senior Editor: Kevin DeRieux, Finances & Facilities Director

Senior Editor: Gregory Hecht, Assistant Principal for Academics

Saints Scene Coordinator: Thomas Shess, Alum Parent ('05): Thomas.Shess@gmail.com

Art Director: Kristin Hardy, OLP ('05), Kristin Hardy Design: kristinhardydesign.com

Circulation Director: Casey Callery, Director of Community Relations and Special Events

Editor Emeritus: John D. Keller, O.S.A. ('55)

Staff Photographer: Bill Hill, Saints Parent

Correction Policy: While every effort is made to be accurate, we occasionally err.

We do apologize to those impacted and kindly ask that you notify Saints Coordinator: Thomas.Shess@gmail.com for any corrections.

***Awards:** Saints Scene has been voted by the San Diego Press Club as the best Community Newsletter in 2011, 2019 and 2021.



Mission of St. Augustine High School – Our mission is to provide a Catholic liberal arts education for young men in an environment that promotes the development of mind, heart and body in the Augustinian tradition. By helping to form loving disciples of Jesus Christ we communicate to the world the gospel values of community, truth and love.