

NATIVITY SCHOOL OF WORCESTER

SUMMER 2022

Newsletter



RUTILIO GRANDE, S.J.

CLASS OF 2022



On June 3, 2022, the Rutilio Grande, S.J. Class of 2022 graduated from Nativity School of Worcester. They are the 17th graduating class from our middle school. Congratulations to the Grande class, and thank you to all those who contributed to their success!



message FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

June 3 marked the graduation of our eighth grade Grande Class and the conclusion of our first fully in-person school year in over two years. Having our students, graduates, families, staff, and volunteers back together and supporting one another was inspiring to witness. Our students and graduates excelled in the classroom and in the community, and your investments in our Nativity Men made it possible.

This Summer Newsletter highlights the long-term success of our Nativity Men, and how our graduates are thriving in high school, college, the Worcester community, and beyond. At the core of our mission and a Jesuit education is developing the whole person and leaders who make a difference in the world. As you'll read, our Nativity Men are making a positive difference in our world and in the lives of others each and every day.

Time and time again, our graduates share about how their Nativity experience in grades five through eight and our graduate support services have impacted their lives, and now they want to give back. During the 2021-2022 school year, over half of our 217 graduates returned to Nativity to support and engage with our current students and their fellow graduates. Our graduates volunteered as basketball coaches, mentored students, gave speeches about their careers, helped at events, worked as staff members, and much more. Their personal successes and deep commitment to the success of their fellow Nativity Men is remarkable. They are an inspiration to our current students and entire community.

As we celebrate the end of a successful school year, I am grateful for the generosity and partnership you provide our school. The tuition-free Nativity experience is impactful and unmatched, and only possible because of committed volunteers and benefactors like you. Just as our Nativity Men should take pride in what they've accomplished this past school year, you should also take pride in the impact you've had on our community. With your help, we are well positioned for a successful 2022-2023 school year. I hope you can visit us and stay in touch this fall. May you and your family have a safe and joyful summer. Thank you from all of us at Nativity!

With Gratitude,

Tom McKenney

GRADUATES IN THE BUILDING



Since our reopening on May 6th, 2021, Nativity Worcester has welcomed not only our students, staff, and faculty back to the building, but a number of graduates as well. After two and a half years of a pandemic, 120 Nativity Worcester graduates returned to the building to reconnect with teachers, students, and fellow graduates. This represents over 50% of Nativity Worcester graduates! In addition to visiting and attending events, some of our graduates have recently been welcomed into our community of faculty and staff. Nativity Worcester is pleased to announce that Demetrius Safford (Pro Class of 2011), who was hired as a part time staff member in March, will be joining Nativity Worcester's faculty as a Teaching Fellow for the 2022-2024 school years. We are also pleased to announce that Angel Montanez (Xavier Class of 2007) assumed the role of Operations Manager on August 1. Nativity Worcester has also welcomed Bryan Montenegro (Hurtado Class of 2014) and Dante Romeo (Fernando Class of 2015) as summer interns! Additionally, Nativity Worcester's Office of Graduate Support hosted its first Grad Lunch in three years. The Grad Lunch was an amazing opportunity for the eighth grade Grande Class of 2022, Anchieta Class of 2018, and Hurtado Class of 2014, to celebrate their achievements. Nativity Worcester has had a wonderful year of reconnecting with our graduates in person, and we look forward to many more visits from all class years in the future.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GATHERING



On May 5, 2022, The Graduate Support Team hosted the 2nd Annual Alumni Association Gathering at Bocado Tapas Wine Bar. The evening was full of nostalgia, laughter, and brotherhood as alumni mixed and mingled, sharing stories of their time as Nativity students and their current achievements. Daniel Dompseh (Ignatius Class of 2006), Demetrius Safford (Pro Class of 2011), and Marc Betancourt (Faber Class of 2008) shared their involvement at Nativity as a current Board Member (Dompseh), School Aide & Building Liaison (Safford) and Assistant Basketball Coach (Betancourt). Alumni continued the conversation sharing how they have been or will continue to be a presence among current Nativity students and stay connected with one another.

Congratulations to our Graduates!

We are very proud of our Nativity Men who are finishing their school years and going on to great things. We recognize their achievements and are happy to share the next steps for our graduating classes.



Grande Class of 2022

Emmanuel Adubofour

Saint John's High School

Mohammed Alhakeem

Saint John's High School

Javian Allen

Saint John's High School

Alijah Amaro

Bancroft School

Javiel Delgado

Worcester Technical High School

Marcos Fernandez

Bancroft School

Angel Jackson

North High School

Nazsir Langford

Bancroft School

Thomas Linares

Saint John's High School

Francois Longdaye

North High School

Andrew Odjidja

Worcester Technical High School

Naizir Rivera-Mondley

Worcester Technical High School

Sebastian Sabogal

Bancroft School

Benito Salas

Saint John's High School

Presley Sam

Worcester Academy

Shamus Summa

South High School, Diesel Technology Program

Kunon Taylor

Shrewsbury High School

Anchieta Class of 2018

Prustide Bangandozou

Clark University

Alan Rivera-Lopez

University of Miami

Bernard Santos

Pitzer College

Justyn Torres

UMass Lowell

Meffi Herrera

Assumption University

Nelson Hilario

UMass Amherst

Felipe Linares

Assumption University

Enock Oduro

UMass Lowell

Damori Quartey

Worcester State University

Zyian Rosso

UMass Amherst

Ronald Martinez

UMass Lowell

Darrell Kwateng

Pitzer College

Jacob Alejandro

Entering the Workforce

College Graduates 2022

Bryan Montenegro

Boston College (Hurtado Class) (December 2022)

Samuel Odjidja

UMass Amherst (Hurtado Class)



2023 marks the 20th anniversary of Nativity School of Worcester! To celebrate the successes of our students and graduates, as well as the generosity of our community members over the years, Nativity School of Worcester will be hosting a series of celebrations. A schedule of events is set to be released this winter, so keep an eye on your email and your mailbox, and get ready to mark your calendars! The entire Nativity Worcester community is immensely grateful for your support over the past two decades, and we can't wait to celebrate with you!

Andrea Munar Named Nativity Worcester Principal

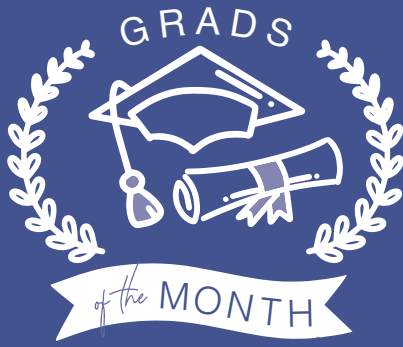


Nativity School of Worcester is proud to announce that Andrea Munar, former Teaching Fellow, 6th Grade Lead Teacher, and Assistant Principal, assumed the role of Principal on July 1, 2022. Andrea has served as a key leader at Nativity Worcester for eight years, and has held a

variety of leadership positions, including being the Athletics Director and After School Coordinator as the 6th Grade Lead Teacher, and overseeing the PTA, coordinating home visits for new students, running the school's food pantry, and co-directing the school's diversity, equity, and inclusion

efforts as the Assistant Principal. Andrea is well-suited to lead the school's academic program, and has done an amazing job throughout our Summer of Service!





The Grad Support Team sends out a monthly digital newsletter to our 234 graduates, graduate families and community partners. The newsletter includes key events in the Nativity community, learning opportunities for graduates, job openings in the Worcester community, and much more. Each month, the Graduate Support Team selects a Grad of the Month to feature. Grad of the Month spotlights a graduate who has been living out our four pillars of strength, scholarship, character, and service, wherever they are in their journey post-Nativity. Whether they are in high school, college, the workforce, or volunteering in the community, our Nativity Grads are doing amazing things! Below are the Grads of the Month whose reflections were published in the newsletter during the 2021-2022 school year.



Dante Romeo
FERNANDO CLASS

Since graduating from Saint John's high school, I've been lucky enough to attend the University of Rhode Island studying Communication. I recently finished my junior year at school. I was grateful to be accepted as an intern back at Nativity, with hopes of becoming a Teaching Fellow upon graduating from URI.

I am majoring in Communication and Secondary Education. My college experience has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. Meeting new people and

being part of my fraternity is another great experience that I have been a part of. At my fraternity we'll also take on leadership roles, being a great example for underclassmen. Joining my fraternity was one of the best decisions I have made during my time here at college, creating bonds with friends that'll be for life, even though some people live hundreds of miles away.

Something from Nativity that I still carry with me is a school first mentality. I've never been the type of student to prioritize school. I am continuing to

pursue my education and have been able to consistently make the Dean's List at school, all thanks to Nativity.

Advice I have for younger students is to enjoy your time here at Nativity, and take advantage of every opportunity you have here. Nativity offers so much for students to help achieve their dreams, and to be able to have the support for the rest of your high school and college careers, and beyond.

Nicholas Le, graduate of the Hurtado Class (2014), is the Front House Manager at Mint Kitchen & Bar. Nick, along with his family, recently opened the restaurant and are receiving rave reviews!

Nick shared the news with the Nativity community during our Spring Auction on March 25th, 2022. The new business owner mixed and mingled as he shared the exciting news about his family's restaurant.

Here is what he has to share with us:

What kind of cuisine will you find at Mint Kitchen & Bar?

▶ Mint Kitchen & Bar is a Vietnamese restaurant with a mission to bring a modern twist to traditional Vietnamese food. We also offer a full bar with live music experiences."

What are you looking forward to in the future?

▶ I'm looking forward to going back to school for the fall semester; working full time has given me insight on what steps I would like to take toward my future."

Is there any advice you'd like to share with current students and graduates?

▶ My best advice is to build social skills and get comfortable with networking. This is something I struggled with a lot and I wish I had put more emphasis on learning to network."

If you're looking for some delicious food and would like to support one of our graduates, stop by Mint Kitchen & Bar and enjoy a lovely restaurant experience!



Nicholas Le
HURTADO CLASS

What does it mean to you to have a black owned business?

► It truly means everything. We want to be a staple in our community. We want to be role models to the younger generations and show them that they can look like us and make it in our city and own a business. We want to show the younger generation that this is beyond high school and college and that if you have a dream you can achieve it.

This is a crazy thing to think about and realize that this is our business. Growing up, we didn't learn that we can have our own business, we were basically told that we couldn't have our own business and it's impossible. The fact that we have our own business is unreal, and we did this, we figured it out against all odds and against what we were told growing up. We learned and realized we can have our own business. It takes a lot of courage to step away from your day to day life and pursue a dream, but we took that risk and now the respect we are receiving and the feedback is amazing and special to us.

What does it mean to you to open a business in the city you grew up in?

► Opening a business here in Worcester means a lot to us. We are giving back to the community and that is one of the things we strive for. We learned everything we know here in this city. We wanted to give back and bring health into the community. Health is wealth and Woo Juice is based around health. We did this for the city and to give back to the city. This city is flourishing and we wanted to be a part of the change and continue growing here with our people that made us who we are.

Why Woo Juice? Where'd you get the name and logo?



Noel Stem and Isaiah Tatum

XAVIER AND ARRUPE CLASS(ES)

► We started with 'Woo' because of course we are from Worcester and are based out of Worcester. Juice is just a tastier option, and we wanted to create something so that you can replenish your body. A juicing business is something that is not in Worcester, this is new to the city and is all natural and organic. So that's where the Woo Juice idea came from.

We wanted to have a logo that is appealing that we can really use for branding. We had some ideas for a logo and decided to collaborate with one of our friends, Kofi (Instagram: KoLABfx), and he helped with the creation of our logo. Since we wanted it rooted in our city, the smiley face for Worcester was an easy choice, and then we have the smiley face drinking juice to finish it off.

What has Nativity meant to you growing up?

► Nativity means everything to us. It is more than just a middle school. They helped me and my family throughout high school and college and always made sure to reach out. We still keep in contact with teachers like Ms. Horan, and classmates, and truly receive support from all the people we've met here. Nativity has been a staple for everything that we've done. It's been the foundation for us and with everything we do, we think back to what

Nativity showed us and taught us. No Nativity means there's no WooJuice— that is where we met, and through the years we have grown and now we have our own business together. So we owe it all to Nativity.

We still sit down and talk about the stories and memories we've made here at Nativity all the time. Nativity helped me and made me who I am today. When I think of it, Nativity has made the biggest impact in my life. Although it was a struggle, it has made me who I am today.

What is your advice to the younger Nativity generation? Isaiah

► Don't let your mind hold you back. You can accomplish anything you set your mind to. All you have to do is focus and have the courage and drive to do so. If it's your dream, make it happen, don't let anyone tell you otherwise or try to stop you. Own that 9-5 and do it your way.

Noel

► Stay open minded, the possibilities are endless. Don't let anybody tell you what you can't and can do. Don't be put in a box because possibilities are endless. You can do anything you set your mind to. You'll get the results you want if you put your mind to it. There's no 'right' way to do it; everyone has their own way and path to achieve things; you just have to find yours.

What is the Nativity Knight Drink?

► This drink was created to give back to the school that made us, the school that brought us together. Nativity was really the best time of our life. It helped me get to where I am. Thinking back to when we were students, of course we hated school and it was frustrating, but once we graduated, we saw how great this school is, and the love for Nativity just kept growing. Nativity helped us grow as people and made us who we are.

We wanted the drink to have that nice purple color, that 'Nativity knight' purple. It consists of blueberries, strawberries, blackberries, and apple juice.

When and where is WooJuice opening? What can we look forward to?

► Be on the lookout for us in early spring opening on 22 Front St. at the Woo Mall (the old Midtown Mall).

You can expect us to talk about Nativity and continue to incorporate Nativity in the stuff we do. Expect us to stick to ourselves and things that made us who we are and what made us, which is Nativity Worcester.

Our plan is to continue our brand and to grow, and our goal is to open one Woo Juice in each low income neighborhood here in our city of Worcester.



Demetrius Safford
PRO CLASS

My name is Demetrius Safford from the Pro Class of 2011. Since graduating from NSW, I've graduated from Saint John's High School, and I've done a few years at Worcester State University.

I've taken some time off and I'm working at Amazon as a delivery driver right now. When I'm not working, I enjoy hanging out with my friends, playing basketball, and going snowboarding.

Without NSW, I never would have gone to Saint John's High School, and without going to Saint John's, who knows where I could be right now. NSW has helped me turn from a boy into a man. Finally, NSW has helped me turn friends into brothers.

In the future, I'm looking forward to finishing school and seeing where life takes me. I would advise my younger NSW brothers to enjoy your time at NSW and create relationships that will last a lifetime. Also, take full advantage of everything NSW has to offer, because people are there to help you, so why not take the help?

NSW was full of many memories, but my favorite memory was graduation. Not because I got to leave

NSW, but because I had the opportunity to see all my brothers be so happy about everything that we achieved throughout our time at NSW. Graduation is my favorite memory— that's when all the memories came back because I had to accept that my time was up at NSW as a student. But thankfully, that wasn't my last memory, because NSW lives within me. Once a Nativity man, always a Nativity man.

How does it feel to be in your senior year of high school?

It really feels weird being a senior, because I have felt that these four years have gone by really quickly. I have enjoyed my four years at Saint John's High School because of the new experiences that I may have not had at Nativity.

What is a highlight for this past year?

My highlight of the past year was finally getting on the headmaster's list, which basically means getting all A's in the quarter. Also, being a student tutor for the city of Worcester during the pandemic is something that I have wanted to do for some time, and being in and leading the Latin-X club at school.

What are you looking forward to after high school?

What I'm looking forward to after high school is experiencing college life. What I hope to pursue in college is accounting, a class that I'm currently taking right now and can see myself doing.

How is life at school? What is it like during a pandemic?

I really enjoy school at Saint John's. I have many friends in school because of sports, and still to this day keep in touch with my Nativity classmates. It was really challenging for me during the pandemic because I was always doing soccer and never took breaks. Being home for a long period was not something I was used to. Although I did play soccer the majority of the time

in my backyard during the pandemic, I learned to play the guitar and a little bit of the piano.

What is your advice to younger Nativity guys?

The advice that I would give to the younger Nativity kids is that hard work is the important thing in life.



Meffi Herrera
ANCHIETA CLASS

My name is Jacob Vazquez, an alum of Nativity School of Worcester (2011), Saint John's High School (2015), and Assumption University (2019, MBA 2020). I am currently the Philanthropy Officer of Scholarship at the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. I oversee the management, implementation, and growth of the Foundation's Scholarship Program, which distributes more than \$700,000 to local students pursuing post-secondary education.

Why did you join Nativity Worcester's Alumni Association?

I joined the Alumni Association because that is one of many

ways I can give back to the NSW community. I have always been a proud advocate for Nativity, because I would not be the man I am today if it wasn't for those community leaders who continue to make NSW a possibility for young men.

What are some of your favorite places to go or things to do in Worcester and Central Massachusetts?

While there are many great things to do in our city and Central Massachusetts, I really enjoy supporting our community; that can be as simple as attending an event to celebrate achievements, purchasing and promoting business' goods and

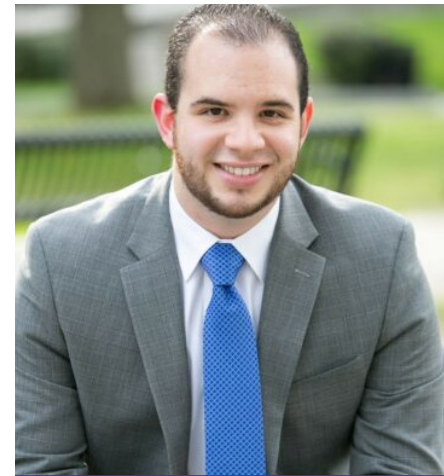
services, or having a night of entertainment in the city.

What are you most looking forward to post-pandemic?

I can't wait to unite with family and friends for a day out and not have to worry about running back to the car because I forgot my mask.

Do you have any advice you'd give to younger Nativity Men?

To those younger Nativity Men, please take advantage of the multiple opportunities offered to you throughout your journey. While life gets busier as we mature, always remember to be your true self.



Jacob Vazquez
PRO CLASS

The past three years at Portsmouth Abbey have really flown by, and as I am finally thinking about what's next, there is definitely some nervous excitement brewing. As a Red Key Student Leader (admissions), and a wrestling captain, I have really stepped up into the role of being a leader, and am constantly thinking about what kind of impact I would like to leave for younger students. I am taking various challenging classes this year (Advanced Theology, AP Statistics, AP Spanish, AP Biology, AP Literature), and as I am excited to push myself academically, I am still learning to juggle my time with so many responsibilities.

Last year was a new experience with everyone on campus and dealing with Covid protocol, but it ended up being very successful, and I was able to have in-person classes all year. A highlight of last year would definitely be all the creative ways we were able to connect with each other on campus, despite the ongoing pandemic.

In my junior year I applied for a grant called the Haney fellowship, which allows students to dive into a research topic of their choice. Thankfully, I was admitted into the program. With the state of the pandemic constantly changing, when thinking of what I wanted to research, I had to consider various limitations. The focus on mental health, and specifically the stigma around it, due to the pandemic inspired me. I had the opportunity to travel to Ghana and make a short film consisting of interviews and a focus on community to document the effects of the stigma around mental health in Ghanaian communities. This was a very rewarding experience. During my month-long trip, I had the opportunity to help share the stories of people who had so much valuable experience, who might not otherwise have gotten the chance. I believe this opportunity has aided my transition into adulthood and put into perspective the day to day issues of people around the world. It has also opened my eyes to something

I potentially want to do in the future. In the coming few months, I am looking forward to being a leader on campus, finally finishing my college applications and seeing where I end up.

As graduation gets closer and closer everyday, I become more grateful for all the people who have led me to where I am today. I am especially grateful for graduate support, and all the connections I have made through Nativity. For all the younger guys, make sure to push yourself outside of your comfort zone, try new extracurriculars, become an active member of the NSW community, and really hone your skills. Keep in mind all the values Nativity teaches you, because it will take you far. I still consider myself a Nativity Man, and practicing it when I was still there has helped me perfect it throughout my time here. It makes you stand out amongst your peers, wherever you go.



Darrell Kwateng
ANCHIETA CLASS



Jordan Idiagbonya
MVENG CLASS



What are you looking forward to at Bancroft School?

What I'm looking forward to at Bancroft is for new opportunities and to make new friends.

How are you preparing for the transition to high school?

I'm preparing for high school by checking what classes I have and what I have to do over the summer.

What is your dream job?

My dream job is to become an animator and start my own animated series.

What's your favorite memory from your time at Nativity Worcester?

My favorite memory from my time at Nativity was going on the Adventure Bound trip, and the time I fell while wearing a pikachu costume at the costume contest.

Do you have any advice for younger Nativity students?

My advice for any younger student at Nativity is to make the most of your time at Nativity. Your time at Nativity is the most memorable.

My name is Shadrach Adu-Boateng, a rising senior at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. I am involved in a couple of organizations in and out of school, such as the National Society of Black Engineers at UML, Advocates for Health Equity of Minorities, First Love Church, Biology Research club and Music club. My hobbies include coding, playing guitar, producing music, and reading.

I was previously an intern at Nativity because I enjoy the environment and atmosphere at Nativity, and wanted to be a part of the great community that has been established here. My experience was amazing; it felt like I was back at school again.

I love to walk around Worcester and run on the tracks. Elm Park and Greenhill Park are amongst my favorite places to spend time at,

especially with friends. What I've really looked forward to post-pandemic are the concerts and going to conventions with my clubs.

Do you have any advice you'd give to younger Nativity Men?

Do what makes you happy in life, explore new hobbies, and always bet on yourself.



Shadrach Adu-Boateng
HURTADO CLASS



Planned Giving

If you are seeking a meaningful way to leave your personal and philanthropic legacy, planned giving through Nativity School of Worcester may be right for you. A planned gift will make a difference in the lives of our students and graduates for years to come! A bequest gives you the flexibility to change your mind, as well as continued access to your assets, while making an immeasurable impact on the Nativity Worcester community. To learn more about planned giving, visit our website at www.nativityworchester.org/help/planned-giving, or contact our Senior Vice President of Advancement and Graduate Support, Elizabeth Deliberto, at edeliberto@nativityworchester.org or 508-799-0100 x105.



Mission Advancement

Nativity School of Worcester would like to thank our entire community for a record fundraising year! Thanks to your generosity, we have raised a record-breaking \$3,800,000 for our Nativity Men during the 2021-2022 school year. These funds will help us continue to provide a transformative, tuition-free Jesuit education that supports our students to develop values rooted in our four pillars: service, scholarship, character, and strength. Additionally, your support aids our graduates as they continue to grow throughout high school, post-secondary education, and beyond. If you would like to make a gift to support our 2022-2023 school year, visit our website at www.nativityworchester.org, or you can mail your contribution to 67 Lincoln St., Worcester, MA 01605. If you have any questions about making a gift, please contact our Advancement Associate, Emily Mercier, at 508-799-0100 x106 or emercier@nativityworchester.org. Thank you for your incredible support!

2022

SUMMER OF SERVICE



This year's Summer of Service, dedicated to author Jason Reynolds, ran from July 5 to July 22, 2022. Our Nativity Men made some remarkable achievements in those three weeks! Our seventh and eighth graders kicked off their Summer Session with a trip to Adventure Bound in Maine, where they engaged in team-building activities including indoor rock climbing, whitewater rafting, and a high ropes course.

Throughout our Summer Session, our students engaged in service learning with various community partners, including ACE, Stand Up For Kids, Dismas House, The Village, and the Women's Initiative. Through the Youth Philanthropy Initiative that our eighth graders take part in every year, our students were able to donate a total of \$5,000 to the latter three organizations.

After three weeks of hard work, we ended our Summer of Service with a fun-filled Field Day at Assumption University, and held an awards ceremony for the Nativity Men who best upheld our four pillars of scholarship, strength, service, and character during the Summer Session. We are so proud of the hard work and progress of our students this summer!





NATIVITY SCHOOL *of* WORCESTER

67 Lincoln Street
Worcester, MA 01605
Tel: (508) 799-0100
Fax: (508) 799-3951
www.nativityworcester.org

Presorted
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WORCESTER MASS
Permit No. 760

FIRST CLASS MAIL



WWW.NATIVITYWORCESTER.ORG
STAY CONNECTED TO NATIVITY WORCESTER!



[nativityschoolofworcester](https://www.facebook.com/nativityschoolofworcester)



[nswpres](https://twitter.com/nswpres)



[nativityworcester](https://www.instagram.com/nativityworcester)



[nativityworcester](https://vimeo.com/nativityworcester)

Nativity School of Worcester is an accredited, independent, Jesuit middle school that provides a quality, all-scholarship education to underserved boys of all faiths. Drawing upon four pillars - strength, scholarship, character, and service - a Nativity education inspires self-discovery, responsibility, spiritual growth, and a lifelong dedication to learning.

Accredited by The New England Association
of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
Member of the NativityMiguel Coalition of Schools (NMC)
Member of the Jesuit Schools Network (JSN)
Member of the Association
of Independent Schools in New England (AISNE)