Message from the Board Chair

Usually it is the President of Saint Martin whose remarks are featured at the beginning of our bi-annual newsletter. During this exciting time of transition, however, I wanted to take the opportunity to both thank and recognize Founding President, Richard Clark and to welcome our new President, Mr. Charles (Chaz) Napoli, whose appointment was announced in late May. Of course, with Rich taking on a new role at Saint Martin and remaining on our Board of Trustees, this isn’t a farewell, but it is important for me to pause and recognize Rich for his steadfast faith, enthusiastic spirit and his “here comes everybody” hospitality without which Saint Martin simply wouldn’t exist. Whether you are reading this as a student, parent, alum, supporter or fan of Saint Martin, I encourage you to find a way to congratulate Rich for laying the foundation for the truly remarkable community that has developed here at Saint Martin.

Looking forward, I am delighted that the Board of Trustees has selected Chaz Napoli as the next President of Saint Martin de Porres High School. A graduate of Saint Ignatius High School here in Cleveland as well as the University of Notre Dame, Chaz understands the transformative impact of a high quality education in a faith-filled community. Throughout his career, Chaz has successfully launched and grown numerous companies and has worked most recently in a leadership role at INSIGHT2PROFIT. We are thrilled to have Chaz leading the way as Saint Martin enters its next chapter. His experience in business and IT will be invaluable as we consider opportunities to grow the Corporate Work Study Program in ways that will serve our students and our partners.

In addition to the core factors that position Chaz to be successful in this role: his faith, successful business experience and commitment to education, I am particularly glad that Chaz appreciates Saint Martin’s President/Principals leadership model. In fact, this is a proven model for success with close to a third of all Cristo Rey schools having a business executive in the President’s role. With so many opportunities for continued growth and improvement, we believe Saint Martin is uniquely well-positioned — with accomplished professionals at the helm — to transform urban Cleveland one student at a time by forming young men and women of faith, purpose and service.

I am grateful to my colleagues on the Board of Trustees and especially to Steve Nock and Maureen Smith who served as Co-Chairs of the Search Committee.

Please keep us in your prayers during this exciting time.

Sincerely,

Dominic Perry
Board Chair
If you ask any Saint Martin employee how they ended up working for the school, each one seems to have an interesting journey that led him or her to the school. Many of us attribute it to the power of the Holy Spirit. Fifteen years ago, a nun I worked with told me about Saint Martin. It was opening soon and she thought I should apply. I reached out to Rich Clark and we met in the Saint Vitus building in room 102, months before students started. The room was bare and Rich’s desk was a folding table. I was witnessing a nearly hundred-year-old building get a facelift. We spent about an hour talking about his vision for the school and the corporate work study program. I was hooked and I knew I wanted to be part of a team that built a new school. A year later, I was contracted to teach 10th grade history.

In early August of 2005, I was setting up my room during the final stages of the third floor renovation. Carpet was being laid down and student desks were delivered just before students arrived for the second year. Returning students shared with me that their first day of 9th grade, they brought the desks up to the second floor. It was a source of pride for them. They thought the new 9th graders should have to do the same thing. The new students lucked out though, however, we did not have air conditioning so we suffered through some hot days together. These moments and many others of the early years of the school brought us together. We became family quickly. We prayed, laughed, cried, and celebrated together. We built a community of care, where we changed lives one student at a time. At our first graduation, one of our students openly wept and proudly declared that he was the only student on his street to graduate high school. He and other students faced many daily obstacles and temptations and persisted to graduate. Now, many of our graduates have entered the professional world and a number of them mentor current students at corporate work study sites. In fact, my former student Ricardo Henry ’09 works for AM Higley and he was the project manager for our new school construction process.

As a founding member of this community, I am proud to see that many seeds we planted years ago now bear fruit well beyond our hopes and expectations. When graduates return to visit, they often marvel at the many things that have improved, including the new building, technology, food, and uniforms.

In 2015 I was welcomed into the Saint Martin community amidst the buzz of a new building project. Admittedly I didn’t know what to think at first. I was more concerned with connecting with students and facilitating Humanities lessons. However, very quickly I came to love and embrace the students, adults, pedagogy, and mission of this community. Gradually learning more about the plans to break ground on a beautiful twenty-first century learning space only cemented my commitment to our school. How could I not get behind the vision of a building in the Saint Clair neighborhood that would be a source of beauty and pride but most importantly a place of rigorous, interdisciplinary, social justice-oriented learning?

Now here we are three years later. The cornerstone has been laid, and this wonderfully daunting challenge is in front of us. Months and years of planning now provide us with the opportunity to fully embrace the engaging education we have always envisioned and to this point have carried out entirely in a building over 100 years old. Now our students are huddled around whiteboards in our learning commons, studying in nooks and booths that resemble those found on a university campus, presenting to classmates in an open gallery space, and pausing to look out over the skyline of a city they love. Many of these moments will contribute to incredible learning, but they will also build community and relationships. This is perhaps what I am most excited for: new shared spaces created for us to be with and for one another, just as we were founded to do.

As you make your way through this newsletter, we hope you’ll understand the enthusiasm we share for Saint Martin. The excitement we feel for the future is balanced with a sense of immense gratitude for those who have worked to build this family over the past fifteen years. And certainly we are proud to show off our new building, but more than that, we take pride in the community that will call it home. Thank you for your interest in and support of our community.

Sincerely,

John Fay & Ryan Hurley
Co-Principals
STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Jen Robinson

“THEY CALL ME MOM”

“There are people in this world who can win you over by just staring into your eyes, force you to open the window of your soul to them. The comforting embrace that Mrs. Robinson has is one of a kind; she has this ability to pry open the window of your soul. To make you feel like she is holding your hand through it all.”

This is the image used by 2015 Saint Martin alum Jose Gomez to describe Saint Martin’s Academic Counselor Jen Robinson. His feelings are echoed by many in our community; everyone’s eyes light up when they are asked about Robinson, who means so much to our community.

When you walk the halls of Saint Martin de Porres, in addition to students working hard in their classes or preparing to leave for their jobs throughout Northeast Ohio, there are many things you can count on seeing each day: Miss Davis greeting everyone at the front desk with a smile, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches being made in Miss Carney’s office, Mr. Prewitt, our Dean of Students assisting students on their walk to class, and Mrs. Robinson giving kind words to a student or teacher.

Mrs. Jen Robinson is the mother of two sons, Cameron and Joseph, who called Saint Martin their home, and she is mom to everyone else in the Saint Martin community. Whether it is a much needed hug, assistance on an assignment, talking to a parent, or checking to ensure that a student is progressing according to a plan he or she devised with Robinson, there is never a free second in a day for “mom.” “My job is to help everyone not need me,” says Robinson. “When you need me and don’t want me, I’m here. And when you want me but don’t need me, it’s time to go.”

Several years ago she began volunteering at Saint Martin, taking on any task assigned to her, and she quickly connected with our students, faculty and staff, making an immediate impact. Last year, when Saint Martin received a grant from the Howley Foundation and the Cristo Rey Network to enhance student retention, the administration brought Robinson on as an Academic Counselor. Robinson creates a culture of support, helps students identify their strengths and shore up areas that need work, and ultimately ensures that they find greater success in the classroom. Her commitment to our students and staff grows with each passing day, always lending a hand wherever needed. “Helping somebody is a calling, it’s probably my favorite part of my job,” she says. Co-Principal Ryan Hurley added, “Mrs. Robinson’s vocabulary doesn’t include the word ‘can’t’. Jen’s willingness to step in where and when needed is a very real help. It speaks volumes that her commitment to volunteering and working at Saint Martin will outlast her children’s time here as students. Her love for this place extends beyond the experiences of her own family.”

Robinson is always willing to volunteer where her talents are needed, and she finds time after school to coach Saint Martin’s drumline. She and her husband were instrumental in beginning the school’s soccer program, using their own resources as well as relationships they had developed as long-time volunteer coaches in the area. Jen indicates that all of these additional responsibilities keep her busy and in constant touch with the people she loves most, the students. “I am very close to the kids. They are fun and funny, and extremely affectionate. That is one of the things I love most about being here, and I say it all the time, you get to love the kids.” Senior Lindsey Estrada agrees, “Mrs. Robinson loves every student at Saint Martin. Whenever someone is upset, she is always there to comfort them.”

Maybe the most important role Robinson plays at Saint Martin is acting as a liaison between students who may be struggling, with their parents and with the rest of the school staff: teachers, clinical counselors and administrators. She provides extra support beyond what the Academic Resource Center can offer by working one-on-one with the students, checking on their grades each week, helping each student get back on track by working with teachers to differentiate and scaffold their assignments. She then sits down with the students.
and their parents to agree on shared expectations, and checks in every step of the way until the students can manage the workload themselves. It’s a role she cherishes, “I am here as a stepping stone to get them ready. I make them realize I was that kid so I get it. I know it feels like it is insurmountable right now, but this is something we are going to get past and move on. I help them realize that they are going to be great, Saint Martin is here to support you and all of these people want what is best for you.”

Her diligence in making sure that each student strives to be the best they can be does not go unnoticed. “You can also see our students’ and our families’ love for her, because every time she walks into a room, she is greeted by several students or parents rushing up to give her a hug and say hello,” says Mary Carney, Director of Student Life. “She is someone our students trust and are willing to share their stories with and she is willing to be present to them in whatever ways they may need.”

“She does so much for everyone, and puts her all into everything, it makes me tired just watching her,” added senior Nikylah Smith. “From a stern talk to candy and a warm hug when needed, she motivates you. I would be lying if I said I didn’t think of her as one of my moms.”

Robinson’s care goes far beyond the classroom as she has known many of our students since they were in first grade. She was an instructional assistant at Hope Academy Northwest, and Family Advocate and Assistant Principal at West Preparatory Academy on Cleveland’s west side. She makes it her life’s mission to see that they are successful far beyond their years as Saint Martin students.

“Without question Mrs. Robinson is one of the most supportive, non-judgemental, eye opening individuals I’ve grown to appreciate in my childhood and throughout high school,” says another 2015 alum, Maia Agnew. It is very simple to see that “mom” embodies what it is to be Saint Martin. Someone who looks out for others before themselves, who treats each person as family, and places a student’s happiness and success above anything else. “Mrs. Robinson is a spark in the Saint Martin community,” says senior Enrique Freeman. “She sparks our minds to keep learning and achieving, and become the best we can be.”

“I am so grateful. I love my job, I am grateful every single day that I get to work at Saint Martin,” Robinson concluded. “I once had a student ask me, how do you know God is there if you can’t see him? I said ‘I’m a mother. You feel it, when you’ve done something that helps someone else, when you’ve done something good and you see how it has positively impacted someone’s life, that’s how you know God is there.’ We feel that here every day so how could you not love this place?”
HEAD OF THE CLASS

The Cleveland Cavaliers honored one of Saint Martin’s beloved teachers, Brittany Kirby, as the January winner of their Head of the Class program. The Cavs contingent, which included Moondog, Q emcee Ahmaad Crump, and a host team staff, surprised Mrs. Kirby while she was teaching her chemistry class. She was brought to tears as she was presented a large ticket congratulating her on this incredible honor. “This is amazing, what an awesome surprise,” Kirby said.

The Cavs presented Mrs. Kirby with 4 tickets to the January 18 game against the Orlando Magic where she was recognized in front of a sell-out crowd on the Q floor during the game. The organization also donated $500 toward enhancing her classroom in any way she wants.

Mrs. Kirby was chosen because of her commitment to her students’ success, her community involvement, and all she does outside of the classroom. Her classes are thought to be some of the most innovative in our region, including projects such as DNA analysis, water sampling, and computer coding. The students have a great deal of fun while learning!
Season of Dreams

It was quite evident early in the basketball season that something special was brewing on the corner of Norwood and St. Clair, and that a season of dreams would become a reality.

The Lady Lions got off to a fast start in December and served notice to other teams that they would be a force in the Lake Effect Conference. The team fought through a few mid-season injuries to place second in the conference during the regular season. After a win over Northeast Ohio College Prep in the semifinals of the LEC tournament pushed the Lady Lions’ record to 8-4, the girls faced top seed Andrews Osborne Academy in the title game. The team came up short to the Phoenix at Ursuline College, and fell to Cleveland Central Catholic the next night in the OHSAA playoffs to conclude a terrific season.

“We came in 2nd place in the conference and now we would like to challenge for 1st place,” said Coach Kim Hansen. “We were able to have success playing teams in our conference and look forward to the challenge of playing more teams outside of our conference. Working with the young women of Saint Martin was my biggest joy. I was sad to say goodbye to the seniors but look forward to having another opportunity with the underclassmen.”

The team’s success was noticed around the league as the Lions were very well represented in the Lake Effect Conference postseason awards. The Lady Lions placed four girls on the all conference first team: Alaysia DuPree ’18, Sydney Calhoun ’19, Jenell Fowlkes ’19 and Kaylah Booker ’18.

On the boys’ side, it only seemed fitting that it would be a season of firsts under first year coach Ryan Schneider. Under the LEC Coach of the Year, the boys won a school record 19 games, including a streak of 10 straight games, played for the conference title, and won in the OHSAA playoffs for the first time in school history. These hardworking young men, like their counterparts on the girls’ team, balance academics, Corporate Work Study jobs, family obligations and sometimes outside jobs with their basketball commitments. The team got off to a 4-1 start, then didn’t lose for almost two months before playing Andrews Osborne for first place in the LEC. In a game that came down to a Jalynn Thomas ’18 tip-in just after the buzzer sounded, the Lions lost by 2 to end their record win streak. The team didn’t lose again and found themselves once again playing the rival Phoenix in their first ever LEC championship game. In an incredibly dramatic back and forth game, the Lions found themselves leading by 6 with under 4:00 left, but Andrews used a 9-0 run to ultimately prevail by 4.

The boys rode their 18-4 record into the state playoffs and dominated Brooklyn High School for their history making win. The season ended in thrilling fashion, losing a high scoring game to #2 seed Beachwood. As the Lions exited the court for the final time, they were treated to a standing ovation by

Continued on page 8
their fans, acknowledging their achievements and the sense of pride they generated for our entire school community.

“It was a special year but it was made even more memorable because of the incredible support from our school and community,” said Coach Schneider. “Thank you, Lion Nation.” Northeast Ohio Sports Insider Tony Bogan may have summed up the Lions’ season best, “Saint Martin de Porres closes out an impressive season at 19-5 and if Friday night’s game is any indicator, the Lions will definitely be one of the teams to look out for in the Cleveland area for years to come.” The boys were also well represented on the Lake Effect Conference all conference teams with Enrique Freeman ’18, Jalynn Thomas ’18, and Robert Gray ’19 named to the first team and Shane Cummings ’19 named to the second team.

Congratulations to all our Lions for giving the school community so many thrills throughout the season!

SPRING SPORTS RECAP

SOFTBALL
Through the rain & snow, the softball team remained persistent this season. Ending the season 2-8, the team played several close games against fellow conference teams. Led by 3 seniors, Taylor Love, Crisdana Randall and Dymon Webb, their spirits remained high and this team grew in talent and teamwork throughout the season. Catcher, Dymon Webb ’18 received first team honors and pitcher, Crisdana Randall ’18 received second team honors in the Lake Effect Conference.

BASEBALL
The spring weather took a toll on the baseball season, allowing only 8 games this season. The team had a mixture of veteran players and new players to the sport, but with an inconsistent playing of games, the team finished with a record of 1-7. They will miss the group of 8 seniors who are graduating this year, but have a strong group of committed sophomores and freshmen that hold future promise. Shortstop, Matthew Holmes ’18 received first team honors and pitcher & catcher, Josh Ruminski ’18 received second team honors in the Lake Effect Conference.

TRACK & FIELD
Times improved throughout the season with a small but mighty men’s & women’s track team. Of special note, sophomore, William Mikel finished 8th in the district in the 800m and sophomore, Michal McFall, just missed regionals, placing 5th in the district in the 100m hurdles.
Marion Motley Award

Robert Garrett ’18 was the first ever Saint Martin de Porres student to be awarded the Marion Motley Scholarship from the Cleveland Browns organization.

Robert was surprised with his selection by the team during what he thought was his final round of interviews at the Browns Training Facility in Berea. “It’s gratifying to see all the work that I have put in at Saint Martin resulted in this amazing opportunity. The College Counseling department and Ms. Logar were instrumental in helping me prepare the scholarship application, and I can’t thank them enough,” said an elated Garrett.

“Robert embodies what it means to be a Saint Martin student, living his life as a student of faith, service, and purpose,” said President Richard Clark. “We couldn’t be more thrilled for Robert and the commitment the Cleveland Browns showed him as he furthers his education beyond Saint Martin.”

In winning the award named in honor of one of the Browns’ all-time greats, the Cleveland Browns Foundation and College Now awarded Robert a four-year, renewable scholarship in the amount of $2,500 per year. At our May 15 Academic Signing Day ceremony, Robert revealed that he plans to attend Georgetown University in the fall.

VALEDICTORIAN & SALUTATORIAN

We are very proud to highlight the valedictorian and salutatorian of our incredible graduating class of 2018.

Jessica Forte - Valedictorian

Jessica Forte carried a stellar 4.18 grade point average through her four years at Saint Martin de Porres, which earned her top honors as valedictorian. Along with her involvement and engagement in the classroom, Jessica is a member of several extracurricular activities. For the past three years, Jessica has spent her Saturdays as a scholar in the Minds Matter program. In addition, Jessica is a member of Jewels and Gents and works with Cleveland’s Inner City Tennis Clinic’s Summer Camps throughout the summer months. For the past two summers, Jessica has participated in the Baldwin Wallace Health Careers and Georgetown University’s Cristo Rey and KIPP Summer Immersion pre-college programs. “Jessica is a poised and reflective scholar. Her quiet leadership and persistence make her a strong role model for her peers,” said college counselor Monica Logar. “When her peers are struggling, Jessica willingly lends a helping hand. She is patient, compassionate, and forgiving.”

Imani Simmons - Salutatorian

Just behind Jessica was Imani Simmons with a 4.17 grade point average in her Saint Martin career, which earned her salutatorian honors. As the president of Jewels and Gents, Imani has worked tirelessly to promote school spirit and improve school climate through volunteer drives, after school activities, and awareness projects such as Red Ribbon Week and Black History Month. She is a member of the volleyball and cheerleading teams and has also played softball for Saint Martin. For the past two summers, Imani has participated in pre-college summer programs at the Baldwin Wallace Honors Program and the Penn State Berks Pre-Med Camp to gain firsthand experience exploring the medical field. These experiences have encouraged Imani to pursue a career in the healthcare field after college. “Imani truly embodies Saint Martin’s school values of Work, Study, Serve, Lead, and Pray through her participation in extracurricular activities, her work in the classroom, and her daily mindset,” Logar added. “She actively works to make Saint Martin a better place.”

Congratulations, Jessica and Imani! Thank you for all that you did here at Saint Martin!
GRADUATION

On Sunday, June 3, 102 members of the Class of 2018, the largest class in Saint Martin’s history, graduated in front of family, friends, and teachers who filled the Slovenian National Home.

People lined St. Clair Avenue as the students honored the annual tradition of processing from Saint Martin to the hall where their accomplishments would be celebrated and diplomas received. The graduating class once again had a 100% college acceptance rate, and received more than $6.3M in scholarship offers toward their higher education. Keynote Speaker, Councilman Basheer Jones, focused on the four E’s for students to remember as they move forward in their lives; Environment, Exposure, Education, and Experience. He also implored them to return to their communities to work for change.

The highest student honors were announced at graduation as well, with Imani Simmons, Breanay Clemons, Matt Holmes, Taylor Love, and Diamond Allen winning the Fr. Welsh Work-Study-Serve-Lead-Pray Award. Enrique Freeman was honored with the Saint Martin Award, given to the senior who best demonstrates the qualities of our patron, St. Martin de Porres. Congratulations to the Class of 2018 and good luck at your college campuses all over the country in the fall.
QUOTES FROM OUR GRADUATES

My favorite memory of Saint Martin is: When I helped Chef Victor with the faculty Christmas party. Although I was only a freshman, he still let me help and that made me feel welcome and trusted. Also writing our vignette book with Mrs. Marcus-Donnelly and reading our stories out loud to our classmates. This really helped us understand each other better.

- Diamond Allen

My favorite memory of Saint Martin is: Junior year, Jewels & Gents put on our annual “Martin Awards” talent show. At the end of the show, our very own Jessica Wimbley sang her heart out and I watched my fellow lions sing along, happily, as one. In that moment I felt that each and every one of those students were my siblings and that Saint Martin will always be my family. The bond that the Class of 2018 has is one that can’t be broken.

- Imani Simmons

The thing I will miss most about Saint Martin is: The care I receive from the staff. My teachers are always there to help me when I need it. They are one of the biggest reasons that Saint Martin has a strong family-like connection. I am forever grateful to have met the Saint Martin staff.

- Jazmin Diaz

The thing I will miss the most about Saint Martin is: The family environment. Everyone at Saint Martin is a family and cares for each other like no other. You really can’t get that anywhere else but at Saint Martin. The teachers are understanding and treat us like we’re their own.

- Shayla Hicks

The thing I will miss most about Saint Martin is: The first day of senior year and the whole class of 2018 screaming and chanting our class year.

- Joi’e White

The thing I will miss most about Saint Martin is: Spirit Week! It’s my favorite time of the year. Everyone gets to get out of uniform and dress in peculiar outfits which at times is very humorous. Some teachers go all the way out! I consider myself very creative and during that week I put all my creative juices to the test as I scramble to make an outfit that matches the theme everyday. I’ve won about 2 times during my Saint Martin Career as I dressed up as pop singer Ariana Grande and my own version of Elsa the snow queen from Frozen!

- Breanay Clemons

My favorite memory of Saint Martin is: My caring teachers and my outstanding friends.

- Martania Teasley

My favorite memory of Saint Martin is: When I accidentally took a cleat to the face in baseball during my freshman year...and I kept playing!

- Matthew Holmes

The thing I will miss most about Saint Martin is: All the friends I made for the past 4 years.

- Joseph Perkovic

My favorite memory of Saint Martin is: When we had karaoke at breakfast and lunch because it felt like such a fun community. Everyone was just being so free and goofy. People were dancing and singing and the room was filled with laughter.

- Alana Polk

My favorite memory of Saint Martin is: It had to be freshman year and I was with some upperclassmen. We went to visit Ms. Logar and I discovered she can rap! It was very surprising and quite funny.

- Duwaun Ewing

The thing I will miss most about Saint Martin is: My favorite time of the year. Everyone gets to get out of uniform and dress in peculiar outfits which at times is very humorous. Some teachers go all the way out! I consider myself very creative and during that week I put all my creative juices to the test as I scramble to make an outfit that matches the theme everyday. I’ve won about 2 times during my Saint Martin Career as I dressed up as pop singer Ariana Grande and my own version of Elsa the snow queen from Frozen!

- Breanay Clemons

My favorite memory at Saint Martin is: The first day of senior year and the whole class of 2018 screaming and chanting our class year.

- Joi’e White
STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

CAPSTONE

Throughout the school year, the Class of 2018 has worked on their Capstone projects. Similar to a college course, students chose a research topic, wrote a paper, and designed a community engagement project. This project culminates with the students presenting their research in front of a panel of faculty, staff, and even Corporate Work Study supervisors like Nathan Lilly of the Karamu House, who took time out of his day to support Erika Ryan.

“True commitment makes success worthwhile,” said senior Taylor Love. “The experience allowed us to be our best selves and let our hard work shine.”

Incredible job by our class of 2018!

Martin Luther King Speech

Saint Martin students inspired by the lessons and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. presented original speeches on his teachings on Saturday, February 24 at the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission Regional Oratorical Contest. Juniors Quinica Garrett, Deontra Hubanks, and Demeshia Darmond won first, second, and third places in the regional competition to advance to the statewide contest in April.

Sara Accettura, English teacher, accompanied the young women to the regional competition. “Not only did our three young ladies write amazing original speeches, but they worked hard, practicing during the school day, after school until late in the evening, in the car and even with all of us squeezed into the tiny bathroom at the competition in preparation. I am so proud of the hard work they put into this competition!”

At the state capitol, Garrett and Darmond took first and second place, respectively, in the Senior Division of the 19th annual Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission State Oratorical Contest at the King Arts Complex in Columbus, OH.

As the winner in her division, Garrett will be performing her speech at an event for the Equal Opportunity Division of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services. Congratulations to all three girls and their commitment to the inspiration of Dr. King’s ongoing legacy!
GONZALEZ-BUTTELWERTH AWARD

In front of family, staff, and their Corporate Work Study supervisors, Russell Krofta ’21, Princesse Thompson ’20, and Niyah Malone ’19 were honored with the annual Gonzalez-Buttelwerth award for 2018. The award represents the 9th, 10th and 11th grade students who best demonstrate the hospitality, commitment to community, quest for justice and racial/ethnic tolerance, care and kindness toward others, and humility modeled by Jose and Lourdes Gonzalez and John and Rhea Buttelwerth.

Jenna Gonzalez was on hand to present the awards to our three winners and was so impressed by how each student represents Saint Martin so well. “I am honored to be here. Each year, coming here to present this award and hearing the description of the qualities we are celebrating reminds me of how lucky I was to have such wonderful parents and in-laws.” Gonzalez’s son Anthony, a former WR for Ohio State and in the NFL, established the award in 2012. This year he wrote individual remarks to each of the students, identifying their particular qualities that remind him of his grandparents, whom the award was created to commemorate.

MINORITY PROFESSIONALS NIGHT

This spring, individuals from all walks of life took over the Richard F. Clark Commons to speak with students, their families and our alumni about careers in a variety of fields during our Minority Professionals Night. From communications to business to education and everything in between, our community was able to make connections and learn about what future careers may hold from others who share similar cultural backgrounds.

Sorority and fraternity members from all over the country were also on hand. They shared what Greek Life is all about, and what makes each of their organizations so unique. Many of our Class of 2018 have a desire to join the Greek Life in the fall.
The completion of the initial phase represents two-thirds of the $30M investment in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood and is reflective of Saint Martin’s commitment to providing a collaborative, project-based, interdisciplinary learning environment. The design of the school moves away from the traditional model of single-purpose spaces and closely resembles the colleges, universities, and professional environments where our students will find themselves after graduating from Saint Martin.

“Every aspect of the building design is focused on supporting each student as an independent learner and providing an exceptional environment for project-based learning,” said Kelly Stinson, StudioTechne architect. “The administration and teachers were amazing partners during the design process, providing feedback on conceptual plans and working with us to ensure the design of the new building met the requirements for instruction unique to Saint Martin de Porres. The completed building is a true realization of this partnership, supporting individual growth and achievement directly affecting the lives of the students.”

Appropriately, the Class of 2018 was the first to walk up the three-story Monumental Staircase, and enjoy their new home on April 9. The Class of 2019 would move into their new space just 48 hours later and begin to utilize project spaces that include DaVinci Studios, a Makerspace, and small group conference rooms, all equipped with interactive whiteboards and touchscreen technology. “The technology in this new school is crazy,” Taylor Love '18 said with a smile. “It has inspired my classmates and me to have even higher expectations for the next stage of our journeys.”

**The Miracle on St. Clair**

It was a vision and mission years in the making, but in April, all the planning, work, and anticipation came to fruition in a memorable month for the Saint Martin community. The new home for Saint Martin, a $21 million state-of-the-art facility and the first school built in our neighborhood in over 100 years was no longer a dream but a magnificent reality. The three-story facility, which offers stunning views of downtown Cleveland and Lake Erie, took 278 tons of steel and 1,971 cubic yards of concrete, with 320 people working on site to complete Phase 1 of the project, and it was well worth the wait!
Phase 1 also features two Learning Commons, which have the flexibility to be divided up into multiple individual classrooms, several larger classrooms, or opened up into one project space that accommodates an entire grade level. This type of space promotes shared learning, which is critical to the development of well-rounded citizens, and the “soft skills” needed for success in any profession. “The school fosters relationships and community,” said Co-Principal Ryan Hurley. “That excites me most as we can be with and learn from one another.”

“I love it! We need more facilities like this to bring our children up so they can go on to college and be a success,” added County Councilwoman Yvonne Conwell.

As the students, staff and faculty were settling into their new digs, the wider community then had an opportunity to celebrate with us. “Building Dedication Week” featured events that would allow others to experience the cornerstone of our neighborhood. On Monday, April 23, Bishop Nelson Perez joined us to celebrate Mass with our community at St. Vitus, and led a procession of our entire student body and staff down Lausche to the new school for a blessing. During the ceremony, Bishop Perez looked out into the Richard F. Clark Commons and simply said, “This beautiful new school is yours!” After the blessing, Bishop Perez received a tour and then joined students and staff for lunch.

On Tuesday, Saint Martin Founding President Rich Clark hosted other Catholic school presidents from all over Northeast Ohio. They were amazed and impressed by what they saw in our new home, noting the collegiate feel the facility presented. On Thursday evening we welcomed donors and stakeholders who helped make the “Miracle on St. Clair” possible. Long-time supporter Nancy Sullivan was overwhelmed by what she saw. “It’s life affirming, just amazing.” On Friday we welcomed our current students and their families to experience the new school first hand, taking tours and enjoying demonstrations put on by our teachers and students.

Saturday, April 28, brought the formal building dedication and a full house to celebrate our ribbon-cutting ceremony. The drum line and step team performed outside as attendees arrived and gave the day a celebratory feel. Board Chair Dominic Perry acted as the master of ceremonies, and the day included speeches from President Clark; 2009 Saint Martin graduate and A|M|Higley Project Engineer on the new school, Ricardo Henry; Mayor Frank
Enrique Freeman over to the Monumental Staircase to cut the ceremonial ribbon and officially open the school to the community. Later that afternoon neighbors and friends of the school joined us to celebrate at our Community Open House. Old friends, neighbors who have observed the daily building progress, and even the entire team of taxi drivers who transport our students to work each day took time to tour our new home.

“This school is amazing’’ said Taylor’s mom, Carla Love. “The things they have done for the children, in particular this school, for the advancement of education is why I see a bright future for these kids.’’ Theology teacher Erin Conway added, “What we do here really does matter and our students are the center of all that. So to give them an opportunity to shine and show off this place is really cool because they deserve this.’’

“I want to thank Saint Martin de Porres for the work you do,’’ said Mayor Jackson. “You provide a genuine opportunity for people who would not have one.’’ Thank you to all who shared in this wonderful journey with us, it is because of you that the Miracle on St. Clair went from a dream to a reality.

When Rich Clark took to the podium to give his remarks, he turned toward the Monumental Staircase, which was filled with current students, alumni and staff and said proudly, “If you would have asked me in 2003 what my vision was for Saint Martin de Porres, I never in my wildest dreams would have imagined it to be like this.” Ricardo, who openly admits he wasn’t the best student when he arrived at Saint Martin in 2005, thanked so many of his former teachers and administration for “understanding me, for making me realize my potential, and for helping me strive to achieve my dreams.” He beamed with pride when asked about his favorite labor of love, “I am so proud to tell people I did this! It is a permanent reminder of my legacy as a Lion.”

Finally, Taylor Love ’18 invited our dignitaries, Board members and Saint Martin Student Council President
Junior Ring Ceremony

There will be many memorable moments for the Class of 2019 over the next year as they near their graduation from Saint Martin. March kicked off with one of those cherished occasions, and a time honored tradition at the school. As we celebrate every year, the entire class took part in the blessing and receiving of their Junior Class Rings as students and their families filled the pews of St. Vitus Church.

Students took part in the ceremony with the choir singing, juniors leading the congregation in prayer, and fellow classmate Robert Gray addressing the importance of this special night to everyone gathered.

After each junior received his or her ring, Co-Principal Ryan Hurley concluded the ceremony, speaking directly to the juniors, and conveying an inspirational message, “Class of 2019, we are all here for you. We will stay with you because we need you. Not only Saint Martin, but our city and community need you!”
Service Immersion

On Easter Monday, twenty Saint Martin students and seven staff members and volunteers traveled to Philadelphia, Bethlehem Farm, and Nazareth Farm (both in West Virginia) to participate in the annual Service Immersion Trips. Each year, Saint Martin students across all four grade levels choose to spend their spring breaks journeying to new places to learn about different cultures and explore what it means to stand in solidarity with people living on the margins.

In Philadelphia, students partnered with the Aquinas Center located in South Philly to learn about the experiences of immigrants and refugees. During one service activity, the group discussed the impact of community murals and helped with the Monarcas Project, an art installation that invites people to make origami butterflies, which have recently become a popular symbol used to advocate for immigrants’ rights.

Students who spent their spring break at Nazareth and Bethlehem Farms experienced the beauty and warmth of the Appalachian culture and landscape. Students learned about environmental issues like mountaintop removal and its effects on local mining communities. Students also lent their energies to various home repair projects. “I really enjoyed our prayer sessions, especially learning the history of West Virginia and how fracking and coal mining have affected the state,” said A’vri Cook, ’18. “It really touched me and made me want to incorporate God back into my life.”

“As we lose ourselves in the service of others, we discover our own lives and our own happiness.”

-DIETER F. UCHTDORF
ACADEMIC SIGNING DAY

In front of a very lively packed house on May 15, 18 members of the Class of 2018 revealed their college choices in front of classmates, teachers, family, staff, and members of the community in Saint Martin de Porres’ 11th annual Academic Signing Day. The event was hosted by local television personalities Tracy Carloss from WEWS and Harry Boomer of WOIO and WUAB. All of the participating students maintained a 3.5 cumulative Grade Point Average or above throughout their four years at Saint Martin.

Students were accompanied by representatives from the colleges as they signed certificates acknowledging where they had chosen to continue their education. Those institutions include Georgetown University, Ursuline College, John Carroll University, Berea College, Howard University, The Ohio State University, and several others.

Saint Martin de Porres, which boasts a 100% acceptance rate into college since it opened its doors in 2004, is proud to announce that these 18 students collectively have earned over $3.8 million in scholarships toward their respective college educations.

**Congratulations to all of our seniors as they embark on the next chapter of their lives!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Major</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Allen</td>
<td>Ohio University</td>
<td>Women’s, Gender &amp; Sexuality Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>LaTonda Bailey</td>
<td>Cleveland State University</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breanay Clemons</td>
<td>Ursuline College</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
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<td>Jazmin Diaz</td>
<td>Case Western University</td>
<td>Pre-Med</td>
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<td>Jessica Forte</td>
<td>Georgetown University</td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
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<td>Robert Garrett</td>
<td>Georgetown University</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<td>Genesis Gonzalez</td>
<td>Spring Hill College</td>
<td>International Studies</td>
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<td>Shayla Hicks</td>
<td>Kent State University</td>
<td>Fashion Design</td>
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<td>Taylor Love</td>
<td>Ohio Northern University</td>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
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<td>Dymond Mack</td>
<td>The Ohio State University</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>Terese McElrath</td>
<td>Berea College</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
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<td>Fannie Mcloyd</td>
<td>Cuyahoga Community College</td>
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<td>Tiara Redmond</td>
<td>Cuyahoga Community College</td>
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<td>Diamond Rutherford</td>
<td>Cleveland State University</td>
<td>Linguistics</td>
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<td>Imani Simmons</td>
<td>Howard University</td>
<td>Pre-Med</td>
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<td>Ivan Tello</td>
<td>John Carroll University</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
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<td>Akrya Tucker</td>
<td>Cleveland State University</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dymon Webb</td>
<td>Cuyahoga Community College</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
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Saint Martin provides an education you won’t find anywhere else:

- Hands-on work experience
- 22 different clubs and activities
- 11 varsity and 2 junior varsity sports
- Safe environment, small classes, transportation

- Campus Ministry; Saint Martin is an independent Catholic School that welcomes students of all religious traditions
- AP classes and college credit
- 100% college acceptance!

Our college preparatory education is affordable! Families have many opportunities to offset tuition costs:

- Cleveland Scholarship & Tutoring Program vouchers
- Ohio EdChoice Scholarships
- Students earn nearly 40% of tuition through our innovative Corporate Work Study Program
- The average cost to families is $400 annually

APPLY NOW at
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or call
216-881-5406
Facing History

How many of us are guilty of having a single story of others? Can we realize that it is happening and take a step back to see the big picture and how it is affecting the world around us? When will we stop making assumptions based upon first impressions? And now the converse, when will others stop thinking they know who we are before they have even heard us speak? When will they stop judging us by one simple characteristic?

For over 40 years, the Facing History organization has been taking on these notions and providing teachers and students with the tools to engage in meaningful dialogue on racism, prejudice, and antisemitism so their classrooms can become an example of civil society. Students get the chance to explore the intricacies of history, our past mistakes and general human behavior. More importantly, the Facing History curriculum teaches students how each person’s choices can make a positive change in the world by displaying more empathy, critical thinking, as well as foster a more inclusive, engaged, and respectful learning community.

The notion that the danger of a single story and the importance of our identities is essential to discuss in the workplace recently spurred the Saint Martin Corporate Work Study staff into collaborating with Facing History and Ourselves to present a workshop on “Facing History in the Workplace.” The goal of the program was to introduce CWSP partner supervisors to the Facing History lessons their students are learning in the classroom and to discuss ways to connect those lessons to the workplace.

During a one-hour workshop, supervisors were introduced to the factors of identity and assumptions people make about each other based on those factors. They were exposed to excerpts from Chimamanda Adichie’s “Danger of a Single Story” where they were encouraged to explore what single stories have been told about them based on their identity as well as single stories they believed about someone else they later found were untrue. They discussed how these single stories function in the workplace and were given suggestions of the things they can do to break through them.

Workshop attendees walked away from the experience feeling the impact of choices they make every day. One participant said, “I think the danger of a single story and the importance of our identities is essential to discuss in the workplace. I am thrilled to see this curriculum included in schools and wish it could be mandatory for all schools.” Another stated, “The conversation and engagement sparked hard conversations but everyone was willing to share. It is good to see groups out there trying to make the world a more tolerant place.”

It seems that encountering the right person with empathy and a thoughtful mind is key to success in the professional world.

Saint Martin de Porres High School | Summer 2018 News
What do an aerospace company, health and human services agency, accounting firm, plumbing distributor, insurance agency, private equity firm, continuing care retirement community, neighborhood development group and an elementary charter school all have in common? Ten years ago, they all took a chance on a unique, cutting edge but fledgling concept known as the Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP) and the Saint Martin de Porres students it supports.

For over a decade, innovative organizations such as Aerocontrolex, Catholic Charities, Ernst & Young, Intergenerational School, Oatey, Oswald Insurance, Riverside Company, Judson Services, and St. Clair Superior Development Corporation have partnered with Saint Martin to make the Corporate Work Study Program possible. These generous companies, along with many others, signed on to support a job team where each student works one day per week, five days per month, in their professional environment. These students become invaluable members of the workplace, completing entry-level administrative tasks such as filing, data entry, assembling information packets, and more.

Some of the student-partner relationships were a perfect fit from day one and seemed almost symbiotic. For example, CWSP partner Ernst & Young was the daily job site for Saint Martin alum Krystal Ivy all four years of high school and, throughout the summers, served as an invaluable paid internship location for her to gain additional experience as well as build her resume. Thankful for her opportunity, Krystal said, “Overall, Ernst & Young helped me become who I am today. The internship helped me mature, learn to network and grow as a person. I now have the ability to adapt to different atmospheres and jobs. I am grateful I was able to work at Ernst & Young for four years.”

Another example, senior Taylor Love spent her time working at the Riverside Company under the supervision of Dinah Yamale. “I am aiding my student by encouraging her creativity and showing her the importance of teamwork. I aid Taylor by allowing her to be independent and giving her the opportunity to decide how certain things should be done. By doing so, I feel Taylor has a chance to play to her strengths, feel included and valued. It makes a world of difference which can be seen through her work,” Yamale said.

Other times, the relationship doesn’t gel right away and has to grow slowly and organically. Perhaps like the one between senior Patricia Gallaway and the Oatey Company. Two years ago, Patricia was assigned to Oatey for her CWSP position. “Without a doubt, I complained more than anybody about this job. I dreaded going to work. It was always something that was making the 15-year-old bratty Patricia come out. I asked for a transfer but was told to brave it out,” Patricia said.

“I’m glad I stayed because I began to see things differently. I began enjoying my time at Oatey and loved the belief they had in me. I sat in on interviews and conference meetings. I created Powerpoint presentations and learned many valuable lessons about communication, building relationships, and the importance of outstanding professionalism in the work environment.” Patricia began working closely with her supervisor, Lauren Budzik, when things started to turn around for her on the job. Lauren gave Patricia responsibility, trusted her with important tasks and simply believed in her. “I have never experienced a strong friendship with any co-worker or supervisor before Lauren. Lauren has treated me like her family and close friend. She has also pushed me when I was struggling in my school work,” Patricia said. Not only has a dramatic impact been made on Patricia but on Lauren as well. “The Saint Martin de Porres Work Study Program has truly had a positive impact on my life. I have enjoyed mentoring Patricia and helping her through her high school experiences and being an additional person for her to lean on when she had to make difficult choices. I am grateful for the relationship I have built with my student through CWSP and it has been a wonderful experience!”

The salaries the students earn through CWSP allow them to contribute towards nearly 40% of the school’s operating budget.

Thank you to our 10-year CWSP partners for years of dedication and support.
HELP SHAPE OUR STUDENTS’ FUTURES

At Saint Martin, we guide each student on a pathway to freedom - economic, social, emotional and spiritual. By participating in both a rigorous academic program and the Corporate Work Study Program our students are exposed to rich learning opportunities, while developing relationships with loving adults who serve as a network of support, motivation and care.

29% of our budget is supported through philanthropic gifts.

OUR IMPACT

• 100% college acceptance since founding
• Over 90% direct enrollment into college
• 25% of Saint Martin students earn a Bachelor’s degree within 6 years (compared to 16% of their socio-economic peers)*
• 843 Alumni; 40 of whom work at Corporate Work Study Partner organizations
• Anchor institution in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood

Because of you, our students are changing the trajectory of their lives. With your continued support our students will thrive and they will transform their communities in the future.

We see new cycles are emerging: Saint Martin Alumni are making a difference by creating the cycle of reinvestment. They are giving back to the community.

Make a gift today! Contact the Office of Advancement at 216-361-0003 or donate online at saintmartincleveland.org/donate.
The 15th annual Saint Martin de Porres Birthday Bash raised over $700,000, the highest total in the school’s history. The event, co-chaired by longtime school supporters, Maureen and Steve Smith, was held at the Cleveland Museum of Art with a capacity crowd in attendance.

Two Saint Martin alumni, Gary Martin ’08 and Ameer Ward ’12, served as Masters of Ceremony and did a wonderful job keeping the crowd entertained. Tiara Gullett ’15 and her KeyBank supervisor Jahnel Bailey shared a touching and heartfelt account of how transformational the Corporate Work Study Program is for our students and for those with whom they work each day.

Performances by Saint Martin’s drumline and cheerleaders as well as pictures with Marty our mascot and opportunities for portraits by a caricature artist kept attendees entertained and engaged. Raffle items included courtside Cleveland Cavaliers tickets and a travel package for four via Sky Quest private jet to Greenbrier Resort, worth over $16,000. The Live Auction saw furious activity to win a week’s vacation to Timber Lodge in Brian Head, Utah and tickets to the Tony Awards with a VIP package to see Hamilton the Musical at Playhouse Square.

The night concluded with the “Call to the Heart” paddle raise in support of our Corporate Work Study Program and the reveal of the record-setting final total of dollars raised. However, the quality time our guests spent enjoying each other’s company and learning more about the mission of Saint Martin remained the high point of the event. We are grateful for the evening’s sponsors and attendees, without whom this incredible fundraiser in support of our mission would not be possible.
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to our newest college graduates!

LEA MARIE SIMMONS '10
Liberty University

TE'NAZIA CALLAHAN '12

BRANDY BLEVINS '13
Cleveland State University

LADONNA RUFFIN '12
Baldwin Wallace University

DAMIAN COWAN '13
Kent State University

AMEER WARD '12
Walsh University

CASSANDRA EVANS '13
Cleveland State University

RA'JANAE WILLIAMS '12
Kent State University

CHARLES MOORE '13
University of Akron
ANASTASIA SAKAIROUN '14
Bowling Green State University

DELESA HENDERSON '14
Hiram College

ANASTASIA SAKAIROUN '14
Bowling Green State University

TATIANNA SMITH '14
Ohio Dominican University

SUMMER SOLTIS '14
Spring Hill College

MARIAH THOMPSON '14
Ohio University

CHRISTINA VANDERWYST '13
Cleveland State University

ZADARIUS VARNER '14
University of Akron

LAQUELL CAMPBELL '14
John Carroll University

ALEXIS-DEONNA JOHNSON '15
Cuyahoga Community College

SHARONDA SMITH '15
Cuyahoga Community College

TAKARA RIVERS '13
Cleveland State University

DELESA HENDERSON '14
Hiram College

MORGAN SLOANE '14
John Carroll University

ANALISA ILISINOVIC '14
Loyola University of Maryland

TATIANNA SMITH '14
Ohio Dominican University

KIA GRAYSON '14
Baldwin Wallace University

TATIANNA SMITH '14
Ohio Dominican University

JESSICA HECTOR '14
Cuyahoga Community College

SHARONDA SMITH '15
Cuyahoga Community College

JESSICA HECTOR '14
Cuyahoga Community College
ALUMNI EVENT

“New” Homecoming

During the construction process there was plenty of excitement throughout the entire school community as the new building took shape. From the beginning, President Rich Clark was very clear that he wanted the first event held in our new home to be for Saint Martin alumni. On January 5 that promise came true as we hosted several hundred former students at our new address.

Alumni were all smiles as they had the opportunity to catch up with their classmates and current and former staff while being awestruck by what they saw during a tour of their new home away from home. 2012 graduate Alexis Johnson, who serves as the Alumni Coordinator for Cristo Rey Atlanta, said “This is amazing. I love the old school but I wish this was here when we were all students. It truly warms my heart for current and future students.”

Former teacher Brian Schaffran couldn’t believe how much his former students have accomplished after leaving Saint Martin. He talked to alums who are now nurses, bankers, graduate students, world travelers, and more. These are the same kids who inspired him to pursue his new venture of opening Skidmark Garage. “You never know who will be the inspiration in your life to be better.”

Thank you to all of our alumni who believed in the mission of Saint Martin and helped make this St. Clair-Superior gem a reality!
Upcoming Events

JULY 25
CWSP Supervisor Professional Development

AUGUST 6
New Student Testing

AUGUST 7-10
New Student Welcome Week

AUGUST 14
First Day of School

AUGUST 17
Mass of the Holy Spirit, 8am

SEPTEMBER 12
Blood Drive

SEPTEMBER 20
Senior College Counseling Parent Night

OCTOBER 25
Fall Drama Production

NOVEMBER 4
Open House

NOVEMBER 8
Revival

DECEMBER 6
Wellness Fair

DECEMBER 13
Christmas Family Night

Saint Martin proudly partners with the Cleveland Food Bank to distribute fresh produce to our neighbors on the third Saturday of each month.

We invite you to spend a Saturday morning with us!

For more information about these events, call 216-881-1689

Follow us online at SaintMartinCleveland.org