

THE FRANCES XAVIER WARDE SCHOOL

SUMMER 2017

CHARISM

THE FXW STORY

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

A Community that is purposefully diverse and intentionally inclusive

FAITH

A Community of faith that welcomes and embraces all faith traditions

ACADEMICS

A Community that is preparing thinkers and leaders in an academically enriched environment

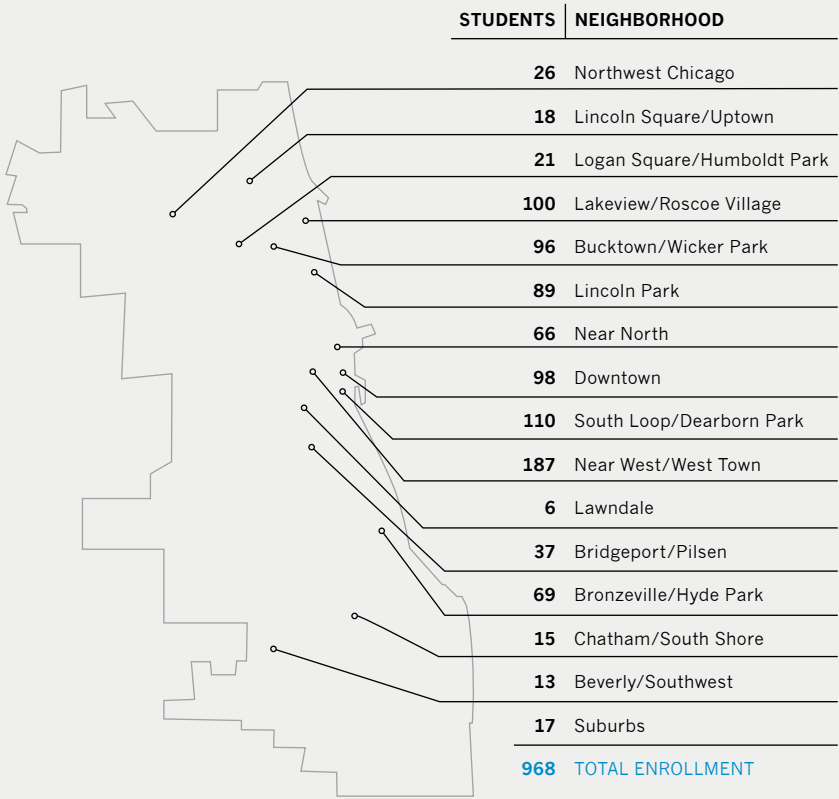
SERVICE

A Community that is motivated by faith to serve others

The Frances Xavier Warde School is an independent, Catholic elementary school in downtown Chicago that provides an academically excellent, values-oriented education to students of all ethnic, religious, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds in a child-centered urban environment.

At FXW, we are guided by our four Charisms. We partner with our families to nurture faith development for our Catholic students and engage all of our students to learn about and respect other faith traditions. FXW focuses on educating the whole child, including social-emotional development, a comprehensive arts program, and a rigorous curriculum aimed at developing critical thinkers who are prepared to live as global citizens in the world. As a keystone of our diverse community, we provide need-based scholarships to children throughout the Chicago area.

AREAS WHERE OUR STUDENTS LIVE



Board of Trustees

The Frances Xavier Warde School is governed by our Board of Trustees. As an independent school, we maintain our Catholic identity with oversight from The Association of Christian Faithful to ensure our commitment to spirituality.

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Charism Defined:

Any good gift that flows from God's love to humans.

The FXW Charisms

Our Charisms serve as a roadmap for shaping and teaching our children. We create an individualized educational experience that recognizes each child as unique. Our Charisms are the gifts that FXW gives to its families and to its students.

Diversity and Inclusion

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Faith

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Academics

A Community that is preparing thinkers and leaders in an academically enriched environment

Service

A Community that is motivated by faith to serve others

Letter from the Head of School

We are delighted to share with you our first issue of *Charism*, our new magazine for the FXW community. Inside these pages we hope you find stories that are informative and affirming of what makes FXW a welcoming, distinctive, and inspiring educational experience.

Charism is different from our typical monthly letter or calendar updates. It's a chance to reflect on our values and mission, while also highlighting the many accomplishments of our students, faculty and families. As we know, the success of FXW is the product of all of us working together. The news articles and pictures that follow bring to life the story of FXW.

We named our magazine *Charism* because it speaks to FXW's identity in a profound and specific way. In our first issue we are highlighting our four Charisms – our mission – which serve as a framework and guiding light for the work we do every day. You can read about them on pages 10-17.

Charism also embodies FXW's founding mission, which began as a conversation

between Father Jack Wall and the late Maggie Daley, who saw the need for a new model of faith-based education that would reflect Chicago's diversity and reach across its social economic lines. With the faith, commitment and hard work of our founders, and working with our two partner parishes – Old St. Pat's and Holy Name Cathedral – FXW has succeeded as an independent Catholic school throughout the past 27 years.

I hope you glean from reading our inaugural issue of *Charism* that FXW's future is bright. With past as prologue, we know where we are going, and we are grateful you are part of our journey.

Sincerely,



Michael Kennedy
Head of School





MAGGIE DALEY

Maggie Daley Opens a School that Welcomes Everyone

How the Quest for Diversity Shaped FXW

Maggie Daley envisioned a school that embraced diversity. Then, she made it happen with the founding of FXW in 1989.

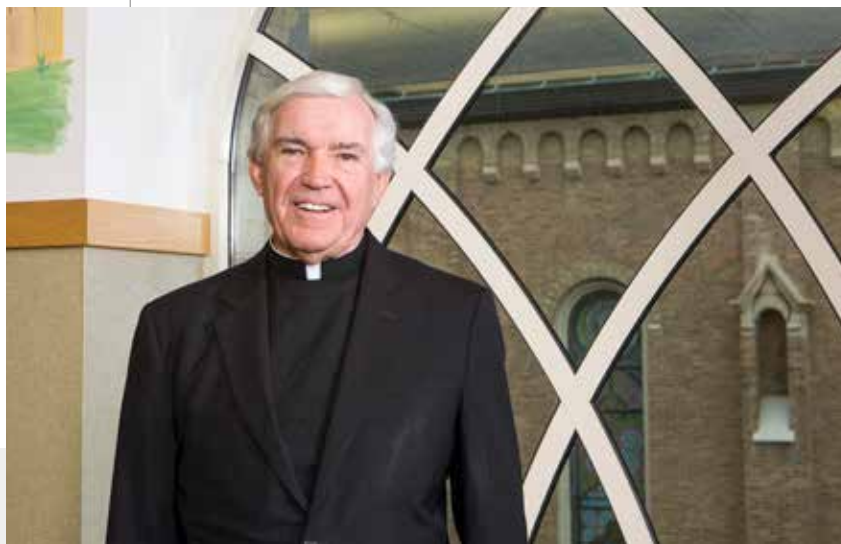
“Maggie wanted to create a school of excellence that would also be faith-based. But most important, it would reflect Chicago’s diversity,” recalls Father Jack Wall, then pastor of Old St. Pat’s Church on Chicago’s near west side “We started a conversation about an urban-based, mission driven school that could bring together families from across the city and from across the economic spectrum. While Catholic, it would also promote ecumenical values by including a plurality of faith traditions,” he adds. “In other words, it would be a school that would welcome everyone.”

FXW was founded from those conversations. The goal was to tackle one of Chicago’s thorniest and most pressing issues: the need for diversity in education. Mrs. Daley provided the fundraising acumen, Father Wall provided the spiritual foundation and the third leg came from Mary Ellen Caron, the School’s first principal, who

provided the educational vision. “We asked the Archdiocese to direct us to the best educator in Chicago and Mary Ellen Caron had everything we were looking for in education leadership. So she became our first head of school and was crucial to our immediate success,” Father Wall explains.

As Mrs. Daley was launching FXW, she was also working in her new job as Chicago’s First Lady; both were tied to her passion for children and her desire to attract people to the city. She saw the new school as an opportunity to teach diversity to Chicago’s youngest residents—its children.

“My mother understood that by bringing together a group of children from all different backgrounds and teaching them the same things, their educational experience would be positively influenced by learning about each other’s differences,” says Lally Daley Hotchkiss, Mrs. Daley’s youngest child and a member of FXW’s first graduating class. “From the beginning this was a unique mission. My mother had the foresight and she also had the drive to get the school built.”



FATHER JACK WALL

Starting with the first class, the Founders—Mrs. Daley, Father Wall and Ms. Caron—honed in on creating a classroom of intentional diversity, where all the children would feel that they belonged. Students would come from an assortment of neighborhoods, practice different religions, and represent a variety of ethnicities, non-traditional family structures and socioeconomic levels.

“We wanted significant diversity at our school—not just 10 or 15 percent—but we decided to aim for diversity of 30 percent because that way everyone would feel included,” says Father Wall. “The founding class had 30 kids and was located in a storefront at Presidential Towers. And on that first day in 1989, it was magic. Our 30 three-year-olds were a human rainbow and it was a profound experience.”

Despite the newness of the School, Mrs. Daley inspired confidence in FXW, for prospective families, because, after all, her own daughter was part of this experiment.

“Knowing that Maggie’s daughter was at FXW, a cross-section of Chicago’s

“My mother understood that by bringing together a group of children from all different backgrounds and teaching them the same things, their educational experience would be positively influenced by learning about each other’s differences.”

LALLY DALEY HOTCHKISS '98

neighborhoods, helped attract me to the School,” says CATC and FXW Board member and alumni parent Debbie Marchese, who was also a long-time friend of Mrs. Daley’s. “I moved my daughter to FXW and it was the best decision I made. I cared about diversity and we sought out other families who believed that diversity was as important as the education they would be receiving.”

For Lally Daley Hotchkiss, FXW has had a lasting impact on her life choices. In high school, she gave up her sports so she would have more time for volunteer work. Diversity, meanwhile, continued to play an important role in her view of the world.

“The first thing to remember about FXW is that we were diverse in every way, not just by skin color. We learned to discuss our differences, to recognize them and respect them, rather than pretend they didn’t exist,” she says. “Disappointingly, after FXW, my classrooms were mostly filled with people who looked like me and who had similar backgrounds to mine. That was so discouraging because I knew I wouldn’t get as much out of that educational experience as I had hoped.”

Mrs. Daley died in 2011 after a nine-year battle with breast cancer. She lived long enough to see the School flourish. What would she say about FXW today?

“She would be so incredibly proud; she would credit the faculty and the students who continue to make the School successful,” says Lally. “And she would be so happy that FXW’s driving message of diversity—that kids from all over and from every background can come and learn together—is thriving.”

Mrs. Daley’s dream for FXW is a reality today. With representation from 14 different faith traditions, 10 cultural and ethnic groups and 60 zip codes, diversity is flourishing at The Frances Xavier Warde School. ■

CHILDREN AT THE CROSSROADS FOUNDATION CHANGING LIVES



MARY ELLEN CARON

Maggie Daley, Father Jack Wall and Mary Ellen Caron started a school based on diversity, including attracting children from all different income levels. But one piece was missing. In order for FXW to succeed as a socioeconomically diverse school, it would need funds for scholarships. That was the genesis of Children at the Crossroads (CATC) a separate 501(c)(3) organization.

“CATC provided a way to raise money for scholarships. It opened up our funding sources so families could achieve their educational dreams for their children,” says CATC and FXW Board member Debbie Marchese. “Our CATC scholars have gone on to attend fabulous schools and have done wonderful things.”

Jessica Smart, a member of FXW’s first graduating class and currently a Chicago Police Officer, recently encouraged the School’s supporters to think of their donations as “an investment that will flourish in the young minds who are fortunate to attend FXW.”

Twenty-eight years later, as part of its ongoing mission to provide financial support to 30 percent of its population, CATC has awarded FXW over \$13 million to 580 scholars, with an average annual gift of \$8,300. Together, CATC and FXW are changing lives. ■

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CATC VISIT
www.catc.org/our-foundation/mission-statement/

Did You Know?

How FXW got its name? It was 1843 and Mother Mary Frances Xavier Warde, a Mercy Nun, sailed to the United States from Ireland with a plan to educate girls. Each time she opened a tuition-based school, she opened one nearby for poor girls that was free, but funded by the former, creating a model for socio-economic diversity in education.

Originally called Old St. Pat's School, The Frances Xavier Warde School was adopted as our name in 1994. The change coincided with the opening of the second FXW campus at Holy Name Cathedral. Our name also honors Mother Warde's work in Chicago—she opened the city's first Catholic girls' school in 1846 and laid the groundwork for Chicago's first hospital, which became Mercy Hospital in 1853 and continues to operate today. ■



> 80

The number of hospitals, convents, schools, and orphanages Mother Frances Xavier Warde established in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire.



New Program Aligns Social Emotional Development and Technology

FXW is partnering with its community of parents and students to conquer the complex and rapidly changing world of digital media. The **SET—Social Emotional Development and Technology—Program** was created by Dr. Emily Arnstein and Sarah Vaughn who are helping our parents and students navigate this new territory.

"We started this program because we saw the natural overlap between technology and the impact of digital devices on behaviors," says Sarah Vaughn, Academic Technology Coordinator.

SET expanded in 2016-2017 with the introduction of parent coffee talks, guest speakers, and a faculty and staff book club that discusses current literature on the topic. "We are teaching students, faculty and staff how to handle technology responsibly," adds Dr. Arnstein, former HNC psychologist. "We are especially focused on the development of interpersonal skills and the relationship between social media and empathy—these are important issues today. We encourage students to remember that when they say something on social media they need to think about what it would be like to say that same thing face to face."

THE SET TEAM IS HELPING OUR FAMILIES NAVIGATE THE WORLD OF DIGITAL MEDIA AND THEY OFFER THESE TIPS TO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN:

1. Never let children keep their digital devices in their bedrooms, especially at night.
2. Keep an ongoing conversation about technology and social media; it's always changing and there will always be something new to discuss.
3. Children model their parents' behavior. Parents should disconnect, especially during family time.
4. Our brains and bodies are constantly being reshaped by digital devices. Think about how you and your family are being affected.
5. You know your child best; you will know when they are responsible and ready to receive a phone or tablet. ■

What is ISACS and Why Does it Matter?

A milestone was reached in 2015 when—for the first time—FXW received full accreditation from the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), making it one of only two Catholic grammar schools in Chicago to be ISACS accredited.

As one of the most demanding and rigorous accrediting agencies in the United States, the ISACS designation underscores the excellence and rigor of FXW's academics.

"ISACS gives us the credibility that we are competitive with Chicago's best private grammar schools," says Erin Horne, Director of Education and Principal, Preschool-Kindergarten. "Our families can be assured that because accreditation is an ongoing process with continuous feedback, we are always improving, enhancing, and being very thoughtful about our curriculum, the way we teach, and the way we interact with our students."

FXW faculty members are now taking advantage of ISACS professional development sessions, conferences, and other learning opportunities. ISACS has also provided several important assessments and recommendations, including implementation of a policy to reduce homework.

"Homework does not equal rigor," says Principal Horne. "Our families love this change because they want more family time in the evening – not more school."

Every seven years FXW will repeat this demanding accreditation process, with a goal of implementing best practices and always striving for excellence. ■



> 230

ISACS members & independent schools throughout the Central States

FXW FACTS

Enrollment by the Numbers

540

Preschool through
Third Grade Students
at Old St. Patrick's
Campus

428

Fourth through Eighth
Grade Students at
Holy Name Cathedral
Campus

Applause, Applause A collection of FXW Accolades.



- FXW awarded \$1.4 million in tuition assistance for the 2016-2017 academic year, including nearly \$900,000 from Children at the Crossroads Foundation.

- Acclaimed speaker series in 2016-2017 included Dr. Derrick Gay, an international expert on diversity, inclusion and global citizenship and Dr. Deborah Heitner PhD, founder of Raising Digital Natives and author of *Screenwise: Helping Kids Thrive (and Survive) in Their Digital World*.
- A 3-year, \$50,000 grant from Richard and Ann Carr provided academic and development support services for FXW students.
- 85% of FXW's faculty have or are working towards advanced degrees.
- Gala 2017: *A Night at the Forum* raised over \$600,000 for FXW.



LEFT TO RIGHT:
SHAUNA KELLY AUCTION CO-CHAIR
BETH MEYERS GALA CO-CHAIR
NADIA JELINEK GALA CO-CHAIR
MAURA O'MEARA AUCTION CO-CHAIR



Preparing Global Citizens through Art, Music and Theatre

Walk into FXW and you will see eighth graders drawing political cartoons, while fourth and fifth graders bring musical theater to life. Preschool through first grade students are learning how to keep a beat, while second and third graders are participating in choir. Sixth graders are preparing a musical celebration for Black History Month, as seventh graders engage in printmaking.

In every grade at FXW, the arts play an integral role in educating the whole child, adding depth to their academic studies while enriching their knowledge of history and cultures of the world. "Each project starts with studying a culture, its history, its artists, exploring what was happening in their society to influence their art, and the impact of their art on the world," says Julie Peterson who heads the art program for fourth through eighth grades. "For instance, when students study the Renaissance in social studies, in art they learn about Filippo Brunelleschi's rediscovery of linear perspective and how that changed the visual world."

In the earliest grades, music reflects FXW's Charism of diversity and inclusion. "We teach our children to be global citizens by learning how to listen to music, how to understand how music tells a story, and how to be respectful of different musical genres or music from different cultures," says Anslee Burns, Kindergarten-third grade music teacher. "Students learn how to form an opinion and how to be respectful when they agree or disagree with others."



JULIE PETERSON
HNC ART TEACHER

Art showcases and musical performances are part of every grade at FXW, giving each child the opportunity to learn new skills, and also become comfortable with public speaking and performance.

"Parents may be surprised to learn that music majors are the most likely group of college grads to be admitted to medical school," says HNC music teacher Diana Gokce. "Our arts program emphasizes teaching these soft skills because it's what students will need to thrive and for future success." ■

75%

of second and third grade students sing in FXW's extra-curricular choirs.







Charisms

The history of FXW's Charisms traces back to the School's founding in 1989 with a vision to develop a rigorous academic Catholic school that would embrace all religions and build on the multi-layered diversity of Chicago—ethnic, racial, religious, and socioeconomic. As FXW has evolved, those ideals have become solidified into our Charisms.

Diversity and Inclusion

A Community that is purposefully diverse and intentionally inclusive

Faith

A Community of faith that welcomes and embraces all faith traditions

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Service

A Community that is motivated by faith to serve others



SPOTLIGHT: CELEBRATING THE TAPESTRY OF OUR FXW FAMILIES

Charism Magazine (CM) talks with Kendall Mallette (KM) about her newly created position as FXW's Director of Mission Integration

CM: AT FXW, our mission is our priority. Your new position reflects the importance we put on it. What do you hope to accomplish as Director of Mission Integration?

KM: I was already working at FXW in the Admissions Office and with the High School Counseling Guidance Team when we started talking about the uniqueness of our mission and the need to enhance it. Our objective is to ensure that our mission—expressed through our four Charisms—is fully integrated into everything we do. My job is to make sure that the implementation of the Charisms will be purposeful, current, and forward looking. We also want to make sure we never get complacent about our Charisms. It's easy to take them for granted. If they are going to develop as FXW grows, we have to be deliberate and intentional as we incorporate them into our daily school lives.

CM: How are you approaching your new position?

KM: I'm using the Charisms to guide my work each year. Last year, it was *A Community that is purposefully diverse and intentionally inclusive*; this year, it's *A Community motivated by faith to serve others*.

CM: How do you think our Charisms distinguish FXW from other private, independent schools in Chicago?

FXW HAS LIVED DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SINCE ITS FOUNDING

27

YEARS AGO AND THAT PUTS FXW INTO A CLASS OF ITS OWN.

KM: Our Charisms do distinguish us and a good place to start that discussion is with the Charism we are focused on this year. FXW has lived diversity and inclusion since its founding 27 years ago and that puts FXW into a class of its own. We are a phenomenal community and I can say that because I have been here for 16 years as a parent. Diversity is important to me because I had a fully integrated educational experience growing up in New York; I knew I wanted that for my children. I wanted them to see different kids, hear different

languages, and participate in different customs and family traditions. I loved it and I wanted my kids to love it. We came to FXW because that's where I knew my children could have an experience similar to my own.

CM: What have been some of your most important discoveries this year as you have focused on a community of diversity and inclusion?

KM: We have always worked very hard at diversity to ensure that each incoming class has religious diversity, racial and ethnic diversity, and socioeconomic and geographic diversity. One of our greatest challenges is that our faculty and administration do not mirror our families and student body. That's where I am initially focused because at FXW we approach hiring with intentionality and commitment to inclusion. We are great; we can also do better.

CM: How do we maintain our diversity?

KM: FXW is lucky. We don't have to contrive diversity. It's an outgrowth of our reputation. We are diverse at every level, and our families receiving assistance are just as diverse as the School—all different races and ethnicities, religions and backgrounds. It's outstanding and commendable that FXW is able to secure the socioeconomic anonymity of our families. But it's also part of the tapestry of our FXW families. We don't operate with stereotypes here.

CM: Our Charisms are important and unique, but how do we know whether they help to prepare our students for the next steps in their educations?

KM: For that answer, we can look to our graduates. High school teachers and administrators always tell us that they know FXW graduates when they come through their doors, because they have hearts for service, they are critical thinkers and are prepared to be leaders. They practice inclusivity and they model their faiths. Our graduates continue to live the FXW Charisms even after leaving our halls. That's our success, and my job is to ensure that our Charisms continue as a foundation of the FXW educational experience. ■





BRIGID CASHMAN
RELIGION TEACHER AND HIGH SCHOOL
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

BREAKING NEW GROUND IN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH

As an independent Catholic school, FXW is always paving its own path in the teaching of religion. Our Charism of *A Community of Faith* follows a dual track religion program—Moonbeams for Catholic families and Shooting Stars for interfaith families.

BRIGID CASHMAN, Religion Teacher and High School Guidance Counselor:

When FXW opened 27 years ago, there was no existing religion curriculum that would suit our needs. So we created our own, and we continue to do so. We are constantly updating our curriculum to make sure we are always being inclusive and sensitive to all of our families. We teach a comprehensive religious education to all of our students. Our interfaith students study world religion, while our Catholic students study Catholic doctrine.

CLARE HURRELBRINK, OSP Religious Education Coordinator: In second grade the Moonbeams begin to prepare for First Communion, which creates a lot of activity and can leave the Shooting Stars feeling

left out. So our interfaith second graders create and host a community wide Seder for Passover. We stress the importance of embracing other people and to remember that no matter your faith tradition, you are all a blessing.

EBONI DIXON, First Grade Teacher: The younger children certainly feel that love and that is one reason they get excited about religion—it's very personal for them—and they especially like to share their family traditions. In the early grades, we explore things in our faiths that are similar and things that are different. Our School is a safe space where any question can be asked. What we are really teaching is diversity and inclusion. For our students, this is a way of life.

DENNIS BENTLEY, Seventh and Eighth Grade Social Studies and Religion Teacher:

By the time they get to the upper grades, our students know they can ask questions and express their opinions—that's our curriculum. When I teach Catholic doctrine, my students can openly and confidently disagree. That is way different from my Catholic education! When I teach my interfaith students, I learn from them as they share their traditions. And that's wonderful. ■



BRAD MALLERS
SIXTH GRADE MATH TEACHER

Using Research to Design Curriculum

21ST CENTURY SKILLS + ACADEMIC RIGOR LEADERS AND THINKERS

Mind UP! Social-emotional learning. Five competences. SET. Whole Child Education. Collaboration. Public Speaking. Critical Thinking. Time Management. Ambiguity. Self-advocacy. These are some of the terms you will hear at FXW as faculty members build curricula to prepare students for future learning and success.

“Of course we are always updating our academic curriculum using the latest research,” says Jackie Miller, who was named FXW’s Director of Curriculum and Instruction in 2016. “Research also shows, however, that students need these skills – sometimes called 21st century skills or soft skills – to succeed. For instance, instead of just memorizing math formulas, we help facilitate mathematical discourse and how

to persevere in problem solving. By doing so, we are teaching the critical thinking skills that will help our students solve other problems and challenges they are likely to encounter in life.”

Walk through the halls of FXW and it is immediately evident that students are learning how to balance their academic studies while they are building strengths

in 21st century skills. You are likely to see students collaborating in groups across grade levels and subject areas as they rely on both sets of skills to learn and grow. Whether they are problem-solving as part of the design process in science class, writing and recording podcasts together, presenting research on a shared topic, or planning out their calendars for book clubs, they are engaged and learning through experiences that will be invaluable as they move through high school and college and into their careers.

With a curriculum that is based on the latest research in academics, formal instruction and technical knowledge, as well as an emphasis on the skills, abilities and traits that pertain to personality, attitude and behavior, FXW is educating the whole child. The result is that FXW graduates are clearly being prepared to succeed in a rapidly changing world. ■



SERVICE

GROWING WITH SERVICE

How FXW prepares its students to understand the Charism
of *A Community Motivated by Faith to Serve Others*.

HENRY DANE
RACHEL
HANNAH EMMA

Let's say you're in eighth grade and you have to pick something to do with friends after school. Will you:

- A. Go Shopping.
- B. Homework, homework, homework.
- C. Tennis, anyone?
- D. Service.

Well, if you are an eighth grader at FXW, it's all about service.

RACHEL: Service is about touching the lives of others. That's a great thing.

HENRY: At the beginning of the year, I was really interested in getting the award for most service hours. But my motivation has changed. Now I want to help people more than win an award.

FXW students are engaged in many different service projects, including serving meals at food shelters, supporting the elderly or volunteering at animal shelters. One that Emma enjoyed was a special project over winter break.

EMMA: At Vincent DePaul Center, there were thousands of toys for Christmas and families could work with a personal shopper to help find the right gifts for their children. You could see this experience gave them a sense of relief in hard times. I was a gift wrapper so I was lucky to interact with our shoppers and see their joy. It was something I did with my family.

Many students make their service requirements – 20 hours for eighth graders – a family affair.

DANE: I learned that my grandmother had been volunteering at Catholic Charities every Thursday for many years. Now it's

“Well, sometimes I have a basketball game. But then when other things come up I just say, ‘It’s Thursday, I am going to service.’ Period. It’s prioritizing.”

DANE

something we do together. I am not doing it just for FXW service hours — I am doing it for myself — and for the people I am helping.

HENRY: I actually used to go with my older brother when he did service in eighth grade, so I had a lot of experience with it. It was when I was in fourth grade doing service that I finally realized the world doesn't revolve around me.

For busy eighth graders, working in service hours along with academics, sports, music lessons and other extra-curricular activities can be a burden. That is, unless you think of it as a way of life.

DANE: Well, sometimes I have a basketball game. But then when other things come up I just say, ‘It’s Thursday, I am going to service.’ Period. It’s prioritizing.

HANNAH: When you are doing service, you quickly learn you are making a difference in someone’s life; you are contributing in a positive way. I learned that when I do service multiple times, the cumulative effect is impactful.

RACHEL: Service is like Legos — you do it in small bits and pieces — and it keeps building on itself. It makes a difference.

Shortly, these eighth graders will head off to high school. What happens to their commitment to service when it's no longer a school requirement?

EMMA: FXW provides service opportunities for us; now that we have graduated, we will have to seek it out on our own, which is harder. But I know I will do it. When I first learned about service I thought it was a chore. But now service is enjoyable for me.

HANNAH: As I go to high school, I will keep with me the memories of what service felt like. These are memories of helping others, but also memories of how it made me feel, how it impacted me and how service shaped me into the person I am now. ■

A SELECTION OF OUR SERVICE PARTNERS



Alumni Notes

Catherine Healy '99, is an Episcopal priest, currently serving at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Wellesley, MA.

Michael Gillott '00, was married in 2016 and is living in Des Moines, IA.

Kate Besser '01, graduated from University of Chicago Booth School of Business with the Dean's Award of Distinction.

Jemia Cunningham-Elder '01, launched her own business: Fit Your Life into Your Life and will launch a book this fall.

Ari Fulton '01, is working as a freelance designer in theater and film.



Kyle Gordon '01, is pursuing an MBA at University Chicago Booth School of Business and married Lauren Chappell in Stowe, VT on December 3, 2016.

Trevor Lyons '01, is finishing his PhD in Political Science; he is married and lives in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

EMMA FLEMING '08 (FAR RIGHT)
WITH FELLOW LAY VOLUNTEERS



CATHERINE HEALY '99

The following alumni have returned to FXW to serve as basketball coaches:

PJ Jones '03, Cameron Ballard '04, Juan Fiscal '08, Keith Berry '08

Giovanna Marchese '03, clerked for the head judge for the Southern Federal District of Manhattan and graduated in May from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University in New York City.



Raena Rhone '07, just completed her first year of a four-year pharmacy program at the University of North Carolina (ranked No. 1 in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*) and was featured in a news article in *DNAinfo* about how she envisions track as a savior to countless Chicago kids.

Zoe Antoniou '08, just finished her first year of medical school at the University of West Virginia in Morgantown.

Emma Fleming '08, is serving as a lay volunteer with the House of Brigid at Harold's Cross Parish in Dublin, Ireland.



Austin Siegel '08, returned to FXW to student teach in the preschool rooms at the Old St. Pat's Campus during his last semester at Harold Washington College where he majored in Early Childhood Education.

Nico Antoniou '10, continues with the Marquette University Jiu-Jitsu club that he founded two years ago. The club continues to grow in popularity.

Class of 2012 playing sports in college for 2016-2017 academic year:



- **Quinn Andrews**, baseball, Centre College, Danville, KY
- **Justin Jackson**, baseball, Creighton University, Omaha, NE
- **Ethan Jones**, baseball, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI
- **Javin Jones**, football, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL
- **Luke Mallette**, lacrosse, Amherst College, Amherst, MA
- **Gregory Franklin**, football, Amherst College, Amherst, MA

Gregory Franklin '12 and Luke Mallette '12, have the unique distinction of being classmates for their entire academic careers. First FXW, then Whitney Young High School and now Amherst College.

LUKE PATRICK '14



Michele George-Griffin '12, released her first album, "One More" by Michele GG, in June 2016.

Cyane Thomas '12, is a Renaissance Scholar at Marlboro College.

Nicole Ludford '13, was part of the 1st place DePaul College Prep Speech Team at the Chicago Catholic Forensics League Qualifier.

David Terrell '13, signed a letter of intent to play football at Howard University on a full scholarship.

Lucas Williamson '13, was the Prep Hoops Illinois Player of the Week (12/12-12/18). His team, the Whitney Young Dolphins, went on to win the State Championship in March. He will play basketball at Loyola University next year.

Alex Gianfortune '14, made *summa cum laude* all semesters at Notre Dame High School and has been accepted into the National Honors Society.

Luke Patrick '14, ran the Bank of America Chicago Marathon on October 9, 2016. He finished in 4:01:06.

Max Antoniou '16, is a freshman at Francis W. Parker School and will compete this spring to qualify for the Cadet World Team in Judo.

Joe Kennedy '16, made the Latin School of Chicago's varsity boys soccer team which won the Class 2A State Championship.

Jonathan Lord '16, was accepted into the a cappella group at Saint Ignatius College Prep.

Kendall Pollard '16, helped the Latin School of Chicago's girls varsity basketball team win sectionals.

In September, FXW welcomed back five alumni for a teen panel on social media:

Merlinda Akindele '16 (Jones College Prep), **Clare Davis '15** (Jones College Prep), **Zeyna Faycurry '15** (Jones College Prep), **Zion Greer '15** (Beacon Academy) and **Leah Jones '16** (Fenwick High School).



LUKE MALLETTE '12 AND GREGORY FRANKLIN '12

We want to hear from you!

Send us a class note to be published in the next FXW *Charism*. We are interested in news about careers, academics, athletics, weddings and children. Email your updates to alumni@fxw.org.

Alumni Advice

Graduates reflect on their FXW experience and offer words of wisdom to the next generation.

Jessica Smart '98, graduated from Mother Theodore Guerin High School, earned a BA from Butler University, a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Illinois Institute of Technology and is a Chicago Police Officer and an instructor at the Chicago Police Academy.

"FXW taught me about different cultures, how to strive to do my best, and to keep an open mind."

Advice:

Learn something new every day, think outside the box, and be detailed in your writing.



James Shulte '99, earned his JD/MBA from the University of Chicago Law School & Booth School of Business and lives in Brooklyn with his wife and son where he is VP of Strategy at Energy Impact Partners.

"FXW taught me to think and write critically and the importance of diversity."

Advice:

Remain curious, get to know people who are not like you, take advantage of the incredible opportunities you have been given, and work hard.



Kelly O'Hara '06, graduated from the Latin School of Chicago, Tufts University, and is a first year law student at University of California, Berkeley, studying civil rights law.

"FXW taught me the value of empathy and giving back. My desire to help people was absolutely fostered at FXW."

Advice:

Look forward to what you want, but also back at what you've achieved and learned; use that to help you figure out what's next.



Annie Fitzsimmons '11, graduated from Saint Ignatius College Prep and attends Fordham University majoring in Visual Arts and Communications.

"FXW taught me to appreciate and embrace all differences."

Advice:

Never forget your FXW friends.



Jaye Thomas '14, is a junior at Jones College Prep where she is on the varsity volleyball and softball teams and a member of the National Honor Society and the Key Club.

"I learned to surround myself with a diverse group of people, so I have a broad perspective on many issues and can be empathetic to others."

Advice:

Go into high school with lots of confidence because FXW has provided you with a strong academic and social foundation.



Everett Munez '15, is a sophomore at Loyola Academy, where he is a member of the golf team. He volunteers after school with the Arrupe Service Program, and participates in the Dumbach Scholars program.

"At FXW, I grew up with a diverse group of people; that's how I learned to respect others."

Advice:

Work on your study habits; it helps in high school.

JAYE THOMAS '14



Gala 2017

On February 25, 2017 the FXW community came together for Gala 2017: A Night at the Forum. This year's event brought many changes including a new venue, live music, and Gala News. With the leadership of Co-chairs, Nadia Jelinek and Beth Myers, a committee of over a hundred volunteers worked together to raise over \$600,000 for FXW, funds that will help our School remain a dynamic leader in private school education.





Holy Name Cathedral Campus

751 N. State St.
Chicago, IL 60654
312-466-0700

Old St. Patrick's Campus

120 S. Desplaines St.
Chicago, IL 60661
312-466-0700

fxw.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2017



Upcoming Events

August 31
First Day of School
and Fun Fest

September 8
Back to School Mass
with Cardinal Cupich

October 2 - November 3
5-Week Annual Fund Campaign