

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR IN REVIEW

2019-2020



www.sfdshs.org

80 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



St. Francis de Sales remains a strong presence on the East Side of Chicago. The 2019-2020 school year started as most years do with students full of hope and energy for the year ahead. The end of the school year, however, did not end like any other year! None of us could have predicted the year would end with students and teachers virtually connecting and learning. To say that 2020 is an unprecedented year is an understatement.

That said, the year proved once again that St. Francis de Sales is a community, supporting each other in more than academic needs. We may have finished our learning using Google Classroom and ZOOM meetings (who used the term ZOOM regularly before March of 2020?!), but we showed the pioneer spirit as we worked together to learn and teach in stressful times. We shared resources and provided supplies. We raised money. We worked. We communicated. We checked in on each other. St. Francis de Sales High School proved to be more than a school. We are a community and the 2019-2020 school year reflected that community start to finish. In this Year in Review, we highlight some of the events and activities that make us a community and make us who we are – Proud Pioneers!

Mary Kay Ramirez

Director of Community Development





2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- St. Francis de Sales unveiled a new logo incorporating the old while recognizing the future. This symbol encapsulates our mission, our past and our future. We are a school of faith. The Crucifix and the Phoenix symbolize our undying commitment to our Catholic Identity. Our past is important to our future. We have educated a generation of young men and women over the last 80 years. The letters of the initials of our patron saint are prominently displayed representing the importance of our past.
- Students participated in many activities including: AP Biology students judged Gallistel's science fair. The school came together to support Breast Cancer research through the 11th annual PINKOUT volleyball game. Students exhibited their art downtown at Google offices through A Simple Good.
- St. Francis de Sales hosted a rousing Catholic Academic Bowl, run by Student Council members and sponsored by Big Shoulders Fund. This event tested teams of eighth graders from Annunciata, Immaculate Conception, and Our Lady of Guadalupe on their knowledge of all things Catholic in categories such as history, art, saints, scripture, music, and churches.
- The 2nd Annual Eric Anderson Night again honored the late Eric Anderson ('88) in February.
- As Jesus invited His disciples to come away by themselves to a deserted place and rest awhile (Mark 6:31), 30 SFDS students were called by God to go to Our Lady of the Angels Retreat Center for the Kairos Retreat. The students went into seclusion to rekindle their relationship with God through prayer, reflection, meditation, and sharing life stories to find the real meaning behind why one exists. It was a soul awakening and life transforming event.

2019 - 2020

YEAR IN NUMBERS



4

Kavanaugh Keating Weber
Scholars were given to
students as part of the
Alumni Scholarship Program

10

members are a part of the
Board of Ambassadors in
support of St. Francis de Sales

50

students took college
level classes through
St. Xavier University



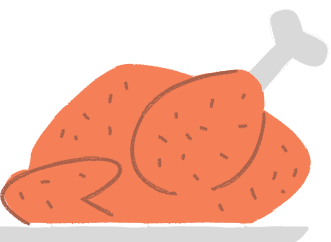
\$20,000

Over \$20,000 raised to support Emergency Relief Fund efforts
for families at St. Francis de Sales during the pandemic.



10

10 weeks of learning virtually between March - May 2020.
Students and teachers stayed connected and transitioned to
E-Learning. Bonus: An endless number of zoom calls!



700

700 meals served to our SFDS families during the pandemic
between May and June 2020.

2019 - 2020

YEAR IN NUMBERS



2

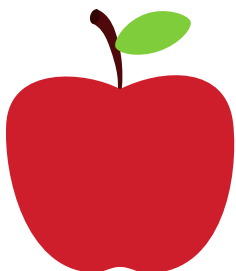
Seniors spent one day a week during the second semester of their Senior year working at Alsip Minimill

15

students shared their artwork in downtown Chicago in December thanks to The Simple Good

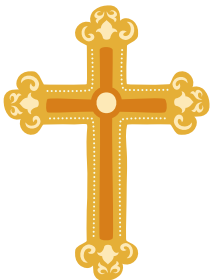
30

yard signs were hand delivered to Seniors to celebrate their 2020 graduation



24

24 gifts delivered to celebrate and thank our faculty and staff for Teacher Appreciation Week



30

30 students attended the Kairos retreat in March to connect with each other as classmates and to build their relationship more with God



11

11 AP and Honors courses were offered during the 2019-2020 school year to students between their Freshman and Senior years



PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

- The East Side Chamber Commerce celebrated Teachers, Leaders & Business Recognition at their annual Awards Banquet and recognized our own Steve Sanchez as a Teacher Award Recipient and Mary Kay Ramirez as the Outstanding Community Leader.
- Meals for families from Jewell Catering and Cadence Kitchen Catering and sponsored by Big Shoulders Fund were handed out during May and June to support families impacted by the global pandemic. The Simple Good and Masks4CHI gave mask donations to families.

**Big
Shoulders
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St. Francis de Sales High School continues to partner with Big Shoulders Fund.

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