

# De La Salle Academy *Graduation Edition*

## HIGHLIGHTING OUR STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

SPECIAL EDITION

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

#### **Welcome to our Graduation season!**

For any middle school, high school, or college student, this time of year represents years of dedication, sacrifice, perseverance, and responsibility.

At De La Salle Academy, this time of year allows us to reflect on the opportunities that DLSA graduates are afforded through the support and generosity of their teachers, families, and supporters.

DLSA is not only celebrating the Class of 2022, but we also look to the 13 high school seniors (*DLSA c/o 2018*) who represent the culmination of eight years of support from the DLSA community.

**DLSA will now have 29 college-aged graduates**

**63 of its graduates are in high school**

**67 (and counting) current students in 5th - 8th grade**

Each year the number of students, graduates, and families we partner with grows ; thus, allowing us to take additional steps towards actualizing our vision of building sustainable and innovative programs that create more equitable opportunities for educational success and purposeful futures.

Our mission calls us to provide transformative educational experiences that create opportunities that students and families may not have recognized as options years ago. These various paths to success are indeed realities now; and, it is through the collective faith and partnership of DLSA families and staff, that the graduates of our school take their next steps.

I thank you for joining me in celebrating the accomplishments of all our graduates, while continuing to encourage and support their pursuit of lifelong educational opportunities!

- Chris Giangregorio  
Principal/CEO

**Congratulations to all of our graduates!** De La Salle Academy's third installment of our newsletter focuses on our Graduates and alumni. In this Special Edition feature we hope to leave you, our supporter, with a deeper understanding of how De La Salle Academy engages with the families and greater community to support under-resourced boys and provide them with an education that will transform their lives -- now and beyond!

First and foremost, the commitment of DLSA families, staff, and faculty continues to allow us to educate our students in a holistic, personal, and Catholic-based manner, filled with opportunities for our students to flourish. As we close out and reflect upon the 2021-22 school year, we recognize what an amazing job the DLSA community did in making the year a success! It was a joy to have students filling our halls with laughter, engaging in active learning, and being in community with their fellow brothers.

Special highlights in this edition include taking a look at the inspiring accomplishments our students and graduates and getting to know DLSA Alumni.

We look forward to sharing all the wonderful things that have happened at De La Salle Academy. Great results come from hard work. Well done, DLSA!



*Class of 2022 Graduation*

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF '22

"You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before others." This message from Matthew's Gospel is represented in the daily challenge put forth to each student at DLSA: "How will you make this community better today?"

The DLSA Class of 2022 served as a light for others in various ways throughout their DLSA journey. They embraced the motto of "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve" by engaging in service at the Monument Crisis Center in their final week as DLSA Students. This is service that they experienced as incoming 5th graders during their Summer Orientation.



*Class of 2022 Service at Monument Crisis Center*

***The Class of 2022 let their academic perseverance shine by improving their class GPA by 13% since their COVID-impacted 7th grade year.***

When their academic proficiency is compared with similar under-resourced student populations, the Class of 2022's math and reading proficiency is *18% higher than similar school populations.*

**15 MORE DLSA GRADUATES WILL JOIN DELA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL THIS FALL**

Furthermore, their math proficiency rate is twice as high as all middle school students in the local school districts.

This was a class that thrived more when united in community. Their improvement when able to return to full in-person instruction exemplified that.

We want to take a moment and congratulate our Class of '22. We are so fortunate that 15 of our graduates have been accepted to and will continue their Lasallian Catholic education at De La Salle High School in the Fall!



*4 years ago at Monument Crisis Center*



# ALUMNI

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### DLSA CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALUMNI THROUGH OUR GRADUATE SUPPORT PROGRAM.

### THIS IS WHAT SOME OF THEM SAID ABOUT THEIR TIME AT DLSA

#### **Isaac De Rosas - Class of 2019**

"My experience was a string of events. The admissions interview was very important. In the middle of the interview, I broke down. I realized at that moment the opportunity I was being given by a school like this.

De La Salle Academy fostered my ability to grow as a student and reduced my worry about outside influences. The building separated me from my surroundings and its effects. I'm not sure what would have happened if I attended a different school.

The academy helped me by providing necessary rigor to prepare me for high school academics, and helped me practice and develop consistent work ethic and dedication that I need to succeed.

*\*Isaac is a paid tutor at the learning center at De La Salle High School. He helps students with their homework and studying efforts. He is highly*

*involved in helping our own graduates receive tutoring.*

#### **Omar Monroy - Class of 2019**

"I attended a public school my first 2 years of middle school. There were 30 students in every class, and I had 6 different teachers. In my old public middle school, I was struggling and not really motivated.

Going to De La Salle Academy during my 8th grade year presented me with a new opportunity. It led me to put in more effort. Homework hour really helped me keep up with my studies and work with my teachers. Also, having smaller class sizes really benefited me.

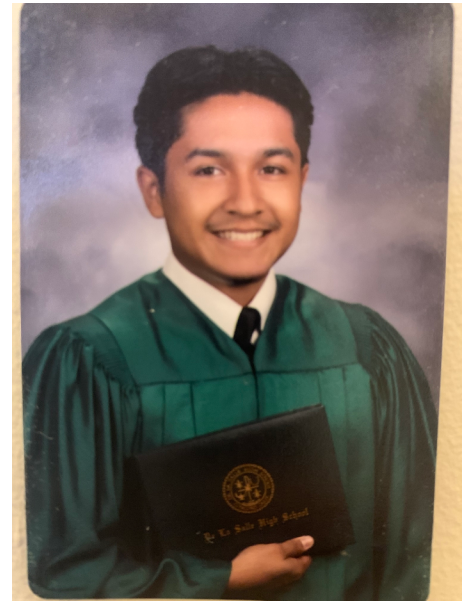
I received tutoring and many other services that I wouldn't have received at a public school. Going to DLSA helped me get to De La Salle High School, which in turn has opened more opportunities for me.

Here at the high school, I feel like I can be more focused and succeed. It has given me an additional opportunity to take my education further."

#### **Antonio Canari - Class of 2019**

"In 5th grade, our class learned about the value of gratitude. Even though we may not have had much, we did have **opportunity**. The Academy has prepared me for more than just high school. It

has prepared me for life. It taught me more about maturity and becoming a gentleman. At DLSA, I learned about values such as faith and integrity, which I will take with me all my life."



#### **Anthony Torres - Class of 2018**

**"Attending DLSA was a privilege for me. I loved the support and the academics they had to offer. Because of my DLSA experience, I had an easier high school experience because the skills and material we learned during middle school transferred over to my high school years."**

*Anthony will be the first DLSA graduate to attend St. Mary's College, where he will continue his education in the Fall!*

# Our Graduates Realizing Their Dreams

	<b>College</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Dream Career</b>
Oscar Ceja	Diablo Valley College	Undecided	Veterinarian
Miguel Contreras	Diablo Valley College	Digital Arts	Graphic Designer
Tyler Henry	Sacramento State University	Computer Science	Cyber Security Analyst
Sergio Lopez Duran	Diablo Valley College	Kinesiology	Still Considering!
Vincent Madrigal	Sacramento State University	International Business	Marketing
Ronald Pierce	Grambling State	Business Administration	Business Owner
Kevin Quirarte	Diablo Valley College	Health	Nurse
JJ Tofaeono	Western Oregon University	Undecided	Chef/ Football Player
Anthony Torres	St. Mary's College	Kinesiology	Still Considering!

## SCHOLARSHIPS

De La Salle Academy relies on stakeholders to provide our students the opportunity for a quality Lasallian Catholic education. Scholarships not only provide financial support for our students' education, they are an investment in our students' aspirations which allows them to continue realizing their dreams and reaching their fullest potential.

# TWO WAYS TO GIVE

**MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT & CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY OF DLSA STUDENTS' LIVES**

## CASH OR CHECK

IF YOU PREFER TO GIVE CASH OR CHECK,  
PLEASE MAIL TO:

ATTN: WENDY DUNCAN  
1380 GALAXY WAY, STE A  
CONCORD, CA 94520

## ONLINE

VISIT OUR SECURE ONLINE GIVING  
SITE TO GIVE A ONE-TIME DONATION, OR  
SET-UP EASY RECURRING GIFTS.

[HTTPS://DLS-ACADEMY.ORG/GIVING](https://dls-academy.org/giving)

## A Lasallian Catholic Education

De La Salle Academy is a 5th - 8th Grade Lasallian Catholic middle school. Inspired by the mission of the De La Salle Christian Brothers, De La Salle Academy provides a transformative, life-changing, and accessible Catholic educational experience for promising boys from under-resourced families in the greater Concord area.

De La Salle Academy works with philanthropists and community partners to provide students, graduates, and families with access to quality educational opportunities.

## CONNECT WITH US



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