



**Guardian  
Catholic School**

4920 Brentwood Ave., Ste 201  
Jacksonville, FL 32206

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
PERMIT #836



**Guardian  
Catholic School**  
Protecting potential.

SPRING 2021

# The Messenger

4920 Brentwood Ave., Ste 201 • Jacksonville, FL 32206 • (904) 765-1920 • [www.GuardianCatholic.com](http://www.GuardianCatholic.com)

## The Power of Partnership

**Just over one year ago, Guardian Catholic School faced one of its biggest challenges: how to keep our students and staff safe while ensuring the high-quality instruction and engagement that children need.**

Together, Guardian leaders, teachers, parents and students rose to the occasion, finishing the 2019-2020 school year through distance learning and preparing for the unknown with a new hybrid school year on the horizon.

While critical to the mission, our students' educational experience was only one facet of concern. Supporting our families through additional hardships like loss of jobs or wages, food insecurity, and additional stress brought on by the pandemic, meant we had to respond differently to serve mind, body and spirit for our children and their families.

Together, parents, teachers and leaders worked more closely than ever to stay in lock step with their child's academic needs and their family's health and well-being. Operational, technological, developmental and social needs shifted dramatically in a short period of time, requiring more financial support than ever before. Through prayers and appeals, our community responded! The generosity of Guardian Catholic donors and partners resulted in our ability to meet nearly every need.

The power of partnership has helped us overcome many challenges throughout this past year. As we prepare to close out the 2020-2021 school year, your generous partnership remains vital to our ability to protect the potential of our most valuable gift — the future of the children we serve.



**With your help, we can expand our Summer Learning Program and continue to build a strong foundation for our most vulnerable students.**

**By Mail:**  
Guardian Catholic School  
4920 Brentwood Ave., Ste 201  
Jacksonville, FL 32206

**Online:**  
[GuardianCatholic.com/GiveNow](http://GuardianCatholic.com/GiveNow)

**This year's tournament will take place on  
June 14 at Jacksonville Golf & Country Club**

**Become a Sponsor | Register to Play | Buy Raffle Tickets**

Visit [www.GuardianMillionDollarShootout.com](http://www.GuardianMillionDollarShootout.com)  
or call (904) 765-1920 for more information.



17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
  
Ron Townsend  
GOLF CLASSIC

**BENEFITING GUARDIAN  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

## Donor Spotlight: June and Vince Schuppert



Every donor gives for a personal reason. For June and Vince Schuppert, it is all about giving children hope for a better future. Since 2013, the Schupperts have chosen Guardian Catholic School as one of their philanthropic priorities — and what a difference they have made!

Vince grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania, while June is a self-described city girl. However, God's plans were made clear

through an unusual set of circumstances that brought them together 66 years ago. When Vince, a United States Navy pilot who enjoyed flying into hurricanes to collect critical data, met June, an Eastern Airlines stewardess, they realized they would have a full and blessed life together. In turn, the couple has shared that blessing with others through their compassionate and thoughtful giving.

*(continued on p.2)*

*Our mission is to participate in God's work by providing advocacy, resources and governance to Guardian Catholic School. These resources enable the school to provide educational and spiritual opportunities to children and families regardless of financial situation or religious preference.*





### Board of Directors

Steve Foody, *Chairman*  
 Greg Roth, *Vice Chairman*  
 Jim Selzer, *Secretary*  
 Lisa Benton  
 Fr. Jim Boddie  
 Beth Brockelman  
 Fr. Leonard Chuwa  
 Tony Cugno  
 Mark Dawkins  
 Ed Fleming  
 Robbin Frazier  
 Keesy Goebertus  
 Rick Jones  
 Jane Lanier  
 Laurrie Leonard  
 Susan Masucci  
 Michelle Sammet  
 Krissy Thompson  
 Ronald Townsend  
 John Whitehouse  
 Lt. Col. Alton Yates

### Honorary Members

Jay Demetree  
 Dan Rice  
 Bobby Stein  
 Louis V. Walsh IV

### Ex-Officio Officers

Steve Bell  
 Deacon Scott Conway  
 Sr. Beverly DiStefano  
 Fr. Bernardine Eikhuemelo  
 Sr. Dianne Rumschlag  
 Sr. Cynthia Shaffer  
 Patricia Tierney

### Past Chairpersons

Paul Kerins  
 Ronald Townsend  
 Dan Rice  
 Rick Jones



## Dear Friends,

At Guardian we often refer to our mission as 'Protecting Potential', the potential of every one of our students. This has been a year of creativity and resilience at Guardian, as it has been elsewhere throughout our community and nation. We are grateful for the amazing work of the teachers to adapt to a variety of learning and teaching styles to meet the needs of our Guardian Catholic School students with a "do whatever it takes" commitment.

The same goes for our donors who stepped up their giving not only to meet the generous matching challenge gift of Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock but to exceed it. Guardian raised more than \$300,000 from that matching appeal. These gifts enabled the Sisters to apply much needed funds to assist with the extraordinary demands created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are grateful for every gift and to Michael and Jennifer for creating this opportunity for Guardian. Please join me in prayers of thanksgiving for them, for every donor who responded to this appeal, for the Sisters of Notre Dame, for our amazing and resilient teachers, for our Guardian parents, and most of all for our students who work hard at their studies every day and believe in their own God-given potential.

Once we are cleared to do so, we look forward to welcoming you to Guardian Catholic School for a student-led tour.

Gratefully,

Steve Foody, *Chairman*



### Donor Spotlight, cont'd.

The Schupperts have helped children at Guardian Catholic by providing scholarships in partnership with the Florida Prepaid College Foundation. Their enormous generosity has enabled Guardian students, who have made a personal commitment to do their best despite adverse life circumstances, to ascend to new heights.

**"Our goal is to give the children hope for a future."**

Last year, while continuing the scholarships, the Schupperts recognized the need for Guardian to employ a full-time school nurse. The need has always been important, but amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, it became a critical issue for Guardian students. Because Vince's sister worked as a school nurse in Lancaster, Penn., he and June knew of the difference her work made in families' lives.

As for the scholarships, Vince said, "Our goal is to give the children hope for a future." June added, "We want them to have something to strive for — an incentive that



Guardian is grateful for donors  
June and Vince Schuppert.

will continue to motivate them to work hard after they graduate from Guardian in 8th grade."

At Guardian, we serve the whole child — body, mind and spirit — and strive to help each child achieve their God-given potential. Our heartfelt thanks go out to June and Vince Schuppert and to all donors whose generosity sustains the mission of Guardian Catholic School.



### YOU CAN HELP OUR STUDENTS THRIVE

Consider making a gift to support the expansion of our Summer Learning Program and the resources necessary to protect our students' potential. With your help, we can build upon the progress our students have made during this crucial stage of early education and ensure their future success.



## Message from Sr. Dianne

The 2020-2021 school year has been one of both immense challenges as well as blessings. While many schools were forced to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Guardian Catholic was able to keep our doors open the entire year with limited cases of infection. This would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our dedicated teachers and staff, engaged parents and loyal supporters. All of these stakeholders rose to the challenge to overcome this unprecedented crisis, and for that I am beyond grateful.

While COVID-19 has left an enduring mark on the modern educational landscape, it has also brought into clearer focus the need for continuity in learning, especially for younger students who are just beginning to master the basics of reading, writing and math. While we are always wary of the "summer slide," any loss in learning is particularly damaging for students from vulnerable populations.



To provide an extra boost for our students, for the last six years, Guardian has provided free summer school to Pre-K3-4 students in partnership with the United Way of Northeast Florida's Success by Six program. Our Summer Learning Program provides classroom instruction and physical activities for students each weekday in a safe, supervised and comfortable atmosphere with full access to educational resources.

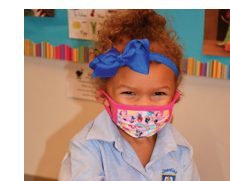
In light of the disruption caused by COVID-19, we have decided to extend our free Summer Learning Program to students in kindergarten through second grade. We will be able to offer students a safe place to catch up and/or maintain grade-level proficiency. The Summer program will also provide students with much-needed physical exercise, stable nutrition and social engagement.

As we near the close of a unique yet successful school year, we must protect the important progress our students have made throughout this challenging time.

Gratefully,

Sister Dianne Rumschlag, SND  
Head of School

## Early Learning Foundations



Guardian Catholic School Early Learning Program is a positive and friendly environment, where children learn to interact with peers appropriately and respectfully. Led by Amanda Rainey, Early Learning Director, this group of highly qualified teachers and staff make classrooms fun, engaging and safe for young children who learn best by doing or experiencing as well as through discovery and play.

Amid COVID-19, this committed team sanitized and masked-up to ensure children had safe access to a variety of stimulating activities throughout the day including art, music, dance and outdoor play. In addition, they continued to build a solid educational foundation through pre-academic core skills and concepts such as counting, recognizing colors, shapes, patterns and developing fine motor skills.



### Thank You to Early Learning Teachers & Support Staff!

Front (L-R): Zareya White, Amanda Rainey, Denise Lance Back (L-R): Tonya Williams, Sharon Clayton, Takia Presley, Catrenna Robinson, Stephanie Taylor, Jennifer Favors