

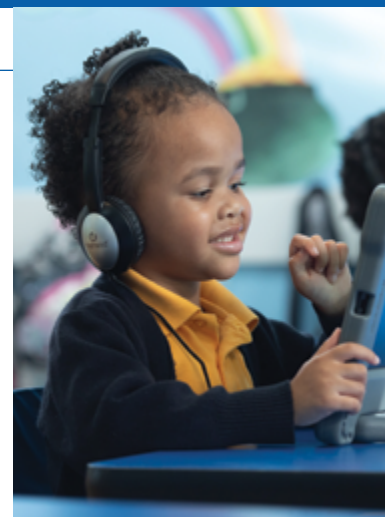


# The Messenger

4920 Brentwood Ave, Suite 201 Jacksonville, FL 32206

904.765.1920

GuardianCatholic.com



## The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Ron Townsend Golf Classic

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Ron Townsend Golf Classic was held on February 26, 2024, at Timuquana Country Club and was a tremendous success, serving as a fitting tribute to Mr. Ron Townsend himself. The tournament continued its tradition of excellence, firmly establishing itself as a marquee event for Guardian Catholic School. We are forever indebted to Ron for his selfless commitment to Guardian.

The day of the tournament was picture perfect. We are incredibly grateful for the support of numerous community sponsors. Among them, special recognition is due to our Title Sponsor Applebee's and Miller Electric Company the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary sponsor.

A notable highlight of this year's tournament was the remarkable turnout of golfers, including both former and current players of

the Jacksonville Jaguars. Their presence added a special flair to the event.

Credit for the smooth operation of the tournament goes to a dedicated team of individuals led by Mr. Ron Townsend, golf committee chair, Mr. Rick Cannington, tournament chair, Mr. Josh Scobee, honorary chair, Mr. Will Tutwiler, auction chair, and Mr. Bill Hendrich, volunteer chair. Their tireless efforts, alongside those of Mr. Jason Burhyte and the numerous volunteers, played a key role in surpassing the fundraising goal, with a net total of over \$250,000 raised.

The success of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Ron Townsend Golf Classic is a testament to the unwavering commitment and collective effort of all involved, ensuring continued support for Guardian Catholic School and its invaluable mission.

*Our mission is to help each student attain their potential through high quality Catholic education in a Christ-centered environment that inspires each of us to think, learn, achieve, pray and serve our communities.*





**July 2023-2024**

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- Ron Townsend



## Message From the Head of School

Dear Friends and Community Partners,

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the many individuals, businesses, and foundations who faithfully and generously support Guardian Catholic School. Your investment of time, talent, and treasure is highly valued and directly impacts the success of our students.

Each morning, I listen attentively to the voices of our students as they proudly proclaim our mission, pray together, and recite the pledge of allegiance. The combination of Catholic faith and academics is a strong formula that over time has proven to work.

At Guardian Catholic “mission” is not merely a buzz word; it is a lived reality that drives who we are every day with every student and every graduate. Our mission is achieved by a community that works together to establish high expectations and ensure that every student reaches their potential. We have a proud history of educating students who have become not only talented and enterprising adults but men and women who give back to improving their communities with time and resources.

Each person reading this newsletter is a vital part of our vision and mission. I am very grateful for your continued support. Together, we are making a difference! You are welcome to join us for a tour of the school to discover the many ways you can play an important role in the life of a student and the life of our school community. Please contact me directly at [cshaffer@guardiancatholic.com](mailto:cshaffer@guardiancatholic.com) or 904.765.1920.

Gratefully,

*Sr. Cynthia Shaffer, SND*

Sister Cynthia Shaffer, SND  
Head of School



# The Guardian Community Leadership Program

*Invest For the Future ... Protect the Potential*



Dear Friends of Guardian,

Guardian Catholic School has launched an annual giving program that will provide funding to support the education of our nearly 400 students. A strong emphasis on faith and values along with academics, athletics, and the arts provide the foundation for lifelong learning and success. Our students boast a 96% graduation rate from high school.

Focusing on the whole child, we protect each child's potential by giving them a solid education that encourages a strong work ethic and goal setting. As a result of that about a third of our graduates take an apprenticeship in a trade after high school. Another third of the students are often the first in their families to attend a college or a university, and the other third join the military after participating in a rigorous ROTC program.

We are offering a select group of community leaders the opportunity to sponsor a program or class for the 2024-2025 school year. Your sponsorship of \$15,000.00 will provide resources that increase learning and assure the best outcomes for every student in our school.

By becoming a Guardian Community Leadership Program sponsor you will help bridge the gap between what the school receives in state funding and the actual cost to educate our students. That financial gap is around \$4,000 per student. Your gift will provide the additional resources needed to allow our students to reach their full potential and help break the cycle of poverty that affects so many in our area of Jacksonville.

As a Guardian Community Leader, you will be invited to special activities of your sponsored class/program and will be recognized in print, on social media, our website, and donor recognition board. Please review the class/program opportunities available for sponsorship that are listed below. If you are interested and want to be part of this program, we will discuss sponsorship that matches your passion and interests.

Your gift is an investment in the future leaders of our Jacksonville community, and we thank you.

For more information, please contact Sister Cynthia Shaffer, Head of School, at 904.765.1920 or [cshaffer@guardiancatholic.com](mailto:cshaffer@guardiancatholic.com).

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane R. Lanier".

Jane R. Lanier  
Board Chair

## Sponsorship Opportunities for the 2024-2025 School Year

### PROGRAMS

Family Gardening and Engagement Program: PK3 - Grade 1

STEM Education: *Reserved for Miller Electric Company*

PE and Athletics  
(basketball, cheerleading, soccer, cross country)

Educational Field Trips

Teacher Professional Development

Outdoor Classroom: *Reserved for Anonymous*

### CLASSROOMS

Early Learning Program: PK3, PK4

Kindergarten

Grade Levels 1 - 8

Learning Commons - Media and Research

Music Education

Arts Education

# Field Trips

by Jennifer Churchill

Students were blessed this year with the gift of field trips! Guardian Catholic students received a generous grant that allowed students from Preschool through Grade 8 to attend field trips throughout the city of Jacksonville and beyond.

In the fall, our preschoolers visited Diamond D Ranch. Our three- and four-year-olds enjoyed learning the concept of “farm to table” as they explored native plants and studied the process of milking cows. Next, third graders were able to visit the Museum of Science and History (MOSH) in downtown Jacksonville. At MOSH, students visited the planetarium where they were able to travel through space and apply their knowledge of the stars, moon, and planets. Later, our preschoolers took on the role of entrepreneurs when they visited Sweet Pete’s Candy Shoppe. There, they learned the art of candy making and how to use this art to start a business. It was the “sweetest” experience for our young students.

In the spring, middle school students were able to travel to our great state’s capital of Tallahassee. The day was full

of conversations with government officials. Students were able to meet and talk to senators and state representatives. They listened in on political topics and even had the chance to observe the House of Representatives vote. After touring the Capitol building, they visited the Old Capitol by way of a scavenger hunt. Our students ended their day with a guided driving tour of both Florida A&M University and Florida State University.

Remaining field trips include the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Tree Hill, the Kennedy Space Center, and Theatreworks at the Florida Theatre.

Our students, families and faculty are beyond grateful for this gift of “experiences.” They look forward to taking these opportunities to explore the world around them. When students can step out of the classroom and witness what they have learned from their studies, they are able to make connections that last a lifetime!



# Donor Spotlight | Terry Sullivan



In this edition of our newsletter, we shine a spotlight on Terry Sullivan. Terry has been a dedicated and generous supporter of Guardian Catholic School for more than five years. Terry's commitment to our school community has made a significant impact on the lives of our students.

Mr. Sullivan's involvement with Guardian Catholic School began more than five years ago when he was introduced to Guardian through the Men's Club at Holy Family parish where he was encouraged to visit the school. Impressed by what he saw during his initial visit, Terry was

inspired to get involved and make a difference.

Terry's first act of generosity was purchasing uniforms for students who were outgrowing theirs. This thoughtful gesture ensured that all students could focus on learning.

As a nuclear engineer, Mr. Sullivan recognizes the vital role of education, especially in the fields of math and science. His passion for education led him to volunteer in Guardian's math program where he enjoyed sharing his knowledge of algebra with 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This time volunteering in the classroom, inspired him to remain connected to Guardian.

As co-founder of the National Academy for Nuclear Training, Mr. Sullivan believes it is critical to give students an environment outside the traditional classroom for experiential learning. Terry's forward-thinking approach to education has resulted in a generous lead gift to construct a multi-use outdoor

classroom at Guardian Catholic School. This innovative space will provide students with opportunities for hands-on learning and real-world application of their knowledge.

If you are inspired by Terry's story and would like to support Guardian Catholic School's mission of providing quality education to students, consider volunteering your time or giving a gift. Together, we offer every child hope and the tools they need to succeed in life.

Thank you, Mr. Sullivan, for being a true champion for education and a valued member of the Guardian Catholic School community.

**A Very Special Thank You  
to our Donors for the  
Multi-use Outdoor Classroom**  
Leadership Gift: Anonymous  
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Sullivan  
The Rotary Club of Jacksonville

# Alumni Spotlight | Myeisha Dixon

Myeisha Dixon, a 2012 graduate of Guardian Catholic, went on to attend Episcopal High School where she graduated with honors. Myeisha is not hesitant to say that she is grateful for the solid academic foundation that she received at Guardian.

Myeisha's academic journey culminated in earning her degree in Family and Child Sciences from Florida State University, followed by a master's degree in nursing from Emory University. Her current role as an operating nurse with the Piedmont Health Care System highlights her ability to thrive in high-pressure environments, where critical thinking and multi-tasking are essential skills.

Beyond her professional achievements, Myeisha's commitment to service shines brightly. Her involvement in the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and her volunteer work with various organizations highlight her dedication to giving back to her community. Myeisha's experience working with children at Boys Town Foster Homes serves as a poignant reminder of the impact of mentorship and support. Her admiration for the resilience and positivity exhibited by the children reflects her own spirit of perseverance and compassion.

Myeisha's journey is a testament to the transformative power of education and the invaluable support of our donors to Guardian Catholic School. Her story illustrates how financial assistance provides the foundation to pursue success in high school and college. Guardian is proud to foster a sense of community and encouragement that can profoundly impact a student's entire life.



*"My love of education and study began at Guardian. The great teachers I had prepared me to be successful at Episcopal High School."*



Our special thanks to those who have given generously.  
Thank you for designating your giving to Guardian Catholic School.

## Lifetime Giving Society

\*Lifetime Giving Society giving levels represent cumulative gifts & pledges to Guardian as of 12/31/2023.

For more information about the Guardian Giving Society, visit [www.GuardianCatholic.com/support/givingsociety](http://www.GuardianCatholic.com/support/givingsociety).

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