

**19
20**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

**ST. PETER CLAVER
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

133 Ward Street, Macon, GA 31204

um is

ADVISORY BOARD

Chair: Mrs. Jane Claxton
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MISSION

Educate the minds and open the hearts of students from diverse backgrounds so that, in the spirit of the Gospel, they are academically prepared and service oriented.

SPCCS

FROM THE DESK OF SR. CHERYL

Dear Friends and Family of St Peter Claver Catholic School,

Many times I find myself waiting for the other shoe to drop, for somehow the powerhouse that is St. Peter Claver Catholic School to run out of steam and slow down – but it never happens because every year more parents and guardians come to our school looking for a Catholic education for their children. But this year was different – earthshattering for the whole world! COVID-19 presented our school family with an unprecedented situation and again, without a pause, we soldiered on. Our students, our families, our faculty, staff, parish and community of friends and supporters worked together through thick and thin to make it possible for our students to **thrive** in these the most difficult of times. Truly, it calls on us to get on our knees and acknowledge that there is something sacred at work here in Pleasant Hill. God is at work saving us here and now – every single day. Thank you Lord for the blessings You have bestowed on our St. Peter Claver Family.

Thank **you** too, to everyone in involved in this mission.

Together let us rejoice in the understanding that we are God's instruments in remaking this world for the better. St Peter Claver Catholic School is a **true act of faith!** God is at work in our lives, and for that reason we are so excited about the future.

Sincerely,

Sr. Cheryl Ann Hillig, DC
Principal

2019-2020 FAST FACTS

90%

Retention Rate

11:1

Average Student to
Teacher Ratio

190

Students Enrolled
PreK3 - 8

\$823,868

Raised in grants and financial
aid

24

GRACE Scholarship
Students

4 of 5

Students (PreK-3-8) receive
needs-based tuition assistance

100% Diverse Student Population

20% Hispanic

72% African American

6% White

2% Asian

3% Two or more

25%

Catholic students

75%

Non-Catholic students

100%

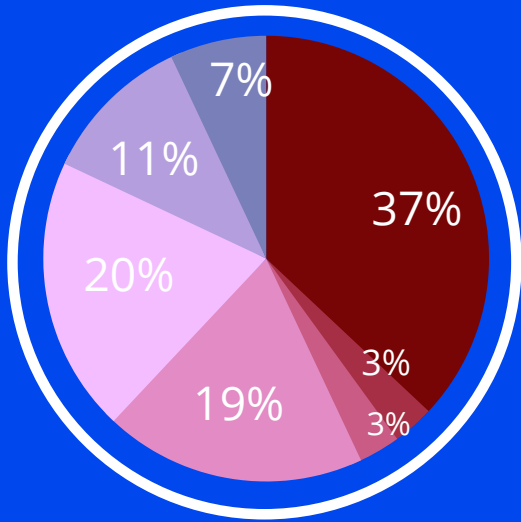
Graduation Rate

1st

In First In Math! TM for
Small Georgia Schools

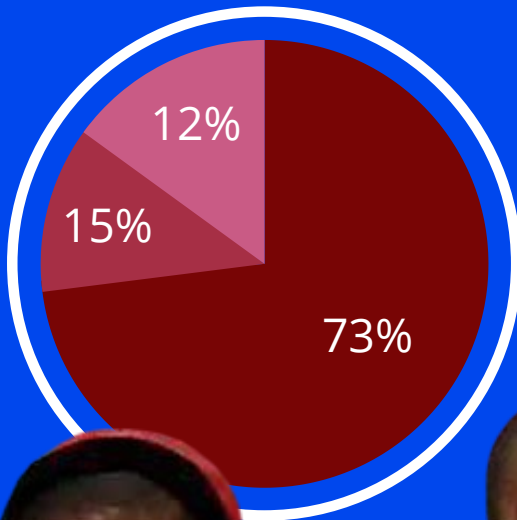


FINANCE & SUPPORT



REVENUE \$2,118,688

- Tuition and Fees
- Diocesan & Parish Support
- Annual Campaign
- Grants, Fundraising and Other Revenue
- Financial Aid/Scholarships
- Daughters of Charity In-Kind Staffing
- Payment Protection Act Funding



EXPENSES \$1,849,882

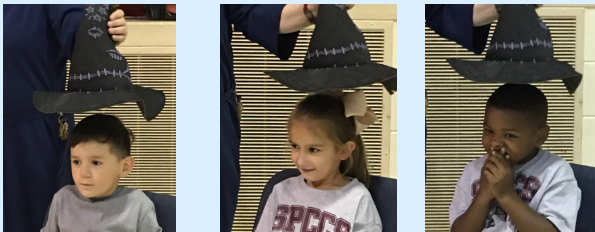
- Salaries & Benefits
- Operational Costs
- Instructional Costs



HAPPENINGS

St. Peter Claver students and teachers excelled all year long in and out of the classroom. Even as our campus closed to in person instruction in March of 2020 due to COVID-19, our learning never stopped. Our instruction of new content continued and our students and teachers adapted and grew in the midst of the challenge. In the earlier part of the year, we managed to squeeze in lots of fun and excitement too.

SORTING HAT DAY



It's a big day for new students as "Mister Sorting Hat" tells them which of our two houses they will forever more belong to during their time at St. Peter Claver. St. Peter Claver House and St. Katharine Drexel teams are all the better for every new teammate.

100 DAYS OF SCHOOL



Our PreK students really enjoyed dressing up as 100 year old seniors to help us celebrate the 100th day of school.



3rd Grade visit to Coca-Cola Space and Science Center, Atlanta



5th and 7th Grade visit the sights in Atlanta



Kindergarten and 1st Grade visit to the Grand Opera

READ ACROSS AMERICA



Lots of weird and wonderful Dr. Seuss characters popped up around campus during Read Across America and we enjoyed our visitors who came to read too.

SHAMROCK SHAKE SOCIAL



FIELD TRIPS

HEARTS OF SERVICE



Mrs. Larkin presenting Mrs. Beall of the Kolbe Center with \$444 collected by our students



8th Grade helping Mount de Sales Academy students with donations to the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry



5th Grade making lunch for clients of the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry - 2nd grade decorated the bags

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Hope you stopped by our tent to say 'hi' at the Open Streets Macon event October 2019 a celebration of our greatest public space, our streets.



Middle School partnered with United Way of Central Georgia for "Baby Care Boot Camp" by packing baby items.



Our students participated with Macon-Bibb County and Bibb County Board of Education in Night to Unite this year.

VISITORS

Our campus is a welcoming place where we meet many different people from our community. We had lots of visitors before COVID-19 struck. Here is a sampling of our friends who visited this year.



Mercer Bears Football team



MC Pvt. FC Shanyia Hutchings



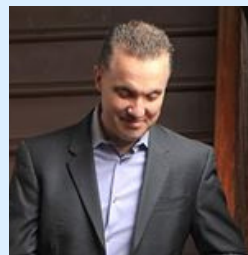
St John's University Students



Mount deSales Academy



EJ Grassmann Trustees



Eric Genius Concert



Ms. Neller of Secondhand Soil

ANNUAL APPEAL

Together, our friends and family raised over \$60,000 for our school. Every dollar raised goes towards scholarships. Thank you to all the following generous donors.

FOUNDERS SOCIETY (\$5,000 +)

Mrs. Sarah Ann Freant
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Musolf

BISHOP'S CIRCLE (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Mr. and Mrs. William Carrigan
Sr. Loretta Hoag

SISTERS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CIRCLE (\$1,000 - \$2,999)

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DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY CIRCLE (\$500 - \$999)

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NCEA Day of Giving
Mr. Patrick O'Brien

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Ms. Anne Hutnance
Ms. Carolyn Johnson
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Mr. Donald Lee
Ms. Alberta Lemaster
Mr. Henry Leslie
Ms. Sylvia Leslie
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Mr. Braeden Strange
Sr. Theresa Sullivan, DC
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Ms. June Tuten

PASTOR'S CIRCLE (\$1 - \$99 and Prayers)

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Mrs. Elizabeth Bishop
Mr. Howard Booth
Mr. James Bundy
Ms. Julie Cashin
Ms. Marion Clark
Mr. David Conner
Mrs. Susan Consigli
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Mr. Thomas McCoy
Ms. Destiny Mercado
Ms. Rose Miller
Ms. Brittany Monteluis-Perrin
Ms. Geraldine O'Neal
Mr. John Powell
Ms. Stephanie Price
Ms. Fabia Rogers
Mr. and Mrs. James Stallings
Mr. Johnnie Temple
Mr. Kaleb D Walker & Morayah
Mattox
Sr. Mary Walsh
Ms. Ann Williams
Ms. Diane F. Zieg

GRACE SCHOLARS

For the third year in a row we have increased the number of students attending SPCCS with the assistance of GRACE Scholarships. **We now have 24 GRACE Scholars.**

THANK YOU to our blessed **ANGELS OF GRACE** who are the following SPCCS families, friends and businesses. They have chosen to redirect a portion of their Georgia income tax dollars to SPCCS through the GRACE Scholarship Program to help students attend SPCCS. **Ask any of our Angels how good it feels to support a quality education at SPCCS at NO PERSONAL COST to our Angels!**

The Georgia Department of Revenue provides a 100% tax credit on Georgia Income taxes for amounts redirected to GRACE. Taxpayers who itemize their deduction may also take a charitable deduction on their federal income tax returns. If you currently pay Georgia state income tax, **you are eligible** to redirect a portion of your tax dollars to SPCCS as follows:

Single - any amount up to \$1,000 per tax year

Married Filing Jointly - any amount up to \$2,500 per tax year

Married Filing Separately - any amount up to \$1,250 per tax year

Owner of S. Corp, LLC or Partnership - any amount up to \$10,000

C-Corporation or Trust - any amount up to 75% of total tax liability

Find out more and *sign up to become an Angel TODAY* at **www.gracescholars.org**

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Mr. Timothy Andrews

Mr. Matthew Bunkers

Mr. Arthur Butler

Mrs. Veth Diersen

Mr. Kenneth Dobson

Ms. Ann Duffort

Mr. Joseph Frabotta

Mrs. Sarah Freant

Mr. Allen Hunt

Mr. Justin Kilpatrick

Mr. Walter Leslie

Dr. Samuel Mandel

Mr. Thomas Mead

Mr. Gary Musolf

Fr. Paul O'Connell

Mr. Timothy O'Mahony

Mr. Joseph Porto

Dr. Anthony Quan Hong

Dr. Fredrick Schnell, Jr.

Dr. Issam Shaker

Mr. James Simpson

Mr. Brian Thomson

Mr. Lawrence Vieck

Ms. Molly Wilkins



PREPARING FOR SUCCESS: IT'S WHAT WE DO! MEET THE CLASS OF 2020

We could not be more proud of our eighth grade class. Not only did they meet the challenges of COVID in stride; they worked hard for years and positioned themselves to make the best of high school.

The SPCCS Class of 2020 has been admitted to **five different high schools.** **Each student was able to go to the school of their choice** like Mount deSales Academy, Central International Baccalaureate Program and more.

WE BEGIN EARLY working with students and families so that they are equipped to navigate the steps for applying to schools, studying for and taking placement tests, finding scholarships, and completing financial aid applications. Applying to competitive high school programs is the essential next step in their education and also works as a practice run for future college applications. Our assistance is individualized to each student and has **three core aims: finding the best fit, increasing financial support, and preparing for successful admission.**

BEST FIT is hugely important because it is a critical component to high school success. Best fit is determined by a combination of factors, including each young person's academic record, learning style, and interests. Principal, Sr. Cheryl Ann Hillig, DC., and Vice Principal, Sr. Luanne Carmon, DC., each get to know every child and family, and help them navigate the options available.



Pictured: Top Row L-R: Anaise Cooke, Andreas Cooke, Julia Garcia-Rodriguez, Jaala Butler
Middle Row: L-R: McKenna McIntyre, Naila Hernandez, Hannah Smith, Tiki Glover
First Row: L-R: Dexter Whitby, Brittany Cardenas, Rojay Gale
Photo Credit: DSTO Moore

Best fit also takes into account each high school's academic rigor, success in four year graduation rates, college placement results, and financial support.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS are vital for many of our families. Affording the high school of their choice can be a significant drain on resources and beyond the reach of many. **The Class of 2020 was awarded over \$55,000 per year in financial aid for high school tuition.** In this time of this unexpected global health and economic crisis, such financial help has never

been more welcome. In this regard we give special thanks to the admission staff of **Mount de Sales Academy, the Diocese of Savannah, and many other donors** who work with us hand-in-hand to make it possible for many of our students to continue to advance their academic ambitions, and excel, in Catholic school through 12th Grade.

PREPARING FOR SUCCESSFUL ADMISSION

means that we offer supports that families with access to independent high school **placement counseling seek** out; such as individualized counseling about options and test preparation. Principal, Sr. Cheryl Ann Hillig, DC and our staff also connect with

local high schools about how the process may have changed and how we may have to adjust our support next year.

While the data about high school admissions continue to validate much in our approach, **it is the individual students who motivate us.** Supporting their ambitions and helping their hard work pay off is among the most rewarding work we do.

And, as we review the generations of SPCCS alumni from a school that has over 117 years serving our community, **we know, high school admissions success is just the beginning. We are doing God's work.**

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Judge M. Yvette Miller, Class of 1968 (6th Grade)

Judge Miller's journey to the Georgia Court of Appeals is a lesson in grit and hard work. From walking the halls of SPCCS, her first school, to being appointed in 1992 by Governor Zell Miller as the first woman, first African American, and youngest director/judge of the Appellate Division of the State Board of Worker's Compensation to becoming Georgia's first African-American woman chief judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals in 2009, she became a trailblazer for many others who followed.

Judge Miller says her love of learning began at SPCCS. She remembers, when in second grade, her mother made her read 25 books



every summer. In third grade she remembers discussing what she wanted to do with her life with her father. By sixth grade, she had an answer, she wanted to be a lawyer because she enjoyed reading, wanted to help people, and make a difference in the world. Judge Miller and her mother, a teacher at SPCCS, left SPCCS after sixth grade and together, integrated a local public school. Judge Miller is the epitome of the expression of our school mission that nurtures excellence in academics and hearts of service in our students.

GIVING

FOUNDATION GRANTS

Community Foundation of
Central Georgia
Dorothy V. and Logan L.
Lewis Foundation
E.J. Grassmann Trust
Mission & Ministry Inc.
Sisters of the Blessed
Sacrament

INDIVIDUAL GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Anonomous
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Mission Board
John Matthany Scholarship

ALUMNI MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr. Quentin Bishop
Ms. Mary K. Geaslen
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In Honor Of Joe Moran

Macon Lions Club
Mr. Joseph Moran

In Honor Of Father Frank Critch, OFM & Fr. Casey Cole, OFM Service at UGA

Ms. Ann Berrigan
Canon Giving Fund
Ms. Julie Cashin
Ms. Jean Lauth
Mr. Ronald Makula
Ms. Dian Morrow
Ms. Patricia French
Ms. Jean Giannasi
Ms. Sandra Hunt
Mr. Ronald Makala
Ms. Ann Malanoski
Mr. Terry McNamara
Ms. Grace Mueller
Ms. Mary Ellen Quinn
Ms. Jane Raines
Ms. Kathy Warhola

In Memory of Charles Hutchings

Ms. Susan Flemming

In Memory of Catherine Larkin

Mr. Joseph Moran

In Memory of Lymon Rains

Ms. Jane Raines

In Memory of Pat Robinson

Mr. Joseph Moran

In Memory of Brenda Critch

Mr. Wm. Ashley
Mr. Thomas Burke
Canon Giving
Ms. Marilyn Dapkus

In Memory of Glen Tomey

Ms. Marion Clark

In Memory of Beverly Wimberly

Ms. Marion Clark

CORPORATIONS WITH MATCHING FUNDS

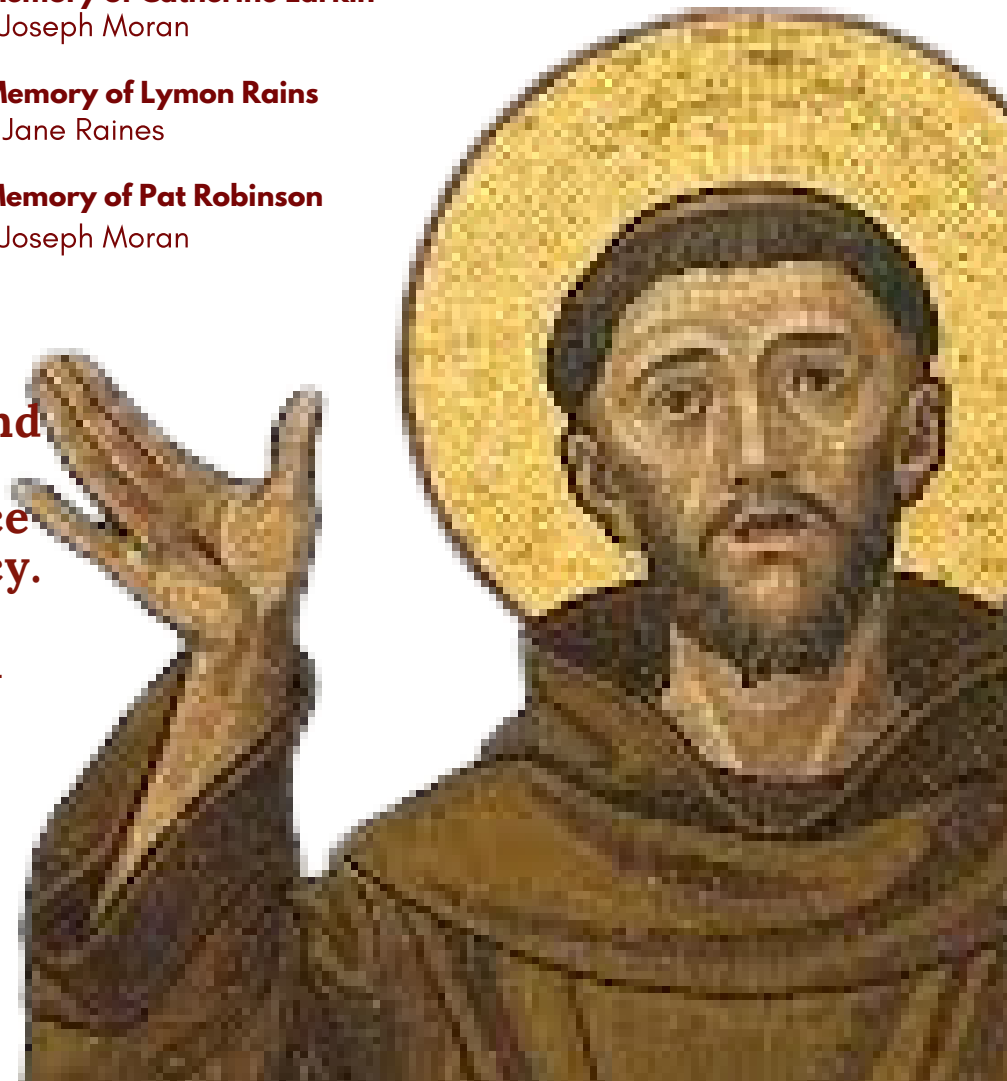
AT&T
Johnson & Johnson

IN KIND GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Daughters of Charity
Dr. Anthony Quan Hong

**The Lord bless you and
keep you.
May He show His face
to you and have mercy.
May He turn His
countenance to you
and give you peace.
The Lord bless you!**

The Blessing of St. Francis of
Assisi to Brother Leo



DONOR CORNER



Dr. Anthony Quan Hong is a parishioner who lives and works in Macon. He donates to SPCCS because he believes deeply in the transformative power of a robust Catholic education. He himself is proof positive of its value. Educated in Trinidad at St. Mary's College, a prestigious Catholic high school founded by the Holy Ghost Fathers, he afterwards went to medical school at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland and then specialized in Neurology at Medical College of Virginia. The foundational education, fast friends, spiritual guidance and discipline he found at St. Mary's has stayed with him until today and were instrumental in his climb. His son, Damir, will continue his Catholic education at SPCCS Middle School in 2021 for that very reason.

MISSION PARTNER PROPS

WHERE TO NEXT? The answer: Anywhere she wants! Meet **Johniya Barnes**, Class of 2018, and a 10th grade student at Mount deSales Academy. She is a recipient of the annual **St. Peter Claver Scholarship** provided by **North Macon Rotary**. This scholarship helps one of our alumni continue their education at Mount deSales Academy and is made possible by the annual fundraising efforts of the MNR membership. **In December 2019, Johniya visited the MNR Club to make a presentation and give thanks to the Club for changing her life.** *"As an eighth grader at St. Peter Claver, it was my dream to attend the Upper School of Mount de Sales, but I could not imagine it really happening. Being selected for this scholarship has opened a world of opportunity for me, and I am so enriched and I am thankful to the NMR Club."*

Johniya is thriving at school. She has learned to be a friend, to deal with people, to speak in public (and she did a fantastic job at NMR). Johniya has great plans for her future.



Dana Park, Amy Fitzpatrick, Dr. Mike Franklin, and Johniya Barnes

Meanwhile her todays are filled with academics, color guard, music, choir, and friends. She is on her way! Perhaps, she thinks, to medical school.

St. Peter Claver Catholic School is forever grateful for the hard work and exhaustive fundraising efforts of our partner, **North Macon Rotary Club**. Together, we make things happen for our students!

LIVING THE MISSION



CARING FOR ALL OF GOD'S CREATURES is an essential part of the teachings of our community. Not only because God has entrusted the world to us, but because human life is itself a gift which must be protected. All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience and talents. So said Pope Francis in his 2015 Encyclical, *Laudato Si*, and our Daughters of Charity and Franciscan Friar communities agree - this is important and extremely serious stuff.

Ms. Sandra Davis-Johnson's Fourth Grade learned a lot about good stewardship of our planetary home this year under the direction of Ms. Candace Neller-Harper, owner of a local business called Secondhand Soil. Candace started Secondhand Soil in 2019 to help divert trash from the landfill. For her, this is a true labor of love. She provides customers with little

buckets for collection of table scraps and paper, she collects them, composts them, and then brings back beautiful compost soil.

Mrs. Neller-Harper collaborated with SPCCS to teach students all about the **composting** process from start to finish during weekly visits. She showed them better ways to deal with trash, how to engage with municipal authorities on these issues, how to use the soil to grow food, and just how much **math and science** is involved.

Students say that it's harder than it looks.

Bryson Harrell, quoted on 41NBC said he learned "*that it is really hard to do calculations for compost. You've got points and dimensions. It's really good though. I get to help the community to do something.*"



GROWING THE MISSION



YOUR VOICE MATTERS - that's what we teach our students. Our curriculum is designed to enrich our students understanding of social issues through personal reflection and socially responsible participation and leadership, in an effort to create a culture of service both at school and within our local community.

On the Table is a one of a kind opportunity to bring people of all backgrounds together to have meaningful conversations about important topics to the community. It explores how the power of collaboration can make our community stronger, safer, and more dynamic. This is exactly the type of opportunity we encourage our students to experience.

So on October 19th, SPCCS Middle School students all got together for lunch to have some real talk facilitated by teachers, alumni and parents. After their tables, on topics such as crime, after school activities, and our environment, the students completed the program survey. The results of this survey are available at onthetablemacon.com/impact and are being used by local government and others to help determine what Macon needs to flourish in the future. **Truly our students are having their voices heard in a constructive and material way.**

With the help of SPCCS parent, **Mrs. Andrea Cooke**, our students were awarded a mini action-grant from the **Community Foundation of Central Georgia and the Knight Foundation** to support one of their ideas to collaborate with **L.H. William Recreation Center** to make more use of these underutilized community facilities. Unfortunately COVID interrupted completion of this project, but our students have LOTS more good ideas to come!



St. Peter Claver Catholic School
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The Advancement Office gratefully acknowledges the many alumni, parents, grandparents, faculty/staff, and friends who have generously contributed their money, time and efforts to St. Peter Claver Catholic School. Every attempt has been made to accurately list all contributions as of June 30, 2020. However, if you notice any inaccuracies or omissions, please accept our sincere apologies and notify us at 478.743.3985 or rsweeney@spccatholicsschool.org