



January 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday, January 5 - Classes resume
- Thursday, Jan. 15: Winter Band Concert 6:30 pm
- Friday, Jan. 16: Early Dismissal/PD for staff
- Monday, Jan. 19: NO SCHOOL, MLK Day
- Thursday, Jan. 22: So MD Catholic Schools Mass (grades 3-8) Second quarter ends
- Sunday, Jan. 25: Open House for Alumni/Parishes (12:15 - 2:00)
- Sunday, Jan. 25 - Sat, Jan 31: Catholic Schools Week
- Monday, Jan. 26: FAW School Mass
- Thursday, Jan. 29: Career Fair
- Friday, Jan. 30: Student Appreciation Day and field trips
- Saturday, Jan. 31: HSA Family BINGO (1-4pm)
- Friday, Feb. 6: 1st grade hosts Mass/NJHS Induction following Mass
- Friday, Feb. 13: ALL Staff Retreat & Work Day/NO SCHOOL for Students
- Monday, Feb. 16: NO SCHOOL, President's Day
- Wednesday, Feb. 18: Ash Wednesday Mass
- Friday, Feb. 20: No school Mass
- Wednesday, Feb. 25: Interims

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

1. **RE-ENROLLMENT** will open for existing FAW students on Wednesday, January 14 at 10am in FACTS. You will receive an email with a re-enrollment link. Your enrollment package must be completed by Saturday, January 31 to secure your spot for next year. Per the Parent/Student Handbook, if your re-enrollment package is not completed by January 31, you will be subject to a \$50 late enrollment fee that will be assessed through FACTS. Please contact the office if you have any questions about re-enrollment.
2. **FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS:** In order to qualify for **any** type of financial assistance from FAW or the Archdiocese, you **must** complete an ADW financial aid application. If you receive an inquiry for additional information from FACTS, please respond promptly. An incomplete financial aid application will not qualify for financial assistance from the Archdiocese and will impact any additional financial aid award.

The deadline is February 27, 2026. You can apply for financial aid at this link: [Financial Aid Application](#)

FATHER ANDREW WHITE



January 2026

Crusader Connections

2025

SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS



5th Grade Science Fair

Individual Project Winners

1st Place:

Nina Coyle "Which Weight of Field Point Arrow Tip Goes the Farthest?"

2nd Place:

Finn Allan "Keep Your Uniform Hall of Fame Ready"

3rd Place:

Bodey Small "Feed that Sourdough Starter"

Sparkle Award:

Mirabel Schneider "Birds Say Cheep Cheep: An Investigation to See if Birds Eat More Expensive or Inexpensive Bird Seed"

Partner Project Winners

1st Place:

Payton Russell and Leah Breedlove "Petri Playground"

2nd Place:

Albin Gidley and Henry Downey "Water Growth: Does the Type of Water Affect the Plant Growth?"

3rd Place:

Sam Lawson and Tate McCurdy "Which Tool Can Cut Through Wood the Fastest?"

Sparkle Award Group 1:

Emma Bocian & Naomi Cooley "Rooting for the Future: The Study of Plant Propagation"

Sparkle Award Group 2:

Robby Dent & Carson Huett "What Design of Paper Airplane Flies the Farthest Long Nose or Short Nose?"

Middle School Science Fair

Animal Science

1st Place: Kaitlyn Rossignol "Shampooch"

2nd Place: Morgan Raley "Hold Your Horses"

Sparkle: Lucas Lawson "Kitty Ditties"

Plant Science

1st Place: Madeline Gidley "Liquid Logic"

2nd Place: Adley Wicker "Pop Pop Popcorn"

3rd Place: Keely McDonald "How to Ruin a Plant's Day"

Sparkle: Aoife Mayo "Plant Fashion"

Behavioral & Social Sciences

1st Place: Alexander Greene "Reaction Time"

2nd Place: Lucas Wathen "Paper vs. Pixels"

3rd Place: Ruby Friess "How Does the Color of Drinks Affect the Taste?"

Sparkle Award: Vivian Cetroneo "Can You Chew Your Way to Better Grades?"

Microbiology

1st Place: Lily Mabrey "5 Second Rule"

2nd Place: Emerson Zapoli "Save our Sandwich"

Sparkle: Jordan Paxton "Sticky Icky Germ Hotspots"

Environmental Science

1st Place: Olivia Shedd "Black Gold"

2nd Place: Claire Haley "Healthy Cleaning"

Medicine & Health Sciences

1st Place: Madison Zackman "No Need for Caffeine"

2nd Place: Matthew Perraut "How Sound Affects the Heart"

3rd Place: Abby Redding "My Heart Skipped a Beat"

Engineering: Materials and Bioengineering

1st Place: Blake Good "Ballin' on a Budget"

2nd Place: Madison Huett "Powerful Paper"

3rd Place: Cooper Farr "Un-Mark My Words" and Nate Farasy "Will it Break?"

Sparkle Award: Emily Buzzell "Bagging the Truth" and Skylar Gillette "Secret Message"

Engineering: Electrical and Mechanical

1st Place: Bodie Phillips "Lighting Up the Holidays"

2nd Place: Jackson Wilson "Current Events"

3rd Place: Nicholas Ciecka "Lem' Me Tell You About Lemon Batteries"

Mathematics

Sparkle: Jack Tritschler "Effort vs. Skill What Makes a Winner?"

Chemistry

1st Place: Hannah Pusloskie "The Great Pepper Escape"

2nd Place: Grant Beaver "Ice, Ice Go Away"

3rd Place: Ava Jones "How Acidic is Your Skincare?"

Physics

1st Place: Jack Hamm "Stealthy Shapes"

2nd Place: Shay Johnston "Curve Appeal"

3rd Place: Hannah Granger "Tesla Coil"

Sparkle Award: Jackson Jones "Puck Mass vs. Shot Speed"

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Crusader Connections

January 2026

2025 HISTORY FAIR WINNERS



Middle School History Fair

War, Conflict, and Global Events

1st Place: Courtney Burfield "The Heavy Water Project"
2nd Place: Everett Sample "The Revolution that Built Modern Japan"
3rd Place: Ben Matisick "A Day in Infamy"
Sparkle Award: Cece Hinkle "The Fall of Adolf Hitler"
Sparkle Award: Juliette Guerre "Feline Fear"

Science, Technology, and Innovation

1st Place: Tarvon Nolan "Safer Play: The Evolution of Football Equipment"
2nd Place: Scarlett Downey "Ready, Set, Blast Off"
3rd Place: Trevor Vallandingham "The Agricultural Revolution and the History of Farming Equipment"
Sparkle Award: Reid Curry "Dust in the Wind"
Sparkle Award: Alex Laney "A Captain's Legacy"

Social Movements & Civil Rights

1st Place (tie): Tyler Burghardt "Tiger Woods - Breaking Color Barriers"
1st Place (tie): Molly Filippini "Pitch Perfect"
3rd Place: Luna Farr "Women in Sports and Equal Pay"
Sparkle Award: Charlie Valeski "The Special Olympics"
Sparkle Award: Lilly Ann McCurdy "The Emmart-Pierpont House"

Culture, Economy, & Society

1st Place: Madeline Gidley "Trail Forged by Force"
2nd Place: Sully Allan "One Man, One Government"
3rd Place: Sophia Cacko "The Land Between Rivers"
Sparkle Award: Poppy Peacock "The Last Roman Sunset"
Sparkle Award: Liam Tafur "Lafayette: The Frenchman That Helped Make America"
Sparkle Award: Abigail DeVorse "Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story"

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Crusader Connections



Fourth grader Ryleigh's drawing of the Holy Family was published in the print edition of *The Catholic Standard*. Here is the link to the online Christmas Junior Saints, which includes seven drawings by students from Father Andrew White School. To view more, visit [here](#).



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January 2026

Crusader Connections

These amazing 8th grade students participated in the Veterans of Foreign Wars 2025 Patriot's Pen Patriotic Essay Writing Competition. This contest allowed students to think, write, and express their patriotic opinions. In addition to their 1st through 3rd place finishes, they collectively won over \$1,000 in cash prizes! Some even went on to compete in the District (designated as "An Outstanding Young Spokesperson of the Future") and now the State levels!

Congratulations to Bella, Claire, Elliana, Aoife, Scarlett, and Madeline!



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Cabin of God's *love*

If you would like to make a donation to the Cabin of God's Love, please send items to FAW labeled for FAW DI. Thank you!



Members from the FAW DI

Destination Imagination team, the DI 1ders, cleaned out and restocked the Cabin of God's Love housed at Our Lady of the Wayside over the Christmas break. This project was a DI initiative in 2019 to provide essential items to the community visiting the food pantry at OLW. The team cleaned out the box and restocked it with items including socks, soaps, toothbrushes, and lotions.

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Crusader Connections

January 2026

Parent Volunteers Needed to Cover Lunch and Recess on Wednesday During Catholic Schools Week

To show our appreciation for our FAWesome Faculty and Staff, please consider volunteering your time to assist during lunch and/or recess time on Wednesday, Jan. 28th (during Catholic Schools Week) so that all the teachers, paras, and staff members can enjoy an uninterrupted lunch together! We need about 20 volunteers to make this possible. All volunteers must be VIRTUS certified. Sign up here —>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044AADAA23A1FD0-61411480-catholic>



2026 CSW Student Volunteers (Speech Readers) for Mass Invitation

Catholic Schools Week is fast approaching (Sunday, January 25th - Saturday, January 31st) and as in years past, we are asking for student volunteers for January 24th and 25th at all weekend Masses in each of our home parishes - St. Aloysius, Our Lady's, and St. Francis Xavier. If your child/children would like to participate as a Speech Reader, please sign them up via the SignUpGenius link →

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044AADAA23A1FD0-61411425-catholic> or see the below form. All selected participants will then be notified for this special occasion. We will work with your child to write a short speech and practice at school so he/she is ready! *We ask that all of our FAW students attending Mass that weekend wear their Father Andrew White uniform in recognition of Catholic Schools Week.* Thank you in advance for your support of Father Andrew White School.

FATHER ANDREW WHITE



January 2026

Crusader Connections

January 6, 2026

Dear FAW Families,

Catholic Schools Week is fast approaching (Sunday, January 25th - Saturday, January 31st) and as in years past, we are asking for student volunteers for January 24th and 25th at all weekend Masses in each of our home parishes - St. Aloysius, Our Lady's, and St. Francis Xavier. If your child/children would like to participate as a Speech Reader, please sign them up via the SignUpGenius link →

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044AADAA23A1FD0-61411425-catholic>

Alternatively, you may email this information to FAWnews@fatherandrewwhite.org. All selected participants will then be notified for this special occasion. We will work with your child to write a short speech and practice at school so he/she is ready! We ask that **all** of our FAW students attending Mass that weekend wear their Father Andrew White uniform in recognition of Catholic Schools Week. Thank you in advance for your support of Father Andrew White School.

Sincerely,

FAW Catholic Schools Week Committee

(Cut and return to school by Friday, January 10th)

FAW Student Mass Volunteers for:

Saturday, January 24, 2026 OR Sunday, January 25, 2026

PARISH: _____

FAMILY NAME: _____ PHONE #: _____

Mass Available (please circle):

St. Aloysius	Our Lady's	St. Francis Xavier
Saturday: 5pm	Saturday: 4pm	Saturday: 4pm
Sunday: 8am	Sunday: 8:30am	Sunday: 8am
Sunday: 11am	Sunday: 11am	Sunday: 11am

Student Speech Reader's Name (read at end of Mass): _____

FATHER ANDREW WHITE



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Crusader Connections

FATHER ANDREW WHITE SCHOOL CAREER DAY

WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU SHARE YOUR CAREER
WITH OUR STUDENTS!



WE ARE LOOKING FOR 14 PROFESSIONALS TO GIVE 1 HOUR
(THREE 20-MINUTE SESSIONS) OF HANDS-ON PRESENTATIONS
TO OUR STUDENTS. PLEASE CONTACT
OFFICE@FATHERANDREWWHITE.ORG TO SIGN UP OR
FOR MORE INFO

THURSDAY,
JANUARY 29

9:30 AM

FATHER ANDREW WHITE



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Crusader Connections



SAVE THE DATE!	JANUARY 31, 2026 1:00-4:00 PM	FAW FAMILY BINGO AND VENDOR FAIR
	FOOD	
 FRIENDS		 FUN

THEMED GOD AND COUNTRY! WEAR YOUR BEST AMERICANA
AND BRING YOUR FAVORITE BINGO DAUBER! IT'S SURE TO BE A
GRAND OLD TIME!

FATHER ANDREW WHITE



January 2026

Crusader Connections

FATHER ANDREW WHITE SCHOOL

PAINT THE **SPIRIT ROCK**



SHOW YOUR **SCHOOL SPIRIT!**

RENT THE SPIRIT ROCK FOR
BIRTHDAYS, SPECIAL OCCASIONS,
SCHOOL EVENTS, INSPIRATION,
CLASS SPIRIT, ETC!
SIGN UP ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE
TO MAKE A RESERVATION!

\$20



Santa Shop Thank You

A huge thank you goes to the many elves who made this year's Santa Shop a success. Nearly 200 students selected and wrapped 1,725 gifts which resulted in raising \$5,175 for Father Andrew White School! We are looking for someone to step up to be the Coordinator (or Co-Coordinator) for next year's Santa Shop. If you are interested in helping and experiencing priceless joy, please email FAWnews@fatherandrewwhite.org.



Special Occasions

The Spirit Rock is available for those who would like to decorate it for their child's birthday or other special occasion! Use the following link to sign up:

<https://fatherandrewwhite.org/spirit-rock/>



January 2026

Crusader Connections



NOTES FROM NURSE ROSE

While the flu season is technically halfway over, there are still many cases of the flu and Influenza Type Illness in our area. The overall respiratory illness activity in Maryland is currently rated as "High" with Flu A being predominant, along with some RSV and COVID-19. Other illnesses currently being seen include the norovirus (or stomach bug) and the common cold (caused by various viruses). For reporting purposes, all illnesses that present with typical flu symptoms (such as fever, fatigue, cough, sore throat, congestion) are categorized as "Influenza Type Illness." When the number of these cases is high within a certain population (such as school), it is reported to the local health department, and an outbreak may be declared. We'll keep praying that FAW does not reach that status, but if it does, you will be notified. In the meantime, keep washing your hands, and stay healthy!

COLD or FLU?

COLD SYMPTOMS

- loss of appetite
- sneezing
- cough
- runny nose
- lacrimation
- sore throat

FLU SYMPTOMS

- heat
- weakness
- headache
- drowsiness
- increased sweating
- muscle pain



January 2026



Notes from the Bookkeeper

Important Updates:

1. **Re-enrollment** will open for existing FAW students on **Wednesday, January 14 at 10am** in FACTS. You will receive an email with a re-enrollment link. Your enrollment package **must be completed by Saturday, January 31** to secure your spot for next year. Per the Parent/Student Handbook, if your re-enrollment package is not completed by January 31, you will be subject to a \$50 late enrollment fee that will be assessed through FACTS. Please contact the office if you have any questions about re-enrollment.

The Financial Aid application for the 2026-2027 school year is still open!

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS: In order to qualify for **any** type of financial assistance from FAW or the Archdiocese, you **must** complete an ADW financial aid application. If you receive an inquiry for additional information from FACTS, please respond promptly. An incomplete financial aid application will not qualify for financial assistance from the Archdiocese and will impact any additional financial aid award.

The deadline is February 27, 2026. You can apply for financial aid at this link: [Financial Aid Application](#)

This application is the starting point for ALL requests for financial assistance from Father Andrew White School.

The financial aid application is open and we encourage you to fill it out early. To qualify for any tuition assistance, you must submit this application. Once you have completed the application, please keep an eye on your email for any requests for additional information from FACTS - failure to provide any requested information will result in an incomplete application, which will not be considered for financial aid.

The **due date is February 27, 2026**. The application will request 2024 tax information, so there's no need to wait to start your application.

To fill in an application, log into your FACTS Family Portal and click on **Financial** on the left side. Then click on **Apply for Grant & Aid**. From there, click on **Create your Account** to start your financial aid application.

FATHER ANDREW WHITE



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FATHER ANDREW WHITE SCHOOL

FAW HSA HAPPENINGS

Home & School Association

Jan 2026

2025-2026 HSA BOARD

President: Kym Leyva-Johnson
Vice-President: Open
Treasurer: Melanie Barry
Marketing Liaison: Justine Shedd
Secretary: Virginia Morris
At-Large Member: Lisa Gidley
At-Large Member: Stacey Mae Tafur
Faculty Liaison: Mrs. Sarah Kavanagh

faw.hsa.board@gmail.com

 [HSA & School Calendar](#)

[HSA & School Calendar](#)

A BIG "THANK YOU!"

The HSA extends a heartfelt thank you to our amazing event coordinators — Sabrina Jarboe for the Thanksgiving Luncheon; Shannon Dent for the Brown Bag Auction; and Linda Greer for Santa Shop.

The success of these events was made possible by their hard work, creativity, and dedication. We are also deeply grateful to their committees, generous sponsors and donors, and the many volunteers who helped make these time-honored events such a success.

Thank you for your continued support of Father Andrew White School!

LOOKING AHEAD: 2026

Catholic Schools Week	1/25 - 1/31
Family Bingo	1/31
Shamrock Shuffle	3/14
Spring Social & Auction	4/24
Teacher Appreciation Week	5/4 - 5/8

UPCOMING HSA EVENTS

Family Bingo & Vendor Fair

1/31/26

Join us for an exciting afternoon of fun at our annual Family Bingo & Vendor Fair on Saturday, 1/31/26 from 1-4 PM in the FAW gym.

Enjoy a God & Country-themed event featuring great prizes, food available for purchase, and bingo called by the Knights of Columbus.

Vendors from all around Southern Maryland will be featured with amazing items for purchase before and during bingo - perfect for shopping while you play!

Everyone is welcome! Invite your friends, family, and neighbors!

If you'd like to help with this event, please let us know via e-mail at: faw.hsa.board@gmail.com.

Shamrock Shuffle 5K & Fun Run/Walk

3/14/26

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 14, 2026, and kick off spring with a morning of community, fitness, and fun. Whether you're aiming for a personal best in the 5K or enjoying a leisurely 1-mile stroll with family and friends, there's something for everyone at this festive St. Patrick's-themed event!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer or help with planning, please reach out to Jane Isleib at janeisleib@gmail.com, or (720) 202-5236.

We'd love to have you be part of making this event a huge success!

SAVE THE DATE: Spring Social & Auction

4/24/26

It's time to start planning for our annual Spring Social and Auction, which will be held at the Olde Breton Inn this year! This is one of FAW's major fundraising events and committees are forming. If you'd like to help in any way, please contact Paulina Bellezza at FAW.Auction@gmail.com.

Don't forget to get your tuition raffle tickets!

OPEN HSA BOARD POSITION: VP

Are you looking to get involved and help support our school community? The HSA currently has an open Board position available for Vice President (VP). This is a one school year commitment, which would end in June 2026.

If you are interested, please provide a letter of interest to the HSA at faw.hsa.board@gmail.com.

FATHER ANDREW WHITE



Crusader Connections

January 2026

SCHOOL CALENDAR WITH
HSA EVENTS!



Father Andrew White, S.J. School
LEADERSHIP + FAITH + ACADEMICS

2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August	26	1st Day of School (K-8) - 12:30 Dismissal
	29	12:30 Early Dismissal - Professional Day
September	1	No School - Labor Day
	2	Pre-K Starts
	18	12:30 Early Dismissal
	19	No School - St. Mary's County Fair
	22	No School - Professional Day
October	17	Crusader Cup
	18	Trunk or Treat
	23	12:30 Early Dismissal
	24	No School - Collaboration Day
	30	End of the 1 st Quarter
November	6	12:30 Early Dismissal
	7	No School
	21	Thanksgiving Luncheon & Brown Bag Auction
	26-28	No School - Thanksgiving Break
December	1	Classes Resume
	5	Santa Shop
	19	Santa's Cinema - Class Christmas Party
	19	12:30 Early Dismissal - Christmas Break Begins
	22-31	No School - Christmas Break
January	1-4	No School - New Year's Day
	5	Classes Resume
	16	12:30 Early Dismissal
	19	No School - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
	22	End of 2nd Quarter
	25-31	Catholic Schools Week
	31	Family Bingo
February	13	No School - Professional Day
	16	No School - Presidents' Day
March	6	12:30 Early Dismissal
	9	No School - Collaboration Day
	30	End of the 3 rd Quarter
	TBD	"Shamrock Shuffle" Fun Run
April	2	12:30 Early Dismissal - Holy Thursday
	3-12	No School - Easter Break
	13	Classes Resume
	24	Spring Social and Auction
May	22	12:30 Early Dismissal
	25	No School - Memorial Day
June	10	12:30 Early Dismissal
	11	12:30 Early Dismissal
	12	12:30 Early Dismissal - End of 4th Quarter - Last Day of School

All dates are subject to change. Events in blue signify HSA sponsored events.