

## 2023-2024 School Year



Official PBIS Silver School & 2022 Kindness Certified School  
2021-2023 Top Work Places – 3 years in a row

### Social Media

Facebook:

St. Philip Neri Catholic School

Instagram: [Spnjesters](#)

X: [@StPhilipNeriSch](#)

### December 8, 2023

#### INFORMATIONAL FLYERS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

SCHOOL EVENTS – HSA Tuition Raffle, Santa’s Secret Workshop Donations Needs, SSW Schedule, Chorus Christmas Concert (12/19), School Christmas Concert (12/20), Candy Grams Announcement and Order Form.  
PARISH EVENTS – Youth Mass (12/10), Breakfast with St. Nicholas (12/17), SPN and SC Christmas Mass Schedule

### Looking Ahead

- December 8, 2023 HSA’s Fall Raffingo at 7 PM  
<https://www.facebook.com/stphilipnericatholicschool>
- December 10, 2023 Youth Mass at 5 PM
- December 11, 2023 Makeup for Absentees/Retakes Individual Pictures
- December 12, 2023 Spirit Day at Panda Express – All Day Long
- December 14, 2023 School Mass for pre-K to Grade 3 at 9 AM
- December 14, 2023 Santa’s Secret Workshop Set Up
- December 15, 2023 High School Applications Due
- December 15, 2023 Santa’s Secret Workshop 8 AM to 5 PM (open to Parish 3-5 PM)
- December 17, 2023 Breakfast With St. Nicholas sponsored by the Troop 447
- December 19, 2023 Ugly Sweater Day
- December 19, 2023 Choir Christmas Concert at 7:30 PM
- December 20, 2023 School Christmas Concert at 8:30 AM (NEW TIME)
- December 20, 2023 Early Dismissal at 11 AM
- December 21-31 NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break
- January 1-2, 2024 NO SCHOOL - Happy New Year

St. Philip Neri School • 410-859-1212 • [office@spnmd.org](mailto:office@spnmd.org) • [spnmd.org](http://spnmd.org)

#### Mission Statement:

St. Philip Neri School is dedicated to fostering Catholic faith and academic excellence. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, students are provided the opportunity to develop their gifts and talents while striving to become active members of their church. A foundation for future success and life-long learning is provided in partnership with the family, parish and school community.

# December 8 - TONIGHT

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION'S FALL RAFFINGO

Live-streamed at 7 PM on our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stphilipnericatholicsschool>

## DECEMBER 10

Youth Mass at 5 PM



## DECEMBER 11

Makeup for Absentees or  
Retakes of Individual  
Pictures



## DECEMBER 14

School Mass for PreK  
through Grade 3  
Please join us in the church!  
All are welcome!  
Mass starts at 9 AM.



## DECEMBER 14

Setup for Santa's Secret Workshop

## DECEMBER 15

Santa's Secret Workshop Day!

Congratulations to one of our staff members on winning the SPN Jester Spirit Award. Each week we honor a different faculty or staff member for being awesome!

Congratulations to  
Mr. Philip Lathroum

WAY TO BE AWESOME,  
MR. LATHROUM!



# Advent 2023

CALENDAR

Daily At-Home Advent Activities for Families

◆ DECEMBER ◆

SUN 10

Sing Christmas hymns together. Light the second purple Advent candle. Pray to God to be faithful even when it is difficult.

MON 11

As you prepare for Jesus' coming, plan a day and time for family members to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

TUE 12

**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
Read the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Sing a favorite hymn that honors Mary.

WED 13

Choose family prayer partners. Print each family member's name on an index card; decorate it; fold it in half and place in a basket. Pass the basket around and have each family member pick a name. Pray for that person during Advent.

THUR 14

Make Christmas cookies and share them together. Thank God for the gifts of food and family.

FRI 15

On Christmas Day, children may receive new gifts and new toys. Go through the toys you have and donate ones that you have outgrown to a local charity.

SAT 16

Gather together for a meal and begin with a blessing. Make a plan to donate a meal to a person or family in need in your community.





# BALTIMORE SUN MEDIA

St. Philip Neri School is a 2023 Top  
Workplace!  
3 Years Running



After Mass on Friday, Mrs. Daley announced our Top Workplace award! We are very proud of our accomplishments!





If you have any questions about anything on this page, please contact Mrs. Sue Wenzlick at [swenzlick@spnmd.org](mailto:swenzlick@spnmd.org).

## EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 15 - WRAPPING ITEMS NEEDED!

We are in need of the following items so Santa's little helpers can wrap the special gifts bought at the Santa's Secret Workshop:

WRAPPING PAPER  
RIBBONS & BOWS  
CHRISTMAS BAGS  
SHIRT BOXES  
TISSUE PAPER  
TAPE



Please bring your donations into the school office. Donations are due by FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15. (These donations do not count toward service hours.)

## DUE - DECEMBER 12 - DUNKIN GIFT CARDS!

We are looking for donations of Dunkin gift cards!

Donations are due by TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12.  
This donation will count towards family service hours.



## DECEMBER 14 - RECTANGULAR TABLES

It looks like we are in need of 10 rectangular tables so our wrappers have a place to do their elf duties!

If you have a table we could borrow for the workshop, please drop off in the gym on Thursday, December 14, during our setup time! Please make sure your table has your name on it so it can be returned to its proper owner! Please inform Mrs. Sue Wenzlick so she can keep a record of this borrowed item!



## CHRISTMAS (Holy Day of Obligation)



"Christ" - "Mass"...Celebrate the birth of Christ at Mass this holiday season. Join us in preparation during the Advent season then stay with us during the year. Welcome Jesus into your life. Let Him guide you through difficult times and celebrate with you during happy times. When you allow him to come into your life and to take control, He truly opens paths for everyone.

December 24	St. Philip Neri St. Clement	3:30 PM, 5:30 PM and 11 PM 4 PM (English), and 6 PM (Spanish)
December 25	St. Philip Neri St. Clement	10 AM 8 AM (Spanish) and 10 AM (English)



Wednesday,  
December 20,  
at 8:30 AM

We will host our annual School Christmas Concert.  
The SPN Band will be performing as well as all classes!

*Every student will be participating!*

Please plan on attending this event - You don't want to miss it!  
Everyone should be seated by 8:25 AM in the church.

Students should be dressed in nice Christmas/Church attire for this event.

Students will be dismissed from their classrooms after the concert.  
School dismissal is at 11 AM on concert day!

Get ready to be entertained!



**SPN CHRISTMAS  
CHORUS CONCERT**

**Tuesday, December 19  
at 7:30 PM**

**St. Philip Neri Church**



*"Yuletide carols being sung by a  
choir...Help to make the season bright."*



We invite everyone to come and listen to Christmas carols performed by our School's Chorus. Wonderful renditions of Christmas favorites old and new will be heard! The students have been working hard to bring you the sounds of the Christmas season. Please join us for this festive event!

**Admission is FREE!**



# Please give to the 2023-2024 Annual Fund!

Each family will receive our Annual Fund letter depicting events that happened in the 2022-2023 school year along with a list of those who donated to our Annual Fund last year.

We would love to add your name to next year's Annual Fund letter. Would you consider making a donation to the school?

Checks can be made payable to "St. Philip Neri School" and sent into the school office. You can also donate online at the link below. Please be sure to include how you would like your name to appear in next year's Annual Fund letter.

Thanks in advance for your support!

<https://forms.diamondmindinc.com/stphilipneri/onlinegiving>

## WELCOME TO THE SEASON OF ADVENT

We pray that this season will be filled with wonder and awe as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We have been blessed with so many "riches," and this season is a wonderful time to reflect on these blessings that God has bestowed upon us.

I look around and see the new safety features, enhancements and advancements to our technology and to our facility, which have been made possible by your generous giving of time as well as money to our school community. We know you have been asked for so many things already this year, and in continuing to strive to meet the needs of our school family, we are asking you once again for your assistance.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation – of any amount – to our Annual Fund Appeal so that we may continue our forward progress in making St. Philip Neri School the place where your child's soul, mind and body are nourished.

We are grateful, and we thank you, for your continued generous support.

Have a blessed Advent season!

Mrs. Sue Wenzlick  
Development Director



## Advent Wreath

**1st CANDLE** – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE** or **CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

**2nd CANDLE** – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

**3rd CANDLE** – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

**4th CANDLE** – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

**5th CANDLE** – (white) **"CHRIST CANDLE"** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

## AN ADVENT BLESSING

Dear God, we journey with you to Bethlehem's stable and a newborn King, ears attuned to the song of angels, eyes alert for Bethlehem's star. Forgive us if on our journey we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world. Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas and the promise of a Savior. Amen.



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE AT ST. PHILIP NERI SCHOOL FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Financial assistance is available from several sources:

- 1) Archdiocese of Baltimore (AOB)
- 2) St. Philip Neri Parish
- 3) St. Philip Neri School
- 4) Applicant's Parish\*



### **Anyone requesting financial aid from the AOB, SPN Parish or School:**

Families **must complete the FACTS Financial Aid Application** found at the link below. A **NEW** application must be submitted every year if you would like to be considered for aid. This application must be completed and all required documentation submitted **by February 29, 2024**, to be eligible for any AOB, School, or Parish assistance. The cost to complete this application is \$34. Here is the SPN direct link: <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/3QGNP>

Log into your account or choose "New Account" to create your account and begin the application process. Questions regarding the application process can be directed to FACTS at [866-441-4637](tel:866-441-4637).

Please note that FACTS **only** processes the applications. The decisions for granting or denying requests for assistance are made separately by: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, St. Philip Neri Parish, and St. Philip Neri School. These decisions are made during the March-April time frame. Applicants will receive a response in April-May.

**ALL TUITION ASSISTANCE AWARDS ARE CONTINGENT UPON SUBMISSION OF A COMPLETED FACTS APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPER DOCUMENTATION.  
ALL APPLICATIONS MUST HAVE A "VERIFIED" STATUS BEFORE ANY ASSISTANCE IS GRANTED.**

### **\*Anyone requesting financial aid from their parish:**

Please contact your parish directly and ask if they offer any financial aid.

## **PLEASE NOTE -**

**You MUST complete the Grant & Aid application to be eligible for assistance. New restricts have been put into place for the upcoming year. Completing the application and having received aid in the past is NOT a guarantee that you will automatically be granted assistance again for next school year.**

## **ENROLLMENT FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR**

Those who have not completed their INTENT TO ENROLL form need to reach out to Ms. Amy to make sure that your child still has a space at SPN for next year.

# PARISH EVENTS AND INFORMATION <http://www.stclementandstphilipneripastorate.org/>



## OUTREACH MONTHLY OUTINGS

**First Saturday** – Patapsco Ave., Brooklyn – Serve a hot lunch, a bagged lunch, personal care items, clothing, blankets, and towels, along with prayers and fellowship to those struggling with homelessness.

**Second Wednesday** – Salvation Army, Glen Burnie – Serve a hot and bagged lunch

**Third Friday** – Pumphrey House, Ferndale – Bingo with the local senior residents.

**Third Saturday** – The Well, Curtis Bay – Serve a hot lunch, snacks, and personal care items along with prayers and fellowship to our neighbors in Curtis Bay.

**Fourth Wednesday** – Arundel House of Hope, Glen Burnie – Serve a hot lunch, snacks, and personal care items along with prayer and fellowship to our neighbors struggling with homelessness.

**Fourth Saturday** – Glen Square & Pumphrey House, Glen Burnie – Serve a hot lunch, snacks, and personal care items along with prayers and fellowship to the elderly and disabled residents.

*If interested, contact Donna Scott at [dscott@spnmd.org](mailto:dscott@spnmd.org) to help.*

## December Food Pantry Needs

In November, we served 120 of our neighbors who came to us for Thanksgiving groceries...a record for us. We also delivered groceries to 30 more individuals at Glen Square Apartments and served 25 students each week at Glendale Elementary through our Backpack Buddies Program. It goes without saying that the pantry is quite empty. Our next food distribution cycle will begin on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. please consider donating the following items.

*Canned Corn  
Baked Beans  
Mashed Potatoes  
Scalloped Potatoes  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Pancake Mix & Syrup*

*Thank you always for your generosity*

## OUTREACH NEEDS

### Immediate Needs

Tents, Sleeping Bags or Mats

Toilet Paper

Men's Jeans, Size 32-34

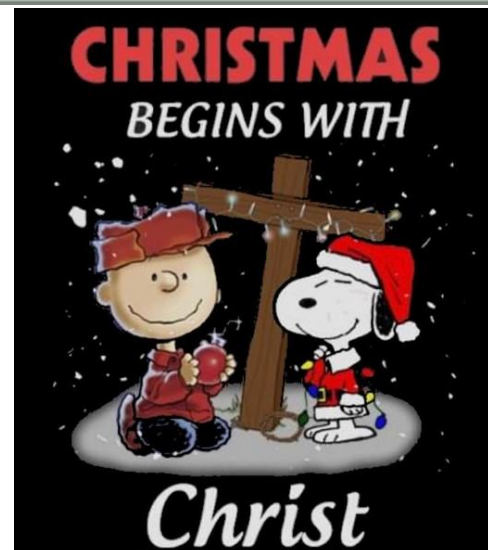
Adult Size Sweatshirts & Sweatpants, Size M-XL

New Underwear for Men, Medium-Large

Coats for Men and Women, Medium-Large

Sneakers or Winter Shoes/Boots Only

**NOTE: Outreach does not accept any other clothing; please do not drop off.**



## St. Philip Neri Christmas Mass Schedule

### Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

Regular Sunday Masses at: 8:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am

Christmas Masses:

4pm at St. Clement (English)

6pm at St. Clement (Spanish)

3:30pm St. Philip Neri

5:30pm St. Philip Neri

### Monday, December 25th

8am at St. Clement (Spanish)

10am at St. Clement (English)

10am at St. Philip Neri



**Catholic  
Schools**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

Catholic Center | 320 Cathedral Street | Baltimore, MD 21201

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**For Immediate Release**

Friday, December 8, 2023

**GREGORY A. FARNO APPOINTED CHANCELLOR OF EDUCATION  
FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE**

Baltimore, MD, (Monday, December 4, 2023) – William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore, appointed Mr. Gregory A. Farno as Chancellor of Education for the Archdiocese of Baltimore school system. The appointment of Mr. Farno comes after an extensive search following the retirement of Chancellor Emeritus, James B. Sellinger, in June of 2022.

“We are truly blessed to welcome Mr. Farno into this significant role of leading our Department of Catholic Schools. He is an individual with a long-standing commitment to education, to his community and to his faith. His impeccable record in leadership and organizational success make him the ideal person to take on this important position,” said Archbishop Lori. “I look forward to working closely with him as we continue to build upon our School’s strong Christ-centered foundation where every student is valued and where learning is celebrated.”

Mr. Farno joins the archdiocese from Truist Financial Corporation, where he served as the Regional President for the Maryland Region until his retirement in September 2023. As the Regional President for the Maryland Region, Mr. Farno skillfully led the commercial operations of Truist Financial Corporation, ensuring the effective delivery of the firm’s services to its clients. Prior to his tenure at Truist Financial Corporation, Mr. Farno held various distinguished positions at SunTrust Bank, including president, managing director, and senior vice president.

Mr. Farno is a highly regarded figure within Baltimore’s business community, known for his extensive involvement with philanthropic boards and committees throughout the region. His contributions have extended to organizations such as the B&O Railroad Museum, the Baltimore Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore, the Greater Baltimore Committee, the Living Classrooms Foundation, St. Ignatius Loyola Academy, St. Timothy’s School, Family and Children Services of Maryland, the Center for Urban Families, and the Maryland Bankers Association.

“Mr. Farno loves our community and has been a champion for Catholic education for the more than 25 years that I have known him,” said Bill McCarthy, Executive Director Catholic



Charities. “He has spent his 40-year banking career in greater Baltimore where he and Kathy have raised their family. He is a passionate mission driven leader, who as Chancellor will ensure that Catholic education thrives and is accessible to all neighbors who seek it. We are incredibly fortunate to have Greg as our Chancellor of Education.”

Mr. Farno will succeed as the second Chancellor of Education for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, a position established by Archbishop Lori in 2014 to ensure the long-term sustainability of Catholic Schools through enhanced operational efficiency and oversight.

As the Chancellor of Education, Mr. Farno will oversee the business operations of the Catholic school system. His responsibilities will encompass strategic initiatives for the advancement of Catholic schools, including enrollment recruitment and retention, financial stability, and the implementation of effective marketing and communication strategies. Furthermore, he will actively engage in fundraising endeavors, the development of local school boards, and advocacy for public policy.

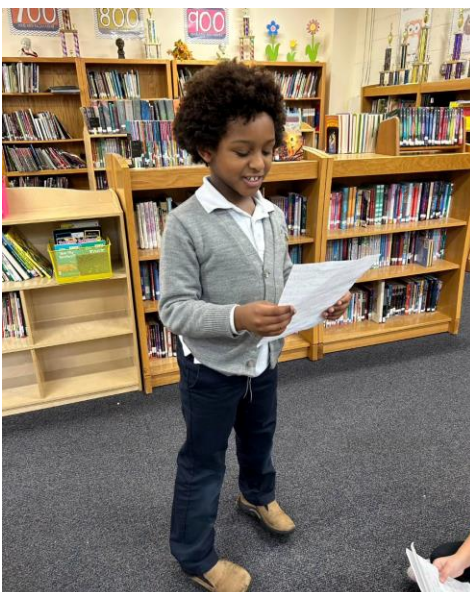
Dr. Donna Hargens will continue to serve as the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the archdiocese, a role she has ably held since 2018.

Mr. Farno will assume his new role on January 17, 2024, poised to bring his exceptional leadership and expertise to further strengthen the educational foundation of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.





Our Book Club students had to create their own chapter to add to our Book Club book. They could have added their own story line, created new characters or changed the personalities of current characters. They had free reign as long as it flowed together. They presented their work to the rest of the group.



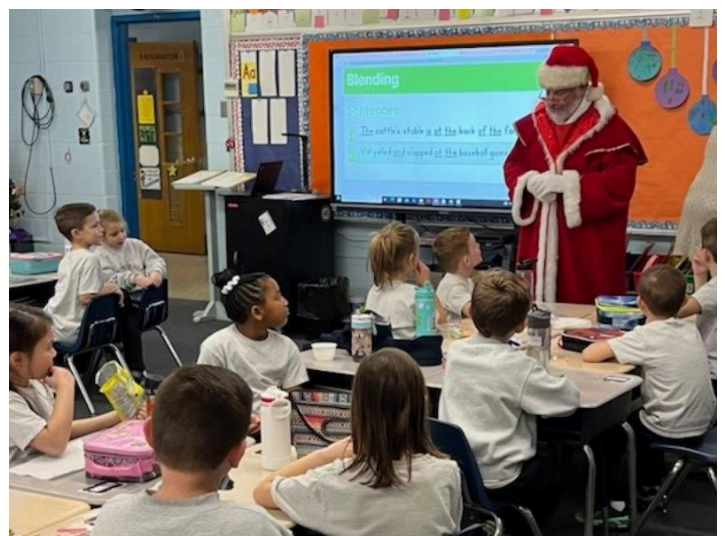


Did you know that there were Gingerbread men running around SPN? Pre-K B had to look for clues so they could collect all the Gingerbread men!





SPN has a special visitor last week! St. Nicholas! He visited all our classes and everyone received a candy cane treat!





Our Hiking Club loves going out and exploring God's creation!





# Santa's Secret Workshop



Friday, December 15, 2023



## HELPFUL TIPS FOR THIS EVENT

- BRING:**
- ☺ **A list** of names of family and friends to buy gifts for Christmas.
  - ☺ **A big shopping bag** with handles to carry all wrapped gifts.  
*Please label shopping bags!*
  - ☺ **Money** – please try to send in ones, fives or tens if you can!  
We have many wonderful buys ranging from \$1 to \$15!
  - ☺ **Your Merriest Christmas Attitude!**

## SSW Schedule for Friday, December 15, 2023

<u>SHOP TIME</u>	<u>WRAP TIME</u>	<u>Classes</u>
8:30 - 9:00	9:00 - 9:30	8A & 8B
9:00 - 9:30	9:30 - 10:00	7A & 7B
9:30 - 10:00	10:00 - 10:30	6A & 6B
10:00 - 10:30	10:30 - 11:00	KA/KB with 8A/8B Buddies
10:30 - 11:00	11:00 - 11:30	Pre-KA/Pre-KB with 7A/7B Buddies
11:00 - 11:30	11:30 - 12:00	3A/3B/2A
11:30 - 12:00	*****	<i>Lunch for Sellers</i>
*****	12:30 - 1:00	<i>Lunch for Wrappers</i>
12:30 - 1:00	1:00 - 1:30	4A/4B
1:00 - 1:30	1:30 - 2:00	5A/5B
1:30 - 2:00	2:00 - 2:30	1A/1B/2B
2:00 - 2:30		Everyone help with wrapping!
2:30 - 3:00		Restock/Cleanup
3:00-5:00 PM	3:00-5:00 PM	After School and Parish Shopping Time
5:00-6:00 PM		CLEANUP

It looks like we have plenty of volunteers to help run Santa's Secret Workshop! Students should come to the Workshop with a big shopping bag to carry home their gifts!



**Santa's Secret Workshop**  
**Friday, December 15, 2023**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**St. Philip Neri Parish Hall**



On Friday, December 15, the parish hall at St. Philip Neri will be converted into a Christmas wonderland for our community and parish! Boxes filled with great gifts have been coming in daily! Santa's Secret Workshop provides the opportunity for children time to shop for nice, inexpensive gifts for their loved ones. The cost of the gifts ranges from \$1 to \$15 and will be wrapped by Santa's little helpers.

The workshop will be open from 3-5 PM. There is no cost to enter the workshop! Please feel free to give me a call or email (preferred) if you have any questions! Hope to see you on December 15!

Thanks and God bless,  
Sue Wenzlick  
Development Director  
[swenzlick@spnmd.org](mailto:swenzlick@spnmd.org)  
410-859-1212 ext. 2107



**Please feel free to visit the Workshop after school!**  
**Sometimes our children need a little extra time!**

Sponsored by the NJHS

# CHRISTMAS CANDY CANES

\$0.50 PER CANDY CANE



- THIS YEAR, THE NJHS WILL BE ORGANIZING CHRISTMAS CANDY CANES.
- CHECK YOUR THURSDAY ENVELOPES OR PRINT THE FORM ATTACHED BELOW
- ALL MONEY MUST BE RETURNED TO TEACHERS BY DECEMBER 14TH!





# ST. PHILIP NERI TUITION RAFFLE

Supporting the SPN H.S.A.



St. Philip Neri  
Nourishing the Soul, Mind & Body

----- Top Prize -----

## ONE FULL YEAR OF TUITION\*

### VALUED @ \$6,975

-----  
Or \$2,500 Cash Option

Ticket Price:

# \$25

3 for \$60 | 5 for \$100

Drawing Date:

# May 2024

@ St. Philip Neri School

### ORDER TICKETS ONLINE @

>>> [forms.diamondmindinc.com/stphilipneri/HSATuition](https://forms.diamondmindinc.com/stphilipneri/HSATuition) <<<

For more information, please email [SPNHSAMD@gmail.com](mailto:SPNHSAMD@gmail.com).

\*Minimum of 400 tickets must be sold to award the St. Philip Neri Tuition prize, or top prize reverts to \$2,500 cash option. Tuition prize is transferrable and must be redeemed during the 2024/2025 school year. Winner is responsible for all taxes, please consult a tax professional.

*Sponsor & Proud Supporter*

**TOMAS BROTHERS**  
Home Improvement

[TomasBrothers.com](https://www.TomasBrothers.com)