



De LaSalle News



“A Beacon of Hope
for students with learning challenges.”

Winter 2017

Principal's Corner

The view from the principal's office is always interesting, but never more so than the first week of school. This year, De LaSalle Academy is welcoming 158 students, the largest number since the school opened in 2012, including 121 returning students and 37 new enrollees. Our building has reached its maximum capacity and we continue to receive inquiry calls from interested families every day. It appears that the good news about our students' success is beginning to spread around our community!

While we are meeting the challenge of keeping enrollment high, we continue to face the difficulty of providing enough tuition assistance for families in need. The school is doing an admirable job of providing assistance, setting aside 13% of our operating budget for tuition support, but there are still families that cannot begin to meet the out-of-pocket costs remaining after scholarships are applied. One of the most difficult aspects of my job is to look into the hopeful face of a child with learning challenges, but tremendous potential, and realize that the child will never get to benefit from the critically important programs that are offered at De LaSalle. My dream is that any child who requires our specialized school need only ask for help and it will be given. It is the least we can do for these marginalized children who only want the chance to succeed like other kids.



Mrs. Riti
Principal

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Happy Holidays!!!



De LaSalle Academy Transition Services In Full Swing



Mrs. Kelly Amrine

De LaSalle's Transition Service is formally underway. Mrs. Kelly Amrine, who has been teaching at De LaSalle for the past five years, recently received her Master's degree in Secondary Special Education – Transition and will oversee all transition activities. De LaSalle is committed to providing students with the tools they need to successfully transition from high school to real life, whether that means college, trade school, work, internships, or independent living.

Mrs. Amrine will work with students and their families to ensure that the transition is a smooth one. Together they will assess the student's goals, interests, preferences, and needs, and then create an individualized plan full of tasks and activities. These will include test preparation, life skills, interviewing, researching options, and more. Transition planning will begin in eighth grade to provide students with the most comprehensive plan for success after high school.



Mrs. Riti accepts a grant from The Gannett Foundation



De LaSalle Welcomes Mrs. Liz Allbritten and Dr. Larry Tihen to the Board of Directors

Mrs. Liz Allbritten and Dr. Larry Tihen recently joined De LaSalle's Board of Directors. Both bring a wealth of experience that will profoundly benefit the school. As the former Executive Director of The Immokalee Foundation, Mrs. Allbritten has done extensive work with not-for-profit organizations. As a corporate facilitator for companies that include the Pfizer Corporation, Reebok International and Florida International University, she is a proven leader who comes highly recommended to the De LaSalle Board.

Dr. Tihen has had a long and distinguished career in exceptional student education. The former interim Superintendent of Lee County Schools, he is the principal author of the Florida Reading Model and was the first recipient of the Florida Literacy Leader of the Year Award from the Florida Department of Education. As an educational consultant for state education departments he has shared his expertise in Washington, DC, Colorado, Virginia, Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas, Ohio, and Alabama.



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