

STUDENT AMBASSADOR STUDY GUIDE 2023-24 (updated 4/21/23)

ARCHITECTURE/BELL TOWER/GETZ FAMILY COURTYARD:

Design is Spanish Mission style architecture with arches throughout the architecture of campus.

LOBBY - WOMEN OF COURAGE WALL – special friends & XCP alumnae stories:

1. Sr. Joan Fitzgerald, President of Xavier
2. Virginia Piper, Arizona philanthropist & generous donor to XCP.

ACTIVITIES HALLWAY - WOMEN OF COURAGE WALL – important leaders & special friends.

ATHLETICS:

1. Sr. Lynn Winsor '61, Athletic Director and Vice Principal of Activities, Golf Coach.
2. Golf team holds national 36-year state record as AZ High School State Division I Golf Champions.
3. Inducted into the Athletic Administrators Association Hall of Fame, National Interscholastic Association Hall of Fame, National Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame, & AZ Sports Hall of Fame.
4. Sr. Lynn's famous school motto is "Let's be friendly!" – an excellent motto for all Ambassador events!

SPORTS:

1. Xavier competes in the largest division in AZ sports – Division I 6A Conference of the AIA.
2. Since 1973, Xavier has won 140 state championships, 58 state runners up, and 212 regional/sectional championships in sports in AZ.
3. 2022-23 State Soccer, State Cheer, State Golf Runner-up

ACTIVITIES:

Clubs/Activities/Publications/Honoraries– nearly 75 clubs/organizations promoted at fall Club Fair!

Martori Student Council Room: Student Council Executive Board meets here.

Kristen Hornaday Garrett Conference Room - Sr. Lynn's Senior board meets here daily.

SPORTS/CLUBS:

Archery
Badminton JV & V
Basketball F, JV & V
Beach Volleyball JV & V
Brophy/Xavier Mountain Biking
Crew/Rowing Club
Cross Country JV & V
eSports
Flag Football
Frosh Tennis
Gatorline/Spiritline: Cheer/Pom Golf V
Hot Shots/Clay Target
Lacrosse JV & V
Mock Trial Soccer F, JV & V
Robotics
Softball JV & V
Speech & Debate

Swimming/Diving V
Tennis JV & V
Track JV & V
Volleyball F, JV & V

CLUBS:

Calculus Club
Classical Music Club
Dance Theatre
Drama Club
EPICS
French Language Club
Key Club
Liturgical Music
Mock Trial
Music Club
National History Club
Pickleball Club
Photo Club
Poetry Out Loud
Political Action Committee
PUBLICITY Club
Sailing Club
Science Club
Spanish Language Club
Studio Art Club
Students for Social Action
Transfer Club (new sophomores/juniors)
Video Club
We Are Xavier (WAX diversity organization)
Xavier Environmental Response Organization (XERO)
Xavier Respect Life Club
Xavier Young Vincentians

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

Accelerated Science Program
All State Music Festivals/Solo & Ensemble Festivals
Band/Orchestra
Canned Food Drive
Catholic Schools Week Activities
Children's Theatre
Christmas Tree Lighting
Club Fair
Dances and Mixers
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Fall and Spring Theatre Productions
Frosh/New Student Orientation Activities
Gators Giving Back

International Studies (Ecuador, England, France, Spain)
Lourdes Pilgrimage during Easter
Penny Wars
Poetry Out Loud
Presidents' Council
Rallies
Student Ambassadors
Student Council/Executive Board/Class Officers
Traditions Week
Many activities co-sponsored with BCP

PUBLICATIONS:

Pierian Spring (Creative writing magazine)
Xaverian (yearbook)
XPress (newspaper)

HONORARIES:

French National Honor Society
International Thespian Society
Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society
National Art Honor Society
National English Honor Society
National History Scholars Society
National Honor Society
National Honor Society for Dance Arts
Quill and Scroll Honor Society
Spanish National Honor Society
National Computer Science Honor Society

DEAN:

Denise Macrina is the Dean of Students in charge of discipline, including detentions, tardies, out-of-uniform, etc.

DOWNSTAIRS VIRGINIA PIPER CENTER: McCain Multimedia Center

1. Both MACs & PC's platforms used. Students are required to bring their own devices. Labs & classroom computers throughout campus used for computer programming, mobile app development, AP Computer Science, and eSports.
2. The portrait of Sr. Mary Kenneth Keller, BVM, was hand-drawn by McCaslin Polich, XCP '13. Sr. Keller was the first person to earn a PhD in Computer Science. The portrait is an excellent example of interdisciplinary approach to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math). Sr. Keller helped develop BASIC – the first programming language designed to help people learn how to code. Following the BVM charism of education, she taught at Clark College for many years after earning her PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.
3. Before school, during lunch, and after school, Student Tech Advisors staff the lab to provide powerful peer-to-peer mentoring in technology.
4. Chris Pfaff is the Computer Science Dept. Chair.

OTHER TECHNOLOGY:

1. Beginning & Advanced Photography and "Maker" Class, Digital Journalism, AutoCAD
2. Google Apps for collaboration and coursework.

3. Canvas is the learning management system for assignments and course content, facilitating a blended learning environment. Canvas for accessing grades is available anytime.
4. Naviance for college searches/applications
5. XCP.org & XPress online newspaper for a weekly schedule of events and information
6. EPICS: Engineering Projects in Community Service program, which started at Purdue University in 1995. Students apply coursework material to real-world problems for community partners to utilize engineering to make the world a better place. Sarah Schimpp and Claire Yablong manage this independent study and after school program.

FOUNDERS HALL:

1. "Founders" refers to the BVM sisters of charity of the BVM order who have been principals and presidents at Xavier.
2. Love Boardroom and nine Advancement Offices that work with Alumnae and donors: Christmas Pageant Reception, Women of Tradition and Achievement, reunions, career networking, Traditions' Day, X Breakfast
3. Women of Achievement Awards in Heritage Center Lobby, named after Sr. Lynn and Sr. Joanie – Xavier grads that are honored for their service to the community and school
4. Student Union downstairs .
5. Winsor Way is along the north of Founders Hall
6. Mothers' Guild –Dinner and Auction, Zoo Lights, Gator Gear Shop, Senior treats, Mother/Daughter Scholarship Fashion Show, Frosh Mother/Daughter Breakfast
7. Hart Plaza with fountain & Robson Plaza – beautiful outdoor areas for community events
8. Digital Arts Center: video production and digital journalism.
9. Robotics – Part of the AIA sponsored activity (sport), students create robots to compete against other schools in challenging tasks.
10. Founders Hall is environmentally green.
11. Ilene Welty is the Social Studies Dept. Chair.
12. The mural on the second floor of Founders Hall celebrates our BVM Sisters and their stewardship and love of Xavier since 1943. The mural is made up of 3 panels with our school colors: blue/green/white. The lilies represent the BVM sisters.

The center panel highlights Xavier's Bell Tower and the foundress of the BVM order Mother Mary Frances Clarke. Surrounding are the four women who came with her from Ireland to America: Margaret Mann, Catherine Byrne, Eliza Kelly, and Rose O'Toole. These five women formed the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary congregation in 1833.

The left panel highlights some of the BVMs through the history of the congregation who have made significant contributions to society like Sr. Mary Kenneth Keller, the first person to earn a PhD in Computer Science, and Sr. Therese Langerbeck, astrophysicist. Also included are the BVMs who established international ministries in Ecuador and Ghana.

The right panel highlights the Sisters who have made Xavier the school it is today- from its founding in 1943: principals, vice principals, athletic directors, and alumnae who joined the BVM congregation throughout the years.

The mural design tried to include as many BVM sisters as would fit in order to recognize their steadfast contribution to our school and the world.

The overall design is meant to show the BVM community as a living and growing community, freed by love, acting for justice.

CHAPEL OF OUR LADY:

1. The 2012 Chapel is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patroness of Xavier and the model for all Christian women. Crest above front door is in Latin "Sisters of Charity of the BVM and "Like a Lily Amongst the Thorns" (referring to Mary) on stained glass. Mikkelson Family Prayer Chapel to reflect or meet with Sr. Joanie or Father Harold Escarcega
2. Stained glass figures of Mary Frances Clarke (BVM foundress) and St. Francis Xavier SJ (school's namesake).

3. The 8-foot stained glass windows on west symbolically represent the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the 8 on the East represent Marian Apparitions. All were originally located in the Sisters of Charity of BVM Wright Hall residence in Chicago since 1959. When Loyola University of Chicago purchased Wright Hall in 2011, Xavier bought the stained glass.
5. 360 people may occupy the Chapel, and another 75 in the choir loft. The crest of the Sisters of Charity of the BVM hangs above the choir loft.
6. Xavier's former sculpture instructor Nathan Ward carved the maple alter depicting Jesus as the Lamb of God and the ambo podium.
7. Daily Mass/communal/personal prayer offerings and reflections, weekly rosary, monthly all-school Liturgy and Adoration, annual Masses with mothers, fathers, and grandparents. Advent, Lent, Reconciliation. Class prayer days & retreats. International mission trips. Monthly faculty liturgies.

LUTFY HALL:

The Dads' Club holds meetings about events: Bowling Activity, Father/Daughter Mass & Breakfast, Father/Daughter Ski Trip, Father/Daughter Dance, Family Night at Diamondbacks

XCP ACTIVITY CENTER (McGrath Athletic Building):

1. McGrath Gymnasium home to Xavier volleyball, basketball, and badminton teams, & PE department.
2. Assemblies, rallies, and all scheduled liturgies are held in the Activities Center.
3. Alvan and Sarah Adams Fitness Center includes student training facilities and workout space available to all students and staff.
4. First floor: Tonn Family Hall of Fame Foyer to showcase Xavier students' involvement in academics, athletics, and activities. Hall of Fame TV's will feature XCP grads who have excelled in sports, service to the Church, academia world, and global activities, restrooms, locker rooms, offices, supply room. Main AC is the McGrath Gymnasium.
Second floor: dance studio, spinning room, performance enhancement studio, yoga studio, faculty office.
4. XCP Alumnae parents, Suzanne & Robert Allen, donated a 6-foot copper gator as our mascot in 2009. Students rub the gator nose for good luck before games!
5. Barb Chura is the PE Dept Chair.
6. AC208 Student Ambassador Moderator, Ann-Marie Hyland.

ATHLETIC TRAINING ROOM:

1. History of the Gator – the mascot was Xavier “Savers” – people erroneously thought “savers” meant a religious reference to “Savior”. Therefore, a contest was held in 1982 between a bee, zebra, or gator mascot. The gator won by landslide (Izod shirts from Lacoste were popular).
2. We have 2 full-time athletic trainers (Laurie White). There is an ultra-sound machine and state-of-the-art equipment in the Athletic Training Room. CPR training is provided, and the advanced classes may receive an official CPR completion card. There are 7 AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) located on campus. AED Locations:
 - AC in NW corner next the the frosh rally bleachers
 - Athletic Training room in AC in a marked backpack under the first table as one walks in the door-in backpack because it is portable
 - Nurse's office
 - PAC in area between lobby and actual theatre where ticket takers stand for events
 - Field House - Athletic Training room outside in MacGroder building
 - Founder's Hall SW as heading toward advancement lobby
 - Convent

DOWNSTAIRS PAC:

1. Ethel and Kemper Marley Theater: Classes are offered in stagecraft, which can be technical theater and stage production, introduction to theatre
2. The main theater seats 625, and the rotating pods seat 325 each, to combine to 1275 seats total.
3. Plays, special masses, guest speakers, dance performances, the Christmas Pageant, Diocesan events, and dance and choir concerts are held here.
4. McGroder Theatre on west, & Grubb Lecture Hall on east, & DeCabooter lobby.
5. Makers Space in Scene Shop – Students learn to transform their world by creating and repurposing things to suit their lives for both low and high tech items.

UPSTAIRS PAC (VIRGINIA PIPER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER):

1. All students must take 2 credits of Fine Arts minimum. It is a requirement of all frosh.
2. Honor choir & liturgical music meet here – award-winning choir, taught by Brittanie Hockins (Music Dept. Chair).
3. Various practice rooms for piano & vocals
4. Black box theatre contains same floor as main stage with various lighting options
5. Yearbook *Xavierian* under Jamie Itule & Brittany Ecker.

STARK GALLERY:

Named in honor of Judy and William Stark. The mission of the gallery is to present professional and educational exhibitions of contemporary art that is challenging and innovative in both content and media. Exhibitions serve as teaching tools for the art department and reflect the needs, interests, and concerns of students. They support educational objectives of other XCP departments and serve as cultural and intellectual enrichment for Xavier community. Artist receptions held here.

ALUMNAE COURTYARD:

1. Tileography - Six tiles represent our six decades of our history and the different aspects of a Xavier education: spirituality, academics, arts, athletics, and leadership.
2. The courtyard is graced with a fountain gift from alumnae and statue of St. Francis of Assisi, who carried out the work of Christ and had a strong love for animals. Statue of Mary also.
3. Alumnae receptions and other guests are hosted in the Courtyard.

VESTAR HALL:

1. Spiritline practices 1st period, Open House, & other events
2. Full-length regulation basketball and volleyball court

DANCE & POTTERY STUDIOS:

1. Emily Ell '99, killed senior year after prom by drunk driver, scholarship started in her name, & the Emily Ell Student Council Award, dance studio in her name (Mary Anne Fernandez-Herding, Dance Dept. Chair)
2. Outside kiln, mixing room for glazed & paints, 16 potters' wheels. Pub Club here!

WITHYCOMBE FINANCE & COUNSELING CENTER:

1. Counseling available year-round to review academic choices and college counseling. Director of Counseling is Kathleen Gannon.
2. The counselors also assist with counseling for college. Many college representatives come to visit during the college fair, college planning night, and athletic scholarship night. The students can obtain college information, SAT and AP prep books, and scholarship information.
3. Montalvo Meeting Room is for college admissions representatives and department meetings.
4. At the main reception desk is Yonghee Grinstead.
5. The Director of Student Records is Carol Ann Michaelson.
6. Kathleen MacLeod-Ryan is the Behavioral Health Counselor.

UPSTAIRS ETHEL B. STEELE BUILDING:

Pomeroy Art Studios: beginning, intermediate, and advanced drawing/painting, oil painting, AP Art, AP Art History, introduction to art, and (Alison Dunn, Studio Arts Dept. Chair).

Don and Nova Baldwin Library:

1. 12 computer stations, 14,000 volumes of books, 80 publications
2. Remi Fitzgerald-McLean is the Library Director.
3. Valerie Ahern helps greet the Shadows Oct-Jan.

UPSTAIRS VIRGINIA PIPER CENTER FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:

1. Physics, chemistry, anatomy, biology. Nationally recognized environmental science program
2. Jennie Weiland is the Science Dept. Chair.

PETZNICK FIELD:

1. Xavier's 2011 Petznick Field is the first synthetic AZ field built for softball, soccer, lacrosse and physical education classes. Xavier's 3 softball, 3 soccer, and 2 lacrosse teams, and flag football utilize the field for competitions.
2. A Storm Tech System was built under the turf field. 2 million gallons of water can be held within the system for underground storage for rainwater.
3. All state-of-the art environmentally friendly.
4. Inside the white Xavier "X" on the field is the Gator, our school mascot. The red circle at the heart of the Gator is where the soccer and lacrosse teams begin their games.
5. The McGroder Athletic Building houses the lockers, restrooms, and a concession area.
6. Cavanaugh Family Beach Volleyball Courts are south of Meadowbrook Street.
7. Stark Tennis Center borders Petznick Field. Court 1 dedicated to long-time coach Laurie Martin.

UPSTAIRS ALONG WEST OF FITZ, OVERLOOKING BROPHY:

1. Shared with Brophy: drama, dances, football games, Homecoming, Speech & Debate
2. St. Francis Xavier Church used for Baccalaureate Mass and graduation

FITZGERALD HALL:

1. In 2002, named after our President, Sr. Joan Fitzgerald, who has dedicated over 50 years to service for Xavier. She arrived here in 1962 and was a Spanish teacher, Treasurer, & later Vice Principal before becoming principal in 1974 until spring 2016, when she became President.
2. Sr. Joanie Nuckols has been the Principal since 2016.
3. Mu Alpha Theta for high achieving math. Great Books for high achieving reading, in conjunction with history/theology as humanity.
4. Elias Romley Mock Trial State Champions 7 times, 1 time National Champion
5. Tony DiStefano is the Theology Dept. Chair.
6. Wendy Mostoller & Eva Becker are the Math Dept. Co-Chairs.
7. Ann-Marie Hyland and Alexandra Lopez Jimenez are the World Languages Dept. Co-Chairs.
8. Denise Macrina is the English Dept. Chair.
9. Dani Richter is the AP Capstone Chair.
10. Mr. Mostoller moderates the *XPress* online newspaper.
11. Heather Farr Rose Garden named in memory of XCP grad '82, golfer.
12. *"Let it be know to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school"* on entry plaque.

BIDWILL CIRCLE:

Nicknamed Circle Drive - east of Fitzgerald/west of Steele. Named after Bill Bidwill, Jr. Family

BROWN HALL:

Family Resources: creative textiles, food & nutrition, child development (Deirdre Van Sickle is Family Resources Dept. Chair)

BOOKSTORE, NURSE, AND ADMISSIONS:

1. Rhonda Golden operates the bookstore.
2. Nurse's office near rose garden in Fitzgerald Hall.
3. Jenny James is Director of Admissions - based on middle school transcripts, entrance exam/essay, teacher recommendations, parental involvement survey, and space available.
4. Tara Metzger is the Assistant to the Principal and President.

ATTENDANCE: Jeri Butts

SECURITY: Headed by Kenneth Averbuck

MAINTENANCE: Headed by Phillip Segura

MISSION STATEMENT:

Xavier College Preparatory is a Catholic community that strives to prepare young women of faith with knowledge, skills, and integrity to meet the challenges of a changing global society in a positive and productive manner celebrating unity in diversity.

HISTORY:

1. Xavier was founded and is run by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM). The BVM's are a Catholic order who originated in Ireland, became an official religious order when they arrived in the US, and whose mission is education.
2. The first principal of Xavier was Sr. Mary St. Cecilia Lee, BVM. She began the St. Francis Xavier grammar school program in 1935 in Brophy Prep building. She was principal of Xavier 1944-1951.
3. The BVM sisters opened Xavier High School in Brophy's Regis Hall in 1943.
4. The first graduating class of 11 women was in 1947.
5. In 1956, two hundred twenty-four students moved into Xavier's main building at 4710 North Fifth Street.
6. In 1982, Xavier High School was designated Xavier College Preparatory by the North Central Association of Independent College Preparatory Schools of the Western Catholic Educational Association.
7. Student Ambassador Club began in 1990.

CREST/SHIELD:

1. On the left side of the shield, the bars represent the Jesuit Order with whom the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary have been associated since they arrived in the United States.
2. The lilies represent the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) religious order.
3. On the right side the X and the H represent Xavier High School.
4. The bird above the rising sun represents the locale of Phoenix, the Phoenix bird.

SPECIAL FACTS:

1. 24 AP classes are offered and all students take AP English by their senior year. A student can earn more than 60 college units before she graduates from Xavier due to our concurrent Dual Enrollment partnership that Xavier has with Rio Salado College (30 credits offered) and the Advanced Placement classes that Xavier has to offer (about 84 AP graduate scholars). Approximately 31% seniors achieve AA diplomas from Rio Salado credit the evening before XCP graduation.
2. 39 Honors classes during the regular school year and summer school.
3. 100% of Xavier graduates attend post-secondary institutions.
4. Approximately 45% of Xavier qualifies for financial assistance, and Xavier is strongly committed to educating all qualified students.

5. Approximately 75% of students are Catholic, although all faiths are respected at Xavier.
6. In 1991, 1996, and 2013, Xavier was awarded the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Xavier is the first private school to receive the award in Arizona and the only one to receive it three times! In 2013, only 53 high schools nationwide won, 3 were Catholic, 2 were all-girls schools.
7. AP Capstone Diploma Program, model STREAM school (science, technology, religion, engineering, art, math), EPICS Laureate, 70 electives, international studies
8. The Arizona Interscholastic Association awarded Xavier its prestigious Blue Cup Award (2006) for excellence in scholastics, athletics and activities.
9. Students complete on average 32,000 hours of community service.
10. Students are required to take 3 years of the same foreign language and 2 years of fine arts.

SKIRT:

1. Until 1963, the Xavier uniform consisted of a straight navy skirt, white blouse, white sweater, navy jacket with white piping, a beanie, a bow tie, and bobby socks with saddle shoes.
2. In 1964, the plaid skirt was required along with a white blouse and loafers. The lower classmen wore a light blue cardigan with the skirt while the upper classmen wore a gold-colored cardigan with the skirt. The blue signifies the color worn by the Blessed Virgin Mary.

FROSH FACT:

Freshwomen are required to take theology, math, English, PE, Social Studies, a world language of their choice, and a fine art of their choice.

FACULTY/STAFF: 80% hold advanced degrees, 20 average number of years teaching

ALMA MATER:

Alma Mater under desert skies
Painted by God's hand
You live in us and we live in you
And to your name we stand.
Xavier we'll remember you
Each tree and brick and stone
Each heart and hand that taught us
We will never be alone!