



St. Bernadette Catholic Academy

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A Welcome Message from SBCA Home Academy Association

August 2019

Dear SBCA Families,

On behalf of the entire SBCA Home Academy Association (HAA) Executive Board, we would like to take this opportunity to give a big WELCOME to all our new SBCA families and a warm hello to all those returning in September. Hopefully you are having an enjoyable summer. With the new school year just around the corner, we are excited, proud, and honored to volunteer as your HAA Co-Presidents.

The HAA is an integral part of St. Bernadette Catholic Academy. Not only do we host fun and memorable events during the school year for our SBCA families, but we also provide funds that enrich our children's education and experience at SBCA.

All this takes hard work and dedication. Each one of us has different skills, talents, and resources that help make SBCA what it is. For some, it's volunteering in the lunchroom or on the playground. For others, it is heading up or joining a committee that brings something special to our students or serving as a Class Parent. But for all, it's coming together to support our great school in any way possible. Even one hour of your time is worth so much. Get involved and be part of the SBCA community. You will not regret it!

Please join us as we embark on the quest to ensure another amazing school year for our children, faculty, and staff. The old adage, "It takes a village", comes to mind when we think about all the wonderful things that happen at our great school and with your help, we can continue making those things happen! We look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night on Thursday, September 12th and wish you a successful school year.

Sincerely,

Dina Amatore & Carina Amendolara
Co-Presidents
SBCA Home Academy Association
Email: haa@stbernbk.org

What is the Home Academy Association?

The SBCA HAA is a non-profit volunteer organization which serves to support the students, faculty, and staff at St. Bernadette Catholic Academy.

What does the St. Bernadette Home Academy Association do?

The SBCA HAA hosts many annual fundraisers and events throughout the school year, such as:

- **Wrapping Paper Drive** – choose from a variety of items in brochures and catalogues from Meadow Farms Fundraising
- **Kids Kards** – turn your child's artwork into a notecard to use for special occasions
- **Chocolate Drive** – enjoy delicious chocolate bars and candy from World's Finest Chocolate and help support SBCA with each bite
- **Lunch with the Girls** - an afternoon out full of food, fun, and games with all our SBCA ladies, big and small
- **Arirang Nights/Burger-Fi Nights** – dine-in or out at these delicious restaurants on select dates and give back to SBCA while you enjoy a great meal
- **Boys' Bowling Bash** – a day for our SBCA guys to enjoy some pizza and a friendly and fun game of bowling
- **Gift Card Fundraiser** – save yourself waiting on lines this Christmas and purchase gift cards for your friends and family through an order form you can send in through your child's folder. Doesn't get simpler than that!
- **Christmas Boutique** – a day for our school children to purchase gifts for their family members AND get a visit from Santa himself!
- **A Date with the Boys** – an opportunity for our SBCA boys and the special women in their lives to enjoy some quality time together and make some special memories
- **Girls' and Gents' Dance** – time for our SBCA girls to dress up and have their special gents twirl them around the dance floor
- **Dress Downs** – students enjoy a uniform-free day once a month on select dates (sneakers are the only permissible footwear on these days please!)
- **Ladies' Night Out** – a night of fun and fabulous prizes for all our SBCA women to enjoy
- **Gentlemen's Night Out** – a night for our SBCA men and their friends to kick back and enjoy some good food and good times together
- **Bingo MOHOs** (Moms Only Hanging Out) – an opportunity to meet new friends, play a few rounds of bag or blingo bingo and have lots of laughs with your besties

How do we do it all? With your help!

As you can see, the HAA does a LOT of great things for SBCA, but we need a LOT of help in order to do it all! So, we encourage SBCA parents to volunteer throughout the school year. Whether it be as playground helper, selling raffles at a fundraiser, spearheading a fundraising activity, or designing a flyer for an upcoming event, there are countless worthwhile ways to get involved. **If you are interested in sharing your time or talents, please send in the volunteer form that can be found on Option C.**

Who are we?

Meet your 2019-20 HAA Executive Board Members.....

Dina Amatore/Co-President

This is our family's 15th year at SBCA. We have been members of St. Bernadette's Parish since 1995. My oldest daughter, Nina, is a graduate and now starting her freshmen year at St. John's University in Queens. My youngest daughter, Ally, is starting 8th grade this year. Both have loved every minute of their time at SBCA. Volunteering is a family affair for the Amatore clan! My husband has coached many teams over the years and is a board member for the DHAA/ St. Bernadette Knights. My mom is a 15 year CCD volunteer for the parish. For the last 2 years, Nina has coordinated the Altar Server program and assists at the various HAA fundraisers throughout the year. Ally serves both school and her community as a Student Council member and Girl Scout, through various service projects. Despite being a full-time working mom, there were still many ways I was able to become involved at SBCA. Being a class parent was a great way to get to know other families. Then as part of the Fundraising Committee, I was able to assist with fundraising for SBCA's biggest event, Ladies Night Out. Finally, I served on the Executive Board for the past 8 years in various capacities, currently as Co-President. Working with such amazing volunteers has been most rewarding. I look forward to seeing all of you as we head back to school and getting to know our new SBCA families. It will be easy to see that you made the right choice for your children! Wishing everyone a great school year ahead.....

haa@stbernbk.org

917-842-2078

Carina Amendolara/Co-President

I have been a member of the St. Bernadette community for over ten years. My daughter Giada is entering 7th grade and my son Nico will be entering 4th grade this September. I have been involved with the HAA in various capacities, as a chairperson for our "Lunch with the Girls" event, as part of the Extended Board, and as a member of the Executive Board for the past 5 years. I am happy to serve as Co-President of the HAA and look forward to a successful and enjoyable school year.

carinatlc@gmail.com

917-623-7261

Katerina Ciaccia/1st Vice President

My family and I have been members of the St. Bernadette family since 2011, when we enrolled our son Domenico in the Pre-K3 program. He is now 10 years old and about to begin 6th grade. We have two other sons, Peter, age 7, who will be entering the 3rd grade in the fall and Luca, age 6, who will be a second grader. The past eight years have been a wonderful, exciting experience for all of us. I started volunteering at St. Bernadette as a way to give back to this wonderful community. I served as a class mom for Pre-K and have assisted with lunch duty for the past 6 years. I also served on the Social Concerns Committee and have been a member of the Executive Board, serving as Associate Treasurer for two years and Vice President for the past year. The love I feel for St. Bernadette is obvious and the work I do is inspired by the students, faculty, and administration. I look forward to serving as 1st Vice President of the HAA for the 2019-20 school year.

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347-453-1415

Natasha Longobardi/2nd Vice President

This will be the start of my 6th year at SBCA. My daughter, Petra will be in the second grade. I have truly enjoyed my time as Associate Treasurer of the HAA this past year and look forward to being more involved. I am also a lunch mom and love seeing all the familiar faces that bless out school on a daily basis. This will be my second year on the Executive Board and I couldn't be more proud of the work that we've accomplished. This team is second to none and I am honored to work alongside them for another year. I am most impressed with the dedication, commitment, and time that each and every one of the members offer to truly set SBCA apart from the rest.

nzanotti@verizon.net

Lisa Rutigliano/Treasurer

As a parent of 2 children attending St. Bernadette Catholic Academy for the past 10 years, I have had the opportunity to participate in our school's HAA in various ways. Besides serving as a class mother and lunchroom helper, I have also been a member of the Decorating and Design Committee as well as a chairperson for our "Lunch with the Girls" event. This will be my 4th year serving on the Executive Board and this 2019-20 school year as our HAA Treasurer again. Volunteering for our school in these different ways has been a wonderful experience that my children and I have enjoyed. It has allowed them to see firsthand how rewarding it can be.

lisarutigliano@aol.com

Athina Fascianella/*Associate Treasurer*

I joined the SBCA community in 2012 when my oldest son started in the Moms and Tots program. My husband is an alumnus and my in-laws have been active parishioners for over 30 years. This September my sons, Joseph and Vincent will be entering the 4th and 2nd grades, respectfully. I've had the pleasure and privilege to wear many hats during the past 7 years, including class parent, lunch mother and raffle seller at numerous events. I've also served on the Extended Board's Hospitality Committee from 2014-19. In addition, I have coordinated our wrapping paper drive and gift card fundraisers. In the fall of 2018, I joined the staff of SBCA as an instructional aide in Pre-K4 and Aftercare Director. It was always my intention to be an active participant in the Home Academy Association to show my sons the importance of volunteering. I'm extremely honored to be joining the Executive Board serving as Associate Treasurer for the 2019-20 school year.

Athina80@gmail.com

Nicole Aellis/*Recording Secretary*

I am happy to be a member of St. Bernadette Catholic Academy as both a parent and an alumna. My 3 daughters will be entering 6th grade, 4th grade, and Kindergarten. I've been blessed to be a stay at home mom for the past 8 years. This has given me the opportunity to volunteer SBCA in many ways. This year I will be embarking on a new adventure and returning to work as a Kindergarten teacher. I am looking forward to my second year on the Executive Board, service as Recording Secretary for the 2019-20 school year.

nikkiaellis@verizon.net

Mary Kresse/*Corresponding Secretary*

My family has been part of St. Bernadette Catholic Academy since 2012. I have two daughters. My oldest, Amanda, will be entering 5th grade and my youngest, Adrianna, will begin 2nd grade this year. Two years ago, when my youngest daughter started Kindergarten, I was able to devote more time to volunteering and giving back to the school community. I have served as a lunch mom as well as a member of the Decorating and Design Committee, helping to decorate and prepare baskets to raffle off at our various fundraisers throughout the year. I have close family ties with the Maestre Pie Filippini Sisters. Two of my aunts are Filippini Sisters living in Rome! Being part of SBCA is like being home with family. I am looking forward to my first year as part of the Executive Board, serving as Corresponding Secretary for the 2019-20 school year.

marykresse!@aol.com

Feel free to stop any of us around school, send an email to introduce yourself or chat about SBCA. We look forward to seeing all of you this school year and working with you on upcoming events.

**ST. BERNADETTE CATHOLIC ACADEMY
2019-20 HAA Volunteer Form**

Volunteers strengthen our school and help provide a richer learning experience for our children. There are many opportunities for you to contribute your time and talents and we look forward to having you join us where and when you can.

Listed below are ways to volunteer during the school year. Please mark the opportunities that catch your interest. Don't hesitate to contact us if you'd like to learn more first – we are happy to help you find the right fit. After completing the form, please feel free to send it to us in any of the following ways:

- e-mail it to Dina Amatore at joedee.bosco@verizon.net
- mail it to SBCA - attention "HAA Executive Board"
- send it in with your oldest child during the first week of school

We encourage your input and questions along the way. Be sure to let us know of any talents or ideas you'd like to share. Thank you, we look forward to working with you at SBCA this year!

Co-Presidents: Dina Amatore & Carina Amendolara (haa@stbernbk.org)

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian: First: _____ Last: _____

Primary Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Contact Preference (either or both)

_____ Email _____ Phone

SBCA Student Information:

Student #1: First: _____ Last: _____ Grade: _____

Student #2: First: _____ Last: _____ Grade: _____

Student #3: First: _____ Last: _____ Grade: _____

Tell us about your interests. *(please check any/all that apply)*

Skills or Special Interests

- Accounting/Finance
- Graphic Design/Creating Brochures & Flyers
- Decorating/Basket Wrapping
- Event Planning
- Fundraising/Soliciting Donations
- Hospitality
- Photography/Videography
- Other _____

Ongoing Opportunities

- Lunch Duty
- Playground Duty
- Raffle Selling at Events

AVAILABILITY

(mark all that apply)

- I am available only during school hours.*
- I am available outside of school hours.*
- I am not sure of my availability, but I am interested in getting involved*