LA SALLE ACADEMY

1871: The De La Salle Christian Brothers arrive in Providence and teach in a school founded in the Cathedral and St. John parishes.

1876: Brother Fabrician becomes the third director of the "Brothers' school" which eventually becomes an academy. Bishop Hendricken names the school *La Salle Academy* in honor of the Brothers' founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

1891: Several Brothers begin teaching in the Tyler School and the schools in St. Mary and St. Theresa parishes.

1897: Double sessions force the enlargement of the school building on Fountain Street.

1900: John Baptist de La Salle is canonized in Rome by Pope Leo XIII.

1902: The General Assembly of Rhode Island grants La Salle Academy a charter to operate as a private Catholic high school.

1908: First varsity football team is organized; games are played in Davis Park, Providence.

1915: Junction of Broadway and Fountain Street is renamed *La Salle Square* in honor of St. John Baptist de La Salle.

1916: Faculty has 12 Brothers, four priests, and three laymen who teach 372 students. The tuition is $50.

1918: Bishop Harkins purchases an abandoned protestant church to house the new freshman class.

1920: Tuition is raised to $75; Brothers’ stipend is raised from $450 to $500 a year.

1921: Bishop Hickey announces the purchase of 40 acres of the old Hazard farm on Smith Street for a new school building.

1925: Class of 1925 is the last to graduate from the old school. On September 21, 1925, in the presence of 40,000 spectators, Bishop Hickey and Brother Arnold, director, open the new million-dollar school building.

1928: The new Alumni Football Field is dedicated by Bishop Hickey, Governor Case, and Mayor Dunne. La Salle Academy defeats De La Salle Academy, Newport, by the score of 27-0.

1929: Brother Alban Raymond, the Great Ray, is appointed director of La Salle Academy.

1929: La Salle enters the old Interscholastic Hockey Conference under the guidance of Jack Cronin who remains head coach for 17 years.

*Alumni Hockey Game, February 2001*
1931: The famous La Salle Band is established under the direction of Wilfred Roberts '20.

1934: The school yearbook, the Maroon and White, ceases publication, a victim of the Depression. Publication resumes in 1940.

1935: Brother Donation Joseph becomes the new director.

1935: Edwin O'Connor graduates from La Salle Academy; he later graduates from the University of Notre Dame and becomes a renowned author; most notable of his works are The Last Hurrah (1956); The Edge of Sadness (1961) for which he is awarded a Pulitzer Prize, and I Was Dancing.

1938: Bishop Keough sells the Fountain Street property to the City of Providence. It becomes the site for the Central Police and Fire Headquarters.

1940: The grotto, built by four Brothers and a skilled stonemason, is dedicated by Bishop Keough.

1940: Election year: J. Howard McGrath '22 is elected governor; Louis Capelli '12 is elected lieutenant governor; John Fogarty '30 goes to Washington as a U.S. congressman; Dennis J. Roberts '23 is elected mayor of Providence, succeeding John F. Collins '89.

1943: John J. Boylan '08 is the first La Salle alumnus raised to the rank of bishop (in Rockford, Illinois).

1945: State General Assembly pays special tribute to the 1944 La Salle championship football team. On December 23 the football team plays to a 6-6 tie with Holy Cross Prep for the mythical national schoolboy championship.

1946: Because registration is at 1,647 students, Bishop Keough opens an annex to La Salle Academy on Bridgeham Street for 315 freshmen; Brother Andrew Gallivan '26 is named principal of the annex.


1948: Russell J. McVinney '16 is consecrated fifth bishop of Providence.

1948: La Salle Academy mourns the death of the beloved Brother Donatif Flavian who for 26 years formed the young men of La Salle Academy as teacher and vice principal.


1950: First Commencement Exercises at Veterans' Auditorium.
1950: Brother C. Peter Lynch '28 is first alumnus named principal of La Salle Academy, replacing Brother A. Paul.

1951: Catholic Teachers' College begins in the summer at La Salle Academy; over 500 Religious Sisters register.

1952: Wilfred Roberts '20 dies; is replaced by Arthur Paquette.

1954: The La Salle Minstrels (1937-1954) are replaced by the St. La Salle Auxiliary as a means of raising money for the education of young Christian Brothers.

1955: Brother Leo McNulty '35 becomes director of La Salle Academy.

1959: New state-of-the-art language lab replaces the study hall on the third floor.

1960: The John P. Cronin Gates are installed and dedicated at the entrance to the Alumni Football Field.

1961: Brother C. Patrick Hickey succeeds Brother Leo as director.

1963: The "Hall of Fame" sponsored by the alumni holds its annual memorial Mass at the cathedral and Alumni Breakfast at the Biltmore.

1963: The La Salle Academy Glee Club founded in 1936 is re-organized under the direction of William Paolino '55.

1965: A new health facility for the ailing students of La Salle is set up under the direction of Miss Margaret Clifford.

1966: The first yearbook at La Salle Academy was published in 1912 under the title Lasallite. The name was changed to Maroon and White in 1917. In 1966 it becomes known as the Rampage.

1966: The new Brothers' residence is opened in October. The house and the new chapel are dedicated on September 14, 1967.

1968: A new format for dividing the responsibility of running the school and the Brothers' community is established. Brother Dominic Fontaine is appointed director of the religious community; Brother Stephen Dunn is appointed principal of the school; Brother Timothy Rapa is named vice principal; and Mr. Thomas Lowery '37 is assistant principal. He is the first non-Brother administrator at La Salle Academy.

1969: Mrs. Kathleen Dunn is the first female teacher at La Salle Academy. She teaches Spanish.

1970: Brother Timothy Rapa becomes the principal of La Salle Academy.


1971: Beginning in September there is a year-long celebration of the presence of the De La Salle Christian Brothers in the diocese for 100 years. Chairmen of the celebration include: Brothers Benilde Loxham and Dominic Fontaine, Msgr. William Carey '36, and James J. Reilly '30.

1973: Brother John Norton replaces Brother Timothy as principal; Brother Robert Hazard '56 is named vice principal; tuition is $660.
1976: Development Office is opened under the direction of Brother Boniface Joseph Neary, to keep tuition down through fund raising.

1976: Brother Robert Hazard '56 becomes principal of La Salle Academy; Brother William Kemmerer is named vice principal.

1977: Brother Robert forms the Principal's Advisory Committee. Mr. John Cummings '40 chairs this committee composed of alumni active in the business, financial and professional fields. This committee will evolve into the Board of Regents.

1982: Brother A. Jerome Corrigan becomes the 30th principal of La Salle Academy on July 1; faculty begins self-evaluation for the accreditation visit in 1983.

1983: On November 14 Bishop Gelineau announces the closing of St. Patrick and St. Mary Schools, and the merger of their student bodies with La Salle Academy on the Smith Street campus.

1984: School opens in September with a student enrollment of 1,130.

1985: Dr. John O. Pastore, Jr. '59 is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition for his work with a group of physicians working to prevent nuclear war.

1986: The School Board is formed for the purpose of governing the operation of the school.

1987: Brother A. Jerome is named president of La Salle Academy; Brother Frederick Mueller '66 is named principal.

1988: Brother Antony of Jesus Harte, athletic director of La Salle Academy from 1945-1974, dies in his 82nd year.


1989: On November 4, the Diocese of Providence turns over the governance of La Salle Academy to the Brothers of the Christian Schools; a Board of Trustees composed of six De La Salle Christian Brothers oversees the governance; the Board of Regents works with the president in the day-to-day operation of the school.

1991: On May 13 the U.S. Department of Education awards La Salle Academy the status of Exemplary School; with this Blue Ribbon designation, La Salle ranks as one of the premier institutions in secondary education.

1991: La Salle kicks off the public phase of the Campaign for La Salle with a goal of $10,000,000.

1991: La Salle Academy is saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of Larry Gallogly '40; he was a loyal son of La Salle Academy and helped out in many capacities; at his death he was a full-time volunteer in the Alumni/Development Office.

1992: Gina Raimondo '89 is named one of 32 Rhodes Scholars for 1993, and joins the two-year program at Oxford University after graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard University in 1993.

1993: The **PEGASUS 7/8 Program** under the direction of Michael Scanlan begins with 44 seventh graders in a newly renovated section of the building; also new this September is a state-of-the-art computer center on the third floor which is made possible by a very generous donation from Robert Shea, Esq. '42.

1994: Steven M. Shaw ’84, a Providence patrolman, dies in a shootout in February; he is the first Providence police officer to die in the line of duty in 65 years.

1994: Brother Jerome announces the formation of the Executive Committee for the 125th Anniversary Celebration of La Salle Academy. The committee consists of Brother Dominic Fontaine, chairman, George Aldrich, Richard Ely, Robert and Pat Lisi, Brother Peter Clifford, Brother Robert McCann, Michael Scanlan and Nancy Menaldi-Scanlon, Louis Cimini and Anthony Scorpio.

1995: Beginning with a special liturgy in September, La Salle Academy kicks off its gala celebration of 125 years of service to the people of Rhode Island. Celebrations include: symposia, Christmas at La Salle, an art exhibit, an original play, a musical evening, invitational basketball, hockey and volleyball tournaments, a major liturgy at the Cathedral of SS Peter and Paul, and the 125th Anniversary Dinner Dance at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet.

1995: Mr. Raymond J. Pasi is appointed the first non-Christian Brother to become principal of La Salle. He replaces Brother Frederick Mueller ’66.

1995: The La Salle Academy campus undergoes the first significant renovation in many years. The focal point of the renovation is Alumni Walk which is dedicated to the memory of Father Peter Gibbons ’05 who subsidized the education of many of his parishioners from St. Theresa Church, Olneyville.

1996: The La Salle Academy Hall of Fame is reconstituted. More than 600 alumni, family and friends of the newest inductees attend a dinner and induction ceremony held at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence.

1997: Michael Scanlon is named interim principal of La Salle Academy, replacing Raymond Pasi, the first non-Brother principal of La Salle.

1998: Brother William Mann, FSC, provincial of the Long Island New England District, names Brother Michael McKenery the second president of La Salle Academy, replacing Brother Jerome Corrigan who completes 20 years of service to La Salle in the spring of 1998. Mr. Michael Scanlan continues as principal.
1998: The library is completely renovated and is re-designed as a technological multi-media center.

1998: Continuing the Legacy—A Campaign for La Salle Academy becomes a reality, setting for its goal four point five million dollars (goal achieved in spring of 2001). The campaign will raise funds needed to subsidize the construction of a field house, the renovation of the entire ground floor to be used by the fine arts department, and to increase the endowments at La Salle.

1999: Ground is broken for the 45,000-square-foot field house on a breezy March 20 in the presence of Bishop Robert McManus, alumni, faculty and students. The new building is designed by Robinson Green Beretta Corporation and is constructed by E. Turgeon Construction Company, the same company that built the school building and the Brothers’ residence. The new building is designed to enhance the athletic and physical education department.

2000: Donald J. Kavanagh ’69 replaces Michael Scanlon as principal of La Salle.

2000: The dedication and blessing of the McLaughlin Athletic Center and the La Salle Academy Arts Center takes place on October 26 in the presence of the entire student body and 800 invited alumni and guests. The Most Reverend Robert E. Mulvee, D.D., J.C.D., bishop of Providence presided.

2000: Led by new coach Tim Coen, the La Salle football team went undefeated in capturing the Super Bowl Championship. They defeated Portsmouth High School 36 to 33.