

The Dominican Learning Center improves the lives of adult learners through education.

February 2024

Dear DLC community,

After a lot of talk and planning, we have finally moved into our new space! It was an exhausting process, and a lot of people put a lot of energy into ensuring this space would fit our needs. We are so grateful to the St. Mary's community for all they have done to welcome us and ensure our comfort here. If you have not yet come down to check out the DLC, please do so when you are able. Also, many of you have asked about a Grand Opening. You have not missed it. While we had our soft opening so that we were able to get back to our usual programming in January, the official **Grand Opening will be sometime in the Spring**. Look for more details in the near future.

On Sunday, February 4, we were able to show off our new space to some of the St. Mary's parishioners when they came for coffee and donuts. The Knights of Columbus bought the donuts and all of the supplies that they usually have for their monthly donut Sunday. We opened our space so that this time the socializing that they usually do could occur at the DLC instead of the church. It was a great opportunity to tell the parishioners who we are and what we do.



Both Annette (Administrative Assistant/Receptionist) and Sr. Mary Ruth (Math tutor/Success Course trainer) have left their positions at the DLC. While they will be missed, we appreciate the gifts and talents they shared and all that they did to make the DLC what it is today. We wish them both all the happiness as they focus on other projects. In the meantime, we are searching for a new Receptionist/Administrative Assistant. I look forward to being able to introduce our newest member once someone has been hired for the position.

Last month we welcomed a new group of learners in the Spanish GED program. This program works a little differently than the English GED because they actually meet each week as a class and have 2 teachers presenting the material for the four subjects (2 subjects per semester). Each year there are between 6-10 learners that earn their GED through the DLC's Spanish GED program. This new session had a record 30 adults register, so we look forward to even more success stories



this year! In January we also welcomed a new group of learners in the Success Course. This is the course that all of the ABE/GED learners must attend prior to being matched with a tutor in our program. Sr. Shawn and Melody, a long-term volunteer, have been facilitating this course together for over a decade.



Finally, in January we also began our Citizenship class. Chris has volunteered with the DLC over the years and is passionate about teaching citizenship. He has worked with 35 individuals, within and outside of the DLC, and all 35 have achieved their citizenship. Chris offered to teach a class at the DLC and even purchased the books so that the DLC would not have to! We truly are grateful to Chris and all of our volunteers! Thank you again for the part that you play in our DLC community. It is a joy to work with you!

Peace and blessings,

Denise

Congratulations to Our Learners!

WE HAVE ANOTHER GRADUATE!



James earned his GED last year!!!

James speaks several languages, but he was only just beginning to learn English when he came to the US and started to study for this GED. He was able to pass all four of the tests and in December he earned his GED. We are so happy for you, James!!



Congratulations also go out to Ladan for passing the Language Arts portion of the GED! Thank you to her tutor, Kim, for supporting Ladan on this journey.

There have also been several learners who have advanced a book since the last newsletter, but none of them have wanted to share their picture. **Fatimah and Salma** both advanced a book in ESL and **Abshira, Tia, and Fatu** all went up a book in the GED program. Congratulations to all and keep up the good work!

Our ESL parish sites are continuing to make advancements as well. Four different classes have moved up a book level recently.

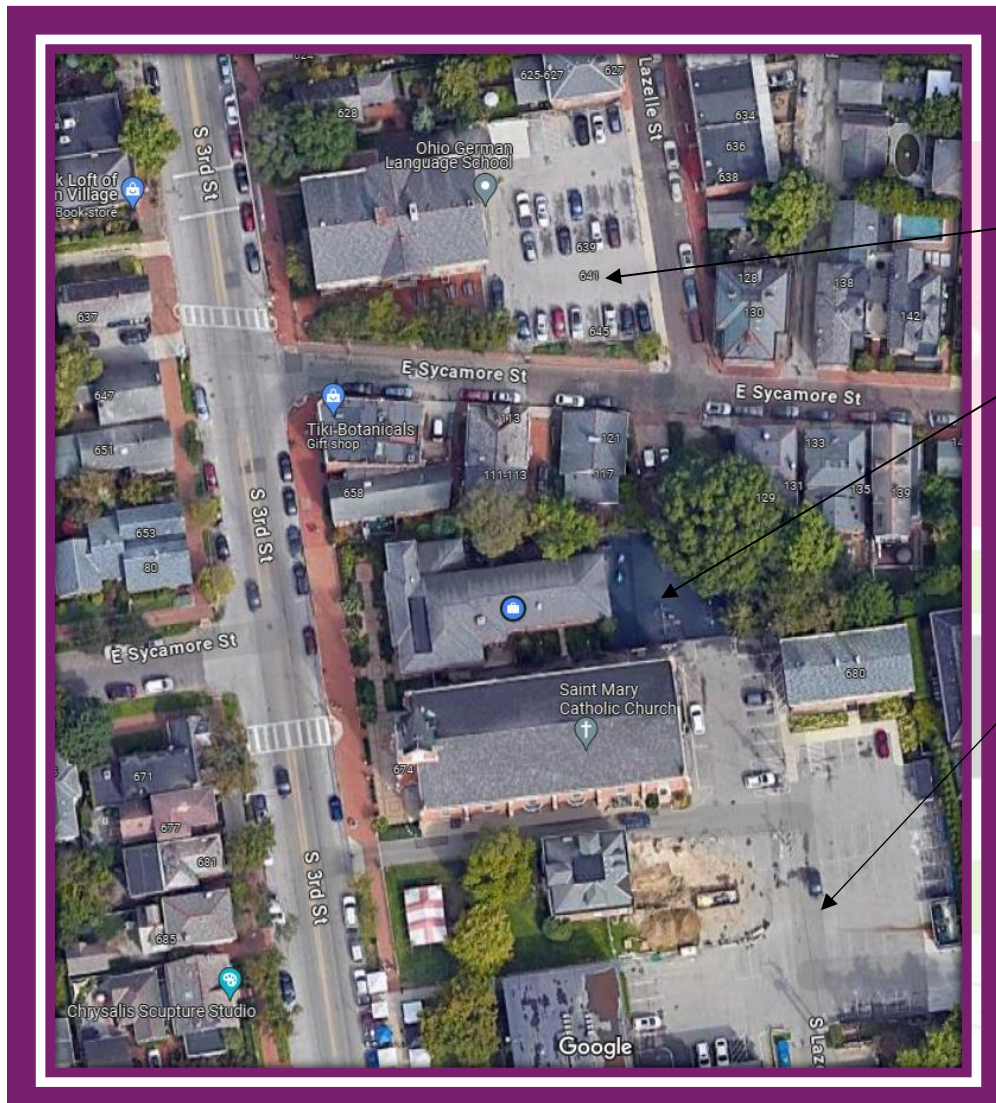


Clockwise from top: Jolynne's class (St. Mary Magdalene/Bishop Ready), Erin's class (Bishop Griffin), Alyssa and Roger's class (St. James the Less), and Payson's class (Bishop Griffin)



Many people have asked about parking. There is parking available, but as it is new, it can be tricky to know where to park and when we are allowed to be in the various areas. Please look at the graphic below to see where to park. The main thing you will want to keep in mind is that on most days, the school has their dismissal at 2:40pm. Cars start lining up just after 2:00 and the traffic is heavy, so **you will want to avoid the parking lot area from about 2:15-3:30pm.**

Also, the wheelchair ramp is now open! If you are entering the building from the parking lot, you can come up the wheelchair ramp and enter through that door.



This is the lot where visitors will park **on the weekends.**

If there are spaces available, visitors can park here during the week. The easiest way to enter the building from here is by coming up the wheelchair ramp.

Visitors can use these spaces, but **NOT** from 2:00-3:30 pm. The lot needs to be clear at that time for school dismissal.

Visitors can also park on the street, but **NOT** in front of the school or the church during school hours.

A note for our tutors:

The **tutor zooms** are going to resume this month! Please consider joining the tutors that also teach in your same subject area for the monthly zoom sessions. This is a great opportunity to connect with other tutors and share ideas about available resources and best practices. **Language Arts** tutors, please mark your calendar for the zoom this Thursday, **February 8** at noon (Language Arts zoom meetings will always be the second Thursday of the month at noon). **Math** tutors, please mark your calendar for Monday, **February 12** at noon (Math zoom meetings will always be the second Monday of the month at noon).