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ISSUE 27
Spring/Summer 2021

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NOTRE DAME

IRISH

Spring/Summer 2021 | Issue 27

IRISH magazine is dedicated to alumni, parents and friends of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy and our heritage schools, including Notre Dame High School, Pontiac Catholic High School, Oakland Catholic High School, St. Michael High School and St. Frederick High School.

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NOTRE DAME

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On the Cover

Notre Dame is focused on creating an inclusive educational program and pedagogy that promotes respect for others, appreciation of individual, cultural and socioeconomic differences, and social responsibility, equity and justice.

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At the time of this writing, we are in the last week of the 2020/2021 school year. And what a year it has been! The school year officially began when we welcomed students to in-person orientation on Aug. 19. As one of the first schools to return to in-person learning in the state, we had newspaper agencies and television trucks chronicling the return.

Which protocols are in place to ensure safety? Will you be wearing masks? How will you monitor student compliance? What will you do if/when you have a breakout? These were just some of the questions being asked by media, parents and staff.

When the pandemic first hit, an administrative leadership team consisting of representatives from the business, enrollment, marketing, communications, academic, athletic, advancement, maintenance, fundraising, technology and human resources departments was formed to answer these questions and to create a formal return to school plan.

The plan was 15 pages long and included protocols on facial coverings, health screening, positive cases, hygiene, mental health, spacing and movement, Mass and worship, cafeteria operations, visitors, and remote learning. It incorporated information from the MI Safe Schools road map, Archdiocese of Detroit, Center for Disease Control, the Oakland County Health Division and American Pediatric Association.

At the end of the day, we made a simple, but bold, decision to return to in-person learning. Internal data supported the notion that students are safer in school than not and if we followed proper protocols, we could manage in-person learning safely.

While you can point to many heroes during the pandemic, the teaching faculty at Notre Dame shone among the brightest. The delivery of a quality, faith-based academic experience despite the challenges of the pandemic will remain a badge of honor for many years.

Our final count for the school year was 134 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among nearly 1,200 faculty, staff, coaches, and students. Infection rates

were higher at the high school, than either the middle or lower school, each of which had very few cases over the course of the year. The lower school in particular only had one student test positive the entire year.

We were happy to continue many traditional rites of passage for our seniors, including the first-ever outdoor Irish Week games, senior Oscars, prom and in-person Baccalaureate Mass with Conferral of Diplomas. In total, we had 31 members in our valedictory court earning a GPA of 4.35 or greater and all 172 graduates have been accepted to college.

While proud of our accomplishments, we are cautious not to declare victory just yet. The pandemic has been a humbling experience, and many have suffered loss over the past 15 months. We balance this loss with hope for a brighter future.

As the numbers in Michigan continue to improve, we look forward to a safe and productive 2021/2022 school year when we return to campus for orientation on Aug. 18.

Blessings and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew J. Guest". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew J. Guest ND'84
Head of School

NDP GRADUATES CONTINUE TO IMPRESS



Notre Dame Preparatory School features another stellar graduating class that finishes with an overall GPA of 3.852 and averages more than \$48,000 each in academic, merit-based college scholarships

Students in the Class of 2021 graduated May 23 from Notre Dame Preparatory School after four years at the International Baccalaureate school in Pontiac. They also made it through one of the most unusual senior years in school history after pandemic-influenced days full of masks, social distancing and quarantines.

And not only is the school's 27th graduating class leaving behind a very proud faculty and staff and the state's No. 1 Catholic high school four of the past six years, they are leaving behind a number of impressive statistics as a group.

According to figures released recently by Notre Dame Prep's counseling department,

to date this year's class of graduating seniors earned about \$8 million — or nearly a \$48,000 average per graduate — in academic merit scholarships from colleges and universities, a number that likely will go up as the seniors continue to receive scholarship offers throughout early summer.

In addition, the Class of 2021 averaged 27 on the ACT with 50 seniors scoring a 30 or above on the test. Also, Notre Dame's graduating seniors averaged 1252 on the SAT and finished the year with an overall grade-point-average (GPA) of 3.852.

Thirty-one graduates fill out this year's valedictory court for the class, which also features 31 candidates for the prestigious

International Baccalaureate diploma. A total of 151 of the finest colleges and universities across the country have accepted Class of 2021 graduates so far, including the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), the University of Notre Dame, Loyola Chicago, Savannah College of Art and Design, Purdue, Oakland University and the University of Southampton (UK).

And finally, perhaps most important, each of this year's graduating seniors spent increasingly significant amounts of time on leadership-level projects as part of their service requirements — once again proving that besides turning out "academic scholars," Notre Dame continues to graduate "Christian people and upright citizens." «



Irish News

MIDDLE SCHOOL MASTERS

A team representing Notre Dame Middle School recently earned highest honors in the 2020-2021 WordMasters Challenge, a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 125,000 students annually. Notre Dame's eighth-grade team scored an impressive 166 points out of a possible 200 in the last of three meets this year, placing ninth in the nation.

The eighth graders also placed sixth nationally in the overall competition for the year with a cumulative score of 506 points out of a possible 600.



Notre Dame eighth-grader Paolo Fregoli, left, and sixth-grader Charlie Nadeau earned perfect scores in the most recent WordMasters Challenge.

In addition, competing in the difficult blue division of the Challenge, sixth-grader Charlie Nadeau and eighth-grader Paolo Fregoli each earned a perfect score of 20 in the recent meet. Nationally, only 48 sixth graders and eight eighth graders achieved this result.

The students were coached by middle school teachers Tina McLaughlin and Kelly Simon, who had high praise for their perfect-scoring students.

"Paolo has been steadily improving since seventh-grade on each WordMasters test," said Simon, who teaches seventh-grade reading and eighth-grade language and literature. "By eighth grade, the students have a great self awareness of their abilities and study methods that work for them. I'm so happy

for Paolo. He has worked hard all semester for this score."

McLaughlin, who coached Nadeau, said her student also is a dedicated and driven student.

"He takes time with his assignments and always puts forth his best effort," she said. "He was determined to score a 20 on the WordMasters Challenge this year and I was very proud of his accomplishment. Charlie's hard work definitely paid off!"

NOTRE DAME TO HOST DETROIT TIGERS SUMMER BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL CAMPS

Detroit-area youth and young Tigers fans across the region are invited to register for the Detroit Tigers summer baseball and softball camps, presented by NIKE, which will run July 19-23 at Notre Dame's Pontiac campus. It's the second year that the school has been chosen to host the camps.

"After the first year, we were sold on it," said Betty Wroubel, Notre Dame's athletic director and assistant principal. "We found them to be very organized, with good safety protocols, and the campers learned and had fun. Major League Baseball, and in this case the Tigers organization, provided a great experience for the campers."

She said the experienced staff brought in by the Tigers in addition to Notre Dame personnel provide a highly structured program that truly meets the needs for campers of all ages. She said it's also a great way for the kids in their Tiger uniforms to imagine themselves playing for the hometown team.

"The fact that we have one of the premier baseball facilities not only in Southeast Michigan but across the state is another reason a major

league organization like the Detroit Tigers wants to use our facility for camps," Wroubel added.

Detroit Tigers summer baseball and softball camps are open to boys and girls ages 6-14 and of all skill levels. Each camp will run from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., Monday thru Friday of each session.

Weekly registration costs \$395, with proceeds benefiting the Detroit Tigers Foundation and its mission of enhancing lives through the games of baseball and softball with a focus on youth, education and recreation. Discounts are available, including for families registering more than one camper at the same time. Registration is currently available at tigers.com/camps.

NOTRE DAME NAMES TWO NEW BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy announced last month that Timothy J. Easterwood and Chris J. Liparoto, both current school parents, accepted positions on the Board of Trustees' advancement committee.



Timothy J. Easterwood, left, and Chris J. Liparoto were named advancement committee members for the Notre Dame Board of Trustees.

Easterwood, whose daughter, Ella, just graduated from Notre Dame Prep, has been an active and strong supporter of Notre Dame, most recently in providing a \$1 million leadership gift to support STEM education and the school's "Timothy J. Easterwood Science,

Art and Technology Wing," which opened in August of 2018.

He founded and currently serves as president and chief executive officer of BizFleets, LLC, a commercial vehicle fleet management service based in Jupiter, Fla. He also co-founded and served as co-CEO of BonusDrive, LLC, a digital marketing services provider specializing in affinity-based customer acquisitions and perks that are distributed through insurance companies, employer groups, financial institutions and associations.

Liparoto is a managing director with Merrill Lynch and leads the Auburn Hills office as the resident director. In addition to his 28 years as a licensed wealth management advisor, he has held several leadership roles with the firm. He also has 15 years of nonprofit board experience, including Lighthouse of Oakland County and most recently with Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan where he continues to serve on its finance committee.

In addition, he has worked on accreditation renewal with Holy Family Regional School and currently serves on the professional advisory board for Oakland University's student-managed investment committee, which, in partnership with the Kresge Foundation, gives students the opportunity to learn how to construct, manage and present investment portfolios.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS CLEAN UP ON NATIONAL SPANISH EXAM

Spanish is a global language with nearly 500 million native speakers, mainly in Spain and the Americas. It is the world's second-most spoken native language after Mandarin Chinese. Notre Dame's language arts curriculum includes both.

Students taking Spanish in the middle school recently scored



Notre Dame eighth-graders Sehaj Gill, left, and Adri Lorenz earned gold medals in the most recent AATSP National Spanish Examination.

big in the 2021 National Spanish Examinations, bringing home 32 awards, including two gold medals, which were earned by Notre Dame eighth-graders Sehaj Gill and Adri Lorenz.

The examination and awards are sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, which promotes the study and teaching of the Spanish and Portuguese languages and their corresponding Hispanic, Luso-Brazilian, and other related literatures and cultures at all levels of education.

"I am so proud of the students this year," said middle-school Spanish teacher Marisol Aguilar. "They really did well and this during a very unusual year of learning!"

THREE SENIORS FROM NDP SIGN NATIONAL LETTERS OF INTENT



From left, then-seniors Lexi Fraser, Joshua Samuels and Alex Whalen were honored in March during a lunch-period ceremony after committing to play collegiate athletics.

In an event livestreamed this past spring on Facebook, three senior student-athletes from Notre Dame Prep signed national letters of intent to play athletics at the college level. Lexi Fraser has signed with the Adams State University Grizzlies' cross country/track program; Joshua Samuels signed with the Eagles of Juniata College to play football; and Alex Whalen signed to play football for the Bears at

Washington University in St. Louis.

Congratulations to Lexi, Joshua and Alex! You will continue to make the Fighting Irish proud!

PERFECTLY PREPARED

Notre Dame Prep rising senior Maria VanDieren is looking forward to an exciting career in the sciences or medicine. But before college and before that future career, VanDieren is working on finishing her high school career, which for her and her classmates at NDP as well as for those around the world has been like no other.



Maria VanDieren, who scored a 36 on the ACT, said she was grateful for how Notre Dame Prep responded in 2020 to the pandemic.

"This school year and the second half of last school year have been very different from previous years since we've been dealing with virtual learning, social distancing, masks and definitely more anxiety," she said. "But I am grateful and appreciative that we were back in school versus working from home."

Now, with the negative effects of the pandemic on education waning — fingers crossed — VanDieren is focused on getting to the next step in her academic journey. In fact, she found out recently that she earned a 36 on her most recent ACT, the highest score possible on the college-readiness test.

"I was very happy to find out my score," she said. "During school one day in March, I received an email that said the scores were available, but I waited until I got home to check. I reloaded the page a couple of times to make sure the 36 was actually mine, and it took a minute for it to sink in."

VanDieren is the second NDP student this year and the 13th

since 2009 to earn the very rare 36.

'MUTUAL EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION SOCIETY'

Three students from Notre Dame, one from each division, were among others in the area recognized by the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce on March 23 during a special virtual event highlighting their commitment to learning and for contributions to their school communities.

Notre Dame Prep senior Amishi Mahajan, Notre Dame Middle School eighth-grader Eric Davis and Notre Dame Lower School fifth-grader Emily Bassett were honored at the 24th Annual "Excellence in Education Awards Program" sponsored by the Auburn Hills Chamber, which celebrated the students along with a mentor, teacher or counselor of their choosing. In partnership with the Detroit Pistons, the Chamber an-



Amishi Mahajan, now an NDP graduate, was honored March 23 along with Director of Counseling Vlado Salic at the "Excellence in Education Awards Program" sponsored by the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce.

nually honors both students and mentors who have supported them along their educational journeys.

Mahajan chose Notre Dame's Director of Counseling Vlado Salic; Davis picked Meredith Scott, a middle school teacher and director of Notre Dame's theatre program;



In his presentation on Mar. 23, rising ninth-grader Eric Davis chose Notre Dame Middle School teacher and theatre director Meredith Scott to honor at the virtual Chamber event.

and Bassett honored first grade teacher Kimberly Kriesel during this year's event.

The students read tributes at the awards ceremony, which provided some very poignant moments.

In his presentation on Mar. 23, eighth-grader Eric Davis chose Notre Dame Middle School teacher and theatre director Meredith Scott to honor at the virtual Chamber event. For Davis, it was all about Scott and her genuine love and care for every student at school.

Fifth-grader Emily Bassett said her teachers so far at Notre Dame have all been outstanding.

"But Mrs. Kriesel has impacted my life the most," she said. "I want to really thank Mrs. Kriesel for helping me learn in first grade and beyond and to be a good, Christian person, an upright citizen and academic scholar."



Emily Bassett, a rising sixth grader, decided to honor her first-grade teacher Kimberly Kriesel during the virtual event.

PLEASE PATRONIZE NOTRE DAME RESTAURANTS AND BUSINESSES

Early in the pandemic, the Notre Dame Alumni Association reached out to members of the Notre Dame community, including current families and alumni, who own or operate restaurants and small businesses that may have been negatively affected by the pandemic. While many if not most of them have reopened, we continue to encourage readers to patronize our NDPMA family businesses, including those listed on our website at ndpma.org/promoting-notre-dame-family-owned-restaurants-and-small-businesses.

An affirming presence

Notre Dame's director of diversity and inclusion combines her NDP experience with a law degree to help build "a safe, just, equitable and affirming community for all"

When Kala (Thomas) Parker graduated from Notre Dame Prep in 2000 she headed to her first college of choice, Purdue, to major in medical technology because she wanted to get into forensic science. She soon discovered that although the field was extremely interesting, it wasn't for her.

"I actually didn't at all like the classes required for the major," said Notre Dame's director of diversity and inclusion. So she changed her major during her sophomore year to law and society, a combination of sociology and criminology, and she loved it. She also minored in psychology.

While an undergrad, to no one's surprise, Parker was very active in student society. At Purdue, she was the membership chair of the Epsilon Rho Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. But her memberships didn't stop there. Thomas also was part of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the Mortar Board National Honor Society, and she served as the 2nd vice president of the Black Student Union.

Upon completion of her studies at Purdue, Parker decided to apply to and get her law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing.

During her tenure at Cooley, Parker continued her very active student lifestyle. She participated in the Moot Court Program as a first year competitor. She also was an intra-school competitor, a judge, a senior judge, and a teaching assistant/competition coordinator in the program, in addition to time spent as a legal intern in Cooley's estate planning clinic. She also was a coach for a Michigan Youth-in-Debate team.

Parker always has noted how Notre Dame Prep prepared her for life after high school. In fact, she said her first year at Purdue was like 13th grade at ND Prep. "I realized after getting to know other people in college that not everyone had the same advantage as I had from attending Prep."

Gregory Simon ND'89, who currently is NDPMA's director of admissions, taught Parker world cultures and government at NDP, and Dolores Connors Elbode was her French teacher.

"Among many, those two teachers were especially inspiring to me throughout my time at NDP and beyond," she said.

Simon noted that as a high school student it was clear that Parker was going to be successful. "She was bright, well-mannered, and had a maturity that is always wonderful to see in young people," he said.

Simon eventually brought Parker in as a staff member in the school's admissions department where she focused on lower school enrollment and eventually served as the point person for NDPMA's diversity, equity and inclusion initiative.

Now focused exclusively on DEI at the school, she's well-suited to take it to the next level. Her role as director of DEI is now an independent role, and it's split into two main functions: recruiting, on-boarding, and supporting scholarship students from the local community; and facilitating diversity, equity and inclusion programming, and providing DEI resources for faculty and students.

"Notre Dame began its diversity journey 20 years ago by dedicating a position to DEI and stressing its importance," she said. "We began by developing a diversity statement to guide our work and to complement the mission of working with God to form Christian persons and upright citizens and academic scholars."

She said that soon after a DEI position was established in 2001 (Parker took over in 2014), the school partnered with a community organization led by an alum to provide scholarships to high-potential students from the local community.

"This effort changed the landscape of our school, increasing our racial, ethnic, geographic, language and socioeconomic diversity and positively impacting our school culture," Parker said. "As the program grew, it was necessary for our level of support of programming to also evolve. We could no longer just focus on diversifying our student body; we had to evolve to focus on equity, or access to all that Notre Dame has to offer, and inclusion, or a true sense of belonging within the school."

To that end, the Board of Trustees appointed a committee on diversity, equity and inclusion in early 2020 and it's first

OPPOSITE

Notre Dame's director of diversity and inclusion, Kala Parker NDP'00, is with her family: husband Stephen, and children Preston, 7, Zoe, 2, and Kevin, 6.

initiative was evaluating the entire school community by conducting a cultural assessment to determine current DEI strengths and challenges and discover what needs to change.

“Through focus groups and a community-wide survey, we gathered data that will allow us to create strategic goals for DEI,” she said. “Our initial report will be published later this summer, but we plan to continue to assess ourselves at regular intervals in the coming years.

“This focus on diversity, equity and inclusion is about our entire community—students, faculty/staff, administration, coaches and alumni,” Parker added. “All of

these groups are integral parts of our history and all have a stake in our future. Our goal is to be a safe, just, equitable and affirming community for all.”

When Parker’s not on campus helping to build that kind of community, she’s generally spending time with her family.

“I also love yoga and getting near the water, so I try to do both as much as possible,” she said. “I am also in the process of renewing my law license and am excited to learn more about DEI work in the field of law and how it intersects with the education arena.” ◀



THE FOCUS IS

Notre Dame continues its journey to a more just and equitable campus using its Assessment of Inclusivity and Multiculturalism (AIM) initiative

In February, during Black History Month, Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy Head of School Andrew J. Guest addressed lower school students after one of their regular Wednesday Masses.

He talked about the importance of diversity.

"As a Catholic school, we believe there is room here for everybody," he said. "We were all created in the image and likeness of God and that we are all different for a reason."

He told the Pre-K through fifth graders that God made every person in the world unique for a reason.

"We are all special. Some of us are tall, some of us are short. Some of us are old. Some of us are young. Some of us can sing. Some of us play an instrument. Some of us like sports, and some of us like creating and inventing."

He concluded by challenging the children to embrace Black History Month and use it as an opportunity to learn more about each other.

"Learn more about American history," he added. "Embrace our differences, and most of all, let us use this as an opportunity to be nice and make our school the best school in the world."

For the youngest students at Notre Dame, it was another touch point for the school's ongoing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiative that has at its core the third encyclical of Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti (All Brothers), or "on fraternity and social friendship."

NDPMA's DEI program most recently has been focused on determining where exactly the school stands on fraternity and social friendship as well as its diversity journey through the lens of all constituents.

Kala Parker, who is Notre Dame's director of diversity and inclusion, has worked with a school Board committee on sponsoring the Assessment of

Inclusivity and Multiculturalism (AIM), which is being used to learn more about the school climate from every member of the community: students, parents, alumni, faculty/staff/coaches, and administrators.

"AIM will provide school leadership with the necessary data to identify school needs, set goals, and track progress towards improvement, and allow for the development and prioritization of diversity, equity and inclusion strategic goals and objectives," Parker said.

Notre Dame's AIM has two parts: a school self-assessment (qualitative element) and an online climate survey (quantitative element). The desired outcomes, according to Parker are:

- Define diversity, equity and inclusion goals;
- Provide data to begin developing diversity and multicultural programs and initiatives;
- Identify the school's current level of inclusivity as perceived by multiple constituencies;
- Identify areas of need, whether in curriculum, infrastructure, governance or services; and
- Facilitate an engagement process that illuminates patterns, multiple perspectives, and opportunities for improvement.

A few months ago, Parker and other school officials on the DEI committee, including board member Mia Burbank, wrapped up the self-assessment portion of AIM. It involved a number of intense focus groups conducted through Zoom.

"We believe it's critical to get all perspectives and having everyone 'in the same room,'" Burbank said. "We went to great lengths to get diverse representation from every constituency on the Zoom sessions. For us, our entire community, past, present and future, has a stake in the work and the safe, equitable, affirming and just community we want to become."

In all, seven Zoom calls were assembled with school community members representing the following categories or groups: parent/guardians; faculty and staff; admissions and financial aid; student life; teaching and learning; alumni; and school governance/leadership.

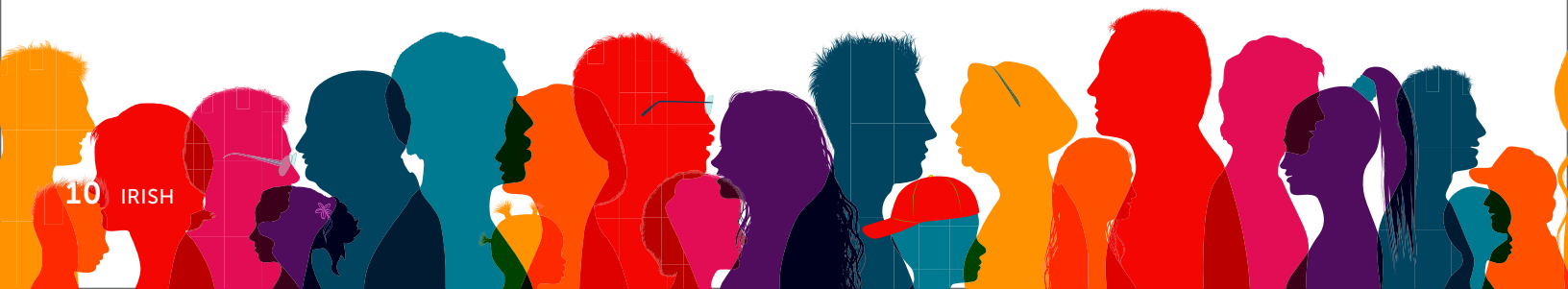
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WE WERE ALL CREATED IN

THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF

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DIFFERENT FOR A REASON.



ON DIVERSITY

Participants were encouraged to be open and honest during the sessions and, according to Parker, many were very spirited.

"Our Zoom facilitators said they had no problem getting people to open up about diversity and inclusion issues within the context of our Notre Dame/Marist school," she said. "It also was very clear that all were extremely passionate about DEI while at the same time recognizing the need to prioritize this important work."

Parker said that now her team's focus is on data from the second phase of the school's AIM initiative, the climate survey.

"We launched the survey on April 12 and look forward to presenting our findings along with the overall comprehensive AIM report and recommendations at the June Board of Trustees meeting," Parker said.

Board member Burbank affirms the importance of this work.

"I'm so glad that DEI is a priority at Notre Dame and within our Marist leadership," she said. "We have done an amazing job educating our students, but I believe, just as importantly, we need to prepare them for a highly diverse world in which we are all accepting and tolerant of other views and perspectives.

"Additionally, I believe affirming diversity, equity and inclusion in the NDPMA community is core to our mission of being Christian people and upright citizens. We must practice what we preach when it comes to creating an environment where there is a sense of fairness and belonging for everyone. Our mission's values, including DEI, should be evident in our curriculum, policies and culture. I also believe it's important to measure our progress in this work to ensure that there's continued growth in our student body, staff and leadership."

A current parent at Notre Dame's upper school and participant in the self-study agrees.

"We're big believers in valuing all types of diversity, its importance in teaching our kids to admire and respect all people, and its crucial role in fulfilling Notre Dame's mission and the Marist Way," he said. "We firmly believe that recognizing and appreciating diversity is one of the greatest assets our kids can have in becoming generous contributors to our community and successful in all their goals." «



ABOVE

One of the Zoom focus-group sessions as part of the self-assessment portion of Notre Dame's Assessment of Inclusivity and Multiculturalism (AIM) program included alumni, faculty, staff and coaches.



CLIMATE OF

Notre Dame parents, staff/faculty, alumni and students share feedback in community-wide survey

This spring, the Notre Dame community took part in a comprehensive two-part assessment of inclusivity and multiculturalism, a study of the school's climate and its progress in the areas of diversity and inclusion. The rigorous qualitative and quantitative analysis was administered by both the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and ISM (Independent School Management) and offers a window for how the school can create a sense of belonging for everyone in its community.

"Through this process, we examined every aspect of the school — its culture, leadership, academic program, student life, parent and alumni involvement, and more," said Kala Parker, Notre Dame's director of diversity and inclusion.

The first part of the assessment, the qualitative analysis, featured seven virtual roundtable discussions designed to cover all aspects of the school: teaching and learning, parent and guardian involvement, faculty and staff involvement, admissions and financial aid, alumni involvement, school governance/leadership, and student life. Each discussion included a mixture of faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, coaches, and students to ensure voices were heard from all walks of the Notre Dame experience.

A two-week quantitative survey was then administered to parents, students, faculty and staff, and alumni in April. Students had the highest response rate (71.8 percent completed out of 804 surveys), followed by faculty (44.3 percent completed out of 262 surveys), parents (23

percent completed out of 1,662 surveys), and alumni (6.3 percent completed out of 3,200). Participants were asked questions around the themes of "safe," "equitable," "just" and "affirming," using the Likert scale to rate their responses. Example topics included, "I feel like my colleagues respect me for who I am" or "I feel comfortable expressing my experiences related to race (gender) at this school, among other topics."

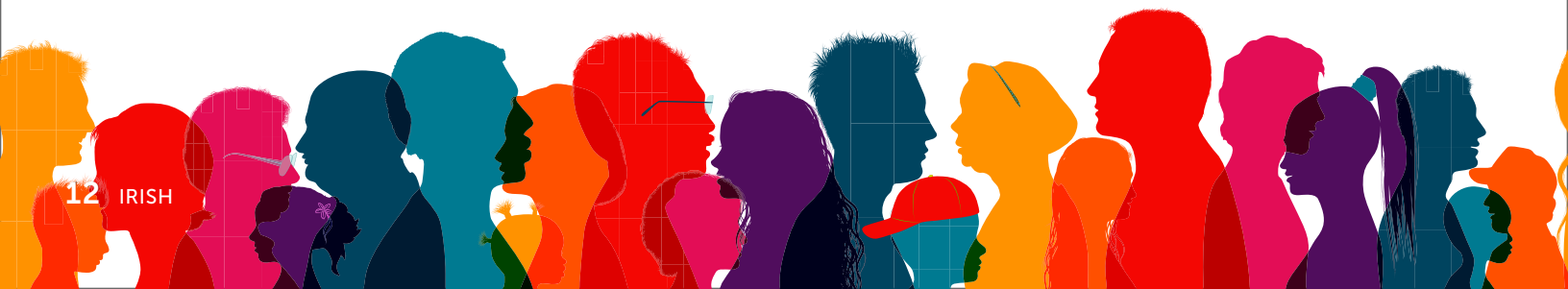
"The general trends we saw across the board include placing more emphasis in the following areas: inclusivity in the classroom; anti-intimidation/sensitivity training, bias/prejudice training; equitable discipline/restorative justice/training for staff, and mental health support," Parker said.

"It was eye-opening to see our areas of success, but also our areas of opportunity that were consistent across all constituent groups. One of our biggest takeaways was that, when it comes to day-to-day experiences, there seems to be a definite disconnect between what the kids experience and what the parents see as their students' experience," Parker added.

For example, students responded that they "don't often know who to go to" when they have concerns around diversity, while parents assume that students do know. In addition, students who responded to the survey said that they "don't feel comfortable being their authentic self" while parents assume that students are free to be themselves.

With the survey complete, the DEI committee will compile a full report, complete with recommendations to present to the school board later. The board will then approve strategic goals and measurable objectives in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Implementation and programming will follow beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. Once the final report and recommendations are presented to the board

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THROUGH THIS PROCESS, WE EXAMINED
EVERY ASPECT OF THE SCHOOL — ITS
CULTURE, LEADERSHIP, ACADEMIC PROGRAM,
STUDENT LIFE, PARENT AND ALUMNI
INVOLVEMENT, AND MORE."



INCLUSION

and strategic goals are determined, a summary of the report as well as strategic goals will be shared with the greater Notre Dame community, Parker said.

In reflecting on the rollout of the survey, participation among constituent groups, and what could have been done differently to increase survey response rates, particularly among young alumni, Parker said the DEI committee is taking much-needed time to evaluate its processes for the future.

"There was definitely a learning curve since this was our first time doing such a large-scale effort in this area," Parker said. "We have learned a lot about drafting questions to ensure you are getting to the heart of any issues that exist, as well as analyzing data for trends to develop recommendations. This process was so specific to our school, our culture, and the DEI growth that we are working toward. We look forward to continuing to move the needle in this work."

Overall, she said, the committee is happy with the data collected and eager to dive deeper into the community's feedback.

"This focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion is about our entire community—students, faculty/staff, administration, coaches, and alumni. All these groups are integral parts of our history, and all have a stake in our future. Our goal is to be a safe, just, equitable, and affirming community for all," Parker said. «



ABOVE

As a result of the recent survey, school officials saw general trends looking for more emphasis on inclusivity in the classroom, anti-intimidation/sensitivity training, and bias/prejudice training, among others.



Immigr

The plight of immigrants was displayed in a powerful virtual immersion experience attended by students both at Notre Dame Prep and the Marist School in Atlanta this past spring. Hosted in partnership with Borderlinks, an educational organization focused on immigration awareness, the one-day program was designed to explore the theme of migration as well as deepen students' understanding of the broader context of the Mexican-U.S. border.

Students began by looking at a history timeline of immigration, key issues, and legislation in the United States before listening to a brief presentation led by Notre Dame's Fr. Jim Strasz, s.m., who shared Marist perspectives on immigration and the importance of a Marist presence in the world.

"At Notre Dame, our educational tradition is rooted in the Marist ethos that has three aims: to work with God in forming Christian people, upright citizens and



Education with empathy

Notre Dame Prep and Atlanta Marist School students take part in U.S. border workshop

academic scholars. We tend to excel in the third of these aims, namely academic scholars. This is borne out by the numbers of our graduates who have gone on to many good universities and colleges. But in the mind of Fr. Jean-Claude Colin, who gave us these aims, he always ranked the academic in last place and as the servant to the first two,” Strasz said.

For Colin, the goal of a Marist education was to help students become the person God made them to be and live in a lasting relationship with God.

“That relationship with God is not something that exists only between God and oneself. Rather, we are by our nature social beings and our existence is tied to the people and world we live in,” Strasz said. “Being a good and upright citizen is the way to make that relationship with God concrete in one’s life. St. Matthew in his gospel places it centrally before us when he tells us that at the end of our lives, the question God will ask is not how many academic honors we achieved or even how well we did economically, rather in the light of eternity we will be asked what we did for each other especially ‘the least of our brothers and sisters.’”

Throughout the morning, students engaged in a computer simulation, where they were assigned immigrant status and had

to navigate their way through the legal process.

“It was very challenging and for many discouraging to find out they would be denied, or the process would take 15 or more years,” said NDP campus minister Della Lawrence.

Students also heard firsthand accounts from immigrants who escaped danger to come to the United States. They also heard from an individual who started his own community organization to help immigrants find dignified work. Students were able to dialogue with the speakers to find out more about their experiences. Then both schools brainstormed ideas for action steps in their own local communities and shared their ideas in a roundtable discussion. Students agreed to reconnect in the future to share what they are doing to address the immigration question.

“The border simulation was a good opportunity for some of our students working alongside another Marist school and some of their students to go on a ‘mission trip’ be it virtual and to learn from others what they are experiencing in that place. There is so much to learn about on the southern border and from many different perspectives. In doing this we send them on a mission—and we asked them to take the Marist tradition as they know it to learn about a group of people,” Strasz said. “From this experience with an enriched education about the situation they can then use that knowledge to do two things: advocate and to do something very concrete to help.”

Ninth grader Grace Simon said she truly enjoyed participating in the virtual experience.

“It was nice talking to the Marist School in Atlanta and learning what they have done about the subject. I also liked listening to the immigrant stories. It also made me figure out what I can do to help this important problem,” she said.

Junior Rita Twal, who helped organize the event at Notre Dame Prep, said she too enjoyed hearing the immigrant stories.

“It’s one thing to hear about immigration issues from social media and news reporters, but it’s a whole different thing learning about real and raw stories of struggles that immigrants face, from a refugee,” she said. “Immigrants do not all face the same issues and struggles, so hearing from this individual about their own struggles made for a more insightful and unique learning experience.

“What hit home with me personally during this experience is that more people experience these daily immigration struggles than we realize. You could be standing next to a person in a grocery store, and not know that this person is currently seeking asylum, escaping a very corrupt and dangerous country or government, and having to adapt to a completely new environment and culture,” Twal added.

After attending the program, Twal said she and her fellow students have begun to make action plans, such as holding a backpack drive to fill up bags with everyday necessities and send them off to people living on the border. She is also planning a walk to raise awareness about immigration issues, and about injustices and inequalities that refugees, immigrants, and migrants experience. «



Passing the to

When outgoing Parents Club President Tim Philippart reflects on his tenure, he humbly gives credit to those he has served with over the years. Philippart, who will close out his longstanding run as the organization's top leader at the end of the 2021 school year, said he is grateful for the countless hours of work volunteers put in to help Notre Dame flourish under his watch.

"I can't believe how fast the time went," he laughed.

Philippart was named president of the Parents Club in August 2009 when his son Andrew was entering 1st grade at the lower school. He also served on the Parents Club Board as the club's vice president of the lower school in 2008 after getting involved through Fr. Leon Olszamowski's Lower Division Sustainability Committee in 2007.

"I am a firm believer that we all have a responsibility to contribute to the success of the communities and organizations to which we belong. When I was offered the opportunity to serve on Parents Club, I jumped at the chance," Philippart said. "I felt this was a great opportunity for me to contribute my time, talents, and resources so that I could have a positive impact on all Notre Dame students."

A product of private, Catholic education (both elementary and high school), Philippart said he knows all too well the challenges faith-based schools face and the importance for all parents to get involved.

"I think we have achieved a collaborative model between the Notre Dame administration and Parents Club that is far superior to my experience growing up as a child," he said.

From the annual Super Raffle to helping at various events, Philippart said it has been a joy to get involved in nearly every aspect of the school. If he had to name just one thing, however, he said the raffle stands out as his proudest achievement.

"When I started here, one family managed the entire Super Raffle. It consumed a very large chunk of their lives for months on end. From a sustainability point of view, I was concerned about the future of the Super Raffle. When this family graduated and moved on, I figured the Parents Club would be in trouble and would not be able to replace them," he explained. "While Notre Dame is blessed with a large pool of selfless volunteers, the workload for the Super Raffle was enormous. I wanted to 'engineer' a process that could be easily divided across a few volunteers and then could be consolidated later with ease."

Utilizing his skills as a software engineer combined with barcode scanners donated to the school, Philippart created an application that would read the barcode on any raffle ticket, lookup the assigned family via the ticket number, and create an online record of that transaction that satisfied both the Michigan Charitable Gaming requirements and Notre Dame's needs to track which parents participated in the raffle and which

ones did not for billing purposes.

"I wanted something that did not require a lot of training, was highly automated, and error proof. I also wanted the ability to give 'real time updates' which is not easily done in hand-based accounting," he said. "Incentive days generated a lot of buzz back in the day and we needed to easily determine how close to our 60 percent mark we were at.

"Our Super Raffle is huge! With more than 750 current families and an ever-increasing base of alumni and friends of the school, we would handle upwards of 44,000 tickets and growing. This can be very effectively done with a couple of chairs and a handful of volunteers. As I move on and eventually our chairs do as well, the process is automated enough that new volunteers should be able to pick up where we left off very easily and the Super Raffle should be quite sustainable for the foreseeable future," he added.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

While he acknowledges the work has not always been easy, Philippart has approached the office of president with both grace and humility.

"To me, the Parents Club in many ways operates as an extension of the school to perform very important tasks that the school itself does not have the people to staff," he said. "Parents Club generates over \$300,000 for the school without consuming much of the school's human resources. In addition to supporting the financial

orch

Parents Club President Tim Philippart stepping down after more than a decade of service to the school

headwinds, we also support several activities that directly contribute and add value to the students' social experience."

Parents Club plays a vital role in dances, theatre productions, the annual senior fashion show, Concert on the Hill, and numerous other events.

"These provide our students the opportunities to come together as a class and form lifetime bonds they will remember forever. This is made possible by the operating model of 'volunteerism' that the Parents Club brings to the table," Philippart said.

Shannan Heaman, club vice president for the middle school, has known Philippart for years and said she has learned a lot from his leadership.

"Tim is always willing to take on responsibility and to deal with difficult issues when they arise. He has sound judgement and is not afraid to make a decision," she said. "Tim and I happen to be neighbors and as well as the president of the Parents Club, he is the president of our homeowner's association. I always joke that he is pretty much in charge of my life! He truly enjoys volunteering as a leader and had the demeanor, intelligence and thick skin to manage a group."

Heaman said Philippart is an excellent role model for students and parents.

"Tim truly lives the school mission through his passion for education (his assistance with the computer science program at Notre Dame Prep), his faith and his



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IF I COULD SAY ONE THING TO OUR YOUNGER LOWER SCHOOL PARENTS, IT WOULD BE, 'GET INVOLVED NOW. TWELVE YEARS GOES BY LIKE A BLINK OF AN EYE AND IN THE END, YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID.'

dedication to the communities he is a part of," she said.

Head of School Andrew Guest agreed stating, "Tim has been a good friend and a good volunteer. He understands the school mission well and has directed the Parents Club efforts efficiently and effectively. He is the longest serving Parents Club president in the history of the school and both Fr. Leon and I appreciate his service."

for parents and volunteers.

A NEW GENERATION OF VOLUNTEERS

Though 12 years may seem like a long time for some, Philippart said just like any other job, when you make it "fun," the time passes quickly.

"The part I enjoyed the most as president and I will miss the most are the relationships. Over these 12 years, I have gotten to know Fr. Leon (Olszamowski), (Head of School) Andy Guest, Fr. Joe (Hindelang), and our principals very well. These are the best administrators one could ever hope for," Philippart said. "I have also had the opportunity to work alongside the best group of parent volunteers. I volunteer in other activities, and I can say with certainty that the Notre Dame community has the best and most devoted parents around.

"While we all come from very diverse backgrounds (ethnic, racial, socio-economic, educational), we share a common bond that unites us. This bond is our children and wanting for our children the absolute best elementary, middle school, and high school experience possible," he added.

The decision to step down now has been a difficult one Philippart admits and has a lot to do with his son Andrew, a Notre Dame Prep senior, graduating and attending the University of Michigan's School of Engineering in the fall.

"I think it is time for me to hand the reigns over to the next generation of parents," Philippart said. "It is important to allow

others to step forward and be given the same opportunities that I have been given. I look at my involvement in the Parents Club as exactly that, an opportunity. It is an opportunity to get involved and contribute positively to the success of our students.

"If I could say one thing to our younger elementary school parents, it would be, 'get involved now. Twelve years goes by like a blink of an eye and in the end, you will be glad you did.'"

As far as what he will miss, "I will miss the friendships formed over the past 12 years. I have served next to several great Parents Club board members who have been in this as long as I have. I know Becky Ricci will do a great job taking over the role as president."

"My message to future presidents and board members is this: Understand the headwinds (challenges) we face. It is hard to guess what the next 12 years will show. Personally, 12 years ago I never for one moment thought we would be living through a global pandemic that has devastated so many families and touched every one of us in different ways. But given teamwork and a strong collaboration between Notre Dame administration and parents, we can be successful, and we can deliver to our students the experiences and tools they need to be Christian People, Upright Citizens, Academic Scholars whatever lies in store for us in the decades to come," Philippart added. ◀



ABOVE

In 2012, Tim Philippart (back row, middle), other lower school dads, and their sons shaved their heads and helped raise more than \$20,000 for childhood cancer research through the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

Beginning in the fall, Parents Club volunteer coordinator Becky Ricci will assume the role as the club's new president. She has known Philippart for four years and said he has laid a strong foundation for the club's future success. Her goals include ensuring that events and activities run smoothly; financial transparency and protocols for money management; staffing strong leaders in all chair positions; helping parents feel a part of and welcome in the Notre Dame community; achieving fundraising goals; and keeping the work fun

Alum and expert on teen mental health gives back

Renowned doctor and author presented a series of seminars to the NDPMA community on the pandemic, teens and depression; also says he gained much from his own Notre Dame education

Dr. Norman T. Berlinger, who graduated from Notre Dame High School (Harper Woods) in 1962, is a bioethicist and pathologist following a distinguished career as a surgeon. He writes on health issues and has been published in Discover magazine, the New York Times, Men's Health and elsewhere.

In 2006, he published the book, "Rescuing Your Teenager from Depression," which drew from his own experiences with his son and sets forth "10 Parental Partnering Strategies" based on his own background and on interviews with parents of depressed teens and mental health professionals.

Beginning May 5, Notre Dame's counseling department hosted a series of free seminars given by Berlinger for the school community on how the pandemic is affecting teens and related topics.

According to Vlado Salic, NDPMA's director of counseling, Berlinger focused on the issue of student mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic and offered some practical guidelines and tips on both how to identify symptoms as well as provide treatment options when issues arise.

"Topics included signs that your teen might be experiencing adverse mental health consequences from the pandemic and things a parent can do to investigate or counteract possible adverse mental health consequences," Salic said. "His many years of experience working with teenagers and their families will serve as a great benefit to our students and school community."

For Berlinger, it was still another opportunity to give back to the school and Marist community he dearly loves.

"Notre Dame was without doubt the pivotal factor in my development as a teen," said Berlinger who splits his time between homes in Minnesota and Michigan and served as an NDPMA trustee from 2014-2018. "I gave the commencement address at NDHS in 1962 and still remember saying that 'Notre Dame enriched our minds with knowledge as it turned our hearts to God.' We got the best of both as students. Our intellectual and spiritual lives were well nourished."

He said he also remembers the selfless individual attention he received from some of the faculty, including Fr. Ronald Saunders, s.m., who helped him become the editor-in-chief of the school's newspaper, and Mr. Cass Cosky, who coached him on the NDHS debate team.

"Every teen ought to have these extra adults like I had to show them



the way and cheer them on," he added. "That benefit is enormous."

Berlinger also hopes to visit a number of classes at NDP in the coming school year to speak directly to students.

"I will be giving a presentation in the psychology classes about what depression and anxiety feel like," he said. "Teens often feel 'awful inside,' but can't put a name on it. Once they can identify whether they're depressed, then they know who and how to ask for help if they are struggling. Likewise for anxiety. Sometimes teens may feel odd about talking about emotional health. But bringing the subject into the open in a classroom may help de-sensitize the issue so that it is less threatening or embarrassing for them."

Berlinger's presentations to parents were via Zoom and covered how to identify whether a teen is struggling with anxiety, depression or other mental health issues.

"Hopefully, this will help empower parents to take constructive action sooner than later," he said.

Berlinger said he is happy he's able to give back to the Notre Dame academic community since he gained so much as a Notre Dame student himself.

He was asked about specifics.

"That question requires a book to answer so perhaps an anecdote will suffice," he said. "I do a fair amount of writing for national newspapers and magazines about science and health. About 20 years ago and, of course, many years after I was in high school, I published a heavily science-laden article about a particularly morose subject — the autopsy — in Discover magazine, which also became the cover story for the Detroit Free Press Sunday Magazine.

"Fr. [John] Bryson, s.m., saw it and sent it to Fr. Omer St. Onge, s.m., who was my principal at Notre Dame from 1958-1962. I hadn't seen Fr. St. Onge in at least 30 years. After reading it he wrote me from Massachusetts and said, 'Your Catholic values and your Notre Dame values came shining through.'"

St. Onge's comment surprised Berlinger because he didn't purposely try to do that at all.

"But — and here's the point — Notre Dame and Marist values become infused into every facet of your life. They're there every minute, every day, in everything you do." «

Be(e)autiful season for

Notre Dame Middle School team comprised of an eighth grader and two seventh graders ends up in second place at last month's VEX Robotics world championship; Killer Bees have strong season

Notre Dame's VEX Robotics team 3333W, or "Power of the Square," completed a robotics season for the ages after a full week of competition during the 2021 VEX Robotics Competition (VRC) world championship by finishing just short of winning the entire event. Eighth-grader Brooklyn Haddad, and seventh-graders Dino Acciavatti and Kevin Carter, were allied with a team from Singapore for the world finals match held May 22.

middle school this year.

"Our team went 7-0 in qualifications, making them the No. 1 seed in their division," Palardy said. "Being the No. 1 seed allowed them to pick their alliance partner for the playoffs, and they chose team 8059D, or 'Blank,' from Singapore. The eight alliances from each division advance to the playoffs."

The third day of the world championship began the division playoffs which, like the NCAA March Madness, includes brackets for each division with 64 teams in a "one and done" elimination. Notre Dame's team 3333A swept through their division, moving past teams from China, Russia, Hong Kong, Australia, South Korea, England, Canada and the United States.

The Notre Dame/Singapore alliance eventually beat the winners from the opposing division and advanced to Saturday's final four where they made quick work of their semifinal opponent, a team from China called "China's Best," which got them in the finals.

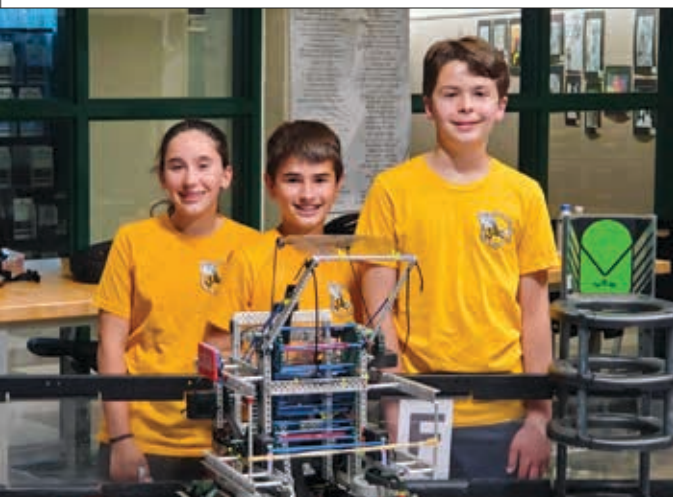
Palardy said Notre Dame/Singapore alliance's final opponent, which was based in Cupertino, Calif., had ties to Google and Apple and was heavily favored.

"Our alliance put up a good fight, and almost pulled off an upset, but came up just short," he said.

"Notre Dame has had many great robotics teams over the years," Palardy added. "Some of our high school FIRST robotics teams have placed as high as second in the world before, but this is the first time we've had a VEX Robotics team make it to the finals, make the final four or even win their division. It was a great accomplishment! We had a fantastic group of kids in robotics this year and they really deserve accolades for doing so well."

FIRST ROBOTICS DOES SCHOOL PROUD

The Killer Bees FIRST Robotics Competition team had a strong season, despite the challenges of COVID-19 that forced them to compete in virtual mode versus on-site matches. Instead of in-person events, the Killer Bees competed in remote events that included an Innovation Challenge, the Game Design Challenge and the Infinite Recharge @ Home challenge. Only 16 percent of all the teams in the U.S. participated in all three events, which speaks to the extraordinary commitment and resilience of the Killer



ABOVE

Eighth-grader Brooklyn Haddad, from left, and seventh-graders Dino Acciavatti and Kevin Carter finished just short of winning the world championship in the May 22 finals of the 2021 VEX Robotics Competition.

Jerry Palardy, Notre Dame's robotics mentor and coach, who likened the world competition to college basketball's annual championship tournament, said he was super proud of the students' performance given all the pressure in competing against the world's best.

"The VEX Robotics World Championship is kind of like March Madness, except it's

in May, the players are robots instead of people, and they are playing a complicated tic-tac-toe game instead of basketball," Palardy said. "To adapt to pandemic restrictions, the event was virtual this year. Each team played on their home field and all the teams in a match were brought together via a live webcast. VEX developed an amazing new virtual system called Live Remote Tournament (LRT) to make it all possible."

Team 3333W advanced to the world championship by winning the Michigan State Championship in March, and before that, winning a local tournament to get into the state finals.

The world championship tourney started the week of May 16 with two days of qualification matches where partners and opponents are randomly assigned for each match. Teams are grouped into divisions and then play seven matches within their respective divisions. There were eight divisions in

Notre Dame robotics

Bees team members. The students and mentors also were delighted to be recognized with at least four awards: two for robot design and robot performance, and two for the Game Design Challenge event.

INFINITE RECHARGE @ HOME EVENT

“Team 33 redesigned a new robot, smaller than anything we had done before and won the skills challenge portion of Infinite Recharge @ Home with a perfect score of 450,” said longtime team lead mentor, Jim Zondag. “Students also participated in remote-pit judging for the Infinite Recharge @ Home, showcasing the team’s judgement as well as the design, manufacture, engineering and programming of their robot.

Zondag said their efforts were rewarded with the impressive Industrial Design Award, which celebrates a team that demonstrates industrial design principles by striking a balance between form, function and aesthetics.

According to Zondag, in presenting the award to the Bees, the judges noted, “It’s a tough task to exemplify industrial design, but this swarm of busy students got it done. Their robot possesses an elegant ball harvester, a sweet shooting mechanism and a sharp custom chassis that will sting the competition. They have proven their method of iterative design can result in an incredibly stunning robot fit for a queen. Congratulations, Team 33, the Killer Bees!”

GAME DESIGN CHALLENGE EVENT

In the Game Design Challenge, NDP students designed an entirely new game and were recognized in their group by winning the Concept Award with their game “Rainforest Resupply.”

Zondag said that they competed against 90 other teams that earned a design or concept award and were named as one of the top 20 finalists.

“Next, the students participated in a remote interview with judges at FIRST headquarters in Manchester, N.H., to determine the three Game Design Challenge winners,” Zondag added. “Those winners will be announced at the end of June.”

Looking ahead, Zondag said the Killer Bees are eagerly anticipating competing in off-season summer events and a full season of in-person events in the 2022 season.

“We are curious to see what the next game will be with the FIRST Forward transportation challenge called, ‘Rapid React,’ which will be revealed in January 2022,” he said. “Meanwhile, the Bees will be recruiting and looking for new NDP students to join robotics at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.”

BELOW

Members of Notre Dame Prep’s Killer Bees team work with their robot during the Infinite Recharge portion of the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) game. There are two Power Ports on the field, with one at each alliance station.



Super raffle winners

Notre Dame's 2021 Super Raffle was held Saturday, April 17, on its high school campus.

The winning Super Raffle tickets were drawn in the school's cafeteria at a livestreamed virtual event that was long-delayed from the October 2020 raffle and Oktoberfest, which were canceled due to the pandemic.

Members of the Parents Club, Head of School Andy Guest and Marist Brother Louis Plourde, s.m., were on hand to draw the winning tickets from tens of thousands of tickets sold, netting the lucky winners big prizes. Raffle ticket purchasers had a chance of winning one of seven main prizes: \$50,000, \$10,000, \$5,000, \$2,500 and three \$1,000 payouts. The winning numbers were:

\$50,000: #20857

\$10,000: #16121

\$5,000: #13788

\$2,500: #29584

\$1,000: #35062

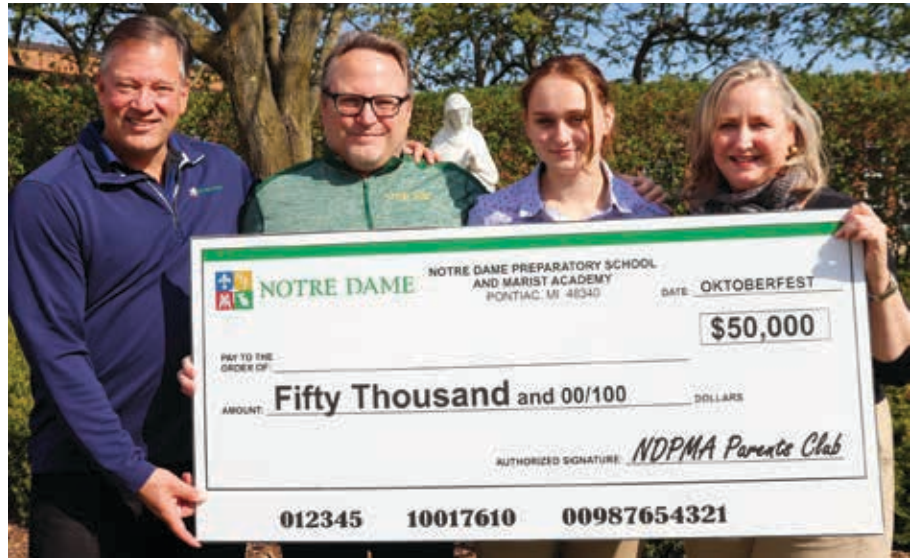
\$1,000: #25011

\$1,000: #30126

Proceeds from the raffle will help Notre Dame with financial aid, continuing technology upgrades for the students and other classroom enhancements.

Also on April 17, the following members of the Notre Dame school community were named Volunteers of the Year: Dr. Fabian Fregoli, Anne Kennedy and Tim Philippart. Congratulations, all! «

Above: Randy and Mary Jane Pasko pick up the \$10,000 Super Raffle check on behalf of their son, John NDP'10, who won the big prize. Notre Dame Prep Principal Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m., right, presented the big check April 23, 2021.

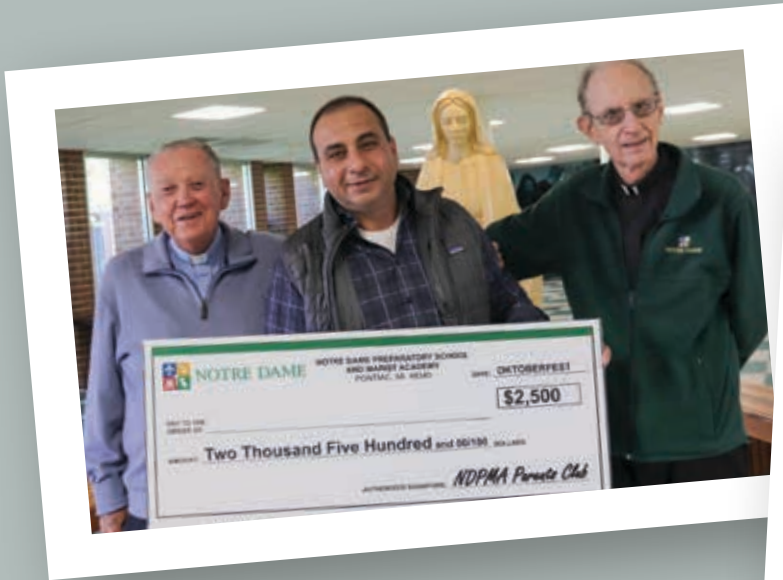


Above: Congratulations to the Linenfesler family, Jeff, Grace (soph.) and Amy, winners of the \$50,000 grand prize in Notre Dame's recent Super Raffle. Head of School Andy Guest, left, presented the check April 23, 2021.



Notre Dame's Br. Louis Plourde, s.m., left, presents a big Super Raffle check to Dr. Lindsey and Susan Hamilton and Notre Dame Middle School seventh-grader Lilly Hamilton.

pick up big checks



Fr. Leon Olszowski, s.m., and Br. Louis Plourde, s.m., are with Joseph Riera, who won \$2,500 in the 2021 Notre Dame Super Raffle. Riera is the father of Reese, a Notre Dame Prep junior.



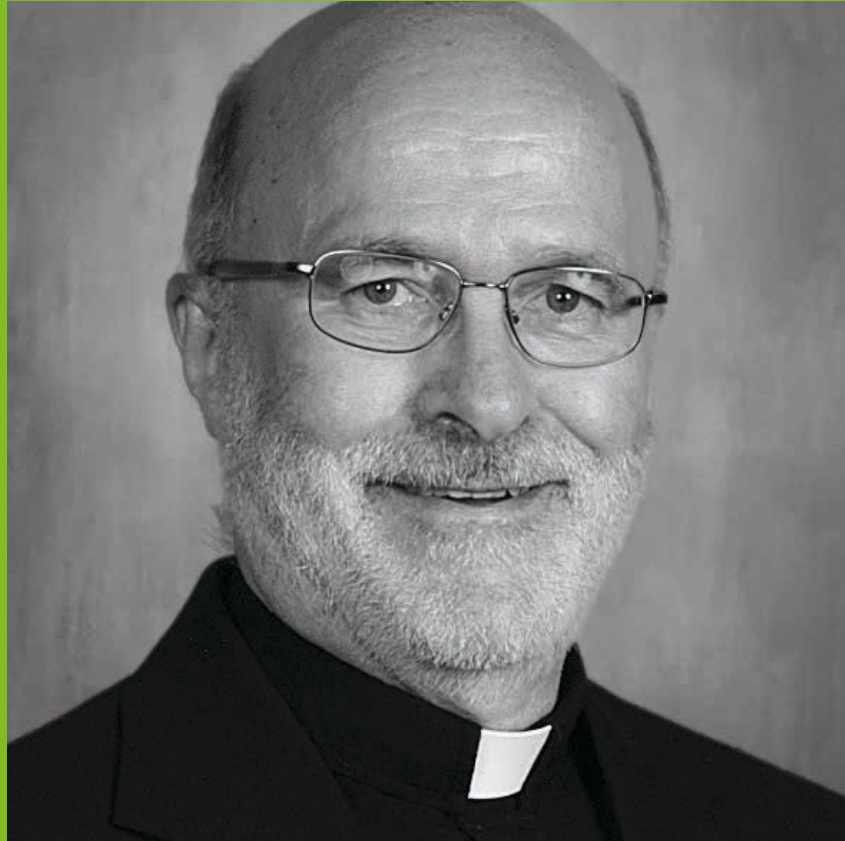
Andy Guest, Notre Dame's head of school, presents a \$1,000 check to Kerry Surmann, mother of Emily, 11th grade, and Erin, eighth grade.



Notre Dame's Br. Louis Plourde, s.m., is with Super Raffle winner Kim Roeren and her daughter, Ava, a ninth grader at Notre Dame Prep.



Super Raffle winner Mary Mueller is with her big check and son, Jack, a 10th grader at Notre Dame Prep.



FR. JOE GOES TO WASHINGTON

Fr. Joseph C. Hindelang, s.m., named head of the Marists' U.S. province; Kimberly Anderson takes over as principal

Notre Dame Head of School Andrew J. Guest announced in early March that longtime Notre Dame Prep principal Fr. Joseph C. Hindelang, s.m., will be taking over as provincial of the United States Province of the Society of Mary (The Marists) on July 1, 2021. As a result, Kimberly Anderson, currently vice principal of Notre Dame Preparatory School, will be named principal, also effective July 1, 2021.

Hindelang's election as provincial of the Marists' U.S. Province means he will be moving this summer to Washington, D.C., where the province is headquartered. His election was confirmed by the superior general in Rome, the Very Rev. John Larsen, s.m., and he takes over from Fr. Paul Frechette, s.m., the current provincial, who has been in the position for the past six years and is term limited.

Guest said it is nearly impossible to quantify what Hindelang has meant to the Notre Dame community.

"I have such a great deal of admiration for Fr. Joe," said Guest, a 1984 Notre Dame High School alum. "He has dedicated his life to his order, the mission of Catholic education and to God, and has been a role model for all of the lay faculty and staff at Notre Dame. He's also a great friend and I wish him all the best as he takes on this important role with the Marists."

Steve Pangori, who is chair of the school's Board of Trustees, said the role Hindelang has played in the success of Notre Dame cannot be overstated.

"Having the sponsorship, support and leadership of Fr. Joe and the Marists at our schools has been and will continue to be such a vital part of our foundation as a Catholic school," Pangori said. "We have been blessed to have Fr. Joe as a teacher, a counselor and a priest for so many years. I greatly appreciate his commitment and dedication to our school and wish him well as he is called to serve us in another way. Although it's sad to see Fr. Joe leave, it comforts me that he will be the new Marist provincial and that he, along with Mary and all of the Marists, will continue to look after us."

Hindelang, 71, is a 1968 graduate of Notre Dame High School. After NDHS, he studied at Framingham State College in Framingham, Mass., the Oblate Seminary in Natick, Mass., and Assumption College in Worcester, Mass., where he received a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy in 1972.

In 1977, Hindelang received a Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass., and attended Boston College, St. John's Seminary, Harvard Divinity School and the Catholic University of America.

Over the course of Hindelang's lengthy service within the Society of Mary, he also has enrolled in a number of specialized programs, including spirituality studies at the University of Notre Dame and Marygrove College, and educational leadership studies from the



HE HAS DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO HIS ORDER, THE MISSION OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND TO GOD, AND HAS BEEN A ROLE MODEL FOR ALL OF THE LAY FACULTY AND STAFF AT NOTRE DAME.

University of Dayton and Boston College.

He first came to the Notre Dame campus in Pontiac in 1998 after 10 years of service at Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods and six years as provincial superior of the then Boston Province of the Marists. He was named principal of the upper school in 2002.

Head of School Guest said Anderson, who first came to Notre Dame Prep as a teacher in 1997, is the perfect choice to lead Notre Dame's upper school.



"Kim brings an extraordinary amount of academic and educational leadership experience to the principal position and understands the culture of our school," he said. "She is highly respected by the faculty and her peers. Kim has particularly distinguished herself this past year in helping ensure smooth operations during the pandemic."

Since coming to Notre Dame, Anderson has served as a Spanish teacher, department chair, assistant principal of attendance and discipline, ISACS steering committee member, senior class moderator, Spanish Honor Society moderator and IB Diploma Program coordinator. Prior to NDP, Anderson taught Spanish and English at Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods also managed by the Marists until it closed in 2005.

She said the opportunity to work with still more exemplary educators steeped in the Marist tradition was something she couldn't pass up when she first came to the Pontiac campus. And now, as principal, she looks forward to continuing within that tradition of academics and faith.

"I am so grateful and blessed to be given the opportunity to work as principal of this great school," said Anderson, 49, who grew up in west Michigan and attended Catholic schools in Coopersville, located just west of Grand Rapids.

She added that it's at Notre Dame Prep where she has met, worked with and became part of an educational family with many of the state's finest teachers.

"Teachers like Kathy Bembas, Donna Kotzan, Greg Simon, Dave Osiecki, Fr. Joe Hindelang, Fr. Jim Strasz and Ellen Tessada. Actually, Ellen Tessada was my department chair and mentor for many years and helped nurture my passion for teaching language. I've learned from both

Ellen and Donna Kotzan, who also was a vice principal here, about the importance of being humble, honest, generous at heart, encouraging of others and open to God's calling — all characteristics of the way of Mary."

Anderson, who holds a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and a master's from Wayne State University, also said that she's filling some very impressive shoes in her new position.

"As principal, Fr. Joe has been such an important part of the legacy of this school," she said. "I have been blessed to be able to work with him all these years and consider him both a mentor and a friend.

"Fr. Joe was very passionate about creating a student-centered learning environment that helped so many of our kids become successful, lifelong learners," she said.

"Fr. Joe has been such a big part of making Notre Dame such a welcoming community that it actually feels more like my family," Anderson added. "My sons, Vincent NDP'20 and Jack NDP'23, started here in pre-kindergarten, so, as a parent, I've had the experience of all three divisions of this school. Also, Fr. Joe married my husband and me and baptized both of our boys."

Hindelang said he will miss Notre Dame and most especially, the students, faculty and staff within the school community, but looks forward to his new responsibilities.

"I am humbled by the confidence the Society of Mary has placed in me in this position," he said. "And truly honored to succeed Fr. Frechette, whom I have been privileged to count as a friend and an inspiration for many years.

"While I will be very busy at the office in D.C., I definitely plan to keep in touch with all of my friends and colleagues at NDPMA and will visit as often as possible." «



ABOVE

Kimberly Anderson will take over as principal of Notre Dame Prep on July 1, 2021.

RIGHT

Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m., far left, is with fellow Marists during the 80s at Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods, Mich.

FAR RIGHT

Hindelang on the occasion of his 40th anniversary as a Marist priest, May 24, 2018.



Balanced grad

Notre Dame grad looks to a productive and well-rounded college experience thanks to his well-balanced high school

When the Class of 2021's Brett Tice was exploring post-secondary opportunities, he looked for colleges and universities that struck a good balance between academics, school life and extracurriculars. He also looked for a location in the heart of an urban environment. He thinks he's hit the jackpot with his final choice.

"I chose Marquette University because the campus is located in the heart of Milwaukee, which will give me the curriculum I'm looking for as well as many opportunities to get involved with the community

and the various organizations in the city," he said. "Also, the undergraduate size of 12,000 students will keep classrooms small so that more attention can be had with my professors."

That's something he's used to at Notre Dame Prep.

"I've found that at NDP every teacher truly cares about your success

as a student and they will go above and beyond what is expected to ensure that you achieve your academic goals," he said. "Also, even though Notre Dame Prep challenged me academically, there was so much more than just schoolwork. With many different sports to play and new clubs being formed every year there's always a place to fit in and thrive."

Tice said he is well-prepared for college because of the variety of class options and extracurriculars available at Notre Dame.

"With classes varying from AP and IB to horticulture in the greenhouse, I've been exposed to many different

subjects and types of learning to prepare me for college," said Tice, who came to NDP from Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School in Farmington. "Teachers at Notre Dame Prep also utilize many different pieces of technology, which will give me an advantage with the upswing of technology in colleges today.

"Another way I feel that I will be ready for college is that I've developed good time-management skills over the course of my time at Notre Dame Prep. By playing sports and still having nightly homework, managing it all was a great skill that I learned throughout my four years."

Tice's career goal is to eventually become a lawyer and he believes that after four years of business school at Marquette and his four years at NDP, he will have the skills necessary for law school and ultimately for a productive and happy life.

"My experience at Notre Dame Prep has been such a great balance of extracurricular activities and academics," he added. "With a diverse class selection I was able to create my class schedule around the various sports I was a part of, so I didn't become very stressed and was able to enjoy my time in and out of school."

But it wasn't always about time management and studying at Notre Dame for Tice. He said fun also was a big part of his high school experience.

"Being involved in sports has been so much fun for me at NDP," he said. "The bonds and relationships I've made with my fellow teammates throughout my four years will stick with me for years to come. I was on the football team all four years of high school, the ski team during 9th and 10th grades, and on the varsity hockey team 11th and 12th. The memories I've made while wearing the green and gold will last a lifetime." «



ABOVE

Notre Dame Prep grad Brett Tice said he developed many friendships during his time playing hockey and football, and skiing for the Irish.



High school fun

Grad heads to MSU to study computer science and says her AP Calculus class was among the fun things about her high school experience

Even though she came to Notre Dame Prep as a freshman from St. Lawrence, graduating senior Lynn Wright almost immediately sensed that NDP was where she belonged and that she'd been there forever. Notre Dame's summer band camp had a lot to do with that.

"Notre Dame Prep has been a wonderful experience for me from the very beginning," she said. "Although I joined NDP as a freshman, the teachers, upperclassmen and fellow students made me feel like I had always been there. The band program was a massive part of that. Band camp was my first impression of NDP and it's the place where I got to see true leadership, interact with kind, talented people, and meet almost all of my closest friends."

She said the band program helped her come out of her shell, which led to her becoming a section leader, a member of the jazz band and, most importantly, a more confident musician.

"Band is just a wonderful community that truly helped me find my place in high school," she added.

Joe Martin, Notre Dame's band director, returned the compliment.

"Lynn Wright is an outstanding musician," Martin said. "She is a great leader who gives her time in any way to help others. It's been wonderful having her in our program and we wish her the best in college."

So what about college for Wright? Her post-secondary plans did not come about overnight. Not by any stretch.

"My choice to go to Michigan State University and major in computer science goes way back to when I was in middle school," she said. "Ever since sixth grade, I wanted to be a video game developer, but few colleges had any sort of program that supported that kind of career."

After doing a lot of digging, she found that she could major in computer science and minor in game design at MSU, which made it a very easy choice.

"It's a career path that I've always dreamed of," she said. "I hope that by the end of college I can get a job as a software developer and then later launch a career as an

indie game developer."

Now looking forward to graduation on May 23, Wright is a bit reflective of her Notre Dame Prep experience.

"Over the course of four years, I feel like I've received a wonderful education and met a friendly community that I wouldn't have encountered anywhere else," she said. "It's a place that no matter where you go, you'll find somewhere you belong, whether that's on an athletic team, in the band, in an art class, in choir or in a club."

She also looks back at the fun she's had in high school and says that despite a great experience in the band program, she's had the most fun in a few other surprising places.

"Yes, the band's Disney trip when I was a sophomore was awesome," she said. "Marching down Main Street USA in the Magic Kingdom and hanging out with friends in the most magical place on earth was pretty great."

"However, across all of high school, I think I can say with confidence that I've had the most fun in the classroom. You never really know how much fun learning can be until you actually begin to absorb the information set in front of you. I'll admit, a lot of classes would probably be an absolute drag if it weren't for the teachers. But I especially loved AP Psychology, AP Calculus and AP European History because those teachers had made them so super engaging and, well, fun!" «



ABOVE

NDP grad Lynn Wright counts her many band experiences as special during her time in high school.

MOVING ON UP!

Notre Dame students reflect on the past year and look ahead as they matriculate to the next level

This school year presented unique challenges all its own—from navigating hybrid virtual and in-person learning to delayed sports seasons and canceled events. As we remain optimistic for a more normal 2021-2022 school year, we asked our rising sixth graders and rising ninth graders their favorite memory and what they are looking forward to the most as they begin their next journey.



Emily Bassett (Rising 6th Grader)

"My favorite lower school memory is doing the Fall Family Festival because it was a chance for me to hang out with my friends and have fun. What I'm looking forward to in middle school is meeting new people and making new memories."



Evan Blanchard (Rising 6th Grader)

"My best memory is when I joined the school and then I got a lot of new best friends! In 6th grade I am looking forward to learning new things!"



Alivia Gaynor (Rising 6th Grader)

"I would say my favorite memory would be when Ms. Winiarski let some of the class draw on the white board. We covered the board with fun drawings! I am looking forward to learning things that I know I would have never learned in my old school."



Brady Quinn (Rising 6th Grader)

"My favorite memory from the lower school is every Irish Week. There are so many memories from Irish Week such as playing fun games and watching movies. Another favorite memory is student council. StuCo was a big part of school for me. Since third grade, when I was allowed to run for it, I made it every year, and this year I was elected president. What I'm looking forward to the most in middle school is playing sports. Sports are a big part of my life and I can't wait to play middle school sports."



Ava Aiello (Rising 9th Grader)

"My favorite middle school memory was definitely Irish Week! I love the Irish Week tradition and how much fun we have. I was so sad when we couldn't have Irish Week due to COVID-19 last year, but I had looked forward to Irish Week ever since 6th grade. I am excited that the tradition will be carried on to high school because of how much fun I have had."



Marko Cvetkovic (Rising 9th Grader)

"Some of my favorite memories have to be at lunch or intermurals. These are the times where you can really have fun and laugh with your friends, make jokes, and just have a good time. Over my whole middle school experience, I think being able to have the chance do these things with my friends is what gave the specialness to it. What I'm looking forward to in high school is new kids! Lots of new kids to meet and maybe become friends with. Also, new types of classes and much more freedom. I am excited to take the next step in my life."



Eric Davis (Rising 9th Grader)

"One of my favorite middle school memories was in 6th grade when I did 'Rattlin' Bog' with Keegan. This was my first duet, and I had feelings of being trepidatious, but also excited. Looking back, I still remember that I messed up. However, this helped transition me into chorus when it came to the coming years. I also did a solo for the 8th grade. In high school, I am looking forward to meeting new students. I am also ready to have deeper thoughts and conversations. I enjoyed philosophy from Mr. McGreevy, and I am ready to have deep talks in Mrs. Pittel's class."



Sophia Gust (Rising 9th Grader)

"My favorite middle school memory was intramurals, passing time, and lunch. These were my favorite because I got to spend quality time with my friends. I'm looking forward to meeting new people in the high school and participating in new activities."



Katherine (Katie) Healy (Rising 9th Grader)

"One of my favorite middle school memories at Notre Dame is hanging out with my friends at lunch and at intramurals. It was so fun being able to make new friends and become closer to people I didn't think I would ever talk to. At Notre Dame Prep, I am looking forward to being able to participate in high school sports and activities and meeting new people."



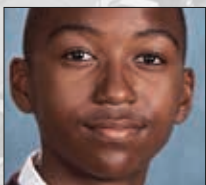
Mary Elise Kozemchak "Ellie" (Rising 9th Grader)

"During my time at Notre Dame Middle School, one of my favorite middle school memories was the fun electives I was able to take! I enjoyed participating in art and makerspace because I love to paint, draw, and design. As I start my high school years, I am excited to meet new incoming students, join clubs and activities, and try out for the Notre Dame tennis team."



Edward (Edziu) Lis (Rising 9th Grader)

"One of my favorite middle school memories is scoring a goal for the middle school soccer team in 7th grade. We all celebrated like crazy because it was the winning goal. Some things I am looking forward for high school is all the new people that I am going to meet. Another thing is playing sports for the high school—swimming and soccer, but I'm thinking about track."



Samuel Phillips (Rising 9th Grader)

"My favorite middle school memory was probably going to Chicago. I enjoyed going to the Chicago pier with my friends. I also enjoy hanging out with my friends after school in the triangle. I also enjoyed playing middle school sports a lot. I am looking forward to playing sports and to meet new people next year. I am looking forward to playing basketball and possibly soccer or cross country."



Reagan Plas (Rising 9th Grader)

"My favorite memory was 6th grade Irish Week when my house, Cerdon, got first place! Something I am looking forward to for high school is all the new people that are going to be coming."



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