

Successes of Zachary Cheng '21



John Moylan Memorial Service This Fall



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RED & BLUE REVIEW

SUMMER 2021









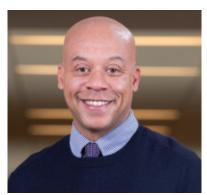
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

This fall, DeMatha will celebrate the life and legacy of the late and legendary longtime principal, Mr. John Moylan, on our campus. For more specific information on this Service, turn to Page 31.

Graduation photos courtesy of Andrew Travers '11 (Travers Photography).



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Fr. James R. Day, O.SS.T.

Dr. Daniel J. McMahon '76 PRINCIPAL

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From the President's Office

Dear Alumni and Friends of DeMatha,

s a faith-based Catholic school, it is always important that we not only create moments when the virtues of our faith are demonstrated, but we also share with others when such an event takes place. One of the fundamental theological virtues as a believing person is the virtue of Hope. Hope helps us endure; hope assists us in struggles, and hope makes it easier to look beyond the present and see the future is always in God's hands. I experienced hope on June 4th in the Brendan Looney Convocation Center at DeMatha during our graduation ceremony.



I don't need to remind anyone reading this letter of the difficulties every school endured during the past 15 months. We have all heard words like resiliency, determination, flexibility and commitment. On June 4th when I stood in front of the 204 graduating seniors, the two family members representing each senior and a small contingent of faculty, I saw deep hope springing eternal. To look at the joy on the faces of the Class of 2021, to see the pride of the families and faculty and to just witness the enthusiasm and grandeur of the day touched me in a very deep way.

Last year, we were not permitted to gather at all; this year we couldn't gather at the Basilica of the National Shrine—all due to COVID restrictions. So, in true DeMatha style, we created our own ceremony on the holy ground of our Madison Street campus. It was a memorable morning during the ceremony, and then to mingle with the happy graduates and families outside afterwards on the campus. Pictures were taken, smiles were exchanged, lines were formed to take a picture in front of the St. John de Matha statue....it was all there—signs of hope for that day and signs of hope for the future of the Class of 2021.

I reminded the graduates during the ceremony of how much hope they shared with us during the year and how grateful we are to be a part of their young lives as we help prepare them for the future. Certainly, we look forward to returning to the Basilica of the National Shrine for next year, but without a doubt this was a great day for them, a great day for us, and a great way to begin celebrating our 75th Anniversary year as a school.

> James, OSSA Fr. James R. Day, O.SS.T.

PRESIDENT

The Valois Chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed 30 new members this year. Students apply for membership based on the qualities of character, scholarship, leadership, and service. Students must continue to maintain their academic standing and perform service, including peer tutoring and volunteering at DeMatha and in their community. Sef Blackman '21, Darius Fox '21, Miguel Hernandez '21, Vincent Price '21, and Carter Rodia '21 were inducted earlier this year when they were still seniors on campus. Rising senior members include Logan Beasley, Kyle Bickel, William Brown-Taylor, Braden Groce, Adam Howard, Sage Phillips, Cole Rodia, and Benjamin Tarnosky, while the rising junior members include Joel Ayers, John Brabazon, Tysun Claggett, Gavin Diedrick, Jarrod Ghatt, Cole Gilbert, Patton Jeffords, Maximo Legaspi, Peter Macyko, Jack McKee, Michael Metz, Ian Parsons, Daniel Pavon, Nicholas Price, Matthew Ritter, Nicholas Sims, and Darius Vance. Faculty member Ms. Virginia Mentz was named this year's recipient of the Fr. James R. Day, O.SS.T. Award, which is given to a faculty member who exemplifies the four distinguished qualities of the Society.

In April, it was announced that DeMatha had once again been re-accredited by the Middle States Association and will continue for the next seven years to enjoy



James Carroll '21 earned the rank of Eagle Scout in March.



Diego Markie
'21 was named
earlier this year
as the recipient
of the extremely
competitive
NROTC
Marine Option
Scholarship!
Diego will be
involved in
Marine ROTC
when he
attends VMI

this fall.

this mark of distinction! DeMatha is always proud of the programs and atmosphere which we create and foster, and it is always affirming when other educators read what we state, view what we are doing, and declare that we are achieving the best for our students. In addition, DeMatha made the Top 10 of Academic Influence's "Most Influential Private High Schools in the United States"!

Rising senior **Cameron King** finished in first place in qualifiers this June for Nationals and the Junior Olympics in fencing!

Rising senior **Sean Morgenstern** won first place in the John Carroll Society's 2021 High School Essay Competition in April. As part of his prize, Sean received a scholarship of \$2,000 from the John Carroll Society, which will go towards his DeMatha tuition for the 2021-22 school year.

Rising senior **Austin Boynes** completed his Eagle Scout Project earlier this year where he built a Stations of the Cross at Ascension Church in Bowie, MD.

Rising sophomore **Osy Otule** used earnings from his part-time job earlier this year to buy breakfast from Panera for the faculty and staff of his alma mater St. Joseph's Regional Catholic School in Beltsville, MD.



Rising sophomore **Vincent Gatti** was named the recipient of this year's Trinitarian Service Award, which is given to a student each year who performs service in the act of the Trinitarian mission.



"But, even though not all change is growth. It is a fact that there is no growth without change. ¹

lesson that it seems I have to keep learning in my life is to approach everything as an opportunity to learn something new. Often, I merely want to do things the way I have before. But, even though not all change is growth, it is a fact that there is no growth without change.

At a gathering of the Archdiocesan principals a couple of weeks ago we devoted a portion of our meeting to what we called "COVID carryover" and we challenged each other to think of things that we learned during the pandemic year that we can take with us into the next year and beyond.

Certainly some facility with technology is a part of that. I found that for my DeMatha Way class, having students do their journal writing online through Google Classroom made it easier



for me to grade and respond to (and not just because I dodged freshmen handwriting issues!) — and keep track of whether it was turned in or not. In my Mythology class, I invented new assignments that had students capturing images of mythological figures and presenting reports on the way that various stories have been told in text and image. Lots of teachers have had similar experiences.

As a school, we are still digesting the lessons we learned and some of our discussion in the administrative team is about the tradeoffs of keeping some things. For example, we liked parts of having Back-to-School night online where parents could go and watch a 9-minute video at their leisure (and an Algebra 1 teacher with 4 sections only had to make one video). But there is something valuable in a parent tracing their son's geography so that his description of moving from place to place resonates viscerally with them when he recounts his day. So perhaps an in person back to school night for 9th and 10th grade parents and online for juniors and seniors? Or parentteacher conferences which worked well scheduled through Google calendar — but I missed the walk-by's of parents and students I don't have but who want to chat for a few minutes. Maybe one in-person set of conferences and one virtual? Parent coffees moved to the evening and attendance sky-rocketed to nearly 100% of people — but there was really no way to take questions live — so can we alternate or tape a live one and post it? We want to have Open House in person — but should we also have videos so people who can't make it that one day can also do some research?

Some things like using Remind to communicate immediately with students and parents seems certain to stay with us and behavioral habits that should have been changed earlier will stay with us. I think of the way we are more conscious of hygiene and health. It has long been part of De-Matha's DNA to have students and staff alike struggle in and "tough it out" with a cold: students so they wouldn't get further behind and faculty and staff so their absence wouldn't be a further burden to their colleagues who then have to substitute. No more. After a year of telling each other to "go home and get well" I think we will have recognized the truth that "toughing it out" often means endangering others — and that is not what good community members do.

Lots of other things come to mind that we will "carry over" and in a particular way, I will carry the memory of students and families and colleagues who demonstrated flexibility, resilience, and generosity of spirit. Even after a demanding year, there is so much for which to be grateful.

Daniel McMohn

Daniel J. McMahon, Ph.D. '76

PRINCIPAL

School News



SGA Elections for the 2021-22 school year were held in May. Congrats to everyone who put together great campaigns! **Therman Hawkins** was elected President, **Colin Roman** as Vice President,



U.S. Agriculture Secretary **Tom Vilsack** answered questions from students in **Mr. Kenneth Bernstein's** and **Mr. Scott Sicko's** government classes, during a virtual field trip in April. The event was hosted by Mr. Bernstein, who has known the Secretary for a number of years.
Also on the call was **Kevin Shea '72**, father of staff member **Brendan '00**. Kevin is the head of APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) and also served as the Acting Secretary of Agriculture earlier this year.

Chris O'Connor as Treasurer, and Sage
Phillips as Sergeant-at-Arms. The newly
elected Junior Class Representatives include
Sam Cockrell, Jack McGee, Michael Metz,
Graham Parker, Nick Sims and Chris Czado.
And the newly elected Sophomore Class
Representatives include Hayden Belt, Kelvin
Blake, Peter Brown, Brian Crawford, and
Anthony Lukkban.

Dr. Jehan El-Bayoumi MD, FACP, Founding Director of the Rodham Institute and Professor of Medicine at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, recently donated 2,500 masks and 420 bottles of hand sanitizer to the school, with the help of DM parent is Anthony Bardonille, whose son Anthony is a rising sophomore at DeMatha.

Through association with Concord Theatricals, the DeMatha Players, along with actors from Elizabeth Seton HS, put together a great virtual performance of the classic musical "Man Of La Mancha" in May for the entire DeMatha community to watch.

Dr. Omekongo Dibinga, professor of cross-cultural communication at American University, joined DeMatha's faculty and staff in June for a workshop about the importance of recognizing bias and celebrating the great diversity of DeMatha.



At the annual DeMatha Parents Organization Social in May, **Dave** and **Jeneba Ghatt** were the winners of the tuition raffle. They are the parents of rising junior **Jarrod Ghatt** and this was the first time that the winner had been present at the raffle drawing!



Rising sophomores **Anthony Lukban** and **Hayden Belt** celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation
in June at Jesus the Divine Word Parish in
Huntingtown, MD with Fr. John Dakes and Bishop
Dorsonville presiding.

Campus Ministry - Office News

The Campus Ministry Office, led by Ms. Erin Bright and Fr. Josh, remained active this past spring with many students volunteering their time to serve the greater community. The Office is looking forward to resuming normal in-person service activities this fall. In the meantime, several virtual service opportunities are still available for students this summer including organizations such as 'Teens Give', 'Learn To Be', 'Operation Gratitude', and 'Project Giving Kids' Some of the activities that these organizations conduct include virtual tutoring, letter writing, visiting seniors, and other various events.

The Lenten Drive was a big success as DeMatha easily bested its goal of raising funds to purchase 2,000 personal care kits with enough money donated to purchase over 5,000! A big thank you again to everyone who donated as these kits have been delivered to the homeless population and others in need throughout the Washington, DC region. Some of the organizations that the Campus Ministry Office has delivered these personal care kits to throughout the spring include Central Union Mission and the Family Ministry Center in Washington, DC.

Earlier this year, Mac Budowski '21, Thomas Burkhardt '21, Michael Davis '21, Connor Eady '21, and Colin Licavoli '21 finished second in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) Maryland Chapter's Studentsof-the-Year competition, on a team with students from Archbishop Spalding HS and Notre Dame Prep! For over two months, the DeMatha contingent raised \$83,000 towards blood cancer research and patient support services for LLS.

Rising senior Jeremiah Peters along with his older brother Harold Peters '20, volunteered with their mother at the Reece Road Baptist Church Food Bank in March.



Fr. James, Fr. Damian and Fr. Josh led a brief ceremony on campus in May to bless a new school bus that the school had recently purchased.



The senior class participated in smaller-sized retreats on campus in May, under the leadership of several faculty members, as they were preparing for Graduation.



Here's rising senior **Ben Tarknosky** helping the Campus Ministry Office deliver personal care kits to the Family Minister Center in April.



In June, the Campus Ministry Office donated gently used student desks and other office furniture to St. James Catholic Church in Falls Church, VA, to support the church's catechetical program. The sisters who run the program at St. James work to form over 600 young students in the faith.

FACULTY News



In June, President Fr. James announced the appointment of Mr. Sam Haller as Assistant Principal for Faculty Formation and Professional Development. Sam has served at DeMatha since 2005 as an English teacher, chairperson, and faculty mentor. Pictured here with Sam are Fr. James, Director of Educational Resources Mr. Tom Krawczewicz '81, Assistant Principal Mr. William Clark, Principal Dr. Daniel McMahon '76, and Dean of Students Mr. Shaka Dickerson '03.

The following faculty and staff members were recognized by the school in June for 15 years of service to DeMatha. This group includes: Mr. Matthew Bickel '95, Mr. Paul Clark '01, Mr. Paul Pham, Mr. Mike Ptomey '98, Mr. John Rogers, and Ms. Jennifer Weaver.

Dean of Students Mr. Shaka Dickerson '03 and his wife Adrianna celebrated the birth of their son Nazir in March.

Mr. Donald Rooney and his wife Amanda celebrated the birth of their daughter, Athanasia Augustina in April.

Mr. Mike Curran '99 and his wife celebrated the birth of their son Tristan in June.

Mr. Neal Murphy and **Mr. Jim Roper** were featured in May as special guests for the school's 75th Anniversary Speaker Series, over Zoom.

Fine Arts Director **Mr. Vaughn Holsey** led another successful Art Show on the DeMatha campus in May that featured the



Ms. Michelle Belt and **Mr. Michael Ayala '04** were elected in June by the faculty of DeMatha as the new faculty liaisons for the 2021-22 school year.

ANTLER POINTS

talented works of students, faculty and alumni.

Last summer, Mr. Nick Caputo took the week-long AP Summer Institute for new AP Chemistry teachers through Goucher College.

Mr. Homer Twigg was nominated for the second time for the Sterling Award in teaching Dante, awarded by the Dante Society of America.



At right: Assistant Athletic Trainer Ms. Jennifer **Reading** visited the Temple of Kukulcan in the Mayan city of Chichen Itza, one of the new seven wonders of the world, in April.

Below: Mr. Jim Turk and Ms. Joan Phalen (not pictured) were named in June as the Collins-Wooten Chairs for 2021-23! The Chair, established by Bill '68 and Kerry Collins, honors Morgan Wootten as a teacher. The announcement was made on the first day of summer faculty meetings and pictured are the current faculty members who have held the chair. (From Left to Right: Mr. Pat Smith '82, Mr. Neal Murphy, Mr. Tom Krawczewicz '81, Mr. Turk, Mr. Rick Reeves, Mr. Kelly Lama, and Mr. Vaughn Holsey.)





FACULTY News

At graduation, several DeMatha faculty and staff members were recognized for their 20 years of service to the school!



Marty Hager '73 Current Title: Instructor of Science

Favorite DeMatha Memory:

"Seeing my three sons graduate from DeMatha and being able to hand them their diplomas."

Hobby Outside of DeMatha:

"Woodworking and gardening."



Maureen Ritz

Current Title: Director of Guidance and Counseling **Favorite DeMatha Memory:** "Watching my sons (Jesse '06 and Kyle '06) graduate from

DeMatha." **Hobby Outside of DeMatha:**

"Gardening, hiking and reading."



Christine Thomas

Current Title: Assistant Director of Admissions

Favorite DeMatha Memory:

"Working with Debbie Bender, Mike Jones and John Moylan in those first years in what is now Bill Clark's office! Small space with some big personalities!" Hobbies Outside of DeMatha: "I like to stay active. Volleyball, pickleball, kayaking, jet skiing, playing with my grandson, and then sitting on the beach with a good book."



Mike Gatti

Current Title: Instructor of Percussion and Music Department Chairman.

Favorite DeMatha Memory: "In April of 2004 when I was able to take the Advanced Percussion Ensemble to a festival competition for the first time and play for all DM music

attendees and the competition

from other schools."

Hobby Outside of DeMatha: "I've become an avid runner. I recently acquired a treadmill, and I run (at the moment) three miles a day."



In June, we said goodbye to a few faculty/staff members at DeMatha: Ms. Mary Favret Kerley (who served for 20 years as an administrative assistant is pictured at right with Principal Dr. Daniel McMahon '76 at the End-of-Year faculty meetings in June), Ms. Vicki Landersman (who taught in the science department for 12 years), and Ms. Patricia Galan (who taught in the foreign languages department for the last three years). Mary gave a lovely speech at the end-of-year faculty meetings about the importance that DeMatha has had on her family, which includes James '98, Christopher '01, Daniel '04, and Stephen '07.

"I am so grateful for each and every one of you who have played a huge role in their growth and development. You took care of my boys and you have also taken care of me over the years. I have met and worked with some of the most amazing people - each bringing their special gifts to the table. We have shared so many good times and many bad times. I thank you for teaching me, encouraging me, supporting me, laughing at me and laughing with me. I will always be proud of my association with DeMatha and value my association with DeMatha, and with all of you - my colleagues and my friends." - Ms. Mary Favret Kerley



Lori Loughlin

Current Title: Attendance Officer Favorite DeMatha Memory: "The Science Department Mardi Gras party a few years ago." **Hobby Outside of DeMatha:**

"Cooking."

Music ► Notes



As we previously mentioned in the last issue of the Red and Blue Review, the DeMatha instrumental and choral music programs continued to organize, compose and put together more virtual performances that were shared with the DeMatha community across social media. These videos have garnered thousands of views and we appreciate the leadership of



Andy Brown '21 was named the first-place winner of the American Guild of Organists Regional (mid-Atlantic) Competition for Young Organists earlier this year! Andy, who will be studying the organ this fall at Baylor University, will be featured as an "AGO Rising Star" at the American Guild of Organists' National Convention in 2022.

Mr. Jim Roper, Mr. Jim Turk, Mr. Matthew Bickel '95, Mr. Carlos Castrillon '95 and Mr. Mike Gatti for continuing to provide us music in a time when it gave everyone a small break from the COVID-19 pandemic and a chance to listen to the great talent of DeMatha's student musicians.

With the continued rollout of vaccinations throughout the United States and the CDC's loosening of social distancing regulations, it's looking more likely that all musical performances for the 2021-22 school year will get to be held in-person once again! Some big performances to keep in mind for later this year include:

- *The Kaleidoscope Concert (Saturday, October 16)
- *The Chorus Concert (Monday, December 6)
- *The Symphonic Band and Orchestra Concert (Thursday, December 9)
- *The Percussion and Jazz Ensembles Concert (Monday, December 13)
- *The Wind Ensemble Concert (Thursday, December 16)
- *Note: The locations of these concerts will be announced at a later date.

In regards to the virtual performances earlier this year, the instrumental music ensembles performed classic compositions from John Philip Sousa's "High School Cadets", Robert Sheldon's "Pursuit of the



Rising senior Keyvar Smith-Herold placed second in the Sidney Forrest Clarinet Competition hosted by the University of Maryland in June! This competition commemorates nationally renowned clarinet player and teacher Sidney Forrest (1918-2013) who taught for decades at the Peabody Conservatory, the Catholic University of America, and at the Interlochen Center for the Arts. Keyvar and the other high school clarinetists played the piece 'Chansons de la Nature' by Jenni Brandon.

Centaur", Sean O'Loughlin's "Eclipsys" and William Owen's "Across The Plains: The Pony Express (1860-1861)". However, they also put together arrangements of more contemporary songs, which included Pharrell Williams' "Happy", Mark Ronson's "Uptown Funk", Panic at the Disco's "High Hopes", Post Malone's "Sunflower", and American Authors' "Best Day of My Life".

In May, the Wind Ensemble juniors and sophomores were given a Masterclass by members of the U.S. Air Force Bands! These professional musicians met with individual sections to work on specific instrument skills. Peter Morris '07 was the French Horn clinician and has been with the Air Force Band since 2016.

ZACHARY CHENG

Navigating A COVID-19 Year To Success

hroughout his four years on Madison Street, Zachary
Cheng celebrated many accomplishments. Stellar
grades; winning first overall place at the Science Expo;
conducting research on the Amazon Field Trip; being
an All-State Ensemble musician and four-year member of the

Symphonic Band; writing musical compositions of his own; and being named a student speaker at the Class of 2021 Graduation ceremony in June.

With all of that success, it might be a surprise to hear that Zachary was uncertain about his DeMatha future when he first arrived on campus as a freshman.

"I was anxious at first coming to DeMatha," Zachary said. "My grades weren't really the best at the beginning and I didn't know what I was going to do. But after the first semester, I started to get used to the groove of DeMatha Catholic High School."

He quickly excelled thereafter and took a variety of difficult but interesting classes over the last few semesters, which included AP Chemistry, Honors Physics, AP Calculus AB, Honors Government, Honors Literature (with a senior

seminar in dystopian literature), and AP Latin, in addition to his music classes. Zachary credited his teachers for the academic and artistic success he's been able to have.

"Very few high school students get to work with the same teacher for more than a year and it's been an absolute privilege to learn under the likes of Mr. Roper, Mr. Bickel and Mr. Castrillion in music, and also learn from Ms. Landersman, Ms. Marbury, Mr. Reeves, Mr. Twigg, Mr. Curran, and Dr. McMahon, among others," Zachary said. "I truly think this academic environment has been beneficial for me and my learning."

While Zachary had mentally prepared himself for a busy senior year of regular in-person school, virtual learning unfortunately had to be more prevalent this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, he used this change as an opportunity to prepare himself for the skills he would need in college and beyond.

"I feel like I was in much more control on how much time I had to work on different subjects, and I really learned how to lay out my schedule throughout Veracross and Google Classroom," Zachary said. "It has been difficult to not see my friends as much, but fortunately one of the blessings of online technology is that we

can approximate human interaction.

Nothing will beat talking with someone face-to-face, but at least talking to someone over the phone is better than not talking to anyone at all."

Zachary also credited DeMatha for the way the school handled its reopening process throughout the past school year.

"DeMatha is willing to adapt," Zachary said. "The way DeMatha handled COVID was a lot better than other schools because DeMatha took a very measured and calculated approach."

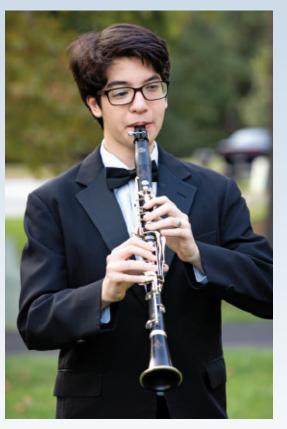
One project that Zachary completed during this past school year was a musical composition that he had originally started as a junior when he was inspired to put something together for a project in Mr. (Homer) Twigg's Theology class on Dante's *Inferno*. The song, titled "Scenes From The Mountain", took almost a year to put together as he ended up switching the

arrangement from a band to an orchestra ensemble. In addition to writing the piece, he gathered a bunch of his fellow student musicians together to practice and later perform it virtually. The song was shared throughout DeMatha's social media channels and has garnered thousands of views and lots of critical praise.

"Composing music is definitely something I want to try and continue to do."

Zachary will attend the Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences this fall and will major in chemistry while also planning to participate in the school's music program. Even though it took him some time to adjust to life at DeMatha, Zachary succeeded and left a high standard for future Stags to try and reach.

"Ultimately what DeMatha wants to do for its students is to give them the environment to ready themselves," Zachary said. "I'm definitely happy with what I've experienced with DeMatha."



Education Continues To Be A Passion For Mark Jefferson '87

ark Jefferson '87 has been involved in some capacity with education for almost his entire life and his passion for the field started as a student at DeMatha when he was inspired by many of the school's teachers.

Citing Dr. Daniel McMahon '76, Mr. Joe Carroll, Mr. Thomas Burke, Mr. Ray Smith and Mr. Bill Kelly as some initial examples, Mark credited the longtime service of many DeMatha faculty and staff members who have helped make it the academic institution it is.

"These are people who literally committed themselves to DeMatha," Mark said, "That's a testament to the culture and the school's sense of mission and purpose. Even at a young age, DeMatha took us seriously and got us in the process of taking ourselves seriously about what education is."

"It's not just receiving information and giving it back the way the teacher wants, it's learning how to raise questions and to think about your life and the world in a critical

Earlier this year, Mark started a new job as the Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity and Belonging at the University of Virginia School of Law. This position culminates a journey that saw him attend Morehouse College, work as a middle school teacher, serve as the founding Dean of Students at Washington, DC's Seed Public Charter School, and most recently serving as the Assistant Dean of Community Engagement and Equity at Harvard Law School.

And in between several of these stops, Mark also embarked on a career in law where he briefly worked for the Public Defender Service in Washington, DC, before attending and graduating from the University of Michigan Law School, and then working as an associate at the law firm Thelen in New York.



Despite a burgeoning career in law, his passion for education drew him back into that respective field. Mark said he's excited for this new opportunity at the University of Virginia Law School, especially in helping to strengthen the community in the wake of the deadly 2017 white supremacist rally that took place in the city of Charlottesville.

in high school."

- Mark Jefferson '87

"It was certainly something I thought about. Coming to a community that has found itself on the frontlines of a very difficult moment in our history was important to me, and I want to participate in that community," Mark said. "I think we're in a moment of transition in terms of what type of republic we are and how we can live together."

Mark said these leadership qualities were instilled in him at DeMatha when he was a member of the Black Student Union, as well as a four-year player on the varsity tennis

"My sophomore year at Morehouse, I ran for Student Body President and won," Mark said. "And I was the third sophomore in Morehouse history to have ever won. I can't help but believe that the spark for wanting to be a leader was first lit at DeMatha."

When asked about what advice he'd give current DeMatha students on how to pursue their career of choice post-graduation, Mark said a career that is lucrative or provides a certain social status shouldn't necessarily be the main focus.

"You certainly want to have enough material success that allows you to provide for your family. But those things don't take the place of pursuing something that's fulfilling," Mark said. "For the brief time I practiced law, that's what was missing. It didn't feel meaningful and I was making a lot of money."

"I can't help but believe that the teachers and experiences I had at DeMatha helped lay the foundation for the idea that you could make all the money in the world, but it won't be worth your happiness."

All in all, Mark credits DeMatha for being a big reason for the success he's had throughout his career and for the values he continues to carry with him now to his new position at the University of Virginia School of Law.

"DeMatha shaped my critical faculties as much as any institution," Mark said. "I can't imagine being better prepared in high school."

A Class of Adaptability and Perseverance

his year's graduation ceremony in June was different compared to typical years as it was held in the LT (SEAL) Brendan Looney '99 Convocation Center with spaced out seats for DeMatha's new graduates. It was a reminder of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, even as the mass distribution of vaccines has brought forth a light at the end of this dark tunnel.

But the ceremony was also a reminder of the perseverance that the DeMatha Class of 2021 displayed throughout the school year. Their senior year was entirely affected by the pandemic. Even so, this year's graduates continued to put the work in academically, athletically and musically throughout various virtual and hybrid schedules.

"There has been no year in DeMatha history such as this past one. And the Class of 2021 is remarkable in its ability to understand and to succeed in the midst of difficult days," President Fr. James said. "We're all proud of every member of the Class of 2021 and look forward to your continued success as Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars."

This year's seniors competed in abbreviated sports seasons, put together virtual performances of musical compositions and drama productions like this spring's "Man Of La Mancha", organized several service events to raise money for those in need throughout our community, and navigated the college admissions process without having the opportunity to physically visit college campuses.

"They had to adapt everything they knew in their senior year, which speaks volumes to how they overcame every hurdle that was

thrown at them to succeed," Senior College Counselor Mr. Andrew Bright '03 said.

"They needed to do what they could to have the best senior year possible," Mr. Bright said. "The community as a whole really worked together to try to give the seniors as normal of a school year in the middle of a pandemic. Looking back and reflecting, it's mind-blowing what we did as an entire community."

Some of our graduating seniors will be attending various local colleges in Maryland and DC, while others will be attending Ivy League schools, some attending HBCUs, and some going out as far as the west coast to schools like Arizona State and the University of Southern California. And as they heard their name being called at the ceremony, there was definitely no doubt that the obstacles they faced this year in particular will definitely prepare them for any challenges they face in college and in life.

"I predict the Class of 2021 will be an incredibly successful group because of the hardships they navigated this year," Mr. Bright said.

And the lessons that the Class of 2021 taught us will undoubtedly be lessons that can be passed down to the next group of DeMatha students.

"This year's senior class has taught me so much about determination, adaptability, perseverance, resilience, leadership, generosity, gratitude, and grieving," Principal Dr. Daniel McMahon '76 said. "I hope to pass along some of what I learned from them to the next generation of Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars."





At left: This year, we were able to resume the annual tradition of our 'Grads and Dads' pictures of dads who went to DeMatha with their newly graduated

Below: Several families lined up right after the ceremony to take a graduation picture at the St. John de Matha statue on campus!

CLASS OF 2021

With the 204 members from the Class of 2021 graduating 10,638 graduates in the history of **DeMatha Catholic High School!**

The Class of 2021 performed 13,176 school implemented this program in the 1980's, DeMatha students have performed a total of 430,212 of Christian Service to the community.





Three generations of DeMatha graduates from the Foran family! John '64, Gavin '21 and Ryan '91.



Hunter Frederick '21 is pictured here with his grandfather Ben Spotts '59 (left) and his uncle Dan Spotts '81 (right). Dan is the current varsity golf head coach and Ben was the former longtime varsity golf head coach and Dan's current assistant coach.

EXCERPTS AND AWARDS

HERBERT LACY

WELCOMING ADDRESS

"Today is the day we all imagined since stepping foot at DeMatha on our first day of orientation. But the day and the journey aren't quite what we imagined. Our class was easily faced with the unique challenge of having to balance distance learning while applying to college and preparing for the next stage of our lives. I am surrounded by a group of resilient classmates who found a way to succeed even during a pandemic. Looking back, I know that DeMatha taught us to face our challenges head on whether in the classroom, on the field or in the practice room. DeMatha showed us that life is a little bit better when you have a community around you. As we move on to this next step of life, do what DeMatha taught us. Take your challenges head on, find your community and trust God while doing it."



ZACHARY CHENG

FAREWELL ADDRESS

"Our classrooms became computer screens and our lives became digital. There may be lessons we can take from these experiences. Lessons about gratitude, connection and brotherhood. The basis of these lessons come from what we've lost in the past year. I'd like to take a moment to congratulate all of you on your courage during the past two years. Through your labor, you have survived the mental health destruction that comes from isolation within one of the worst pandemics in history and the subsequent economic disasters. You've found the strength to get through the year and to graduate. Life got increasingly difficult over the past year, yet we pushed through and I encourage all of you to continue in your strength. If you need help, DeMatha will certainly support you."









2021 GRADUATION AWARDS

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

THE ARCHBISHOP'S AWARD FOR CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP: Peter Ruddy DEMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CITIZENSHIP AWARD: Wesley Peters DEMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE: Adam Zgol

DR. CHARLES 'BUCK' OFFUTT FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE: **Zachary Cheng**

DEMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD: John **Nemecek and Wesley Peters**

DEMATHA PARENTS' ORGANIZATION AWARD: Andrew Daniel, Colin Licavoli and Brandon Thomas

H. THOMAS EASTMAN AWARD: Matthew Davis and John Nemecek FATHER AUGUSTINE DERRICKS, O.SS.T. AWARD: Daniel Goforth and **Gregory Penn**

FATHER PATRICK T. GLYNN, O.SS.T. AWARD: Michael Davis JOHN L. MOYLAN AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: Thomas **Burkhardt, William Lawrence and John Nemecek**

MARY FAVRET KERLEY - KATHARINE MAUSER AWARD: Connor Brisolari and Kaie Hall

KIWANIS CLUB AWARD: James Carroll

U.S. MARINE CORPS DISTINGUISHED ATHLETE AWARD: Benjamin

U.S. MARINE CORPS DISTINGUISHED MUSICIAN AWARD: Zachary Cheng U.S. MARINE CORPS SCHOLASTIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: Anders Murphy

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

ART: Braeden Degnon, Immanuel Morris and Felipe Tassara

BIOLOGY: Zachary Cheng

THOMAS J. BURKE BUSINESS: Mac Budowski, Lincoln Crosby,

Dorian Houssou, and Carter Rodia

CHEMISTRY: Zachary Cheng

COMBINED SCIENCE: Zachary Cheng

COMPUTER STUDIES: Jonas Long and Scott Tran ENGINEERING: Ben McKevly and Saddique Stephens **ENGLISH: Zachary Cheng and Kai Stammnitz**

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE: Kai Stammnitz and Adam Zgol

FRENCH: Jaiden Mosley

GERMAN: Patrick Sowers and Kai Stammnitz

LATIN: Zachary Cheng

MANDARIN: Achim Koso-Thomas

MARY R. YARRISH MATHEMATICS: Adam Zgol **MUSIC:** Andrew Brown and Zachary Cheng **PHOTOGRAPHY: Saddique Stephens**

PHYSICS: Adam Zgol

DOUGLAS TSCHIFFELY AND RICHARD MACHESKI SOCIAL STUDIES:

Darius Fox and Charlie Zorbaugh

SPANISH: Brandon Thomas

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES: Zachary Cheng and Lincoln Teti VIDEO BROADCAST JOURNALISM: Herbert Lacy, Nicholas Reiniger and **Ryan Smolen**

CITIZENSHIP/SERVICE AWARDS

ACADEMIC QUIZ BOWL TEAM AWARD: Lincoln Teti **BROTHERS STANDING UNITED AWARD: Saddique Stephens CHESS CLUB AWARD: Elliot Hipski and Vincent Snearly**

CHORUS AWARD: Lincoln Teti

CAMPUS MINISTRY AWARD: Chidubem Ekoh, Martin Lucas and Daniel Patino

FATHER PAUL DONOVAN DRAMA AWARD: Rafael Trudeau

ECOLOGY CLUB AWARD: Shane Grant INVESTMENT CLUB AWARD: Elliot Hipski

JOHN H. MITCHELL BAND AWARD: Christopher Allen and

Daniel Hackett Rascher

MOCK TRIAL AWARD: Daniel Hackett Rauscher NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY AWARD: Connor Eady

SCIENCE SCHOLARS AWARD: Adam Zgol

STUDENT GOVERNMENT AWARD: Michael Davis and Kaie Hall YEARBOOK AWARD: Kevin Alvarez, Ethan Gough, William Moran

As Mike Jones leaves DeMatha, he says 'this is clearly home'

*The original story was published in May in The Catholic Standard and we are sharing an edited version for this issue of the Red and Blue Review.

By Lynnea Mumola Special to the Standard

ven after months of quarantine at home due to the pandemic, De-Matha's varsity basketball head coach Mike Jones estimates he spent more time over the past two decades at the school's campus than his own house. Sitting with his laptop open on a folding table set upon

the hardwood floor before a wall of bleachers, he surveyed the airy gymnasium and reflected on his career.

"This place is a major part of who I am," said Jones, a graduate of DeMatha's class of 1991 and only the sixth head basketball coach in the school's 75-year history. On May 17, school officials announced Jones accepted the associate head coach position at Virginia Tech University.

Jones' eyes teared as he described feeling both excitement for the new opportunity and "the heartache I get because of the kids I won't get to coach" at DeMatha.

"This is clearly home – this building epitomizes everything about my career," he said referring to DeMatha's new facility that opened in 2010. "I was here when this gym opened... here when they first put the shovel in the ground," Jones recalled. He remembers the school's original gym where he played and where he coached his very first varsity game after taking the program over from Morgan Wootten – DeMatha's legendary coach who was enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000 and retired in 2002.

However, it wasn't all smooth sailing inheriting the program from Wootten, who molded DeMatha's program from its beginning in the late 1950s to an eventual 1,274-192 record including five national championships and 33 Washington Catholic Athletic Conference titles. "Most people didn't think I would have made it past one or two seasons," laughed Jones. Now, friends have been calling with their congratulations and well-wishes admitting they can't believe it's already been 19 seasons, including this year's pandemic-modified 11-0 record with no postseason.

In addition to the wins and losses, Coach Jones remembered some of his other favorite moments, including the "hours and hours and



hours" of sweat, cleaning floors, fixing chairs, yelling, and hugging players on his way to leading the team to eight WCAC titles and a record of 511-119. The NBA drafted five of Jones' former players, including 2017 No. 1 pick Markelle Fultz and 2019 all-star Victor Oladipo.

Highlight WCAC championships for Jones include his first in 2005 – when DeMatha was still considered an underdog; the 2018 title – the school's 40th overall; and the 2019 championship coinciding with his 500th win. That celebration was short-lived as the worldwide pandemic closed schools a few weeks later. Asked how the team

navigated the past year, Jones noted the value of resiliency, "a trait that is at the core of who we are as a school." His players and all the students "know because of what they experienced this year – they can get through anything."

Another lesson Jones tried to impart over the years to his students both on the court and in the classroom is "to empower the kids to have a voice – don't have a popular voice, have your own voice," he said, "embrace it, say it, respect it and defend it. I want to make sure I am creating leaders." Jones, who is African American, said he believes in the continuing movement for racial justice. Over the years he encouraged his students to do their homework on various issues, stand behind their beliefs and "do it because it is the right thing to do."

As a student himself, Jones did not realize the unique gifts DeMatha offered until after he graduated. "Our diversity, our celebration of excellence – and our pursuit of it," became evident after entering Old Dominion University where others struggled to adjust to college life, Jones said. His experience at DeMatha "taught me how to study, how to organize my time, and not only how to value my culture but other cultures as well. It taught me how to treat people," he said.

After majoring in counseling at Old Dominion and a brief professional basketball career, Jones was hired as the sophomore guidance counselor at DeMatha in 1998 by his former principal, John Moylan. Moylan had kept in touch with Jones over the years, keeping the possibility of a job at his high school open until the timing was right. In Jones' first year as counselor, he also became an assistant to Wootten – his former coach and mentor. Jones started on the bottom rung as an assistant coach to the freshman team and one year later took over as freshman coach and varsity assistant. Over the next 23 years, Jones would serve the school at various times as counselor, assistant and



later director of admissions, director of recruitment, school NCAA coordinator and a psychology and public speaking teacher.

Jones, named head coach of DeMatha's varsity team at age 29 without any head coaching experience – said that the most important lesson he learned was being purposeful in relationships. His initial excitement of going out to win games gave way to the understanding that he would have to work hard to build relationships. "The stronger relationships a coach has with his players, the easier it is going to be to win," Jones said.

"I'm honored to be the school's only coach to have won a game in this gym - named after the greatest coach ever and his wife," he said.

The Morgan and Kathy Wootten Gymnasium is located inside the Lt. (SEAL) Brendan Looney '99 Convocation Center, one of the school's newest additions. Jones has an office in the building and according to the coach, a favorite place to meet his team - gathered around a little brass plate located near the top of the key for free throws. The brass plate is used to secure the school's volleyball net for physical education classes, but also marks a spot of DeMatha history. Buried beneath the concrete is a single horseshoe, said Jones, and for the past 10 seasons a tradition emerged with team huddles slightly offcenter from the middle of the court.

But longtime Principal Dr. Daniel McMahon, a 1976 DeMatha graduate, knows it was more than luck for DeMatha in hiring two basketball coaches who represented the mission of the school, excelled in public speaking, and inspired others in the classroom for a combined 65 years. "I believe in incarnational work," McMahon said - "wherever two or more are gathered you can render Christ. I got to be here with both of them."

McMahon, who teaches English, also claims to have influenced Jones' basketball skills because as the administrator readily offered he was his first coach at DeMatha. "I never taught a harder working kid, I never coached a harder working kid."

One of McMahon's favorite memories of Jones' career came after a particularly difficult loss. About 10 years ago, the team had traveled to New England for a tournament broadcast on ESPN, got beaten badly and following the game viewed harsh criticisms on social media directed to DeMatha's coaches and players. When the team returned home, Jones asked if he could speak at a pre-game reception for school alumni. "He came in the room and said, 'I need your support. I hope none of you were the ones who talked about these children. Their worth does not depend on their performance on a basketball court.' His love was so evident," recalled McMahon. "We love to win – it's way more important to do the right thing."

"Mike Jones helps us be our best selves," McMahon said. "I'm going to miss him."

Jones returns the sentiment, noting DeMatha is a constant reminder of doing the best you can and being who you are supposed to be.

"I've been allowed to embrace my faith and do it in my way," said Jones, who is not Catholic. "DeMatha is a Catholic high school, a faith-based institution," he said adding, "I was never judged here and I've grown in my faith since then. God has blessed me in so many different ways."

And while Virginia Tech just gained a legion of new supporters, the basketball coach wishes only the best for the Stags. "I want to see them win. I hope they continue to win and in the next 10 years say, 'Mike Jones who?' It's been all about them anyway."





PETE STRICKLAND '75 NAMED INTERIM BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

Following the sudden departure of longtime varsity basketball coach Mikes Jones '91 to Virginia Tech, it was announced that Pete Strickland '75 would be named interim head coach. Pete played under the late legendary Morgan Wootten while he was a student at DeMatha and afterwards was a three-year starter at the University of Pittsburgh where he left the school ranked, at the time, first in program history in assists.

After serving as an assistant coach at DeMatha, Pete moved to the collegiate ranks where he was an assistant at several stops including VMI, Old Dominion and Dayton before becoming the head coach at Coastal Carolina in 1998. Following that stint with the Chanticleers, Pete served as an assistant at North Carolina State and George Washington University before becoming the head coach of the Irish National Team in 2016 and leading the Irish to a third-place finish in the 2018 FIBA European Championship for Small Countries.



In other basketball news, **Jordan Hawkins '21** was named the Gatorade Playerof-the-Year in boys' basketball for the state of Maryland! This is the third straight year of a Stag winning this honor following **Justin Moore '19** in 2019 and **Hunter Dickinson '20** last year.



Ryan Holt '21 had his Signing Day Ceremony earlier this year and will wrestle at Courtland University this fall.

LACROSSE FINISHES 7-2, DAVE MITCHELL TO TAKE OVER FOR SCOTT MORRISON

The varsity lacrosse team fell to St. John's in June in the semifinals of the first ever DC Lacrosse High School Tournament. However, that doesn't take away the accomplishments of a great 7-2 season, which included victories over opponents such as Gonzaga and Bullis. Some of the recently graduated seniors, among the many on the squad, included Mac Budowski '21, Dakota Eierman '21, Brandon Gomez '21, Ben McKelvy '21, Diego Markie '21, and Ryan Morrison '21, just to name a few. In fact, goalie Thomas Burkhardt '21 was named one of four USA Lacrosse Boys' Players-of-the-Week in June!

After the season, it was announced that longtime head coach **Scott Morrison** would be stepping down. In his 13 years at the helm for the Stags, Scott coached DeMatha to a 134-96 record, a WCAC title, four appearances in the WCAC Championship game, and was named WCAC Coach-of-the-Year in 2014, among many other accomplishments during his tenure. DeMatha is extremely grateful for Scott's service to the school and the lacrosse program these past 13 years and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.

It was announced thereafter that **Dave Mitchell** would be the new head coach of the varsity program. Dave is the President of Next Level Lacrosse and has led The Heights for the past 12 years. In addition, he was awarded US Lacrosse Coach-of-the-Year in 2011, 2013, 2017, and 2018. The DeMatha community is looking forward to showing our support for Dave in this new opportunity!

Sport Notes



Pictured here are the seniors from this year's Crew team at Graduation in June.

TENNIS, TRACK, BASEBALL, CREW BATTLE IN **ABBREVIATED SEASONS**

The varsity tennis team had a fantastic season that saw the Stags finish with a 7-1 record and impressive wins over St. John's, O'Connell, and Paul VI. The squad was led this year by rising senior Charles Wood, rising junior Antonio Santos, Kamran Blake '21, and rising sophomore Jordan Poole winning a combined 24 matches to just six losses.

The varsity track team saw several stellar performances this past season, which included the 4x400m relay team winning at the Black and Gold Invite in New Jersey in May with a time of three minutes and 23.69 seconds, and at the Henderson invitational in April at three minutes and 24.21 seconds. In addition, **Emmanuel Tomlinson** '21 won the Discus event at the Henderson Invitational and rising senior **Dawson Grogan** was named the MVP of the WCAC Tri-Meet in May after winning the 1600m race.

The varsity baseball team fought hard and garnered five victories this past spring, which included several impressive wins over Gonzaga, The Heights, Paul VI, and Archbishop Curley HS.

The varsity crew team had another solid season that saw the Varsity 8+ boat advance to the semifinals at the Stotesbury Cup in April and finishing 11th in the country at the SRAA National Championships in May! Some of the senior racers on the team included Braeden Degnon '21, Hunter Frederick '21, Gabe Lins '21, John Nemecek '21, and Wes Peters '21.



Here's one picture from Football Senior Day earlier this year where Fr. James and Head Coach Bill McGregor gave each family a memento for their hard work and determination throughout the season.

GOLF TEAM HAS PERFECT REGULAR SEASON

The varsity golf team finished with an undefeated 10-0 record with big wins over the likes of tough competitors, which included Gonzaga, Paul VI, and St. John's. Congrats to the Stags on a great season and to head coach Dan Spotts '81 and his father Ben Spotts '59, who is the former longtime head coach for the program and has been an assistant coach in recent years! Some notable performers from the squad this year included Dylan Allen '21, Tyler Mercier '21, Lincoln Crosby '21, and rising seniors Stephen Betz, Will Weirich, and Joe Morley.

ALMA MATTERS

'60s

Thomas Daly '65, one of six coeditors, recently published The Best That Ever Was – The History of the Tuxedo-Cheverly Volunteer Fire Company, Incorporated. A copy of the book was provided to the Prince George's County Library.

Bill Humbert '67 was interviewed earlier this year on C-Suite Best Sellers TV about his book Employee 5.0 Secrets Of A Successful Job Search In The New World Order.

James Brown '69, sports broadcaster with CBS, spoke in March at the annual Charis Bible College Men's Advance Conference in Washington, DC.

'70s

Rev. Wendell Gibbs '72 retired earlier this year as Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan (Episcopal Church) after 20 years of ministry in Michigan and a total of 33 years of ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church.

Thomas Pheasant '72, an internationally acclaimed interior designer, was honored in April at the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Found (ADDF) 11th annual Great Ladies Symposium and Virtual Event for being a notable Alzheimer's advocate.

Dr. Victor McCrary '73, Vice President for Research and Graduate Programs at the University of the District of



A group of DeMatha grads, mostly from 1968, gathered at the school for an impromptu reunion in May.



John Walker '65 (far right in this photo) is a longtime civil rights attorney in Mississippi and was pictured here in May with Carlton Reeves, U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi, and Dr. Charles Holmes, retired chair and professor of the Political Science Department at Jackson State University.

Columbia, moderated a panel at the National Science Board virtual conference in May on the topic of 'Lessons From The Success of Minority Serving Institutions.'

Jim Ferguson '78 retired earlier this year from federal civil service after working for 21 years at the U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC. On the occasion of his retirement, Jim received the Civilian Service Commendation Medal. He worked in different roles for the U.S. Coast Guard for 42 years.

Col. Kenny Robinson '78 was a panelist and spoke at the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) annual conference in April. Following his distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force, Kenny is now the Vice President of the Engineering Sciences, Maritime/Land Systems & Sensor, and Field Engineering for Northrop Grumman's Mission Systems sector.

Alma ► Matters



A couple of Stags meeting up here in Fort Myers, FL, in April! From left to right: Thomas Hibbs '78, Mike Hibbs '80 and James Long '88.

Deno Campbell '81, assistant football coach at DeMatha, will be inducted into the MD Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Art Widmann '81 and his organization Widmann Financial Services were named to the best-in-state wealth advisors list by Forbes Magazine for 2021.

Steve Adams '82 finished in first place and won the Tom Parks Excellence Award earlier this year at the Richmond Carvers Virtual Show in BC Canada.

Ambrose Phillips III '82 is the Head of Treasury at DAI, an international development company.

John Martin '85 is the President of ProObject, a Maryland-based technology consulting firm. He

also serves on the Columbia Bands, Inc. Board of Directors and is a member of the Columbia Concert Band.

Kelly Beckham '87 was featured in the documentary 'Pizza People' about his journey to owning his pizzeria, Paulie Gee's Hampden, in Baltimore. Recently, 'Pizza People' was named a winner at the Seoul International Food Film Festival.

Kevin Davis '87, a Distinguished Alum of DeMatha, was named in April as the new Chief of the Fairfax County Police Department.

Roger Dennis '89, Chris Washburn '89, Jason Nader '98, and William Mitchell '06 were honored in the April issue of Washingtonian Magazine as being among the Best Mortgage Professionals and Top Producers in the Washington D.C. area.

'90s

Sr. Susan Francois CSJP '90 was elected in May as the new Assistant Congregation Leader for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace Congregation Chapter.

Kurtis Shultz '90 is the strength and conditioning coach for the USC men's basketball team, which advanced to the Elite Eight in March.

Matt Kovalakides '93, after working at YouTube for the past eight years, is now the platform's Head Creator Liaison. In this capacity, he helps video creators understand various changes to YouTube's features and policies, while also delivering creators' feedback to the company.

Johnny Poss '93, former assistant baseball coach at DeMatha and current head coach at Wilson College, was named in May as the 2021 Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) Coach-ofthe-Year.

Kirk Taylor '93 is working as the Global Entertainment Marketing Manager at New Balance.

Brendan Bohan '95 is working as a Business Developer and Connector with Gilbane Building Company.

Joseph Gardella '96 and his Baltimore restaurant Joe Benny's was named a Famous Fund recipient, which is a fund that has financially helped local restaurants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Matt Palmer '96, Director of Media Relations at Towson University, wrote a heartwarming piece in May in 'The Catholic Review' on the topics of fatherhood, faith and forgiveness.

Nick Stefanelli '96 opened up a new restaurant in May at the William Hill Sportsbook near Capitol One Arena in Washington, DC.



Here's a group of DeMatha alums pictured here in May in Ocean City, MD. From left to right: **Dave DiLuigi '88** (DM Board Member and Past DeMatha Board Chair), Matt Ruddo '88, Mike Cassidy '87, Andrew Landsbergis '87, Larry O'Connor '87, Steve Shurman '87, Tommy Horstkamp '88, and Brendan Wootten '88 (DM Board Member).

ALMA MATTERS



Chris Underwood '97 and his son Justin visited the Grand Canyon over Spring Break. Justin will be starting as a freshman at DeMatha this fall.

Kevin Twigger '96 is now working as a Senior Policy and Compliance Officer at Navy Federal Credit Union.

Brian Westbrook '97 Is on the ballot for the 2022 College Football Hall of Fame. Good luck to Brian!

Charles Hudson '98 was recently promoted to Consumer Lending Quality Assurance Manager with NASA Federal Credit Union.







A Stag gathering at the Army-Navy Lacrosse game in April, which includes here from left to right: **Will Jones '01**, former longtime DM varsity lacrosse head coach Dick Long, **Billy Looney '02**, and **Kevin Looney '74**.

'00s

Joshua Whatley '00 and his wife Monica celebrated the birth of their son, Xavier Ryan in May. Phil Whatley '68 is the proud grandfather.

Seamus Hughes '02 was interviewed on NBC Nightly News in April on the topic of the attacks on the U.S. Capitol in January. Seamus is the Deputy Director for the Program on Extremism at George Washington University.

Garrett Jackson '02 was interviewed in March on NBC4 in DC about his song 'Letter to a Nation'. He was also recognized with a 'Telly Award' for the song in May.

Michael Lubt '02 was promoted earlier this year to Executive Vice President at Ellumen, Inc.

Joe Edwards '05 was promoted earlier this year to Senior Product Marketing Manager at UiPath in Atlanta.

Ryan Griffith '05 was awarded

earlier this year with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his successful tour as an Operations Officer.

Emil Mentz '06 was selected by the TMI Episcopal School (TX) graduating class of 2021 to deliver the school's commencement address in June. Emil is a member of the humanities department at TMI and the son of DM faculty member Ms. Virginia Mentz.

Francis Petruccelli '07 accepted a tenure-track position in May as Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Benedictine College, where he will start this fall.

Karim Diane '08 started filming in New Zealand in May for a role in a to-be-announced NBC Peacock TV series that he will be starring in.

Evan Kee '08 was re-hired in April as the head men's basketball coach for The Apprentice School in Newport News, VA. Evan will continue his duties as Associate Athletic Director of Finance and

Alma ► Matters



Austin Freeman '07, former Stag Joe Hampton, and former longtime varsity basketball head coach Mike Jones '91 pictured here at DeMatha in May.

Facilities, while making a return to the sideline for the 2021-2022 season.

Jonathan Mason '08 is a Leadership Advisor for 'Fans For Fair Play', a bipartisan coalition to elevate the voices of college athletes, educate fans and lawmakers, and drive debate on workable legislation to bring fairness to college athlete compensation.

Zach Hayes '09 started a new job earlier this year as a Project Engineer with Markosky Engineering.

Ryan Keehn '09 and his wife Clara Bannigan, (Seton '09), welcomed their daughter Margaret "Maggie" Anne on April 19th. Sean Keehn '83 is the proud grandpa.

Tom Kelly '09 was featured in a 'WRDE Coast TV' story earlier

this year about the upcoming move of a historical house he recently purchased in Rehoboth Beach, DE.

Christopher Miller '09 is working as an Immunohematology Specialist at Grifols.

Cody Pearson '09 married his wife in June and several Stags were in attendance, including his brother Zeke Pearson '07, TJ Harris '09 and Brian Alvarez '10.

Rockford Sison '09 received his PhD in Applied Mathematics in May.

Donte Washington '09 received his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in May.

Mike Williams '09 is the Vice President of Marketing at Queen Green in Ft. Lauderdale.

Michael Field '10 is working as an architectural designer at HapstakDemetriou.

Rob Nissan '10 is working as a project manager with Willow Construction, LLC.

Victor Oladipo '10 was traded in March to the Miami Heat after spending several seasons with the Indiana Pacers and Houston Rockets. He unfortunately injured his right quadriceps tendon while with the Heat and decided to have season ending surgery in



Kevin Franco '10 graduated in May from the Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine and will be a resident at Abington-Jefferson Family Medicine.

May. We wish Victor the best in his recovery.

Femi Fadeyi '11 recently graduated from the American University Washington College of Law and will be sitting for the Maryland Bar Exam in July.



Stags gathered earlier this year at the wedding of Massimo Mazziotti '08 and his bride, Devin.

Alma ► Matters



Brian Charles '13, far right in this picture, graduated in April from the Baltimore City Police Department's SWAT School where he was also named the Class Commander of his SWAT class.

Michael Fazio '11 is working as a lacrosse coach with Prince George's County Planning Department and also as a third grade teacher at St. Andrew Apostle School in Silver Spring.

Michael Flint '11 is working as an Executive Chef at Ascent Hospitality in Montgomery, AL.

Buddy Paolucci '11 is working at GSK Consumer Healthcare as an eCommerce Supply Chain Program Lead.

Ronald Rose '11 is working as a college scout with the Washington Football Team.

Ben Warnquist '11, along with playing partner Connor Tendall, won the Prestigious 27th Pine Needles Golf Invitational in Southern Pines, NC in March with rounds of 65-65-70.

Kevin Case '12 obtained his JD degree earlier this year from George Mason University's Antonin Scalia School of Law.

Jerami Grant '12, forward for the Detroit Pistons, finished second in the 2020-21 NBA Most Improved Player-of-the-Year standings.

Isaiah T. R. Tillotson '13 is working as an IT Helpdesk Specialist at University of Maryland Medical System.

Daniel Wolf '13 recently graduated from Army One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at Fort Benning, GA. His First Duty Station is at Fort Hood, TX.

Joseph Conti '14 is working as a Business Operations Analyst at T47 INTERNATIONAL. INC.

Parker Krueger '14 is working as a Talent Acquisition Specialist at APCO Worldwide.

Charles Paul '14 was recently promoted to Assistant Project Manager at The Severn Group.

Robel Alem '15 is working as an Application Assessor with LDR Security Solutions at NIH.



Terrell Allen '15 earned his master's degree from Georgetown University in May.

Colton Campbell '15 is working at the USAID - Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance as a Contract Specialist.

Brandon Jones '15 is working as a New Client Discovery Group Specialist for TD Ameritrade in Southlake, TX.

Chad Lilley '15 was recently

named the winner of the Northwestern University Concerto Competition in the orchestral division! Chad will perform Kenneth Fuchs' 'Rush' in the 2021-2022 season. Chad was a Presidential Scholar at DeMatha.

Nate Darling '16, guard for the



Chase Lintner '15 worked as a lab tech for the DeMatha Department of Sciences this past year and has since been re-hired to work here in the department.

ALMA ► MATTERS



Here's Jaire George '15 (left) standing next to his father, and former NFL running back Eddie George, who was named the head football coach at Tennessee State University in April.

Charlotte Hornets, became the first Nova Scotian to ever play in a regular season NBA game this past March in a matchup against the Toronto Raptors.

Bryan Liriano '16 is working as a pitching coach for the Michigan Monarchs of the Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League.

Shane Simmons '16 committed in May to play football as a graduate transfer this fall at Marshall University, after four seasons at Penn State.

Zachary Taylor '16 is working as an Asset Management Analyst at Horizon Land Company Inc.

Josh Carlton '17 announced in April that he was transferring to play basketball at the University of Houston.

Grant Donaldson '17 graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in May and officially earned the rank of Pilot Second Lieutenant for the U.S. Air Force.

Neil Flannery '17 graduated earlier this year from Mount St. Mary's University, Magna Cum Laude, with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Cyber Criminology. He served his university as President of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

DJ Harvey '17 announced in April that he would be transferring to play basketball at the University of Detroit Mercy.

Jonathan Molina '17 was placed on the Gettysburg College Dean's List earlier this year for achieving a GPA of over 3.3 for spring semester.

Kevin Profit '17 is working as an Inside Sales Representative at Dell Technologies.

William Pyne '17 is working as an associate at Standish Management, LLC in Portland,

David Welch '17 graduated late last year from Flagler College



Ben Skinner '15 received his Medical Student White Coat in his first year of medical school at the Virginia College of Medicine in Blacksburg, VA, in April. He's pictured here with his best friends from DeMatha, Brian Rinaldi '15 and Emmanuel Montesa '15.

in Saint Augustine, FL. He is now working as a Marketing Coordinator for for Godmode Records, an independent record label in Los Angeles, CA.

Justin Gielen '18 scored the tying goal, which led to the University of Maryland men's soccer team winning its Big Ten Quarterfinals matchup against Indiana in April.

Waverly Harris '18 graduated in June from Boot Camp with the U.S. Marines.

Charles Johnson III '18 is working as a Workers Compensation Intern at Maxim Healthcare Group.

Garrett Leadmon '18 and the Duke men's lacrosse team, advanced to the Final Four of the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Tournament in May.

Cam Leydig '18 was one of five players from the Stevenson men's lacrosse team to be named a U.S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) All-American.



Cameron Gadson '17 graduated in May from Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Pre-Law.

ALMA MATTERS



Chase Young '17, defensive end for the Washington Football Team, was pictured here with Fr. James during a visit he made back to the campus in May.

Dominic Lyles '18 tied the single game reception school record for the Bucknell football team in April with 14 receptions.

Mathew Malits '18 helped lead the Loyola University golf team to a first-place finish in March in the Donald Ross Collegiate Classic in Southern Pines, NC. Matthew carded a 2 under (70) in his third round to finish fourth overall.

Sydney Reyes '18 won second place for boxing at the United State Air Force Academy - Wind Open Finals in March. This was Sydney's first year on the USAFA boxing team.

Brendon Stewart '18 was part of the USC Men's 4x100m relay team that won first place at the Pac-12 Championships in May as the group finished with a time of 39.65 seconds.

Nick Wolcoff '18 was

commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army and graduated from New Mexico Military Institute in May. He will finish his bachelor's degree at Ohio State University starting in August.

Caleb Dean '19 finished with a Maryland program record of 49.77 seconds in the 400m hurdles at the Big Ten Track and Field Championships earlier this year. Caleb also competed in the U.S. Olympics Qualifiers in June.

Matt Peterson '19 will play ice hockey for Grand Valley State University later this year.

Zach Shieh '19 and Connor Feeley '20 rowed for Navy in May's IRA National Championship, finishing second in the Petite Finals.

Jahmir Young '19, guard for the Charlotte University men's basketball team, was named First Team All-Conference USA earlier this year.

'20s

Jack Bulger '20 was named SEC Co-Freshman-of-the-Week in April after generating six hits and scoring three runs in Vanderbilt baseball's series win over fifthranked Tennessee. Jack was later named to the All-SEC Freshmen Team. Jack and Vanderbilt would go on to advance to the College World Series.

Hunter Dickinson '20, after a stellar freshmen campaign, announced in July that he would return to the Michigan men's basketball team for his sophomore season.

PJ Emrich '20 was recently elected by his teammates in April as the captain of the Frostburg State University swim team for next season.



Tyler Lenhart '18, rising senior quarterback at Columbia University, and James Brown '69, CBS Broadcaster and host of 'The NFL Today' ran into each other back in May!

Jack Smith '20 was named in May as the Co-Rookie-of-the-Year and a 3rd Team All-ODAC for his play with Randolph-Macon University's lacrosse team this season. Jack led Randolph-Macon lacrosse this year with 29 goals and 16 assists with a Top-10-point total in the ODAC.

Earl Timberlake '20 announced in April that he was transferring to play basketball next season at the University of Memphis.

Andy Brown '21 presented an organ recital in Washington, DC, in June as part of a regular concert series at the Cathedral of St. Matthew.

Charlie Zorbaugh '21 was recently named to the All-Tournament team for his performance in the 2021 PG 18U BCS National Championship, which he competed in immediately after graduating from DeMatha.



Keyden Smith-Herold '18 served as the inaugural intern for U.S. Congressman Scott Franklin earlier this year.

UPCOMING EVENTS



REUNIONS

We feel fortunate to be able to hold in-person class reunions again this fall. Read below for when and where the following class reunions will be held:

- Saturday, August 21st (Bentley's in College Park): 2015 and 2016
- Saturday, August 28th (DeMatha): 1970 and 1971
- Saturday, September 18th (DeMatha): 1975, 1976, 1980, 1981, 1985, 1986, 1990, and 1991
- Saturday, October 1st (DeMatha): 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2010, and 2011

SENIOR BOOSTER CRAB FEAST – SEPT. 25

The annual DeMatha Senior Booster's Crab Feast returns this year for the first time in two years and it will be a great afternoon filled with food, drinks, comradery, and supporting DeMatha Catholic High School! This event sells out quick so get your tickets now online through the Stag Store at store.dematha.org



47th Annual DeMatha Senior Booster's CRAB FEAST Saturday, September 25th • 4 pm - 7 pm Adults \$65 advance/\$75 door • Kids (under 12) \$50 advance/\$60 door Entiance/Parking Please enter from 45rd Avenue back parking lot Pay by Mail: Make checks payable to: DeMatha Serior Pay by Credit Card: stors.demaths.org Mail to: DeMatha Serior ote: the web addr Bossters Tim Miller 60 5008 45rd Ave wille, MD Preferences: RSVP by 9-19-21

KALEIDOSCOPE CONCERT – OCT. 16

Don't miss out on the instrumental music department's return to live performance with the biggest show of the year in the 9th annual Kaleidoscope Concert! This event features great music from DeMatha's ensembles and food and fun for the whole family. And there's always the chance of a performance from an alum or a faculty member! Stay tuned for details and ticket information this fall.

SCHOOL MASS WITH CARDINAL WILTON GREGORY – NOV. 12

Cardinal Wilton Gregory, the Archbishop of Washington, will be making a pastoral visit onto the DeMatha campus on Friday, November 12th where he will celebrate Mass with the student body and faculty and staff. We will share photos and videos on this day on our school website and throughout our social media channels.



FALL PERFORMANCE BY THE DEMATHA PLAYERS – NOV. 13

Fresh off the heels of an extremely successful virtual performance of the musical "Man of La Mancha", the DeMatha Players will return this fall to the live stage to put together another great show. Keep an eye on our school website, social media channels and the Express for more information to be revealed this fall.

ALUMNI STAG NIGHT - NOV. 24

Stag Night also returns to its usual in-person event on Wednesday, November 24 (the evening before Thanksgiving) in the Antler Room. Last year's Stag Night was virtual and included several guests including Notre Dame men's basketball head coach Mike Brey '77 and new interim DM varsity basketball head coach Pete Strickland '75, both players and assistants under the late, legendary Morgan Wootten. It'll be another great night filled with food and fellowship! Look for details and ticket information to be released soon.

In Memoriam

Jose Alvarez, father of Moises '19

Scott Banks, brother-in-law of Leo Dunn '78, Christopher Dunn '80, James Dunn '83, and Edward Dunn '84. Uncle of William Dunn '13 and Michael Dunn '14

Mary Jane Bauer, mother of Mark Beach '79

John Bielaski '60

Delores Blocker, mother of Ronald '89

Mercia Bowser, sister of Marvin '79. Marvin's other sister is Muriel Bowser, Mayor of Washington

Marie A. Boyer '90

Tess Conor Bredice, wife of Donald Bredice '62

Rod Breedlove, friend of DeMatha

Thomas Brennan, father of Gavin '86 and Patrick '88

John Leslie "Johnny" Buzik, longtime DeMatha Hockey supporter, brother-in-law of DM's Prep Hockey Head Coach Tony MacAulay and uncle of rising junior Kaleb MacAulay

Frank Carmel, father of Mason '12

Grace Ciomei, grandmother of Michael Ritter '87, Robert Ritter '91, and Matthew Ritter Sr. '95. Great-Grandmother to rising junior Matthew Ritter Jr. and rising sophomore Will Burns

Ruthann Cornelius, mother of Roy '63 and grandmother of Joseph '04, George '06, Gregory '07, and James '14

James Curran '54

Patricia Curro, mother of Michael '70 and Ellen (former DM faculty member)

Mike Dupree '73

Lourdes Flaim, mother of Eric '91

Richard Forness, father of Paul '80, Peter '81 and David '84

Francis Francois, father of Michael '83 and Sr. Susan, CSJP '90

Bertha Ann Garrity, mother of Kevin '75 and John '78

Geraldine Green Gibeau, wife of Joe Gibeau '60

James Haiber, father of Tim '84



Sean Cowdrey '13, son of Joan Phalen (DM faculty member) and brother of Keith '08

Welcome Class of 2022



Clark Mester '65. father of Christian '90 and grandfather of rising senior Colin. (Both pictured here). Also, brother-in-law of Tim Ambrose '70

MSgt. William W. Harrod, Jr, (USAF ret), brother of Gregory P. Harrod, Sr '72 and uncle of Gregory P. Harrod, II '99

Carolyn Louise Kettenhofen, mother of Daniel Sheehan '89 and grandmother of Jack Sheehan '19

Edward Kirk '60, brother of Thomas '73 and Greg '78. Uncle of Adam '05 and Ryan '08

Lillian Kulick, mother-in-law of Ron Doyle '70. Grandmother of Nick Doyle '97 and Adam Doyle '99 and George Lengenfelder '23

Marion Lyons, mother of Tom '84 and Jeff '87

Angela Mann, sister of DM faculty member Maureen Ritz

William Martin, father of John '82

Jeannine Mulhare, mother of Rich '10

Marty Murray, brother of Paul '69 and Mike '80

Ernest Eugene Norfolk Jr., father of Ryan '02 and Reed '10

Charlotte Pappas, mother of Andy '79, Tommy '80 (dec.), Jim '85, and Bill '88. Grandmother to Steven Friedman '03 and former DeMatha student Tommy Pappas

James Payne, father of James '70, William '78 and Patrick '81

Walter F. Perry, father of John '78 and Jim Farrell '79

In MEMORIAM

Willa Petty, mother of James '98

Dorothy Principe, mother of Stephen '83 and grandmother of Vincent '13

Dr. James Rascher, grandfather of Daniel '21 and Nolan '24

Natalie Reading, grandmother of Jenn (DM Athletic Trainer), Bill '12 and Dan '15 (former DM Staff Member)

Vincent John Scalco '74, brother of Joseph '75 (dec.), Roy '77 (dec.) and Steven '77. Son of Vincent (dec.), longtime Senior Booster

Domenico Carmelo Sentineri, grandfather of Ben Fleri '11 (DM staff member)

Kerry Sheahan, sister of Brian '80 (DM Board Member) and Timothy '82

Pearline Smith, mother of Dr. Eric Mitchell '67 (Distinguished Alumnus)

Ginger Aben Solomon, mother of Joe '91 and ex-wife of Jerry Aben '58

Argene Adele (Pollacci) Stockhausen, mother of Eric '79

Mary Emelia Turner, mother of Deacon Curtis Turner '86 (DM Board Member)

Dominic Vicino, father of Larry '63 and Paul '70

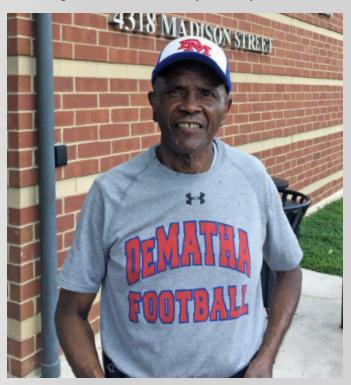
Dr. Lawrence White, father of Mark '81

Kathryn Wiles, daughter of Thomas '77

Kevin Willingham '92, brother of Dean '93

Jerold Wyvill '65, brother of Thomas '59 (dec.) and Samuel '61

Rose Yokeu, grandmother of Arie '10 and Cyrus Kouandjio '11



Russell Edgerton, father of James '99. Mr. Edgerton loved DeMatha and DeMatha Football and assisted the program faithfully for many years.



Memorial Service for Mr. John Moylan, **Principal Emeritus**

DeMatha will remember John Moylan on Sunday, October 24th with a viewing in the LT (SEAL) Brendan Looney '99 Convocation Center from 1-3:30pm. At 3:30pm, a Memorial Mass will be held.

A repast will be held after the Mass in the Antler Room. We will provide reminders throughout the summer and the fall on social media and in the DeMatha Express as we move closer to the date.



DeMatha Catholic High School Red & Blue Review

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Get weekly e-mail updates from DeMatha! E-mail tponton@dematha.org. Like us on Facebook and follow DeMatha on Twitter and Instagram: @demathacatholic

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2021-22 **DeMatha Varsity Football Schedule**

AUGUST

28	DeMatha @ Holy Spirit (NJ)8pm
28	DeMatha @ Holy Spirit (NJ)8pm

SEPTEMBER

3	DeMatha @ Imhotep Charter (PA)7pm	
10	Episcopal @ DeMatha7pm	
17	DeMatha @ Friendship Collegiate7pm	
OCTOBER		

1 0	Bishop Sycamore (OH) @ DeMatha7pm
8	Gonzaga @ DeMatha7pm
16	DeMatha @ McNamara7pm
22	St. John's @ DeMatha7pm
29	Roman Catholic (PA) @ DeMatha7pm

NOVEMBER

5	DeMatha @ Good Counsel	7pm
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*Dates for WCAC Playoffs TBD

2021-22 DeMatha Varsity Soccer Schedule

AUGUST

23	DeMatha @ Severn	4:15pm	
25	DeMatha @ Georgetown Prep	TBD	
30	DeMatha @ Walter Johnson	7:15pm	
SEPTEMBER			

1	DeMatha @ Sidwell	4pm
3	DeMatha @ Whitman	TBD
4	DeMatha @ Churchill	TBD
8	DeMatha @ DC International	TBD
10	DeMatha @ Bullis	6pm
14	DeMatha @ Landon	4:30pm
16	DeMatha @ Good Counsel	5:45pm
21	The Heights @ DeMatha	TBD
28	Gonzaga @ DeMatha	TBD
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1	Paul VI @ DeMatha	TBD
5	McNamara @ DeMatha	TBD
8	St. Mary's Ryken @ DeMatha	TBD
12	DeMatha @ O'Connell	TBD
14	DeMatha @ Ireton	TBD
19	DeMatha @ St. John's	TBD
21	DeMatha @ Carroll	TBD

^{*}Dates for WCAC Playoffs TBD