

# NARDIN

NARDIN TODAY: THE MAGAZINE FOR THE NARDIN ACADEMY COMMUNITY



**A BRIGHT FUTURE:**

*A New Era at Nardin*







The Nardin Academy High School Class of 2021 celebrated their graduation on May 19, 2021 at the newly dedicated Kevin T. Keane Sports Park, see page 38 for more photos.

PHOTO: NANCY J. PARISI

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NARDIN TODAY: THE MAGAZINE FOR THE NARDIN ACADEMY COMMUNITY



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME



HOMECOMING



# chair's message



I haven't been a student in more than 30 years; however, I still feel the anticipation that comes with the start of the new school year. This year, that feeling seems more intense than ever. Perhaps it's because, as you'll see in this issue of Nardin Today, there is so much to be excited about as the 2021/2022 academic year gets underway.

As late spring moved into the summer, the work on the external renovations associated with Nardin's Call to Connect Campaign was completed. Several new faculty and staff joined our community.

And, of course, we experienced the "passing of the torch" from one leader to the next.

I was honored to serve on the search committee that recommended Sandra Betters as Nardin's new President. The process required a tremendous amount of listening, learning and sifting through the feedback and needs of the many different stakeholders that make up the Nardin community. It also required committee members to truly focus on what Nardin needs if it is to stay true to its mission and values, thrive in an ever-changing world, and remain relevant as it moves into its next chapter.

Throughout the process, I was amazed by the deep dedication of the committee to ensure the result would serve Nardin well not just in the coming year but also in the years to come. I was also impressed by the thoughtful input we received from around the Nardin community. But perhaps more than anything, I was moved by how the legacy and spirit of our founders, the Daughters of the Heart of Mary, is as pertinent today as it was when Nardin was founded almost 165 years ago. This is what sets Nardin apart, and it served as the committee's compass throughout the search process.

Sandra embodies the spirit and legacy that our founders laid out for our school -- and continues to guide us today.

I couldn't be more excited for you to experience the changes that have occurred at Nardin. I'm also thrilled for you to get know and experience Sandra's leadership in the coming months. There is no one better suited to lead our school as we help students become creative, curious and critical thinkers; lead with confidence, strength and integrity; grow through faith and spirituality; champion equity and justice; and serve others with humility and compassion.

I wish you and your families all the best.

Sincerely,

Tish Van Dyke '82  
President, Nardin Academy Board of Trustees



BUFFALO, NEW YORK

## MISSION STATEMENT

Inspiring hearts and minds to do amazing things  
for the world through faith, character, academic  
excellence and service

## NARDIN TODAY

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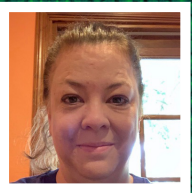
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Visit [www.nardin.org](http://www.nardin.org) for the latest news and updates. You can also follow us on:



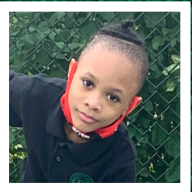
# We are NARDIN

The *We are Nardin* campaign aims to highlight the Academy's inclusive community. Our students, parents, alumni, faculty, and staff play integral parts in our commitment to embracing all through our mission and values. The campaign puts an emphasis on the faces of Nardin and ignites our excitement to belong to a diverse community, one that represents many races, ethnicities, genders, faiths, and ages.



Kari Pelton '86  
Alumna

"Nardin gave me the foundation and education to be successful in life and in my career. I am most grateful, though, for lifelong friendships, which almost 40 years later, are stronger today than ever."



Lucien Castel E'33  
Lower School Student

"First Grade is so cool. I am a Nardin Pep Club member!"



Hayley Strawbrich '25  
High School Student

"To me, Nardin means good friends, kind and helpful teachers, and a great education."



Henry Snyder E'29  
Middle School Student

"I've been coming to Nardin since I was two months old in daycare!"



Kevin Corbett  
Faculty

"Nardin has been a part of my life for a long time. I have four sisters - and countless cousins - who have all graduated from the high school, and my wife is a graduate of the elementary school. Teaching at Nardin is simply a joy, and I can't help but feel right at home."

# on the cover



## ON THE COVER

Boys and girls in Kindergarten through fourth grade are part of the Nardin Pep Club. Coordinated by faculty member Cindy Hanna, the Pep Club performs at sporting events and activities at Nardin and throughout the community.

Students are pictured at Nardin's Homecoming on September 25, 2021 at the Kevin T. Keane Sports Park. ■

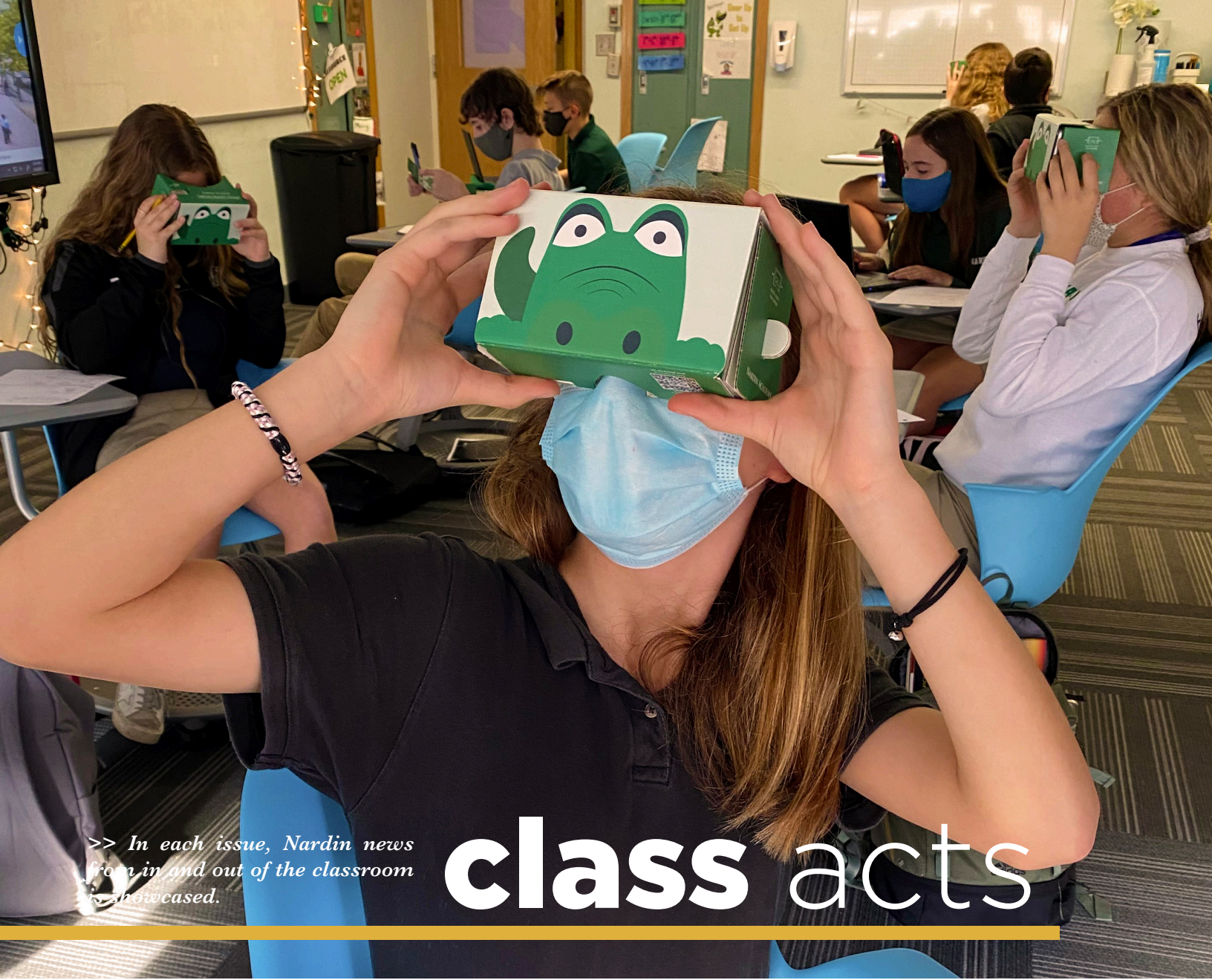


>> In each issue, you will see Academy-wide images of Nardin students in action.

1) Freshman Experience Camp welcomed members of the Class of 2025 for a week of fun and friendship. (2) Taking advantage of the beautiful weather, first graders enjoyed learning outside. (3) Dr. Jennifer Trask leads Experience Nardin Campers in Zumba. (4) Montessori Elementary students are enjoying their new classroom. (5) Fun Fundamentals Summer Camp welcomed incoming Kindergators to Nardin. (6) High School Spirit Week shows Nardin's Buffalove. (7) High School Student Council officers for the 2021-2022 academic year: Riley Smith '24, Mia Endl '22, Mary Mangan '23 and Audrey Lorence '22, E'18 (8) Seventh graders are studying geography. (9) Fifth graders explore Nardin's Cleveland Avenue campus on a scavenger hunt. (10) Montessori summer campers are having fun marking art.







# Exploring Cultures

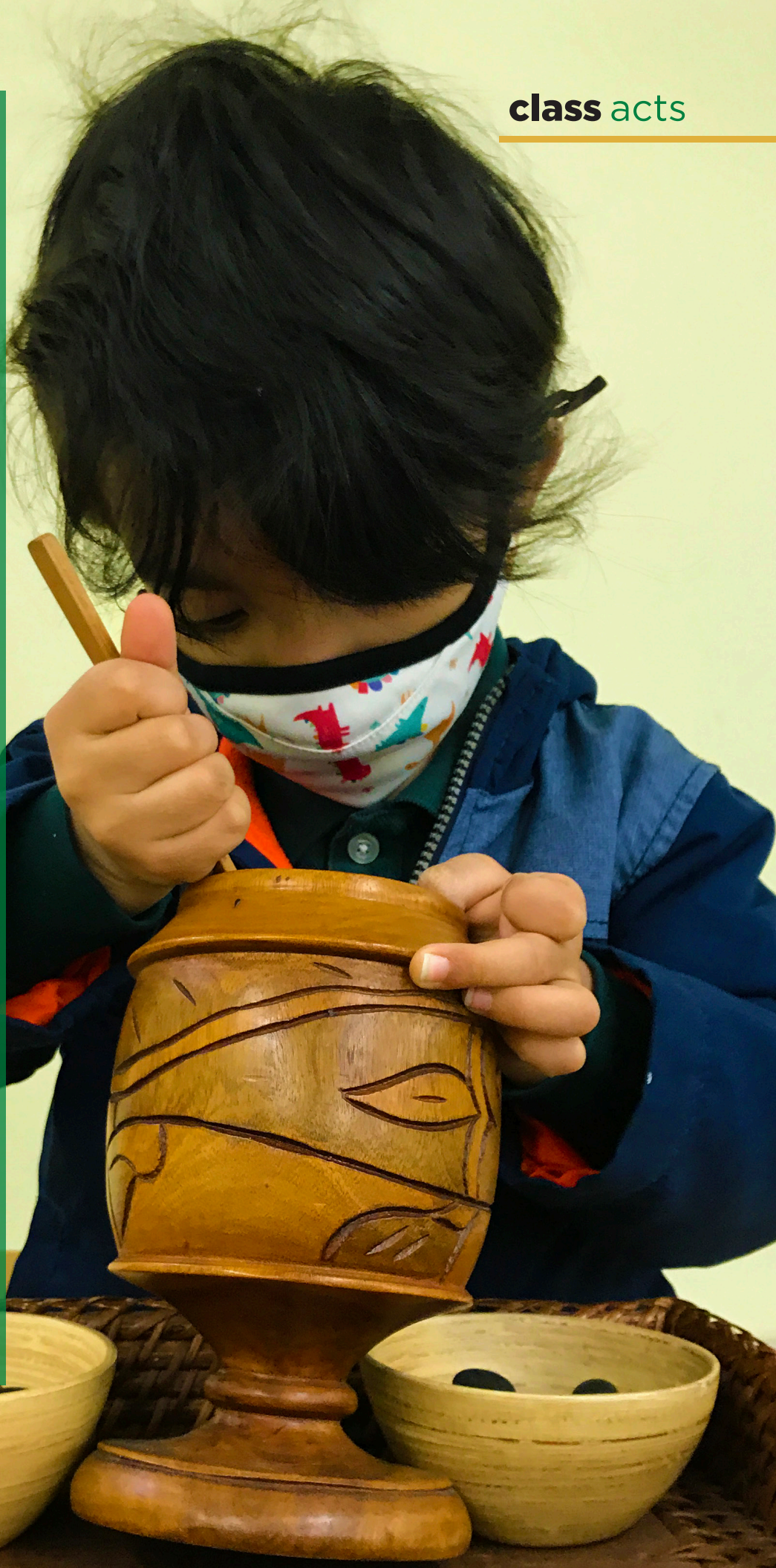
## Lessons at Nardin Montessori

By Jessie Styers >>> Culture and peace education are key components of the Montessori curriculum. Maria Montessori wrote, “The child is both the hope and a promise for mankind,” and Nardin’s Montessori students gain a world view at a young age when they realize that we are all part of a larger community.

Global understanding and world peace were a goal for Dr. Montessori. She reflected on global conflict and humankind’s ultimate place within the universe and distilled them into her *Cosmic Curriculum: The Lessons in Science, History, and Human Culture*, which offers students a tremendous sense of wonder and inspiration.

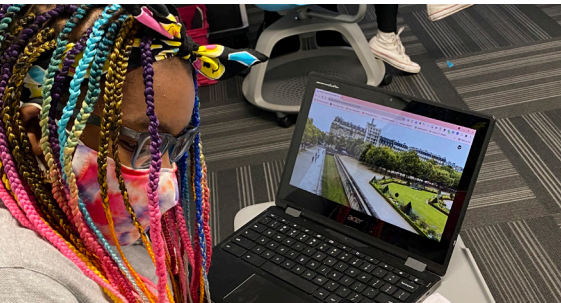
These geographic and cultural materials are interwoven within each of Nardin’s Montessori classrooms and provides the children with multi-sensory impressions of the people, lands and cultures of other nations. Photographs, booklets and various objects of life in other countries and continents are on display, including traditional dress, children’s toys, statues, pottery, children’s books, as well as miniature objects symbolic of the country. Students listen to traditional music from the various cultures, take part in cooking demonstrations, learn about the languages, dances and other traditional festivals and celebrations of the land.

All materials are presented with multicultural and anti-biased approaches, and students are encouraged to share their identities, family traditions, and holidays. ■



>> In each issue, Nardin news from in and out of the classroom is showcased.

# class acts



## Math is Everywhere

### Middle school students incorporate Virtual Reality

Exploring how math is in all that we do is part of the lesson in Alyssa Flanagan's Middle School math class. Students used Virtual Reality to visit France to understand how geometry was used in the design of gardens while others learned the importance of the subject in architecture from around the world.

"Often, students (and adults) can be intimidated by math and not always appreciate the value. I strive to show students that not only can they conquer math, but math is truly all around them, everywhere they look in the world," said Alyssa Flanagan, Middle School math teacher. "Using the technology resources we have at Nardin, including our VR headsets, students are able to find joy and value in math, and we are able to bring learning to life!"

Nardin’s technology team works with faculty throughout the Academy to integrate tools that support learning outcomes. “Technology in the classroom is always instituted with purpose,” added Rebecca Klauk Braungart ’01, Integration Specialist at Nardin. “Whether it is to empower learning, digital citizenship or being creative communicators, all students are building foundations that will prepare them to be lifelong learners.” ■





# Flourishing Arts

High School music is stronger than ever

The arts are central to life at Nardin and for the more than 70 musicians and singers who are part of Nardin's music program, talent is celebrated and friendships are made.

"This year, there are 39 musicians playing 13 different instruments in Nardin's band and orchestra," said Caitlin Snyder, chair of Nardin's Music Department. "Like any team, the music program is where our students connect with their classmates and work together to make each other better."

The vocal program, led by Dr. Lucyanne Gordon, offers Nardin's singers numerous opportunities to perform. "The talent within our student body is exceptional," Snyder added. "Every year Nardin students go on to perform with the All-County Band, Orchestra and Chorus. Annually, we have students audition and participate in regional honor groups within Erie County, and every few years we have a student who prepares a solo of advanced difficulty and receives a perfect score."

This year, Senior Madeline Finn was selected for the Conference All-State Symphonic Band. One of the top alto-saxophonists in New York State, Maddi earned a perfect score on her evaluation.

"Maddi is a special talent and a wonderful young woman," Snyder said. "She hopes to study music performance in college."

"Nardin has been the perfect school to be a student-musician," Maddi said. "We have time in our school day for band and lessons, and teachers and classmates are so supportive." ■



SAMARA HUTCHESON



SAMARA HUTCHESON

## A Love for the Library

Lower School students learn in Koessler Family Library & Media Center

A place for community and learning are hallmarks of the historic Koessler Family Library and Media Center at Nardin. Housed on the third floor of the Nardin's 1896 building and home to 8,000 ebooks, 400 audio books, 5,000 streaming videos and 15,000 books and other print resources, the library is an essential part of the Nardin experience for students of all ages.

"For our youngest students, we focus on discovering the many areas of the library: storybooks, animals, pets, outer space, folktales, and more," said Jason Deane, Librarian. "This exploration is one of the initial processes of reading which is to develop an interest in books."

"The Kindergartners love going to the library and listening to the stories," said Allie Frantz Robbins '09. "Students select books to check out and then share with friends in the classroom."

"Students also learn to efficiently navigate Nardin's five robust academic databases and empower them to be good global citizens," added Deane. Beginning in Second grade, students are taught to use databases to research a topic." ■



"Second graders are creating their own communities and designing posters after researching their own neighborhoods," said Lower School Faculty member Kristen Chambers '86. "Our students are creative and curious learners. They are so much fun to teach." ■



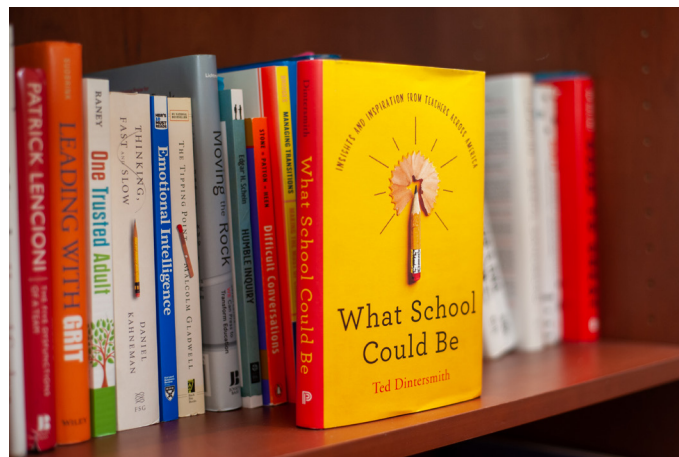
# Bright FUTURE

## A New Era for Nardin

The Board of Trustees announced the unanimous election and appointment of Sandra Betters as the 26th President of Nardin Academy and is confident in her ability to be an outstanding leader and steward of our mission to inspire hearts and minds to do amazing things for the world through faith, character, academic excellence and service.







**Standing at the top of the stairs in front of Nardin’s iconic green doors on September 1st, new President Sandra Betters personally greeted each member of the Class of 2025. The incoming freshwomen were on campus for orientation a week before the official start of school, and true to Betters’ style of being visible and approachable, she welcomed each new student with a smile and an encouraging word.**

Just shy of three months in the position, Betters assumed the role of 26th President of Nardin Academy on July 1st. Dedicated to educating the whole child, she prioritizes working alongside education experts to provide each student with an individualized growth experience while ensuring a deep sense of belonging for all members of the Nardin community.

“Honoring the human need for belonging and creating environments where people can show up as their authentic selves is how I believe communities thrive,” said Betters. “I am the educator and leader I am today as a result of other talented education leaders who themselves have worked alongside their faculty and staff while embracing design thinking, rooted in authentic collaboration and a commitment to lifelong learning,” she added.

Walking into Betters’ office in front of historic Nardin Hall provides a window into her vision of leaders and educators. Her bookshelves are filled with titles such

as *Dare to Lead* by Brené Brown, *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success* by Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D., and *Schools that Learn* by Peter Senge. A “BE BRAVE” pillow sits on her desk chair, and chairs from The Albany Academics, where she taught for nine years, and her alma mater, St. Bonaventure University, greet guests. Her memorabilia are a nod to her more than twenty years in academics while a series of signs promote her forward-thinking approach to independent school education.

This summer, while students enjoyed their break, Betters’ office remained a buzz of activity. Often, faculty and staff members, trustees, families, and alumni stopped by to introduce themselves. As Nardin prepared for the safe and successful return to school, Betters met regularly with her leadership team, and dove into in-depth curricula reviews with principals. In the final year of a five-year capital campaign, she also focused on the goals of the Called to Connect campaign with the new Vice

President for Advancement, AnneMarie Haumesser, Ed.D.

“Prioritizing time this summer with Nardin Academy’s leadership team provided a short runway for me to begin building relationships with those who truly lead the magic for Nardin. Without the institutional memory cherished by the various alums and families, I would be walking into this new position blindly. I am most grateful for everyone’s commitment to Nardin’s betterment and my success in leading Nardin’s next chapter,” said Betters.

In assuming her role at Nardin, Betters brings two decades of experience in both administrative and teaching positions at private and public schools in Fairfax County, Virginia; Albany; and Long Island. Most recently, she served as principal of Our Lady of Mercy Academy, a private college preparatory school for young women, located in Syosset, N.Y., where she led a comprehensive student wellness initiative, diversity, equity, and

“As ONE Nardin Academy, I believe we can accomplish anything.”

inclusion programming, and a campus-wide technology upgrade. Betters said the combination of her professional experiences prepared her for her current role.

“Early in my career, while teaching in Fairfax County, I was fortunate to work with a team of educators who put personal growth and wellbeing first. This commitment to personal identity and individual needs has remained a priority as I interact with students, their families, and all educators,” Betters said. “Being able to pull together all of my experiences in education from teaching second grade, to advising middle school students, to leading curriculum initiatives is the realization of a lifelong aspiration,” she added.

Betters graduated from St. Bonaventure University with a B.S. in Elementary Education, a M.S.Ed. in Education Leadership and Administration from the College of Saint Rose, and currently is pursuing a Doctor of Education in Education Policy and Leadership with a focus on systems thinking, personal leadership, social justice, and anti-racism from American University. She will defend her dissertation on the impacts of intentional wellness programs and direct social and emotional learning instruction on young women within independent schools and is expected to receive her Ed.D. next year. An avid reader and researcher of academics, Betters’ fluency in educational philosophy and best practices for schools is brought to life in her work.

Betters’ new role as president of Nardin is a new chapter for her personally too. A native of Batavia, she always called Western New York home, but this marks

the first time in her professional career she has lived in the region. Rediscovering Western New York has been a bonus for both Betters and her daughter, Charlotte, a member of the Nardin Class of 2023.

Together with their dog, Charlie, they live in Nardin House and embrace living on Nardin’s campus. In addition to serving as her home, Betters expanded the historic home’s utility for Nardin where she has started to host events such as team meetings and alumni receptions. Living in the historic Elmwood Village, Betters and Charlotte take advantage of visiting local shops, like Half & Half, and trying new restaurants, including current favorites, JT’s, The Place, and Allentown Burger Venture. On weekends, Betters can be found kayaking the waterways of the city and Chautauqua County and cheering both the Bills and Sabres.

“For many years, I experienced my professional career in places other than Western New York, and even though those spaces and people all contributed to who I have become as a woman, mother, leader, and learner, none of those places were ever truly home in the sense home itself can truly be,” said Betters. “I feel most grateful for this opportunity to continue my work of leading a tremendous institution to its next phase of excellence while living and raising my daughter near my family and friends,” she added.

Eagerly embracing the widespread responsibilities of her role, Betters leads Nardin at a unique time in its 164-year-old history. The 2021-22 academic year marks the third year impacted by the pandemic. Yet, as she told the faculty and staff at the retreat before school started, Betters says this is a time for Nardin to “look up and out.”

“The past 18-months have taught all of us a great deal about exploring new opportunities within the world of education. However, most significantly, the pandemic has undoubtedly underscored the critical need to safeguard relationships, routines, and the opportunities to build resilience within our students,” said Betters. “By collaborating expertise, engaging with our families, and living out our founders’ value to ‘embrace all,’ we will best support our students, aged 18 months to 18 years, and spur innovation. As ONE Nardin Academy, I believe we can accomplish anything.” ■







## nardin together

*>> Nardin alumni, students, families, faculty, and staff came together on September 25th to celebrate Nardin's first Homecoming, a celebration of our ONE Nardin community.*

Congratulations to the Chomp-ians (Alex Adams '24, Tori Belzile '24, Olivia Braun '25, Quinn Callahan '24, Peyton Essman '24, Molly Griffin '24, Riley Jones '24, Paige Manuszewski '24, and Rebecca Vigna '24 ), winners of the High School Student Council Powder Puff flag football game, and Chili Cook-Off champion Brian Kania, dad of Maddie '22 and husband of Vice President of Enrollment Catharine Miles-Kania '92.

Josh Goldberg, Mike Kemp, and Rebecca Klauk Braungart '01, Nardin's technology team, took second place while faculty member Kayla Reumann came in third. Students of all ages from across Nardin participated in fun activities and games while the coed Middle School soccer team played a friendly scrimmage, and the Lower School Pop Squad entertained all.

PHOTOS: SAMARA HUTCHESON





# Q & A

## Monica Padmanabha Lower School Principal

Monica Padmanabha is the new Lower School Principal. She joined the Nardin community from The Park School, where she served as Director of Pre-K through Grade 6 and Montessori. Previously, Padmanabha served as Head of the Middle School, Assistant Head of the Lower School and Interim Head of the Lower School at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in New York City, where she worked for ten years. Padmanabha is a New York State Certified Teacher in Pre-K-6 and brings more than twenty-five years of classroom and administrative experience for grades K-8.

Padmanabha earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a Concentration in Mathematics from the State University of New York College at Buffalo, a Master of Education with a Concentration in Educational Administration from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a Master of Science in Education with a Concentration in Curriculum from the State University of New York College at Buffalo.

**What excites you about serving as Principal of Nardin's Lower School?**

► **MP:** I have always felt that leadership is action not position, so to be given the opportunity to live this vision with the Lower School is exciting. I truly believe a successful and visionary leader is one who is present for their community. One who is accessible and decisive; a leader who can guide and support others in a calm, collaborative, and inspiring manner. An educational leader who creates and fosters a positive atmosphere within a strong, supportive environment where all members strive for their own personal achievements knowing that help is there for them whenever they need it.

**How would you define your academic philosophy?**

► **MP:** As a career educator, I have always admired the works of John Dewey and Maria Montessori. Their educational values were ones that aligned to mine, and I have lived and applied their philosophies to my classroom and the school environment I develop as an administrator. Their approach to working with children is admirable. They recognized the importance of creating an academically enriched student-centered environment where inquisitiveness and personal growth is encouraged, and compassion and service to others is a way of life. Additionally, making the educational experience one that focuses on the development of the whole child cognitively, physically, socially,

SAMARA HUTCHESON

and emotionally in a supportive, respectful learning environment.

**What is special to you about educating K-4th graders?**

► **MP:** The growth and development of a child from age 5 to age 10 is phenomenal! Take a moment to sit and think about the skill set (social, emotional, and academic) a child entering kindergarten possesses and how with the guidance provided by their teachers and families over the years, this skill set undergoes a continuous metamorphosis which guides them on their individual path. To me, this is fascinating.

**Why is a strong Lower School education so important for our students?**

► **MP:** Outside of a child's parents and guardians being their first teachers, Lower School educators play a huge role in a child's life. A Lower School serves as the foundation for a child's education, and one must strive to make this a positive experience for them. Our goal as educators is to inspire the young people of today to become lifelong learners. We can achieve this by guiding students to understand their own learning as well as their responsibility in this ever changing global community. Johann Pestalozzi (1746-1827) stated that individuals should learn by "head, hand, and heart." This perspective is timeless. Educators must encourage the success of their students by being patient and providing ample opportunities to use the tools they have been blessed with in order to live as an active and thoughtful member of society.

**Students, faculty, administrators and families all come together to make up the Nardin Lower School. How does this community inspire you?**

► **MP:** A strong and genuine community is a driving force when it comes to living a vision. My vision is to work within a community that is dedicated to the nurturing of each child's and adult's potential in order to find where they feel they belong in this world in an environment that values critical thinking and academic excellence as much as compassion and creativity. To truly embody the whole person and applaud success as well as effort, while never losing sight of personal integrity, kindness, and grace. With these ideals in place, one can face the varied challenges that are placed upon us today in schools and the world. In my short time at Nardin, I have encountered many individuals who share in my vision as we discuss the future of the Lower School. This alone is inspirational! ■

## Welcome New Nardin Faculty & Staff

Hannah Attard, Ph.D. '08, High School

Sandra Betters, 26th President of Nardin Academy

Lester Brown, Nardin Athletics

Madeleine Burns E'06, Lower School

Jo'Leeza Colins, Dining Hall

Judith Conner, Middle School

Gina DeAngelo, Montessori

Diana DeMarco, Lower School

Erin Egnatchik, Lower School

Kathryn Ennis, Lower School

Kirsten Federiconi, Dining Hall

AnneMarie Haumesser, Ed.D., Vice President of Institutional Advancement

Nicholas Hess, High School

Kathleen Heyworth '86, Director of Marketing and Communications

Amanda Holler, High School

Tara Kibler, Montessori

Kameron Konert, Middle School

Cory Leonard, Lower School

Rachel Malec Mont., E'99, '03, Montessori

Fabio Martinez, Dining Hall

Monica Padmanabha, Lower School Principal

Holly Paolicelli, Day Care

Dena Salamone, Lower & Middle Schools

Aaron Swenson, Middle School

Lunne Tribunella, Dining Hall

Rachel Wright, High School

Dylan Zalikowski, Lower School





# LIVING our Mission

True to our founders, the Daughters of the Heart of Mary, Nardin works to build a world in which the primary values are equality and justice for all God's people, endeavor to be a community in which each member's God-given gifts are appreciated and nurtured, and work for an earth that is protected and restored.

SAMARA HUTCHESON

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Nardin's High School Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee has grown from a committee of faculty to one that is reflective of the school's student body.

"We quickly realized that the DEI Committee was missing the student voice, and we welcomed a number of current students" said Kendra Brim '07, Nardin's Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Opportunity.

Monthly meetings focus on fundraising for the Samantha Cothran '07 Endowed Scholarship (see pg.22), establishing connections between current students and Nardin alumni, specifically alumni of color, organizing a faculty-wide summer reading project, and the advisory program in the High School.

"We are excited to welcome underclassmen to the committee," continued Brim. "Their energy, thoughts, and ideas are critical as we work to include diverse religious, social, and ethnic backgrounds." ■



## living our mission

## Professional Development

### A Conversation with Nardin Faculty Members

Nardin faculty and staff participated in professional development led by Rachael Owunwanne who is the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Instructional Coach with the Educational Collaborative of Western New York, a consortium of fourteen independent schools in Western New York.

High School English teachers Julie Casilio Anain '87 and Trish Lorence sat with Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Opportunity Kendra Brim '07 and reflected on the experience.



JOE CASCIO PHOTOGRAPHY

**Brim:** Rachael has extensive teaching experience and has served as a curriculum director, assessment director, and instructional coach. Her knowledge and guidance is exceptionally useful as Nardin continues to navigate uncharted waters all while aiming to provide an equitable and inclusive educational experience to our students. What are your thoughts on the professional development day that Rachael facilitated?

**Lorence:** The entire experience was great. One of the activities we participated in was hypothetical classroom situations and how they should be handled.

**Anain:** The details of each situation were beneficial. The teaching was practical, not just theoretical.

**Brim:** How do you reevaluate and enhance your curriculum every year as it pertains to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion?

**Lorence:** I asked myself if I was truly offering a diverse curriculum. I want to have a spectrum that demonstrates the value that everyone brings to the table. So, I started working with students to take inventory of how many authors whom we read and how many come from diverse backgrounds. We considered gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and ability/disability.

**Anain:** Literature is often approached as either a mirror or window into society. Most of the books throughout the course are windows, and I push the girls to look at them as mirrors. I want them to see themselves in the characters.

**Lorence:** I make sure to include readings that convey empathy and allow students to become more comfortable with those who are different from themselves.

**Anain:** As an English department, I feel that we celebrate all and look for the thread of the universal human experience. ■



Nardin Experience Fund

As our nation grappled with the outcry over racial injustice in 2020, members of the Class of 1998 looked to Nardin to see where their support could improve and enhance our school experience for all students. As the COVID-19 pandemic surged, they couldn't help but recognize that the year they turned 40 years old was turning out to be entirely unpredictable and not nearly as joyful as they had hoped.

True to form, these Nardin women came together and decided to turn heartache into action. The result of their conversations with each other and with members of Nardin administration was the establishment of The Nardin Experience Fund, which directly impacts the lives of students with limited socioeconomic means.

"There are so many traditions and activities that are part of the Nardin experience," said Dr. Laura Venuto '98. "They come with costs, preventing some students from being able to participate, and it is our wish to make sure that every student enjoys all that a Nardin education has to offer. We have donated funds that will cover the costs of experiences that fall outside of the tuition umbrella."

To date, more than \$20,000 has been contributed to this effort and continues to grow.

"Our Nardin experience taught us the importance of giving back to others,"



Venuto continued. "As adults and parents, we see how lives can be enriched when everyone in a community is thriving. It has been a joy to create something positive during a time of turmoil and reconnect with so many former classmates to do something to enrich the experience of current Nardin students." ■



Samantha Cothran '07 Endowment Fund

Samantha Cothran was a cherished member of Nardin Academy's Class of 2007 who passed away tragically in 2012. For those who knew her, the absence of Samantha's smile and her warm and loving spirit is felt each day. She touched the lives of so many, and she will always be remembered by those who knew her as a caring, fun, hard-working young woman.

Established in 2020, the Samantha Cothran '07 Endowed Scholarship was created to accept contributions to Nardin made in Samantha's name. In the spirit

of Nardin's value to "ignite possibilities," the financial award will be given annually to a junior who exemplifies excellence in the classroom and will be applied to the student's senior year tuition.

Nardin was proud to bestow the Samantha Cothran '07 Spirit of Nardin Award to Amira Hedley '22. Like Samantha, Amira is a powerful and kind leader who is hard working and intellectually curious.

It is the wish of Samantha's family that the award recipient exhibit a passion for and focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math), a love for all of her classmates, and a unique energy that leads to betterment and advancement of Nardin and its community.

The establishment of the Samantha Cothran '07 Endowed Scholarship has preserved Samantha's legacy at Nardin by opening doors for future generations.

For information on how to contribute to these two important funds, please contact Jennifer Westerholt '95, Director of Alumni Relations, at 716-881-6262 ext.1861 or [jwesterholt@nardin.org](mailto:jwesterholt@nardin.org). ■



Living with Balance:  
A Conversation with Jessica Neilans '07, School Counselor

Strategies for development of mental and spiritual health are part of the High School curriculum in Nardin's High School. Mindfulness and Wellbeing: Living with Balance is a required course for sophomores and is an extension of the Health curriculum that begins in ninth grade. Taught collaboratively by Kendra Brim '07, Director of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity, Jessica Nielans '07, School Counselor and Tom Whalen, Director of Campus Ministry, the course guides students in both the understanding of these life skills and offers practical tools to help develop them.

**Why this course is critical for today's students?**  
JN: For as long as education has been around, students have faced stress and anxiety, and today's students currently live in a world where teens aren't afraid to speak up about those emotions. But, speaking about these feelings is only the first step. My goal for this course is to provide students with a forum to talk about their emotional, social, and spiritual dilemmas while also learning ways to cope with the reality of everyday life.

**What excites you most about teaching this course?**  
JN: Since coming to Nardin in 2018, students have voiced a strong desire to address issues related to mental health. I feel this course is going to do that and more, by breaking stigma and creating a safe space for students to discuss these issues and lean on one another for support.

**Are there outcomes that you hope to achieve?**  
JN: I hope that students become more empathetic toward themselves and others. I also hope to help the students build a comprehensive coping skills "tool box" that can be used and adapted throughout the different stages of their lives.

**How is Nardin responding to the needs of students?**  
JN: While I feel strongly that mental health awareness has always been part of student experience, I am proud of Nardin's continued and growing commitment to wellness. At Nardin, we are listening to our students, understanding their needs and meeting them where they are.

Jessica Neilans is a NYS Certified School Psychologist specializing in individual and small group counseling and the interpretation and administration of psychoeducational evaluations. Since 2018, she has served as a school counselor at Nardin and works to help students succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. A Nardin alumna, Jessica has earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Canisius College and Master of Science with a Certificate of Advanced Studies in School Psychology from Niagara University. ■



SAMARA HUTCHESON



# gator bites



By Athletic Director, Joe Baudo>> Nardin Athletics has a rich tradition of excellence, and last year's winter and spring seasons proved to be no exception.

## Gators Find Success

The pandemic forced seasons to be delayed and shortened, but our student-athletes and coaches continued to train and prepare.

Across the board, Gator athletes excelled. While the events looked different, it was exciting to see our student athletes competing.

Many leagues canceled sports, but we were able to offer both squash and girls lacrosse. The team worked hard all year, and the season culminated with a match against Nichols, and one against members of our high school team. The girls lacrosse program under coach Madeline LoFaso '15 took to the new fields at the Kevin T. Keane Sports Park.

Nardin's varsity basketball program finished the regular season as champions of the MMHSAA "B" Division with a 10-6 record and captured the playoff championship in a 54-48 victory over rival Nichols. Ainsley Boras '21 was named MMHSAA Player of the Year, and Presleigh Brunner '22 was named the Playoff MVP.

The Gator bowlers had very strong seasons with the varsity team placing 3rd in the regular season, only 3 games out of 1st place. At the All-Catholic Championships, Nardin finished 4th, but only 7 pins from 2nd. In addition to her 1st Team All Catholic honor, Emma Perry '21 was named League MVP and had the high game in the league with a 193!

The varsity squash team made the most of their season. With no "official" league and travel restricted, the team played local matches against both of our rivals Buffalo Seminary and Nichols, and the boys teams from Canisius, St. Joe's, and Gow.

A new "fall 2" season provided an opportunity to represent Nardin. Kristina Kwitzer '21 and Vanessa Vaccaro '23 were

named to the All-Catholic team for volleyball, and in swimming, our 200 Medley Relay and 400 Free Relay both earned All-Catholic honors.

The spring teams had strong seasons and continued their winning ways. Our lacrosse program continues to grow and improve. The young varsity team advanced to the MMHSAA semi-finals and look forward to an even stronger finish next year. Our tennis program finished the year as co-champions, with Katherine Kraus '23 and Madison Forton '23 finishing 3rd and 4th respectively at the All-Catholic Championship. Our track program just completed their 4th consecutive undefeated season, 5th regular season championships in a row, and 4th consecutive All-Catholic title. Our varsity softball team had a tremendous season, capturing the regular season title with an 11-1 record outscoring our opponents 162-31.

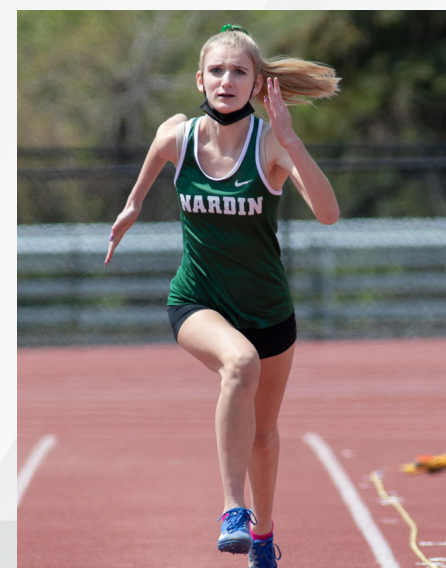
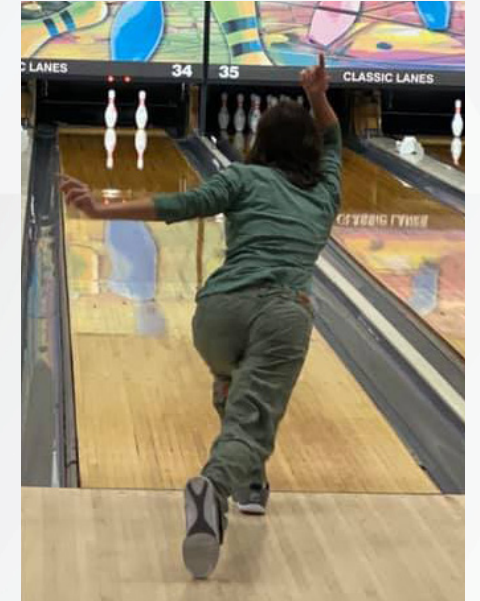
Our crew program took to the water at the John Bennett Regatta, capturing three first place finishes (Junior 8, Junior 4, Lightweight 8) and a second place (Novice 8). They followed up that success with a great weekend in Saratoga at the NYS Championships. The team took home 3 silver medals: the Senior 8 finished 2nd Scholastically and 5th overall; the Junior 8 was 2nd Scholastically and 3rd overall; and U17 8 also finished 2nd Scholastic and 4th overall.

Finally, this spring we celebrated 4 student-athletes who signed letters of commitment to continue their academic and athletic careers at the college level: Ainsley Boras (basketball) DePauw University, Anna Castlevetere (softball) Allegheny College, Brigid Molloy (soccer) Villanova University, and Mia Sidor (track & field) Ithaca College. In addition, Brigid Molloy capped her scholastic career with All-America honors from the United Soccer Coaches Association. She was one of 37 high school athletes across the nation to be recognized.

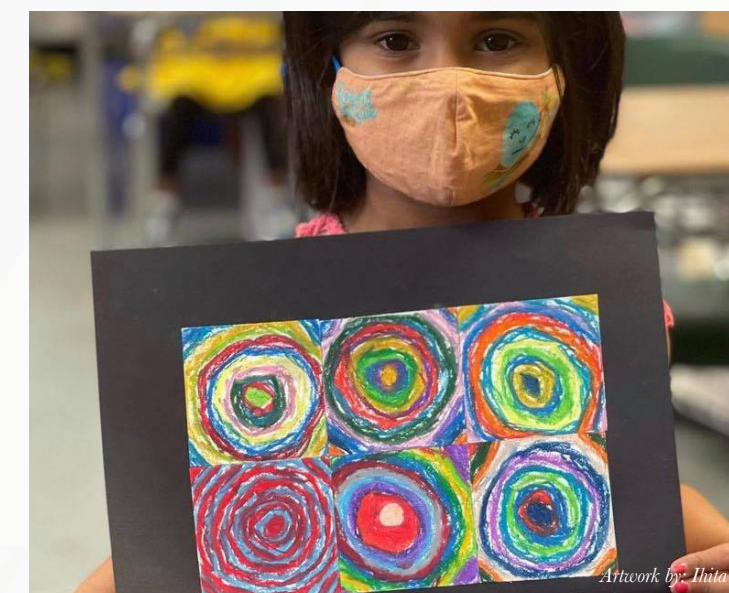
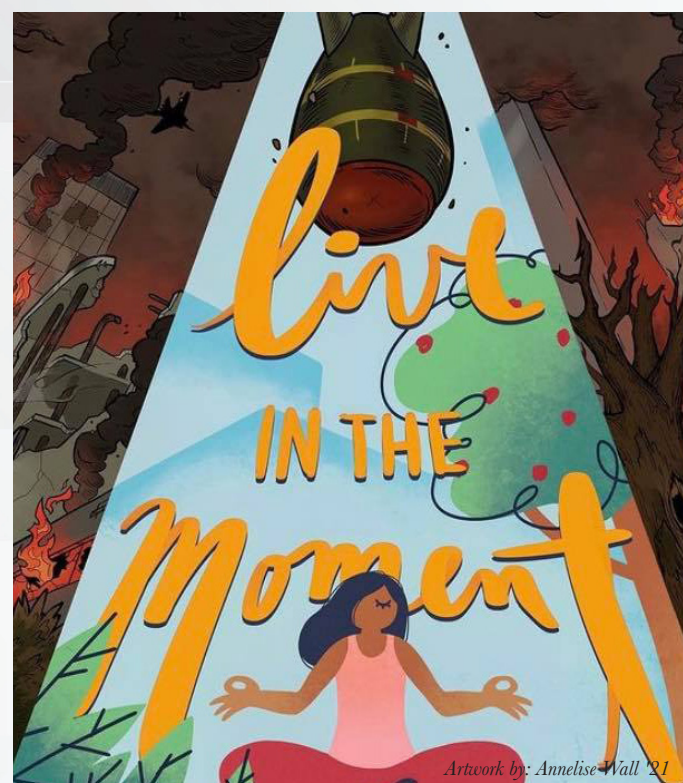
## Looking Forward

The 2021-22 school year brings some exciting changes to our program. At the Middle School level, we will be adding Boys Volleyball and coed Ice Hockey to our spring sport offerings, and the High School sees the addition of "club" field hockey and Indoor Track & Field.

I could not be more proud of all of our athletes and our coaches.  
**Go Gators!**











# Called to Connect

THE CAMPAIGN FOR NARDIN ACADEMY

## Welcome AnneMarie Haumesser

Vice President for Institutional Advancement



It certainly is a great day to be a Gator, and I sincerely appreciate those who have welcomed me with open arms as the new Vice President of Institutional Advancement. Joining the Nardin community in a time with such growth and innovation has been thrilling. I am in awe of the success of the Called to Connect campaign, especially given the trials of the past 18 months.

You, our alumni, donors, and friends, are at the heart of this success. Collectively you have grown our facilities, helped expand access to a Nardin education, and lived our mission every day. Highlights of the Called to Connect campaign's success over the past year include the grand opening of the Kevin T. Keane Sports Park, finishing touches to our Competition Gym and Wellness Center, and achieving 90% of our total campaign goal for the Nardin Fund.

This momentum is something we should all be immensely proud of, but there is still much to be done as we round out the final year of this historic campaign. I encourage you to visit [nardin.org/supportnardin/called-to-connect](http://nardin.org/supportnardin/called-to-connect) to learn more about our campaign priorities and how your gift can make a difference in the lives of generations of Nardin students to come.

Contact AnneMarie Haumesser, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, at 716-881-6262 ext.1110 or [ahaumesser@nardin.org](mailto:ahaumesser@nardin.org)



CAMPAIGN GOAL  
**\$19,535,000**

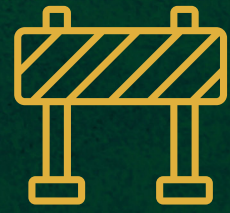
AMOUNT RAISED  
**\$15,455,641**



**80%**  
**TO COMPLETION**  
**\$4,079,359 LEFT TO RAISE**

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Improvements and construction at Nardin's three campuses have concluded including exciting improvements and enhancements to the playgrounds and outdoor spaces on the Auburn Avenue-side of the Cleveland Avenue campus. While Montessori students are enjoying a new outdoor playspace on West Ferry Street, Nardin Lower and Middle School students are anxiously await the completion of pickleball courts, four square and playsets as well as seating and study areas for our High School.







## athletics hall of fame

>> On September 25, 2021, Nardin hosted our annual induction of the Athletics Hall of Fame.

This year, we honored Victoria Christ '10, Ashley Stafford Dalrymple '03, Matt Donohue, Molly Van Dyke Konopka '84, the 2007 Varsity Lightweight 8 crew: Lindsay Kreppel Crossett '07, Elizabeth LaLonde '07, Lisa Nasca '07, Christine Ruh '07, Mollie Riester Young '07, Margaret Zupa '07, Katherine Gloekler '08, Puja Sztorc '09, Charlotte Lane '09, and Rising Star recipients Lauren Bauer '22 & Vanessa Vaccaro '23. The impact of these outstanding Gators continues!

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR!  
Visit: [nardin.org/athletics/hall-of-fame](https://nardin.org/athletics/hall-of-fame)

PHOTOS: JOE CASCIO PHOTOGRAPHY







>> Clockwise from top: Grandchild of Ruth Dietrich Grimm '46 • Carol McDermott Zakes '46 • Family of Joan Sacco Crosby '71 • Wallpaper featuring artist, Karen Donovan Matchette '72 • Haley McMullen '22, mother Christine Bubar McMullen '95 and grandmother Donna Militello Bubar '64



1940s

**Ruth Dietrich Grimm '46** writes, "I had my fifth great grandchild in May 2020, Parker Steve Lord."

**Carol McDermott Zakes '46** writes, "I've been living in San Francisco for the past 36 years. My husband of 66 years passed away in 2018. I still travel a lot and visit often with my children on the East Coast and my granddaughters in LA, Seattle and Washington, DC."

**Geraldine Kwiatkowski Krajewski '48** recently celebrated the birth of her thirteenth great grandchild.



**Patricia Watt Brown '63** and husband Wilbur celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 14, 2021.

Celebrating three generations at Nardin: **Haley McMullen '22** received her grandmother's, **Donna Militello Bubar '64**, Nardin class ring at the Junior Ring Ceremony in May. Haley's mother **Christine** is a member of the class of 1995.

1950s

**Clare Caffrey Schultz '56** received a Grammy Award on March 14, 2021 with the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus. She has a one-year old great granddaughter.

**Kathleen Brecker Means '64** writes, "I have had both Pfizer COVID shots and just coming out of over a year of what I call hibernation. Recently went to Florida for a few weeks and stayed on a quiet island by the ocean with my sister. Eating outside at all restaurants in lovely sunny weather wearing masks only around groups of people. All my family and friends are well. So thankful."

1960s

**Rev. Joanna Cleary White '62** writes, "After many years of running parishes and serving as Chaplain for the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, I've been appointed as Canon for Pastoral Services. In some ways my career path was unusual for a Nardin grad but, in others, a natural extension of the training received there."

**Kathleen Hedges Janush '66** writes, "We welcomed our second grandchild, Emily Violet Janush, on Feb. 23. My brother Wayne died on March 13."



**Mary Szczepanski '68** writes, "I have lived in Juneau, Alaska since 1993. I retired from psychiatric nursing and have been providing Holistic Nursing in private practice for many years, and teaching related classes (Healing Touch, Reiki, Imagery, EFT, Intention). I wrote three related books: *Energy Healing: Reflections on a Journey* (non-fiction), *A Path of Healing* (YA Fiction), *Strands* (futuristic fiction). I'm currently leading book discussions for energy healing and ending racism; and providing distance healing sessions and online classes."

1970s

**Joan Sacco Crosby '71** writes, "Our whole family spent Easter with us at our winter home in sunny Scottsdale, AZ! My daughter, **Jennifer Crosby Finnerty** is an alumna from the Class of 2001. Here are our 5 wonderful grandkids which include Jenn's daughter Aria Joan and son Graham!"



>> L to R: Audrey Emma Santana '25, granddaughter of Deborah Ray Murak '73 • Therese Forton-Barnes '81, E'77 • Molly Ferrick Gulden '87 and Tracy Ferrick Cowden '85 at their golf lessons



**Susan McCartney '71**, Director of the SUNY Buffalo State Small Business Development Center was selected as part of the *Buffalo Business First* Power 200 Women.

**Karen Donovan Matchette '72** is featured in the Junior League of Buffalo Showhouse. Karen's illustrations of Buffalo landmarks are the subject of hand silk-screened wallpaper that is installed in the home.

**Margaret Werick Paroski MD '72, E'68**, President, CEO and Chief Medical Officer for Catholic Medical Partners, was selected as part of the *Buffalo Business First* Power 200 Women.

**Deborah Ray Murak '73** writes, "My husband and I are so proud of our granddaughter **Audrey Emma Santana** on her acceptance to the class of 2025 at Nardin Academy. Audrey will be the fourth generation to attend Nardin Academy. Her great-grandmother **Mary Louise Wall Ray** class of 1935, grandmother **Deborah Ray Murak** class of 1973, mother **Rachel Murak Santana** class of 2000, great aunt **Maureen Ray '75**, aunts **Melanie Murak Bauhaus '94**, **Elizabeth Murak Kelley '97** and **Rebecca Murak '98**, as well as several cousins. Also, Audrey's grandfather Richard Murak taught Religion at Nardin Academy from January 1998 to June 2015."

**Catherine "Kitty" Higgins Pilarz '76, E'72**, Vice President, Product Safety and Regulatory Compliance for Mattel Inc./Fisher-Price, was selected as part of the *Buffalo Business First* Power 200 Women.

**Ann Werick Rincon '76, E'72** welcomed her first grandchild, Julian Valentine Rincon, on October 11, 2020.

**Sharon Wick '76, E'73**, Partner with Phillips Lytle, was selected as part of the *Buffalo Business First* Power 200 Women.

**Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker '78**, President and CEO of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, was honored by the Buffalo Urban League with the William M. Evans and Whitney M. Young Humanitarian Award at its annual Gala on February 6, 2021. Clotilde was also selected as part of the Buffalo *Buffalo Business First* 200 Women.

1980s

**Therese Forton-Barnes '81, E'77** writes, "I have pivoted from planning events and started a new business The Green Living Gurus. I assist cancer survivors, thrivers, and others that are worried about getting cancer by identifying carcinogens and other harmful chemicals in their lives that potentially cause cancer and other illnesses, and help them to reduce their fear and trepidation so they can live a



healthier and vibrant low-tox life! I also have a podcast, Green Living with Tee, found on all podcast outlets. Visit my website at [www.thegreenlivinggurus.com](http://www.thegreenlivinggurus.com)"

**Lisa Yaeger '81, E'77, Mont** is extremely excited to be a member of the Team at Buffalo Sewer Authority. She practices Public Interest Law by tracking and commenting on Federal and State legislation on behalf of the Authority. Clean water management is a current and important topic in President Biden's budget as well as in state government. Please come visit and schedule a tour!

**Nora Eberl Plizga '88, E'84**, Co-owner and CFO for Eberl Iron Works, was selected as part of the *Buffalo Business First* Power 200 Women.

**Maureen Heyden Herrmann '83** writes, "I graduated from Nardin in 1983, and I am currently an RN at Sisters Hospital in Buffalo, where I have been a nurse since 1986.

**Molly Ferrick Gulden '87 and Tracy Ferrick Cowden '85** have been meeting up taking golf lessons together. Molly writes, "We are having a great time and improving after each lesson. Tracy lives in Arlington, VA and is a reading teacher in Arlington County Public Schools. I live in West River, MD and am a kindergarten teacher in Anne Arundel County Public Schools.





>> Clockwise from top: Ceramic work by Sarah Haykel '95 • Megan Hanzly Comerford '97 • Katherine Gibas Gibbons '05 with regional Edward R. Murrow award • Kristen Spulecki '11, E'07 attempting a world record for the longest hockey game in November 2021 • Interior Design business of Natalie Singer Meyer '02 E'98

**Deanna Clohessy Knutsen '89** received a Grammy Award on March 14, 2021 with the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus.

heron as a wall hanging and blossomed into much more. You can check out the work online at SarahHaykelArt.com."

1990s

**Dr. Margaret Eberl '91, E'87** writes, "I recently published my second children's book, *A Beach Day with Summer the Dog*. It is available on Amazon as an e-book and in paperback. This book is the follow up to my first book, *A Snow Day with Summer* (also available on Amazon). The books are inspired by my son Gregory's relationship with our 3 year old Black Lab, Summer."

**Shannon Gourlay Lucey '93** writes, "I just marked twenty years as a prosecutor at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, where I have been the Deputy Chief of the Sex Crimes Unit since 2014. I am also an adjunct law professor, mom of three boys, and we reside in Brooklyn."

**Sarah Haykel '95** writes, "Hello all! In 2019, I got back into the visual arts through ceramics. It started with a carving of a blue

**Jane Mogavero '96**, Executive Director of the Patrick P. Lee Foundation, was selected as part of the *Buffalo Business First* Power 200 Women.

**Megan Hanzly Comerford '97** recently celebrated success in leading a grassroots effort to halt the production of an asphalt plant in the town of Hamburg, NY. She is a current member of the Hamburg Town Planning Board and is running for a seat on the Town Board Council in November.

2000s

**Anna Scime '00** The Burchfield Penney Art Center is currently presenting an exhibition featuring the work of Anna Scime '00 entitled *Lake Sturgeons' Guide for Surviving the Anthropocene*.

**Sara Williams '01** writes, "I successfully defended my dissertation at Emory University in January 2021 and graduated

with my Ph.D. in Religion in May. I began a new position as Assistant Professor of Community-Based Learning, Ethics, and Society at Garrett Seminary, a progressive United Methodist Seminary near Chicago."

**Alison Donnelly Axtman '02** was recently promoted to Research Associate Professor within the Eshelman School of Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Natalie Singer Meyer '02, E'98**, launched her own interior decorating, design and home staging and styling company, CNC Home & Design, based in Cleveland, Ohio. Her firm was awarded one of Houzz's Best of 2021 in Service.

**Katherine Gibas Gibbons '05** won a regional Edward R. Murrow award, one of the most prestigious in journalism, for her work as the executive producer and reporter on *Flight 3407: 10 Years Later*, that also won an Associated Press award for best news series. In February, Katie made a career switch out of television news. She is now the Marketing Communications Manager for the Space Sector at Moog Inc.



>> Clockwise from top: Nicholas Revelas E'14, Savannah Revelas E'15, Sara Vanner '19, E'15, and Abigail Adams '17 participating in the World's Longest Basketball Game • Alexandra Hasselback '10, Mont • Alexandra D'Auria Brenner '08

**Alexandra Tramosch '05**, received a Grammy Award on March 14, 2021 with the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus.

**Kendra Brim '07** was honored by The Buffalo Urban League with the Emerging Leader Award at its annual Gala on February 6, 2021.

**Megan Mahoney '07** writes, "I'm assigned to the Animal Cruelty Unit at the Erie County District Attorney's Office, which is responsible for the prosecution of all crimes committed against animals within Erie County. I'm also assigned to the Felony Trials Bureau."

**Alexandra D'Auria Brenner '08** is excited to announce her new consulting company, Starting Gate Solutions, LLC. Founded this past year, Starting Gate Solutions offers people operations and human resources services for small to mid-size businesses. With her background in HR, business operations and psychology, Alex will be providing white-glove service and support for companies seeking high-impact, science-driven people strategies. Solutions range from HR start-up services to emotional intelligence coaching for teams. Alex also hopes to create a niche client-base with female-



forward companies, something she is passionate about. Learn more at [www.startinggatesolutionsllc.com](http://www.startinggatesolutionsllc.com).

2010s

**Alexandra Hasselback '10, Mont** writes, "I am excited to announce my recent partnership with Howard Hanna Real Estate Services as a Licensed Real Estate Salesperson. Born and raised in Buffalo, I have a true love for Western New York and everything this City of Good Neighbors stands for. With a background in Theatre Management and Education, I am able to combine my deep love of helping others with my affinity towards an acute attention to detail, and transfer this over into my real estate work."

**Kristen Spulecki '11, E'07** was selected by the 11 Day Power Play Team as one of forty players, and one of only two women, attempting a world record for the longest hockey game in November 2021.



**Carly Harrington '12** writes, "Hello Nardin! I am so happy to share with you that I recently graduated with my Masters Degree as a Nurse Practitioner and have accepted a job with DENT Neurologic Institute! Neurology has always been a passion of mine and not only will I be able to care and treat for patients suffering from Neurological Conditions at work but I also have become a Board of Director for a nonprofit organization called Save A Brain. I will be creating a concussion curriculum to educate and spread awareness about Concussions and Traumatic Brain Injuries."

**Nicholas Revelas E'14, Savannah Revelas E'15 and Ariana Revelas '16, E'12**, organized the World's Longest Basketball Game. With the goal of breaking the stigma around mental health, the players, including **Nick, Savannah, Abigail Adams '17 and Sara Vanner '19, E'15** broke the record in the Guinness Book of World Records on August 11, 2021. The event took place at Nardin's new gym.





>>From bottom: Bride Katie Waring Paquin '02 and Joshua Paquin • Bride Catherine Fearnside Brown '08 and Sam Fearnside • From left to right: Haley Hughes '15, E'11, Mont, Megan Hughes '16, E'12, Mont, Maura Hughes Bowman '78, Brigid Hughes Trimboli '76, Lyden Trimboli Zerhusen '12, E'08, Allison Kopp '12, E'08, Mary Claire Hart '12, and Christina Seitz '12. • Bride Meghan Richey '10 with Emily Richey '13 and Elizabeth Dierenfield '10, E'06

MARRIAGES

**Katie Waring Paquin '02** married Joshua Paquin in a beautiful outdoor ceremony and reception in Bemus Point on their friend's property on June 8th, 2019. They had their dog Norman partake in the wedding ceremony.

**Catherine Fearnside Brown '08** married Sam Fearnside in an intimate ceremony on June 6, 2021.

**Meghan Richey '10** married Brendan Dailey on May 22, 2021 at St. Mary Student Parish in Ann Arbor, MI. She was honored to have her sister **Emily Richey '13** as her maid of honor, as well as **Elizabeth Dierenfield '10, E'06** in the wedding party. Meghan and Brendan live in Ann Arbor, where they both work as engineers for the University of Michigan.

**Lyden Trimboli Zerhusen '12, E'08** married Daniel Zerhusen on April 10, 2021 in the Florida Keys. The wedding was officiated by **Christina Seitz '12**.

BIRTHS

**Alexis Buscaglia Gordon '01, E'97** writes, "We welcomed Emma Josephine Gordon to our family on September 25, 2020. She joins her siblings, Lucille (6) and Theodore (3)."

**Whitney Rog '05** and husband Justin Lucas welcomed their second child, Ziva Loyola Rog-Lucas in June. She joins her brother, Ari, who has quickly fallen in love and transitioned to helpful big brother.

**Jessica Silvestri Canallatos '06, E'02, Mont** writes, "Rocco Paul Canallatos was born on December 22, 2020 at The Coit House of Buffalo with midwife **Maura Frauenhofer Winkler '07**.

**Katherine Songin Measer '07** and her husband Greg welcomed Madeline Clare Measer on January 31, 2021."

**Megan Robertson Pearce '08** writes, "My husband, Ben, and I welcomed our first baby on July 31, 2020. Harrison James has been a delight during such a trying year."

**Rebecca Pullano Sauer '08** and her husband Matthew welcomed twin girls, Madeline and Charlotte, in June 2020.

CONDOLENCES

David Seiler, husband of Kathleen Gillis Stacia Kosnik, mother of **Amy Kosnik Ventura '68**, passed away on March 27, 2021 at the age of 95.

Rosemary O'Connor Lawley, mother of **Kathleen Lawley Best '79** and **Melissa Lawley '83**, mother-in-law of **Kirsten**



>>Top Left to Right: Rocco, child of Jessica Silvestri Canallatos '06, E'02, Mont • Alexis Buscaglia Gordon '01, E'97 and family • Ziva, child of Whitney Rog '05 child • Madeline, child of Katherine Songin Measer '07 >>Bottom Left to Right: Mary Jane Weinert Edwards '45 • Joseph Russell and Catherine Russell Miller '01

**Brydges Lawley '87**, grandmother of **Margaret Best '05, Abigail Best '07, Elizabeth Ross '08, Miranda Lawley '16, Isabelle Lawley '18, Emma Lawley '19, Sydney Lawley '19, Ava Lawley '21, and Naomi Lawley '25, E'21**, passed away on March 2, 2021.

Elenore Turski, mother of **Liane Turski Browning '70**, passed away on January 14, 2021.

Frederick G. Attea, husband of the late Nardin faculty member Judith Attea, father of **Deirdre Attea Meltzer '83** and **Rebecca Attea Weimer '84**, and grandfather of **Margaret Weimer '20**, passed away on April 10, 2021.

Dr. Thomas Raab, father of **Colleen Raab Santacrose '10, Claire Raab '14, E'10**, and **Timothy Raab E'13**, passed away on April 11, 2021.



**Catherine Russell Miller '01** writes, "My dad, Joseph Russell, passed away on February 16, 2021 after a long hospitalization and COVID. He is truly missed and was loved by many class members."

IN MEMORIAM

**Grace Maghran Lenahan '44**, mother of **Rosemarie Lenahan Granum '80, E'76** and grandmother of **Erin Gaddi E'06, Maureen Lenahan '15, E'11, MONT** and **Grace Gaddi '18, E'14**.

**Frances Mistretta Tomassini '44** passed away on January 29, 2021.

**Anna May Goergen Dittman '45** passed away on September 30, 2020.

**Mary Jane Weinert Edwards '45** passed away on May, 20, 2020 in Buffalo, NY.



**Willette Rowe Leopold '49**, sister of **Alice Rowe Sloan '45** and the late **Dorothy Rowe McGowan '46**, and aunt of **Dorothy P. McGowan Nordstrom '81**, passed away on March 7, 2021.

**Betty Lou Forsyth Testa '49** passed away on July 21, 2020.

**Patricia Halpin Maroney '50, E'46** passed away on April 27, 2021.

**Mary Catherine Leitten Stevens '51** passed away on November 28, 2020.

**Elaine Salvo '54** passed away on March 12, 2021.

**Elizabeth Allen Myers '61** passed away on September 2, 2020.

**Diane Swiecionis Domzalski-Power '65** passed away on March 6, 2021.





photo finish

>>A picture is worth a thousand words



>> In spring of 2021, Nardin celebrated the graduations of our Middle and High School students and moving up ceremonies for our Kindergartners, Lower School fourth graders, Montessori Capstone and Montessori Elementary third years. Congratulations, you will continue on to do amazing things for the world!



"Nardin allows me to be the best version of myself. I am always surrounded by a warm and welcoming environment, and I have made some of the best friends that I will hopefully have forever."

— Sophia Bisson '22

Your gift to The Nardin Fund supports our students, teachers, and programs. *Make your gift at [nardin.org](https://nardin.org), on Venmo @nardinacademy, or with the enclosed envelope.*

**NARDIN**  
*academy*

THE NARDIN FUND

The Nardin Fund is an annual giving program which is critical to sustaining the curriculum and activities that directly support the Academy's unique student experience.

135 Cleveland Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222  
716-881-6262 | [www.nardin.org](https://www.nardin.org)





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