

Irish

MAGAZINE



ISSUE 32

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2022 - 2023

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

NOTRE DAME FUND

We extend our deepest gratitude to the individuals who contributed to the Notre Dame Fund between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. The Fund represents the collective goodwill and generosity of hundreds of alumni, parents and friends who support our students and teachers. To view the 2022-2023 Honor Roll, scan the QR code below with your phone or tablet.



We are delighted to recognize the members of the 2022-2023 St. Peter Chanel Society on the next page. These individuals made leadership gifts to the Notre Dame Fund during the last school year. They attended an annual dinner on Nov. 2, 2023, and receive updates from administrators, special recognition in publications and advance copies of IRISH magazine. For more information, please visit www.ndpma.org/lead.

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IRISH

MAGAZINE

Dedicated to alumni, parents and friends of Notre Dame Preparatory School and our heritage schools, including Notre Dame High School, Pontiac Catholic High School, Oakland Catholic High School, St. Michael High School and St. Frederick High School.

EDITOR AND DIRECTOR
OF MARKETING

Mike Kelly ND'73, P'00, P'03

ASSISTANT EDITOR
AND DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS

Daniel Lai P'35, P'38

WEBMASTER

Jim Sesi

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Colleen Carow

DESIGN

Nikki W.
nikkiwjourney.com

HEAD OF SCHOOL

**Andrew J. Guest ND'84, P'12,
P'16, P'19**

CORPORATE PRESIDENT

Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m. ND'65

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



2024 marks the 30th anniversary of Notre Dame Prep. We have come a long way since our humble beginnings in 1994 when we were a single campus high school of 164 students and 13 faculty and staff. Today we have 1,044 students across three divisions, on two campuses, with 90 acres of property, 225 square feet of buildings, and more than 158 full-time faculty and staff.

Notre Dame Prep is the culmination of several legacy schools, including St. Frederick, St. Michael, Pontiac Catholic, Oakland Catholic and Notre Dame High School. St. Frederick and St. Michael, fierce Pontiac city rivals in the day, came together to build the campus of which was then to become Pontiac Catholic, a new archdiocesan school that operated from 1968-1989 before changing to Oakland Catholic from 1989-1994.

Notre Dame High School, an excellent Catholic school founded by the Society of Mary, now the Marist Fathers and Brothers of the U.S. Province, operated from 1954-2005 in Harper Woods. Notre Dame High School provided the basis of our educational pedagogy and theological ideology, along with many of the original religious and teaching staff.

More than anyone, we owe our success to the Marist Fathers and Brothers, who remain active in the community as staff, faith leaders and canonical sponsors of the school.

A CLASSICAL EDUCATION

Operating a high-quality Catholic school in today's increasingly polarized world can be challenging. The chasm between the political ends of the spectrum is wide and growing, and we increasingly find ourselves caught in the crossfire of political debates.

Critics argue that some schools, including ours, have become too liberal in our approach to education. It's important to set the record straight and address the misconceptions surrounding our school's commitment to a liberal education.

When one speaks of a liberal education, we are not talking about a political philosophy. Rather, we are talking about the improvement, discipline and freedom of the human mind and spirit. We teach students how to think, then ask them to do so. Part of our Catholic and Marist mission is to create upright citizens. We want our students to be educated and intelligent thinkers, so that they can be productive members of our global community.

We are not a political institution. We are an educational institution, and our ideology is based on our Catholic and Marist values.



1389 Giddings Road
Pontiac, MI 48340

CRITICAL THINKING OPEN-MINDEDNESS, AND A WELL-ROUNDED UNDERSTANDING OF DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES

One common misconception is that a liberal education equates to ideological indoctrination. That may be the case in some schools, but at Notre Dame, nothing could be further from the truth. We abhor the idea of indoctrination as it counteracts everything we stand for as educators. At Notre Dame Prep, we promote critical thinking, open-mindedness, and a well-rounded understanding of diverse perspectives. We encourage students to explore different ideas and develop their own opinions rather than imposing a particular ideology. A teacher's political slant is irrelevant to the educational process.

Our school's commitment to a classical education means that we expose students to a wide range of perspectives and ideas. We encourage healthy debates and discussions, which empower students to form their own beliefs based on a foundation of knowledge and critical thinking. By doing so, we prepare them to engage constructively in society and make informed decisions.

TRADITIONAL VALUES

It is important that education does not undermine traditional values. Instead, schools should provide a platform for students to understand the historical context of their values, critically evaluate them, and, if they choose, strengthen their convictions.

Our school believes that fostering a diverse and inclusive learning environment is essential. This means that we respect all perspectives but encourage students to question and analyze them. This approach helps students develop a deep appreciation for the values they hold dear and strengthens their ability to defend and adapt these values in a changing world.

PRACTICAL LEARNING SKILLS

It is critical that education does not neglect practical skills that students need in the real world. A classical education complements practical skills by providing a strong foundation in critical thinking, problem-solving and adaptability—skills that are invaluable in today's rapidly evolving job market.

Our school takes pride in offering a balanced curriculum that combines the benefits of a classical education with practical learning experiences. We believe that well-rounded individuals with a broad knowledge base and the ability to think critically are better equipped to excel in any field they choose. Our graduates have gone on to successful careers in a wide range of industries, proving the value of a classical education.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it's essential to dispel the misconceptions surrounding our school's commitment to a liberal education. A liberal education is not about indoctrination, but rather it's about fostering critical thinking, respecting diverse perspectives and equipping students with the skills they need to thrive in the modern world. Our school's approach is not only beneficial but also essential for preparing students to be informed, responsible and engaged members of society.

Going into our 30th year of operation, we have a new strategic plan, a new brand strategy and logo, and renewed focus on our Catholic and Marist heritage. Notre Dame Prep will continue to provide a best-in-class educational experience based on our traditional Judeo-Christian values. We will hold true to our mission to *work with God to form Christian people, upright citizens, and academic scholars.*

Blessings and peace!



Andrew J. Guest ND'84
Head of School

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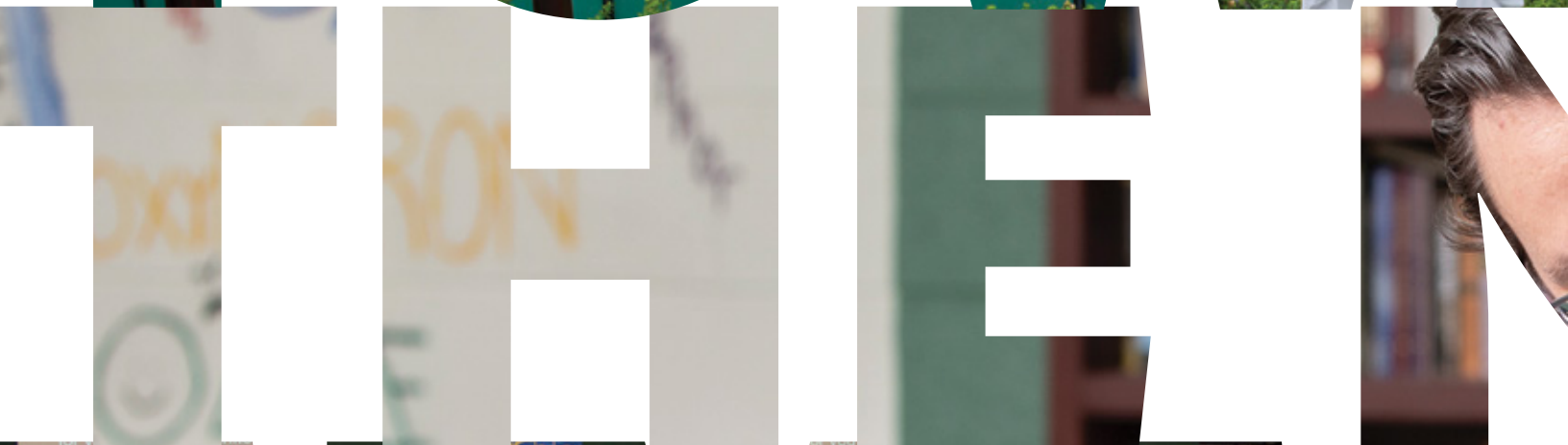
ON THE COVER

The graduating Class of 2023 celebrates the next steps of their exciting new journey.



A photograph of two young women in Notre Dame Prep uniforms working in a greenhouse. They are surrounded by trays of tomato seedlings. One student is wearing a green polo shirt and the other a dark blue one. They are both wearing gloves and handling small pots. The greenhouse has a complex metal structure with pipes and lights. A text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

The greenhouse is just one place you will find Notre Dame Prep students focused on hands-on learning. Through labs, simulations and project-based experiences, our students put ideas into action every day. It's a more interesting way to learn—and more effective in building real understanding.





How Notre Dame Prep's
strategic plan will
chart a bold path for
the future

Contributing Writer: Colleen Carow



When we have faith in what not yet is, we commit ourselves to believe in what can be. Notre Dame Prep is what it is today because of that faith—because of visionary thinking and commitment. For the past 30 years, school administrators as well as dedicated faculty and staff engaged students and parents, and supportive alumni have abided by not just the school’s mission and vision, but also simple, everyday acts that bring the school to life.

Now, a new five-year strategic plan is guiding the community to extend that vision further.

Launched this spring, the plan sets four overarching priorities, each with specific initiatives. The priorities represent Notre Dame’s core educational philosophies and outline specific tactics to help the school achieve its vision through 2028 and beyond.

The planning process began almost two years ago, and since then, has engaged hundreds of stakeholders and included an assessment of best practices at other educational institutions.

First, in January 2022, Notre Dame Prep’s Board of Trustees reviewed the previous plan and recommended initial improvements. Then, last fall, school leaders and Independent School Management (ISM) surveyed and held focus group sessions with hundreds of students in grades 5-12, parents, as well as alumni, and faculty and staff who shared thoughtful feedback and ideas. The plan’s development culminated in a two-day session with board members, administrators, volunteer leaders and staff from the lower, middle and upper schools, after which the plan was formally adopted.

The plan launched on April 28, which was a special date for the Marist Fathers and Brothers around the world: the feast day of St. Peter Chanel.

“The strategic plan is about having a roadmap for the future—but it’s really about maintaining our Marist identity, strengthening our roots in our Catholic tradition and Catholic morality,” said Andy Guest, Head of School. It brings us back to the roots of the institution, to the mid-1800s and Fr. Colin, our founder.”

Focus areas for the first year of the plan center on the school’s reputation for academic success, by investing in technology and facilities; supporting students’ social, emotional and academic wellbeing; and providing professional development opportunities for faculty as part of the four overarching priorities: Embracing Mary’s Way, Developing Curious and Confident Thinkers, Deepening Our Culture, and Standing “Strong and True.”

STANDING "STRONG AND TRUE"

Live Like Mary

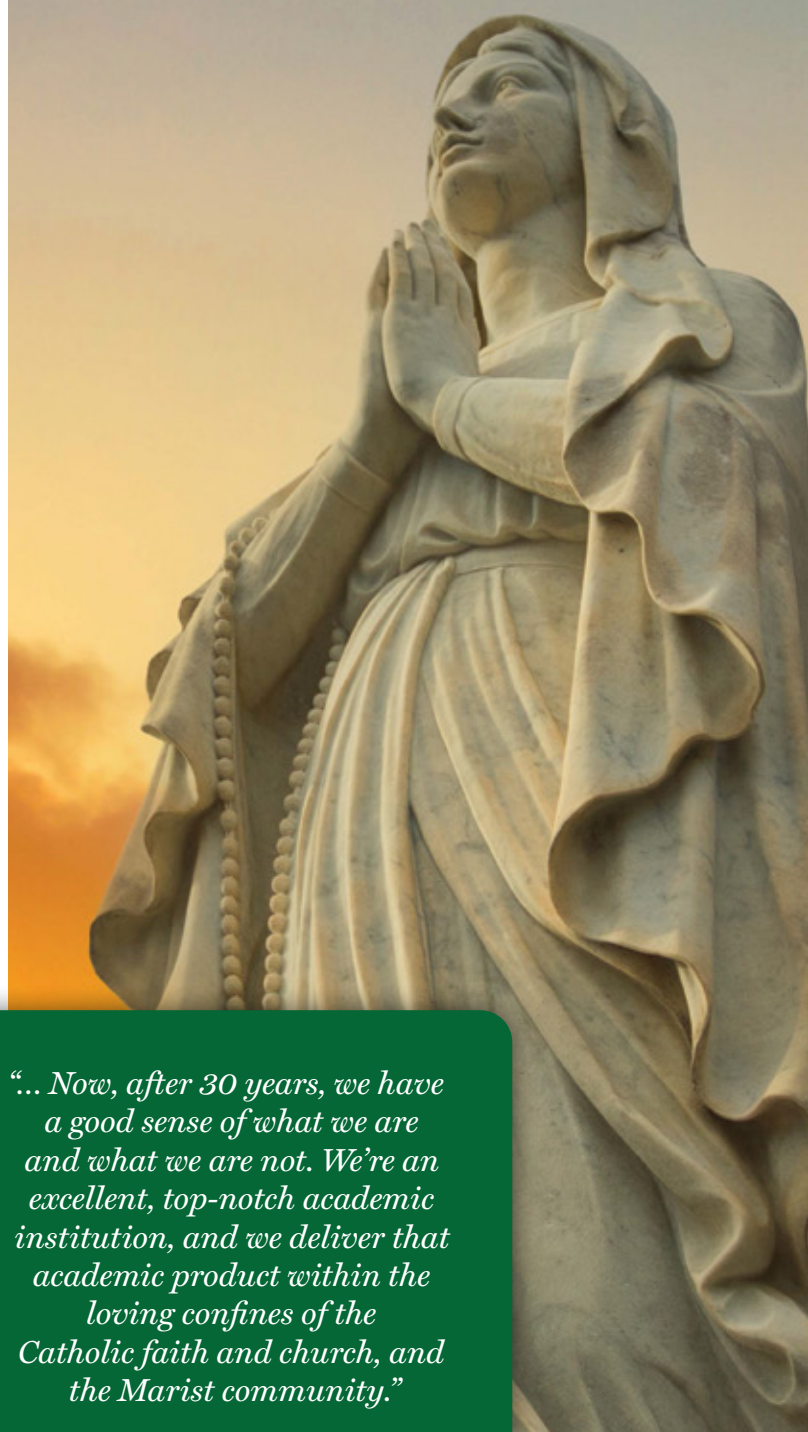
The tactics in the plan's first priority, Embracing Mary's Way, aim to reaffirm the school's sponsorship agreement with the Marist Fathers and Brothers of the U.S. Province; partner with the province to develop a common understanding and actions that demonstrate what it means to be a Marist school, and evaluate the school's performance through the eyes of constituents as a PreK-12 Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Grow New Leaders

The second priority, Developing Curious and Confident Thinkers, reiterates the academic mission of Notre Dame Prep: working with God to form Christian people, upright citizens, and academic scholars. The plan therefore aims to attract, retain and reward the faculty and staff who are developing inquisitive critical thinkers capable of reaching their full potential—because student potential begins with outstanding teachers. Also key to creating those thinkers is continuing to offer the International Baccalaureate program for students in PreK to 12th grade. And, investing in college-preparatory counseling and campus ministry activities to support students' wellbeing, as well as strengthening Notre Dame's standing as a Microsoft Showcase School (6-12) and Apple Distinguished School (PreK-5). Meanwhile, faculty and staff salaries and benefits will be benchmarked to guide compensation. Personal and professional development programs will engage faculty and help them grow, and in turn, they must be acknowledged and celebrated for their contributions.

Be Undeniably NDP

Perhaps what most makes Notre Dame the school, community, and place that it is—is its culture. It's the key expression of who



"... Now, after 30 years, we have a good sense of what we are and what we are not. We're an excellent, top-notch academic institution, and we deliver that academic product within the loving confines of the Catholic faith and church, and the Marist community."

*Andrew Guest
Head of School*

the school is and who it envisions it will be this year, in five years, and into the future. This is the third priority: Deepening Our Culture.

“We teach kids to think, and we turn out citizens with good values. They’ll become advocates for sound, moral, traditional values as productive members of society,” Guest said.

The school aims to accomplish this by continuously considering faculty and student mental, spiritual, and physical health and wellbeing; renewing policies and practices on diversity, equity and inclusion; investing in safety; extending the retreat program to parents, grandparents, alumni and friends; and articulating a “Portrait of a Graduate” and “Characteristics of Professional Excellence” to communicate the behaviors, values and attitudes that reflect the community.

Be Unshakable

To achieve the plan’s goals, Notre Dame intends to remain committed. So, what matters most in the next five years? Standing “Strong and True.”

Steve Pangori, chair of the Board of Trustees, believes that every community member is crucial.

“We know it’s going to take a collective effort among our students, teachers, parents, administrators, alumni, grandparents, alumni parents—everyone this institution has touched—to ensure this institution remains viable,” Pangori said.

Notre Dame plans to update its master plan to ensure alignment with the school’s mission, develop a facilities plan with a funding component, and importantly, ensure that tuition revenue and endowment income cover all





operating expenses. Additional fundraising goals start with building deeper relationships with community members who volunteer their time and gifts to strengthen the school, and renewing parent and volunteer Booster Club experiences to engage more people in the strategic priorities.

Perhaps most important, however, is launching a multi-year fundraising campaign and investing in the Notre Dame Alumni Association to strengthen lifelong relationships among alumni of NDP as well as heritage schools.

The First Next Steps


Pangori added that the community can expect to hear more detailed priorities from the Board of Trustees and Guest each year.

“We’ll develop a list of annual tactics based on the strategic plan, based on data to determine agendas, goals and outcomes that will drive institutional excellence—and we’ll share those for feedback then report on our progress,” he said.

Tactics will include exploring academic and extracurricular offerings as they relate to the school’s operating budget; continuing to evolve the new brand as needed to express the school’s values and connect with prospective students, families and employees; and growing the endowment to ensure the school’s future in perpetuity.

“When we were 15 or 20 years old, we were bright eyed and bushy tailed, but we weren’t sure what we were going to be when we grew up,” Guest said. “Now, after 30 years, we have a good sense of what we are and what we are not. We’re an excellent, top-notch academic institution, and we deliver that academic product within the loving confines of the Catholic faith and church, and the Marist community.”+

DEEPENING OUR CULTURE



*“Kristy was our light.
She had an intense
passion for helping
people. Everyone who
knew her, loved her.”*

Tim Malter

A L E G A C Y



O

F

Love



When Dr. Tim and Donna Malter speak of their daughter, an unmistakable warmth fills their voices. Kristy Malter, a graduate of Notre Dame Prep in 2013, possessed a unique charm that touched the lives of her parents, friends, teammates, and anyone fortunate enough to cross her path. Her infectious smile, friendly disposition and outgoing personality were her trademarks.

Tragically, Kristy passed away in 2016 when she contracted bacterial meningitis at the age of 21. Her memory lives on in the hearts of those who knew her.

“She was an exceptionally good person, kind-hearted and loving, especially toward little children, for whom she cared deeply,” reminisces her father, Tim.

During her time at NDP, Malter stood out as a member of both the competitive cheer and girls soccer teams. High school became the canvas on which Kristy painted her life’s calling. When she wasn’t hitting the books or practicing with her teams, she dedicated herself to babysitting and volunteering in programs for young children.


“I always say cheer was her life, but children were her passion,” Donna Malter shares.

At the time of her passing, Kristy had grand plans. She was studying at Central Michigan University with aspirations of becoming a school counselor while concurrently working as a camp counselor for children aged 5-12 at Lifetime Fitness in Rochester Hills.

“Kristy was our light. She had an intense passion for helping people,” Tim says. “Everyone who knew her, loved her. All of her friends at Notre Dame Prep affectionately called her ‘mom’ because they knew Kristy took care of them. She was the type of person who would go out of her way to make you feel special. She had that larger-than-life personality and was simply fun to be around.”

When their daughter fell ill, Tim and Donna found solace in the support of Kristy’s cheer family and friends.

“It all happened so suddenly. One moment, she was the Kristy we all knew and loved, and the next, she was fighting for her life,”



*“As the years go by,
people may not know
who she was,
but as long as we
keep talking about her,
our memories and
her dreams will live on.”*

Tim recalls. “The outpouring of support we received from the Notre Dame community was beyond anything we could’ve imagined. When she passed, hundreds of people attended her funeral.”

Now, the Malters are determined to pay forward the goodwill they received. They’ve laid the groundwork for an endowed scholarship in Kristy’s memory. Tim credits his friend and Notre Dame High School alumnus Ed Belcrest ND’81 for inspiring the idea.

After discussions with the school administration, the scholarship was established last year. A family friend—Delores Charles—remembered Kristy in her will and leaving the school a \$10,000 bequest. The goal is to raise \$25,000 to permanently endow the scholarship fund.

The scholarship is available to rising seniors who exhibit a passion for and dedication to children or are considering a career in primary or secondary education in college.

“We don’t want her memory to fade away,” Tim asserts. “This is about providing others who exemplify Kristy’s qualities and Christian attitude with the same opportunities.”

ONE BIG FAMILY

Seven years have passed since Kristy’s death, yet the Malters remain deeply connected to Notre Dame Prep. All three of their children—Erin NDP’07, Tim NDP’10, and Kristy—attended the school.

“We cherished our involvement with the band, cheer and athletic program. We are one big family,” Donna says, adding that she and Tim have taken trips with NDP families abroad, spent time with Kristy’s friends and extended family, and try to remain as active as possible with the school.

“To this day, we receive wedding invitations from the girls Kristy hung out with. It’s both beautiful and painful at the same time,” Tim added.

One of the most meaningful ways Notre Dame Prep has kept their daughter’s memory alive is through the competitive cheer program.

“Years ago, the cheerleaders were vying for their fourth state championship, and they introduced the #4K cheer in Kristy’s memory to inspire the girls. It’s still a part of their program. When we watch the team perform, we see the daughters of Kristy’s friends. Witnessing #4K continue to motivate the girls is simply amazing.”

Tim said in a small way, seeing other people talk about Kristy helps his family heal.

“As the years go by, people may not know who she was, but as long as we keep talking about her, our memories and her dreams will live on,” he said.

To support the Kristy Malter Memorial Scholarship fund, visit www.ndpma.org/support. +

Parents Pitching In

“Through the way that they conduct themselves as Christian people, upright citizens, and academic scholars in these positions, our volunteers show that our mission statement extends not just to our athletes and coaches but to the parental level as well.”

Aaron Crouse
Assistant Athletic Director



When you step inside the halls of Notre Dame Prep, every so often you discover a different kind of groove. It's not the typical school shuffle of textbooks and bustling hallways; it's a rhythm all its own. It's the steady beat of adult volunteers—family, retired teachers and friends of the school. They bring their A-game, sharing their time, talents and treasures to keep the Notre Dame spirit alive.

In the world of Catholic education, volunteers are the unsung heroes who breathe life into the school's mission and values.

'BOOSTING' ATHLETICS

At the heart of NDP lies its mission – to work with God to form young men and women into good Christian people, upright citizens, and academic scholars. Volunteers are not mere supporters; they are living embodiments of these principles. Through their selfless dedication, they demonstrate the essence of Notre Dame's mission, contributing to the growth of young minds spiritually, academically and morally.

John and Kim Blakeslee, devoted parent volunteers with the Booster Club for almost two decades, encapsulate this sentiment: "Our involvement as volunteers is an extension of the values we hold dear as a Notre Dame community. It's about living our faith and nurturing these young minds into compassionate, well-rounded individuals," John said.

The Blakeslees said volunteering is also a good way to set an example for

Amy and David Herringa help out at the lower school's Fall Family Festival.



(From left) NDP lower school parents Beatrice Janka and Merideth Hamo serve up pancakes at the annual "Pancakes and Pajamas" event.



their children: Brian NDP'18, Brad NDP'19, and Bree NDP'24, as well as to meet other families.

"I first got involved helping coach my kids' co-ed basketball team that Mr. (Mark) McGreevy started back at the lower school some 18 years ago. From there I helped coach the baseball team with Mr. (Robert) Patterson when my boys were in fourth and fifth grade," John said.

Each season, parents of student-athletes are required to volunteer for three shifts per student-athlete. These can include working in the concession stand, security for games, ticket gate or 50/50 raffles. Parents also have the option to sign up for season-long positions such as scorekeeping, announcers, line judges, clock management and more.

John said the volunteer hours never felt like a "requirement."

"We always go to all their games so why not help out and get the best seat in the house as a clock operator or sideline seat for soccer games?" he said.

Aaron Crouse, assistant athletic director, said dedicated parent volunteers are essential to pull off all the games, tournaments and practices for NDP's 30 athletic programs.

"Volunteers are essential to running our over 500 athletic home events each school year. Not only do our volunteers help in filling positions that are necessary to run an athletic event, but they are often one of the first points of contact that visiting spectators, teams and officials have

with Notre Dame Prep. Through the way that they conduct themselves as Christian people, upright citizens, and academic scholars in these positions, our volunteers show that our mission statement extends not just to our athletes and coaches but to the parental level as well."

Parents Brent and Melissa Tompkins began volunteering in 2018, when their oldest child, Meghan NDP'22, was a sophomore.

"Melissa and I had both coached our children in various sports prior to starting at NDP. Being involved in sports was a great way to spend time with our children, and volunteering at NDP seemed to be a natural extension of our coaching experience," Brent said.

He further explained that volunteers play a crucial role in easing the day-to-day burdens that would otherwise be shouldered by coaches and athletic staff. With volunteers handling administrative and logistical tasks, coaches can direct their attention toward developing strategies, providing training and offering guidance to athletes. Coaches also have more time to nurture player development.

"The benefits of volunteering and helping out really start and end with knowing we've helped our children and their team/classmates have the best experience. It's important that we do all we can to make it as rewarding as possible for our children," Brent said. "If parents didn't volunteer, our teams would be less prepared—no pre-game meals, no post-game snacks/drinks—and

the additional burden to the coaches and staff would impact the quality time they get with their teams when their role goes beyond the Xs and O's and into developing future leaders."

Kim Blakeslee agreed, stating: "Volunteering is the best way to learn more about the school as a parent. It offers assistance to coaches, teachers and teams as a whole. Being a part of a Catholic school, volunteering opens a great opportunity to be resourceful and assist the school with our own expertise of careers as well as those of other parents. Therefore, volunteering is the best way to support the school, meet many families and staff and network with the multiple families at the school."

Notre Dame parent James Ricci processes Super Raffle tickets at the Fr. Colin House.



'KEEPING THE TRAIN ON THE TRACKS'

The Parents Club is another key support arm for the school. Made up of parents from all three divisions, volunteers play a vital role in everything from sponsoring student social events, supporting the band and theatre programs, staffing events like the lower school's Boo Bash and Field Day, as well as fundraising through events like the Senior Fashion Show and Oktoberfest. Many behind-the-scenes tasks are also handled by parent volunteers, such as hospitality lunches for teachers and staff, and sponsors for student clubs like ski, robotics and forensics.

"The Parents Club plays a pivotal role in organizing, fun and educational activities that all students will treasure. I also feel that these activities play a crucial role in making school a place where students eagerly look forward to each day," said Kim Wisniewski, who serves as volunteer coordinator.

"The sense of community in collaboration within the Parents Club is truly rewarding, knowing that we're all working together to provide our children with a positive and memorable school journey. It's heartwarming to witness joy in my kids eyes when they talk about some of these activities, and that's why I find immense satisfaction at being part of this wonderful group," Wisniewski added.

Volunteers build a strong sense of community, connecting parents, teachers and students for a supportive, collaborative educational atmosphere, Wisniewski said.

And while some parents balk at the idea of "required" hours (every parent is required to complete 10 volunteer hours per year), she said it is all about fostering a sense of community.

"The Parents Club could not do what we do without the help of our families. I believe when parents are required to volunteer, it establishes a strong partnership between the home and school environments. It allows parents to gain deeper insights into their child's academic and social development, fostering better communication and understanding between parents and teachers," Wisniewski said.

Parent involvement in school activities enhances the overall school community, creating a sense of unity and shared responsibility for the educational well-being of all students.

"Ultimately, requiring parent volunteers at school reinforces the notion of education is a joint effort, with parents playing a vital role in their child's educational journey, which can have lasting benefits for both students and the school community," she said.

Laurie Keoleian has volunteered for the past nine years, most recently as chair of Oktoberfest. She also helped out at college fairs, lunch duty at the lower school, and International Day.

“I enjoy volunteering for a couple of reasons. I really love being in the school and seeing my kids and their friends.

“The school is an incredible place and I like spending

enhancing the school experience for everyone,” she added.

“The school needs us just like we need it. The teachers and staff can’t do it alone. In most cases, you are at the school

“Being a part of a Catholic school, volunteering opens a great opportunity to be resourceful and assist the school with our own expertise of careers, as well as those of other parents.”

*Kim Blakeslee
NDP parent volunteer*

She said her children—Michael NDP’21, Sophia NDP’23, and Gabriella NDP’26—have wonderful memories of their parents volunteering at the school.

time there. It’s a wonderful community and to see it during working hours is special.”

Parent volunteers are crucial for the school, fostering a mutual partnership. Their involvement builds a close-knit community,

for a minimum of four years, you might as well dive in and get to know as many families, teachers, staff and students as possible. It makes the journey so much more fulfilling for everybody.”+

Dr. and Mrs. Keoleian pose for a photo at Notre Dame Prep with their children: Sophia, Gabriella, and Michael.



Alumni Come 'Home'

Generations of former students from Notre Dame Prep and its heritage schools returned to campus on the evening of Sept. 22 to watch the Fighting Irish take on Powers Catholic for homecoming. The annual pregame gathering, sponsored by the Notre Dame Alumni Association, was held on Kozyra Field and welcomed 250 alumni and their guests.

Graduates from NDP, Notre Dame High School, Pontiac and Oakland Catholic, along with those from St. Frederick and St. Michael high schools, attended the event, symbolizing the enduring connection that these alumni maintain with their alma maters, now united under the banner of Notre Dame Prep.





This year's Alumni Tent bore a special theme, a loving tribute to a legendary figure in Notre Dame High School's history: Father John Bryson, affectionately known as "Father Hollywood" by those who knew him. Fr. Bryson was renowned for his record hops of the 1960s, '70s, and '80s, which attracted musicians like Bobby Rydell, Fabian, Stevie Wonder, and The Marvelettes.

John Trinkwalder ND'62 summed up the evening with, "Everything was outstanding! The buffet, the record hop, the game! My wife and I had a great time!" The highlight of the evening was a final score of 56-7 for the Fighting Irish. This triumphant performance on the field was the perfect exclamation mark to a night filled with nostalgia and rekindled friendships.







1

Tony and Mary Abbruzzese ND'79.

2

Greg Simon ND'89 and Lisa Healy NDP'98.

3

Doug Shahady ND'66.

4

The Alumni Tent featured a display of memorabilia, including yearbooks, class photos and trophies from Notre Dame Prep and its heritage schools.

5

Angela and Anthony Butorac.

6

Kris Powell ND75 and Mike Reilly ND'63.

7

Jeff Pierce ND'93 and Joe Vitale ND'83 pose for a photo with Ken Parent.

8

Head of School Andrew Guest ND'84 and Board President Chair Stephen Pangori.

9

William Mott IV and Quinnton Mott enjoy the candy table.

10

Ed and Donna Chenhalls PC'79.

11

Father and son Don Polsinelli ND'65 and Chris Polsinelli.

12

Notre Dame Prep students Sophia Bankstahl, Zoey Hoke and Olivia Bender.

13

Mike Petrucci ND'62 and John Trinkwalder ND'62 in the Fr. Bryson Record Hop tent at homecoming.

14

Alumni children enjoyed face painting and ice cream during the night's festivities.

15

Laura Elwood NDP'10 and Sergio Gasperoni NDP'23.

16

John Trinkwalder ND'62 and Noel Karrer dance to a song in the Fr. Bryson Record Hop tent.

17

NDP student Sophia Bankstahl paints a child's face in the Alumni Tent. +



REUNIONS & EVENTS

PONTIAC CATHOLIC **Class of 1971**

The Pontiac Catholic High School Class of 1971 celebrated its 50-year reunion in grand style on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, at Notre Dame Prep. Nearly 50 alumni and their spouses attended the event, which included a short program in the cafeteria, tours of the school and plenty of time to reminisce with classmates. The celebration continued on Sunday with an informal gathering at Kennedy's Pub. The events were organized by alumna Mary Ann Moreno.

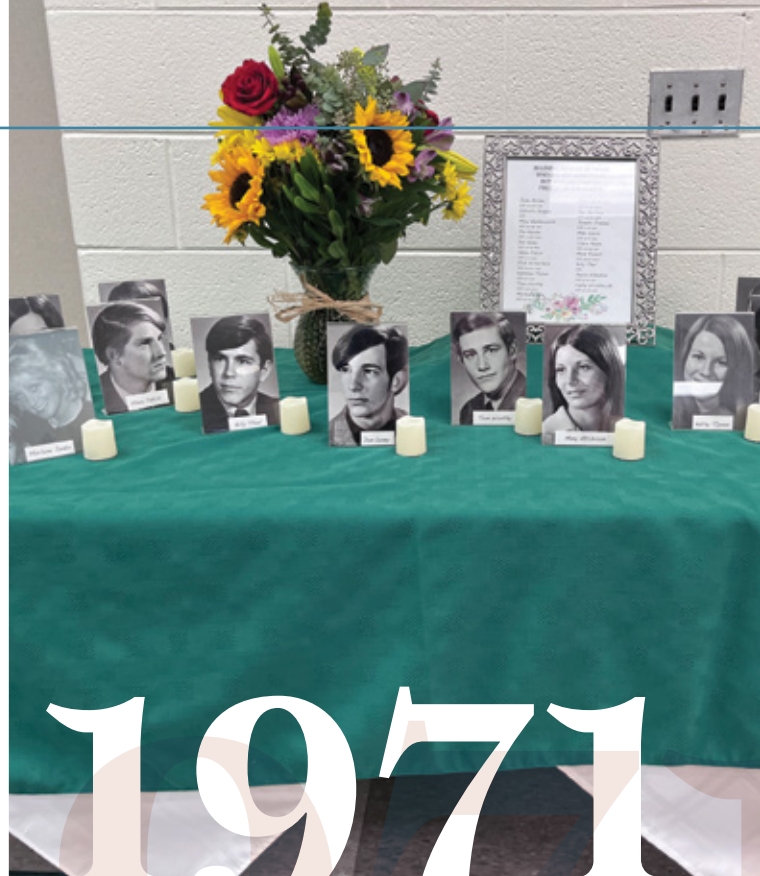
NOTRE DAME **HIGH SCHOOL** **Class of 1963**

The Notre Dame High School Class of 1963 celebrated its 60th reunion on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023, at the Cambria Hotel in Shelby Township. Nearly 40 alumni and their spouses attended the event, which included dinner and music from the 1960s. Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., corporate president for Notre Dame Prep, welcomed alumni and thanked them for their support of the school. The event was organized by alumnus Don Herman ND'63.

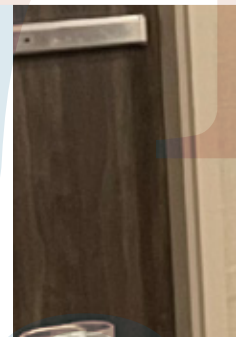
Class of 1983

The Notre Dame High School Class of 1983 celebrated its 40th reunion on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023, at Hamlin Pub in Shelby Township. More than 40 alumni were in attendance. Among the festivities included golf, pizza and plenty of reminiscing. The event was organized by alumnus Tom Salerno ND'83. +

Class of



1971



Class of

1983





Class of 1963



1973

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 1973

Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., NDP Corporate President, joined the Class of 1973 to celebrate their 50th reunion from Notre Dame High School at the Club Venetian in Madison Heights on Saturday, Oct. 28.

C L A S S O F

1973

NOTRE DAME PREP DEBATE REACHES 200 CLUB MEMBERSHIP



The National Speech & Debate Association announced in September that Notre Dame Prep's upper school has been awarded "200 Club" status for 2023 after meeting its threshold of strength points (200).

"Our Club Award winners show an incredible commitment to this activity, their students and their success," said J. Scott Wunn, executive director of the National Speech & Debate Association. "These programs demonstrate outstanding commitment to teaching students essential life skills—including communication, research, listening, writing, and organization."

Strength points are calculated based on student and coach achievements in competition and service. For each degree a student receives, they also earn one strength point. A school's strength is the sum of each student's strength plus the strength of up to three coaches.

The National Speech & Debate Association is the authority on public speaking and debate in the United States. Its mission is to connect, support and inspire a diverse community committed to empowering students through speech and debate.

IB PROGRAM LEADS TO SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR NDP

The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program "Exhibition" is the culminating, collaborative experience in the final year of the IB-PYP. Students explore, document and share their understanding of an issue or opportunity of personal significance.

When then-Notre Dame Prep fifth graders Olivia Kobylecki, Lucas Patel, Jackson Thom and Annalise Urek were exploring their topic for their Exhibition, they quickly arrived at "Safety in Sports," and decided their action plan would revolve around accessing more AEDs (automated external defibrillators) for their school, which already had 11, but needed at least one more to ensure broader coverage.

"Our goal of being able to get an AED to any emergency on our campus within 90 seconds is now pretty close to a reality thanks to these students," said NDP Athletic Director Betty Wroubel after the school took possession this fall of not one but two new AED units. "It is amazing that our lower school students made this important project a priority and fundraised for it."

From left, NDP sixth graders Annalise Urek, Jackson Thom and Lucas Patel teamed up with Olivia Kobylecki (not pictured) last school year in fifth grade to fundraise for the purchase of two new AEDs as part of their IB-PYP Exhibition.





Clockwise from top left, Joseph Joulakh, Benjamin Keenan, Beck Silver and Bradon Prater earned Commended Student status from the National Merit Scholarship Program.

FOUR FROM NOTRE DAME PREP EARN HONORS FROM NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Kimberly Anderson, the principal of Notre Dame Prep's upper school, announced in September that four seniors have been named Commended Students in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, was presented to these academically talented seniors.

Seniors Joseph Joulakh, Benjamin Keenan, Bradon Prater and Beck Silver placed among the top 50,000 students out of more than 1.5 million who entered the 2024 competition by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). The NMSC identifies the 50,000 highest scorers and about 34,000 students are named Commended Students for their high scores.

"The young men and women being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," said a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

ALUMNA JOINS ADVANCEMENT STAFF TO PROMOTE PHILANTHROPY



Holly Weckler NDP'03

Notre Dame Preparatory School announced last month that Holly Weckler has joined its staff as an advancement officer. A 2003 alumna, she will focus on promoting the Notre Dame Fund and other priorities in the school's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.

Weckler brings a wealth of experience from her background in the financial services and technology industry in Chicago and Silicon Valley, following her cum laude graduation in marketing and advertising from Northwood University in 2008. She has honed her skills in developing marketing strategies, fostering industry partnerships, delivering digital and print resources, and hosting in-person events in major U.S. cities.

"Holly has all the skills and enthusiasm we were looking for to help us continue building a culture of philanthropy," said Mark Roberts, vice president for advancement. "She speaks candidly about the doors that Notre Dame Prep opened for her in college and during her career so far. We're delighted to welcome her 'home.'"

"As I approach my 20th reunion at NDP, I am thrilled for the opportunity to 'come home' to my alma mater and grow the school's annual fund through raising awareness about all the ways Notre Dame provides a great educational and faith-filled experience in and outside the classroom," Weckler said.

The Notre Dame Fund is the school's most important fundraising priority. Alumni, parents, parents of alumni, grandparents and friends of the school make annual gifts from \$25 to \$25,000 each year to support students and teachers. For more information, visit giving.ndpma.org.

MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL COLLABORATION

The first VEX Robotics Competition event of the new season was held in August during the annual Monroe County Fair at the county fairgrounds. Twenty-four teams from around Michigan participated, including seven from Notre Dame Prep who were heading to the 7th through 12th grades when school opened.

"Our teams have been working throughout the summer getting ready for this event and the rest of the season, and they all did fantastic," said Jerry Palardy, who mentors NDP's VRC participation. "Most were ranked in the top 10 throughout the day and while others were ranked lower early on, they finished strong."

Notre Dame Prep's Team 3333X was the big winner as they won the VRC Over Under MI Kickoff after being picked as the No.-1 alliance. Team members Patrick Riney, Caden Staniszewski, William Platt, Krrish Patel and Christopher Artinian also won the event's Design Award, which qualifies them for the state championship later in the season. NDP's Team 3333W also won the Judges Award on the strength of their design notebook, a unique robot and their team interview.



Winning team 3333X: Patrick Riney, from left, Caden Staniszewski, and William Platt. Not pictured: Krrish Patel, Christopher Artinian.

WINNER OF SECOND ANNUAL WRITING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD ANNOUNCED

Quinn Thomas



Quinn Thomas, a sophomore at Notre Dame Prep, has earned the 2023 Michael J. Kotzan Creative Writing Scholarship Award, based on a creative writing piece she submitted last spring. Titled "Books, Brothers and Other Important Things," Thomas's one-act play about living in a science fiction world

of her own creation was judged as the top entry out of those submitted by then-ninth graders at NDP.

The selection committee was comprised of Notre Dame Prep faculty and members of the Kotzan family. Last year, the writing scholarship went to Amelia Kayi NDP'25 for her paper titled "M.A.R.S.," a fictional piece about living in a dystopian world circa 2132.

Donna Kotzan, Michael's mother and now-retired Notre Dame Prep teacher and administrator, and her family worked with school administrators last year to initiate the writing award in an effort to "help awaken the creative talents of NDP's youngest students."

Michael Kotzan was a Notre Dame Prep graduate who touched many lives during his time at the school, including those of classmates and teachers. To all who knew him, he epitomized the ideal Marist-educated young man.

Michael, who tragically died suddenly in June of 2021, was working as a creative writer—a true passion for him—after a few years as a practicing attorney.

For her part, Thomas, who will be applying the \$5,000 scholarship during her sophomore year, said she was elated to find out she had won the scholarship for something she too is passionate about.

"I was just really excited," said Thomas after learning she had won the scholarship. "I'm friends with other students who also sent in a submission and I was nervous I wouldn't get it. So it just made me real happy."

NDP RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

National Wildlife Federation (NWF), America's largest wildlife conservation and education organization, has recognized Notre Dame Preparatory School for successfully creating a Certified Schoolyard Habitat® through its garden for wildlife program.

Notre Dame Prep has joined with over 5,000 schools nationwide that have transformed their schoolyards into thriving wildlife habitats that provides essential elements needed by all wildlife – natural food sources, clean water, cover and places to raise young. The habitat also serves as an outdoor education site where students can engage in cross-curricular learning in a hands-on way.

Certification also automatically qualifies the school's Certified Wildlife Habitat® for the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge, a national effort to restore critical habitat for pollinators.

"We are excited to have NDP join our growing list of more than 5,000 certified Schoolyard Habitats," said Liz Soper, director of K-12 programs for the National Wildlife Federation. "Students of all ages can now personally experience nature through hands-on learning in an outdoor environment."

According to Sue McGinnis, who teaches science in the upper school and manages the Melissa Kozyra Greenhouse and Botany Learning Lab on the school campus, the NDP habitat includes native and pollinator plants that support an elaborate and diverse ecosystem.

"The habitat supports several species of insects, birds and amphibians, providing our students with the ability to understand the interconnection of species in ecosystems," McGinnis said. "Additionally, the gardens include vegetables, such as tomatoes, peppers, squash and root vegetables, which are donated to various organizations in our community for those in need."

In addition, the Kozyra Greenhouse provides vegetables year-round from a sophisticated hydroponic system. All of the NDP gardens, inside and out, are all organic and utilize integrated pest-management practices, including the use of biological controls and beneficial insects. NDP also manages an apiary that produces honey, which students sell throughout the year to support the beekeeping operation.



The Notre Dame Prep sustainability initiative, called "The Sustainability Project," teaches students through its greenhouse, apiary and gardens how the school mission ties into environmental stewardship as it also increases student involvement in developing biodiversity on the campus.

NOTRE DAME PREP VOLLEYBALL GETS NATIONAL HONORS FOR ACADEMICS

The Notre Dame Prep volleyball team was honored in July for its academic prowess by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) and sponsor United States Marine Corps. It's the 16th year in a row for the Irish, who ended last season in the MHSAA regional final versus North Branch.

According to the AVCA, college and high school teams that receive its Team Academic Award must display excellence in the classroom during the school year by maintaining at least a 3.30 cumulative team grade-point average on a 4.0 scale. Notre Dame Prep's team scored a cumulative 3.729 GPA during the school year.

In November in Imlay City, NDP, which finished the season with a 49-10-2 record, fell to North Branch in the MHSAA Regional final 12-25, 25-21, 22-25, 16-25.

Betty Wroubel, longtime coach of Irish volleyball and school athletic director is proud of her team's accomplishments in and out of the gym. She said the state-leading 16th straight AVCA academic award is testament to a program and a school that continues to place a priority on fielding complete student-athletes.

"Our student-athletes demonstrated an impressive combination of volleyball skills on the court and academic excellence in the classroom," Wroubel said. "What a great group of kids!"

More than 1,300 collegiate and high school volleyball teams have earned the USMC/AVCA Team Academic Award last season, which marks an all-time record number of programs honored for their academic achievements.

NOTRE DAME PREP NAMES HEAD COMPETITIVE CHEER COACH



Jocelyn Welsh

The athletic department of Notre Dame Preparatory School announced last spring that Jocelyn Welsh had been named head competitive cheer coach, effective immediately.

"We're very happy to welcome Jocelyn to our staff," said Betty Wroubel, athletic director and assistant principal at NDP. "She has great credentials as a coach at both the high school and private organization levels and we look forward to her taking over our program and serving as a good role model for the team. We feel that we have put together a mission-centric staff who will continue to build upon the excellent program that cheer has become at Notre Dame for over a decade."

Welsh will oversee a Fighting Irish cheer program that includes three new middle school coaches: Anita Honingford, Kellie Sutherland and Lori Walker, who come from the Holy Family Regional School competitive cheerleading program. Welsh's varsity assistant will be Ally Bagozzi, who comes to NDP from Allen Park High School.

Welsh comes to Notre Dame Prep from Rochester Adams High School, where she had been the assistant coach for a team that won three state championships before finishing as runner up in last year's MHSAA Division 1 final. In addition, her Adams teams have earned three league championships, five district championships and four regional titles.

Welsh also served in roles of increasing responsibility at Adams in competition management, safety protocols, practice management, vendor and fundraising coordination, and parent communication.

Prior to her tenure at Adams, Welsh was the varsity coach at Fitzgerald High School in Warren, Mich.

A member of Michigan Spirit, a Bruce Township, Mich.-based private cheerleading association, Welsh has coached and mentored individuals and school teams, teaching the proper techniques for motions, jumps, stunting and tumbling. †

Prayers

Notre Dame Prep mourns the loss of our dear brothers and sisters and invites our community to join with us in prayer.

J. Davis Clark PC'75
March 22, 2023

1940-1949

Thomas M. Bolz ND'59
Oct. 26, 2023

James Homer Carnegie NDS'67
July 9, 2023

Patricia Lamphier (Carnevele) SM'64
Aug. 6, 2023

Gerald Schmidt ND'62
May 8, 2023

1950-1959

Robert A. Mollicone ND'73
May 4, 2023

Phillip M. Pierron ND'76
Sept. 22, 2023

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

If you would like our community to remember a loved one in prayer, please email prayers@ndpma.org.

Class Notes

Notre Dame Prep: (NDP); Notre Dame High School: (ND); Pontiac Catholic: (PC); Oakland Catholic: (OC); St. Frederick: (SF); St. Michael: (SM)

NOTRE DAME PREP

Katherine Carlson NDP'19

recently started a new job working as the pastoral associate of discipleship at St. John the Evangelist (Shrine of Christ's Passion) in St. John, in Northwest Indiana.



Hailey Grady (Atkins) NDP'15 was married in May and moved back to Indiana. She recently started a new job at Congo Brands, which owns popular brands like Alani Nu and PRIME, in sales and enjoys it. She is a freshman girls basketball coach at a Catholic school in Indiana and is eager to be closer to the game again.

Alex Lindemann NDP'04

is celebrating 13 years of marriage to his wife Amanda. The couple welcomed their third child last July. He is currently a pilot for United Airlines on a 767 based in Washington, D.C. He currently resides in Woodstock, Ga., a suburb outside of Atlanta.



Class Notes

Ashley (Ouellette) McMahon NDP'05 welcomed her first baby, a girl, Avery Ann, on Sept. 14, 2022, with her husband Brett McMahon, Lutheran High School Northwest Class of 2006.

Rachel Jankowski NDP'09 was married to Santiago Martinez-Caro on June 24, 2023, at Old St. Mary's in downtown Detroit. She started working as assistant general counsel for the Office of General Counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives in May 2023.

Mary Margaret (Molly) Hall NDP '09 graduated in July from the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt in Germany with her master's in public policy. Upon completion of her graduate studies, she moved to Berlin and has started working as a digital policy program officer at the Aspen Institute Germany.



Kennedy Paron NDP'15 married the love of her life, gave birth to a beautiful daughter in March, and authored a children's book, "Kindly the Kangaroo Goes to School." She earned a doctorate in behavioral health.

Sarah Schlunegger (Yahrmatter) NDP'09 and her husband, Neil, welcomed a baby boy, Eugene Samuel Schlunegger, in April 2022.

Claire (Seitzinger) Tatum NDP'18 married Domenic Tatum NDP'15 over Labor Day weekend 2023 at a beautiful wedding in North Georgia surrounded by family and friends.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Jerry Drenzek ND'75 recently had his photography artwork "Packard in the Parade" chosen by the Henry Ford Hospital's Selection Committee and it now hangs in the new tower at the 19 Mile Road facility in Clinton Township. Jerry invites current Notre Dame students and alumni and their families to visit the Stahl Classic Auto Museum in Chesterfield, Mich., where I am currently volunteering as a collection docent. For more information about the collection, please visit www.stahlsauto.com.



Tom Kelly ND'03 married Kate (Miller) Kelly (of Elyria, Ohio), Sept. 29, 2023, in Troy, Mich. Tom's brother, Patrick Kelly ND'00, served as best man.

Robert "Bob" Kocis ND'75 retired in August 2023, closing out a 36-plus year career in Human

Resources Management in senior leadership roles. The last has been with 23 years with International Paper Packaging - Business, supporting operations in the Southwest and Latin America. Bob, Jane and family will continue to reside in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. Looking forward to his upcoming 50th class reunion.

Jim Chylinski ND'66 retired after serving on the bench in Wayne County for 40 years. Now he has more time to cruise the streets with Doug Shahady ND'66 in his 1966 Lincoln Continental show car.

Rick Gianino ND'74 retired two years ago with his wife, Shelley,

Class Notes

retiring this year. They spend time walking dogs at the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption and visiting their kids and their families: Derek (ND'05) in the Washington, D.C. area, and daughter Shannon in Wilmington, NC. Rick sits on the board of Central City Health, a Detroit Integrated Health organization that provides medical, dental and behavioral services to those in need. Looking forward to his 50th next year.

Thomas Gladysz ND'79

moved from San Francisco to Sacramento in 2017 with his wife. He recently published the book, "The Street of Forgotten Men: From Story to Screen and Beyond." It is a deep dive into the history of a single 1925 silent film.

Gerald Lane ND'68 and his wife, Sylvia, welcomed their 10th grandchild, Felix, born in October 2022. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in January.

Tom Lesnau ND'69 attended Michigan State University and graduated in 1973 with a degree in accounting. He worked for Ernst & Young for five years. He also worked for the Detroit Lions and became CFO. Lesnau retired in 2015.

Michael McEvoy ND'60 says, "After 37 years as a resident of Kentucky and snowbird in Florida for the winter, we have now become year-round residents of Florida. As empty nesters, it was time for my wife Marilyn and I to

downsize and enjoy. Hope all our 1960 classmates are doing well. Time sure does fly."

Mark McGreevy ND'76 writes:

"The McGreevy family continues to grow. Eoghan NDP'06 and his wife Caitlyn are expecting boy and child No. 2 in late August. Colin NDP'08 and his wife Rowan welcomed Maeve on March 18. She is their first child. Colin and family reside in San Diego. Ruairi NDP'12 is working for Stellantis and coaching rugby for the Detroit Rugby Club men's team. The former captain led the team to the national championship tournament in May where he suffered an injury, ending his playing career. Maiti NDP'15 continues her quest for her PsyD degree at Adler College of Psychology in Chicago. She recently (June) received her master's degree as part of the program. Mark ND'76 continues teaching at Notre Dame Prep and coaching boys and girls varsity swim."

Ronald G. Naski ND'66 retired in 2013 after working 43 years in Jesuit education. He was assistant principal at University of Detroit Jesuit High School and principal of the summer school. He was later named Associate Dean of the College of Education and Human Services for the University of Detroit. After retirement, Naski co-authored a mystery book entitled "Lost at the Lake." He is currently working on his second book, "Cajun Heat," which covers mass murders in New Orleans.

These books are "Jack McGraw Mysteries." "Lost at the Lake" is available at Amazon.com or Naskibros.com.

Terry Pesta ND'68 is retired and living in beautiful San Diego, Calif.

Rodney Peters ND'64 has been retired for 12 years and enjoys plenty of golf. He will soon celebrate 55 years of marriage to his wife, Jill. The couple volunteers at Munson Medical Center and the Cancer Center. He is very active with his church-altar guild, usher's club, rummage sale and Bible studies.

Pete Randazzo ND'81 says, "Well boys, most of us turned 60 this year. It's not as bad as I thought it would be."

Dave Sorbo ND'68 retired from dentistry and is enjoying life, travel, golf, the grandkids and his wife, Janet, of 45 years.

ST. MICHAEL

Carlene Bischoff SM'54 is sending a note to old classmates: "That '90-year-old' category is closing in. Wishing you well and God Bless!" +

Guaranteed Grizzlies

Last May, Notre Dame Prep Head of School Andrew J. Guest and Oakland University Vice President for Enrollment Management Dawn M. Aubry signed a memorandum of understanding finalizing a new guaranteed early admission program to Oakland University for high-achieving students who complete specific requirements at the beginning of their senior year.

According to the agreement, to qualify for guaranteed admission, NDP students must possess a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 (on a 4.0 scale) upon the completion of their junior year and fulfill all other admission criteria required of incoming freshman students in accordance with then-applicable OU policies and/or procedures.

"We are very pleased to be working with Oakland University on this program," Guest said. "It's still another affirmation of the quality of academic program we offer to our students. We'd also like everyone of our NDP families to know that an exceptional Oakland University education is nearby and readily available to our students who now have the ability to go from pre-kindergarten through Ph.D. so close to home."

Officials at Oakland said the new program is a way to connect two academically excellent institutions in an effort to benefit both.

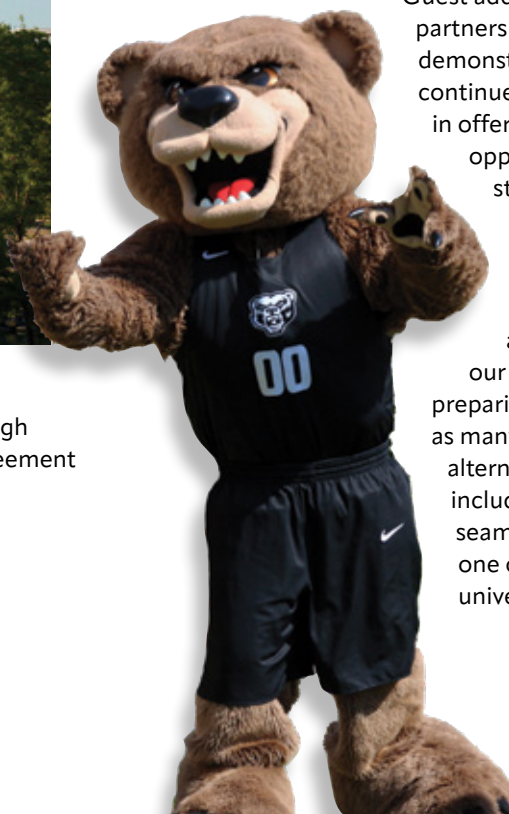
"This agreement further solidifies our excellent working relationship with Notre Dame Preparatory School," Aubry said. "We are fortunate to have academically talented high school students living in Oakland County who will thrive as Golden Grizzlies. This agreement assures students that work hard and display the grit and determination to complete a college degree have the opportunity to attend our institution at an affordable cost."

Guest added that the partnership with Oakland demonstrates that NDP continues to be a leader in offering innovative opportunities for its students.

"With this early admissions program, we are re-affirming our commitment to preparing our students for as many post-secondary alternatives as possible, including this new and seamless transition to one of the state's top universities," he said. +



Notre Dame Prep is the first and only high school in Michigan to have such an agreement with Oakland University.





**Notre Dame
Preparatory School**

A Catholic and Marist Community

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One of the easiest ways to create a legacy with Notre Dame Prep is through a bequest in your will or trust. You can leave a specific amount, percentage or the residue of your estate.

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

Naming the school the beneficiary of a retirement account, insurance policy or bank or brokerage account only takes a few moments and allows flexibility if your plans change in the future.



For more information about how you can support the next generation of students, please visit www.ndpma.org/planalegacy.