THE SHAMROCK

ST. JOHN NOTRE DAME

SPRING MAGAZINE 2024









Mission: St. John Notre Dame exists to educate children, to encounter Jesus Christ and to form disciples.

Vision: St. John Notre Dame is committed to unveiling an authentic Roman Catholic ethos, rooted in Tradition and sacrament where students are formed for society and sainthood.

SPRING MAGAZINE

IN THIS ISSUE...

ALICE SULIK 4
COVER STORY 7
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 10
THEATER ARTS 12
ALUMNI STORIES 15

Contributors:
Keith Martin, Principal
Sharon Penrose, Director of Advancement
Deirdre Peterson, Vice Principal & Director of Student Life

St. John Notre Dame School | 309 Montrose Drive, Folsom, CA 95630 | (916) 985-4129

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Friends,
On the pleasant Saturday of September 16, 1962, four spirited pioneering religious sisters arrived at their newfound abode, the convent nestled on Montrose Drive. Their mission, to establish a Catholic school catering to the children of Folsom. This endeavor echoed the familiar journey undertaken by their order, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, two centuries earlier all over the French countryside. Thus, Notre Dame School emerged, formally inaugurating its doors to students on October 11, 1962.

For the next twenty years, these dedicated Sisters spearheaded and nurtured the school, setting benchmarks for academic excellence and fostering a robust Catholic ethos that endures to this day. Though absent from the campus physically for four decades, their influence remains indelible, woven into the fabric of both the school and the community. Their culture permeates our values, traditions, and practices, guiding every decision, action, and interaction on campus. The faculty and staff of St. John Notre Dame earnestly embrace St. Julie Billiart's charism: "Teach the children what they need to know for life."

Recently, we commemorated sixty years of Catholic education in Folsom. We invite prayers for St. John Notre Dame and extend a warm invitation to join us in our endeavor to forge a sustainable future for the forthcoming generations of Folsom, who aspire to know, love, and serve God.

Now, in 2024, we stand on the shoulders of these virtuous women who dedicated themselves to the Lord, inspired by Mère Julie, to think big and act boldly. I have spoken with many alumni, including the founding alumni of Notre Dame School, who all attribute their successes to the foundational education they received at St. John Notre Dame. The educational landscapes have changed significantly since 1962, but the mission remains the same - to encounter Jesus and to form disciples.

During the 2022-2023 school year, I outlined a 4-Point Vision for St. John Notre Dame that would be unveiled over the next 3-5 years. The vision included:

- Growing the school's Early Childhood Education Program (TK-K) with a heavy focus on early literacy instruction, support and intervention.
- Developing a true liberal approach to teaching the Humanities in the Middle School with a focus on reading the great works of Western literature, teaching History and Geography, socratic seminar, lectio divina, recitations and debate.
- Moving towards financial sustainability by growing the school's Advancement program, implementing proven fundraising strategies, philanthropy, special events, planned giving and by making wholesale changes to tuition collection.
- Reigniting the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (SNDdeN), integrating the Hallmarks of a Notre Dame School and educating the community about St. Julie Billiart.



Two years in, we are well on our way to complete this vision by, like the sisters before us, thinking big and acting boldly. We hope to highlight many of these exciting endeavors in our first ever Spring Magazine.

I kindly ask for your continued time, talent and treasure but more importantly, your prayers and support. St. Julie once said, “The good God is everywhere, and His Providence guides us in all things.” With the grace of the good God and the efforts of the faculty, staff, parish and families, St. John Notre Dame will continue to provide a beacon of hope for the city of Folsom and the Universal Church. God Bless.

Yours in Notre Dame,

Mr. Keith Martin, M.A.
Principal

OUR TUITION ANGEL













ALICE SULIK 1930-2023

To Our Dearest Tuition Angel,
To say 'thank you' seems grossly inadequate, as you have been such a blessing to our daughter and family for years. Without your generosity... our little girl would not be able to attend SJND. Her scholarship saved us all. I had to transition to being a single mother rather abruptly, and she absolutely needed God's love, community, and stability to get through. You really are an angel to so many. Thank you for your love in Christ.

Dear Tuition Angel,
Thank you so much for helping us send our son to St. John Notre Dame! We truly couldn't do it without you! He's currently thriving and we couldn't be happier. He's class president in the 5th grade, receiving all As and Bs, and is looking forward to joining the basketball team. We are truly blessed because of you! Thank you!

IN MEMORIAM

ALICE SULIK 1930-2023

A generous heart and a strong faith. That's what many who knew her would say about Alice Sulik. It's also what many would say who did not know Alice by name, but were blessed enough to be touched by her generosity.

A Tuition Angel

Take a look at any correspondence regarding financial assistance at St. John Notre Dame, and there will be mention of the scholarship funds for families in need. In the 2023-24 year, nearly 24% of students received need-based tuition assistance support. What many do not know about this support is just how much of the funds have been donated by Alice Sulik. Alice was monumental in creating the Sr. Stephane Therese Brelivet Scholarship, which serves a large portion of this need. In the last 10 years, Alice has generously donated over $1,000,000 to SJND for the sole purpose of student scholarships. Countless children would not have received the quality Catholic education that SJND offers if it hadn't been for Alice, our Tuition Angel. Interestingly, Alice never taught at the school, nor did she have any family members attend the school. Which begs the question, *why did she choose us?*

A Nurse

All throughout her life, Alice was a generous person. It only made sense she chose to pursue nursing right out of high school. She graduated from Niagara University in Buffalo, NY with a BSN. Alice initially worked in the OR as a scrub nurse and then as a public health nurse in several schools. She moved out to California and began working in a clinic teaching young moms how to care for their newborn babies. Alice enjoyed her life as a nurse on the West Coast, but she had a passion for a hobby that would carry her into a totally different career.





Letter of St. Paul to Timothy
I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
Mission accomplished.







An Angler

To say Alice enjoyed spending her days off fishing is an understatement. There is no better time to fish than the summer and it was her passion for this hobby that made her friend say to her one day, “You know Alice, you love to travel and you love to fish. You should become a teacher so you can have the summers off.” Alice did just that and spent the next 25 summers traveling all over the United States and fishing for halibut and salmon in Alaska. After her retirement at 55, she continued her pursuit by visiting nearly all of the National Parks and even went fly fishing in Yellowstone.

An Educator

After 8 years as a nurse, Alice went back to school to receive her credentials and degrees in education and counseling and began her second career in education. She used her wonderful people skills to educate and counsel young adults in the Sacramento area. Alice began by teaching health classes and then used her counseling skills in her role as vice principal at several schools in the Grant Union High School District, now known as Twin Rivers. Alice worked selflessly and tirelessly in Sacramento’s middle and high schools for 25 years. She shared her belief in the importance of education to those closest to her. From her conversations with Principal Martin, Mrs. Brenda Hebert, and Father Haran, it’s clear that Alice had a passion for providing a Catholic education to those children in most need.

A Disciple

Alice was born and raised Catholic in Pennsylvania to John and Katheryn Sulik. From the early days of her childhood, her faith in God was always a constant. From being the May Queen of the May Crowning ceremony as a college student, to bringing the Eucharist to the elderly in parish care in her later years, Alice’s faith was marked by action. Some of the other ways Alice gave of her time and talents were when she served as a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister at St. John the Baptist. She also enjoyed volunteering at Sutter Roseville Hospice and at the Mercy Folsom Chaplaincy where her experience as a nurse, quick wit, and strong faith came into play. As she got older and less mobile, Alice only became more passionate about supporting Catholic charities including, St. John Notre Dame School, St. John the Baptist Parish, Loaves & Fishes, St. Vincent De Paul, Mercy Pedalers, and the Knights of Columbus.

The good God gifted us with Alice and we are forever indebted and grateful for her prayers, financial support and presence at our parish school. Alice was fearless and loved her faith. Our hope is for the St. John Notre Dame community to tirelessly live for mission just as our beloved 'Angel' Alice did.

Do Not Fear *by Thomas Merton*
My Lord God, I do not see the road head of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end...I know that You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I trust You always. I will not fear, for You are with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

WELCOME HOME MÈRE JULIE

Mother Julie

The newest statue on campus is a life-size marble monument depicting St. Julie Billiart, foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, and a young French girl. The statue welcomes visitors to St. Julie Billiart Hall, former convent of the Sisters from 1962-1984. The statue, titled "Mère Julie" (meaning "Mother Julie" in French) is meant to be a symbol of education, a reminder of our mission, and a nod to our heritage and roots.



A Blessing

On April 8, 2024, St. John Notre Dame students, teachers, and parents gathered around as Fr. Renier blessed the statue and those in attendance. The statue was commissioned in the same likeness as the one sitting outside the chapel at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont. A third generation Catholic sculptor out of Long Island, New York was the designer behind the piece and shipped her to us in the fall. She is made of pure marble, stands 5 feet 5 inches tall, and weighs close to 1,200 pounds. The custom made statue now overlooks the grass area where students play, socialize, and pray. "The statue is a chance for us to connect with the Sisters who started our school and to reflect on their impact and legacy," says Student Council President Bryce Saint-Evens '24.

The hope is that this statue and space will grow into a place where students can come to escape for a quiet moment, reflect on what it means to carry out Julie's mission, and learn about the great works of a woman who made it possible to be at St. John Notre Dame.



SISTER LOUISE O'REILLY, SNDdeN
AT ST. JOHN NOTRE DAME

A Sister Returns

On a dark, chilly January evening, the bright lights and noise that spill out the glass doors of Gallagher Hall beckon weary parents inside. Some are lined up to check in, others are picking up a glass of wine from Mrs. Penrose, while a few early birds have already settled into their seats. They aren't gathered for a basketball game or a student performance. They're here for the small, lithe woman who stands near the stage at a podium wearing a distinct cross necklace and a sincere smile upon her face. The French cross is the only visual sign that she is a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, but once she begins speaking, it is clear that Sr. Louise O'Reilly has a lot to share about her religious order and their courageous leader.



Parents and guardians mingled and connected during the evening of January 18th.

A Saint for Our Times

After spending one hour with Sr. Louise and each other, families came away with a deeper appreciation for the women who led and staffed our school from 1962-1984. A goal of the evening was for parents to develop an understanding of how to see Christ through St. Julie. Sr. Louise shared stories from the life of the saint who opened schools for poor orphan girls and convents for her growing religious order despite her paralytic condition and the violence of the French Revolution at her doorstep. Julie always gave praise to the good God despite her sufferings, a lesson Sr. Louise imparted upon the parents of St. John Notre Dame, just as the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur had taught the students of Notre Dame School all those years ago.

FIRST CLASS RELIC



Students venerated a first-class relic of St. Julie Billiart. This small bone fragment of Julie has been passed down within the community of Sisters and has been gifted to SJND.



Sr. Louise attended all school Mass and then visited with the students. Thank you, Sister!

"(What) I admire most about St. Julie...I appreciate that she used her reason and faith, collaborating with God's will, to move forward."

Mr. Tyler Crandall
EAS/Counselor
MTSS Reading



"Julie let her love for God dictate how she handled situations. She was obedient and listened to God's will, offering her pain and suffering to God."

Mrs. Sonja Skupnjak
1st Grade



"Instead of choosing to let my mistakes frustrate me and affect my mood, I can choose to laugh at myself, take the hit, trust God, and focus on what really matters. Our mission is to form disciples, not to be perfect teachers!"

Ms. Keshishian, Kindergarten



"It would have been much easier for her to lose hope or quit her work altogether. Following Christ's example, Julie too, took on this suffering."

Mr. Portelli
Primary School Director
MTSS Reading



FACULTY BOOK STUDY
A WOMAN OF COURAGE

Over the year, the teachers met once a month to discuss the life of St. Julie Billiart. They read two chapters from *A Woman of Courage* by Sr. Roseanne Murphy, SNDdeN, which is a detailed account of the life of St. Julie. During their time together, the teachers were able to make connections with one another, while reenergizing and reigniting their passion for teaching.

"The students are never going to remember Lesson 8.4 in math, but they will remember playing kickball with their teacher outside, walking around campus as a class looking for the best leaf, or spending time in prayer in front of Jesus on Friday at adoration. These moments are the ones that foster a sense of community and joy in the classroom."

Mrs. Roberts, 2nd Grade



"But it is the great example of saints, like Julie, and leaders like Pope Pius VII, that help us to realize that when we are at our lowest, we are in great communion with Jesus who is there with his cross at the very bottom. Smiling because we are with Him, and ready to let us hang on."

Mr. Terranova,
Middle School Science



"In a time where there seems to be data or a plan or a program for everything, Julie offers us a refreshing reminder to trust our intuition, as in her case, it tells her not to hurry. She knows the facts, but she puts them under the light of faith, knowing there is always more."

Mr. Bryce Crandall, Middle School Catechism



"In the world, persons of a cheerful character are chosen to form children."
St. Julie Billiart

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

S J N D

40

SALES AT THE POP-UP SHOP

THE CATHOLIC STORE SOLD ROSARIES, BOOKS, PLUSH TOYS, JEWELRY, AND MUCH MORE! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!





37

POINTS SCORED BY THE TEACHERS AND PRIESTS

THE CLASS OF 2024 SCORED A FEW POINTS, BUT THE TEACHERS & PRIESTS WON FOR THE FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW.

72

MINI TOOTHPASTE BOTTLES COLLECTED

PLUS OVER A HUNDRED OTHER TOILETRIES DONATED TO THE *MERCY PEDALERS* CHARITY





1

STUDENT ART CONTEST WINNER

MICAH ESPINOZA CREATED A WATERCOLOR DRAWING TO SYMBOLIZE NOTRE DAME HALLMARK #1

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

AFTERNOON OF STEM

STUDENTS BUDDIED UP FROM TK TO 7TH GRADE FOR AN AFTERNOON OF STEM ACTIVITIES. THE STUDENTS COMPLETED ENGAGING ACTIVITIES AT DIFFERENT STATIONS THAT WERE LED BY THE 8TH GRADE STUDENTS.

WE OFFER:
JR. ROBOTICS
SR. ROBOTICS
HYDROGEN GRAND PRIX







GRANDFRIENDS DAY

GRANDFRIENDS DAY IS A DAY FOR STUDENTS TO SHARE THEIR SCHOOL WITH THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. WE CELEBRATE MASS TOGETHER AND THEN STUDENTS TAKE THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS ON A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF THE CAMPUS.

TALENT SHOW

STUDENTS SHARED THEIR MANY GIFTS AND TALENTS WITH OUR COMMUNITY DURING OUR ANNUAL TALENT SHOW. FROM CULTURAL DANCES AND SKITS TO SINGING AND MAGIC TRICKS, THE STUDENTS BROUGHT THE HOUSE DOWN!







EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

OUR COMMUNITY WALKED THE 1.5 MILES THAT THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR USED TO WALK WITH OUR STUDENTS TO CELEBRATE FRIDAY MASS AT OLD ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

THEATER ARTS PROGRAM

Nearly 25 Years of Music

Kathy Curtis first introduced the Spring Musical to St. John Notre Dame back in 2001, with the production of *Annie, Jr.* "Everybody just came together that year and put on this program to save the morale of the school. But it was going to be *just* one year." Fast forward to 2024 and the major players who got that first musical off the ground are reminiscing about the Theater Arts program that is coming up on its 25th year. Mrs. Kathy Curtis, Mrs. Cookie Kipp, and Mrs. Jean Menz laugh as they share stories with Mrs. Sharon Penrose at a small table in a corner of Dolan's Bar and Grill. The women excitedly talk over one another as they talk about all the hard work and dedication that went into the school's beloved musicals.



Center: **Cookie Kipp** Class of '69
SJND Teacher 2001-2010, parent of former SJND students Tosha and Tony

Cookie laughs as she recalls a trip to Reno with Mrs. Felicia Heiler to pick up special upholstery material for 2005's *Sound of Music*, and how she talked herself out of a speeding ticket! "We needed to get back to Folsom in time for Alex's (**Heiler '12**) violin lesson and I was pulled over by CHP for speeding. We still laugh about how I talked my way out of the ticket and how Alex ended up missing his violin lesson anyways!"



Center: **Jean Menz**
SJND educator for the last two decades
Parent of Lauren '05, Katherine '08, Ian '17

For many years the costumes were handmade by parent volunteers, led by Lisa Smet. Though some costumes are still made by volunteers, many are now rented. The props and backdrops were also made by talented parent volunteers, some scaling to great heights to add just the right touch! Mark & Lisa Androvich, Diana Qulici, Michelle Hall, Mary Robinson, Emily Callahan and Mark Menz are just a few of the passionate parents that dedicated their time, talent and treasure to the Theater Arts program.

The sun'll come out tomorrow, Bet your bottom dollar...

Back in the early 2000's the total budget per musical was $500.00. To help with funding, a booster club was started, but money was always tight. Jean Menz recalls how in 2005 she and Kathy started to look for grants to help with the funding. In 2006, they received a $4,500 grant from Folsom Arts & Cultural Commission for the production of Disney's *Aladdin, Jr*. They again received grants in 2007 and as well as 2009. "With the help of the grants we were able to purchase lighting and sound," says Menz. By the early 2010s, the program had a budget close to $20,000 a season. Later, through the Patrons of the Arts, and ticket sales, SJND was able to pay for the Theater Arts program, as well as provide an 8th grade scholarship.



Left: **Kathy Curtis**
4th Grade Teacher from 1986-2020

THEATER ARTS PROGRAM

Notre Dame productions over the years, we hope you have enjoyed them all!

Annie, Jr. | 2001
Oz | 2002
The Glass Slipper | 2003
Getting 2 know you King And I | 2004
Sound of Music | 2005
Disney's Aladdin, Jr. | 2006
Annie, Jr. | 2007
Disney's Dalmatians, Kids | 2008
Disney's Sleeping Beauty, Kids | 2009
Willy Wonka, Jr. | 2010
Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Jr. | 2011
Getting 2 know you King and I | 2012
Wizard of Oz | 2013
Disney's Aladdin, Jr. | 2014
Disney's The Little Mermaid, Jr. | 2015
Dreamwork's Shrek, Jr. | 2016
Willy Wonka, Jr. | 2017
Annie, Jr. | 2018
Disney's Sleeping Beauty, Kids | 2019
Disney's Aladdin, Jr. | 2022
Disney's The Little Mermaid, Jr. | 2023
Disney's Frozen, Jr. | 2024

Students in K- 8th participate
as chorus, main cast and tech crew.
Most of the plays have had up to 100 students
and multiple parent volunteers, too.









THEATER ARTS PROGRAM

From Rehearsals to Curtain Calls

SJND alumni who participated in the Theater Arts program have gone on to achieve great success in their field. **Julia Rehwald '10** has starred in a number of films and TV commercials, but is best known for playing Kate in the Netflix Trilogy Fear Street. **Izzy Weaver '16** is a performer at Disneyland with an upcoming show this May. "It's pretty amazing to see her dreams come true," says Mrs. Androvich. **Maggie Enriquez '15** recently graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Viterbo University and is teaching theater arts in Sacramento. It goes to show that when students are provided with the time, space, and personnel to grow in their God-given talents, anything is possible.


Julia Rehwald


Izzy Weaver


Maggie Enriquez

Missing two productions due to Covid-19 restrictions only further proved the necessity for a Theater Arts program at SJND. The productions have offered students an opportunity to build their creativity and imagination, and to explore different stories, worlds and characters. For nearly 25 years, SJND students who have been involved in theater have had the chance to build confidence and learn effective communication skills, whether through speaking, singing, dancing, acting or even being part of the tech crew backstage. Working on any theater production requires collaboration and teamwork which helps to teach children the importance of cooperation and respect. Theater arts help to foster empathy and understanding through portraying different characters and learning new stories, which promotes tolerance and acceptance. Overall, theater arts provide children with holistic learning experiences and nurtures their creativity, confidence and social skills while also fostering a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Mrs. Molly Daysh started as the Choreography Director in 2015, and in 2019 Co-Directed *Disney's Sleeping Beauty, Kids* with Mrs. Menz. In 2022 Mrs. Daysh took over the helm as the school's Theater Director.


Mrs. Molly Daysh
3rd Grade Teacher
SJND Theater Director

SJND's Theater Program Has Something for Everyone!

"I have always taken much pride in being part of the SJND community not only as a parent, but also as a staff member. SJND offers so many opportunities for students during the school day as well as after the bell rings at 3. Taking part in any theater production has many benefits, but the primary reason I feel it is important to offer it at SJND is that everyone can do something and be involved. As our program evolves we plan to have more opportunities for students behind the scenes."

ALUMNI IN FOCUS



Jackson Ryan '16 is in his last year at Oregon State University, where he will be graduating in June with an Honors Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering and a Minor in Aerospace Engineering. He is currently working on his undergraduate thesis, which is on the aerodynamics of a Formula Student series race car. Jackson accompanies his team, Global Formula Racing, to competitions in the US and in Europe where they compete with schools from around the world.

This summer, Jackson will be working with the National Student Leadership Conference as the Program Director for the Engineering program. This is a summer program for high school students that strives to introduce them to the world of engineering and prepare them for college and the careers they may pursue.

Notably, Jackson will be starting his new full time job at SpaceX as a Manufacturing Engineer for the Propulsion systems of the Falcon 9 rockets at the SpaceX headquarters in LA this fall.

What one word would you use to describe SJND?
Family. As cliche as it may sound, the relationships I made with people during my nine years at SJND are the ones I continually go back to.

Who at SJND inspired you?
I still remember being in Mr. Terranova's class during his first year at the school, and listening to his summer adventures and thinking one day I wanted to explore such things as he has...As I moved to high school and later college, I often found myself coming back to the fundamentals he taught. He has inspired me to not only pursue a career in engineering, but to do so with a smile and passion that he always has.



Jackson '16, Flynn '21, Josh '19, and Mr. and Mrs. Ryan

How did your time at SJND prepare you for your current career?
It would be nice to say I remember every lesson I received at SJND, but that is unrealistic; more importantly SJND, along with my own amazing family, taught me how to be a good person and this is what continues to prepare me for my career and is what gives me confidence stepping into the next phase of my life.









Grace and Hope Jenkins ‘18 are in their sophomore year at the University of Connecticut. They play softball for the Huskies as a catcher-pitcher duo. The twins had the tricky challenge of choosing a college during the Covid-19 pandemic. On the recommendation of their high school softball coach at St. Francis High School, Kevin Warren, they reached out to UConn’s coach. Grace and Hope corresponded with Coach Valentino and then visited the campus. After falling in love with everything the college has to offer, the sisters quickly committed.

Grace is currently in a dual degree program for political science and sports management with the plan of attending law school and pursuing a career in the legal field. Hope is currently studying sociology with the plan of going to paramedic school and becoming a firefighter.



What one word would you use to describe SJND?
Grace: Nurturing
Hope: Inspiring

Who at SJND inspired you?
Grace and Hope: Mrs. Shebert. She always inspired you to think outside the box and to follow what you were passionate about. Also, Mr. Terranova. He showed up for his students every day no matter what, even through his medical conditions he always put his energy back into his students.

How has your faith helped you in your current activities?
Grace and Hope: Our faith has helped both of us in college with the connections we’ve made from friends at the Catholic Center and Athletes in Action (AIA), which is a Bible study group for UConn student athletes looking to further their relationship with Christ. It has helped us both to navigate our social life, but also to create relationships that help us to grow in our faith. Navigating college athletics, we know that our worth is in God, not based in our sport. It has allowed us to play freely and also Glorify Him with this ability that He has blessed us with.

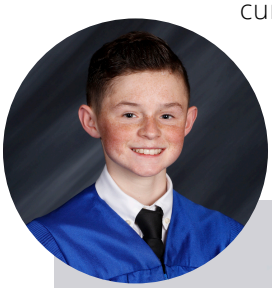
How did your time at SJND prepare you for your current activities?
Grace: You don’t need to worry because everything will end up ok. Just continue to trust God’s plan.
Hope: Don’t change who you are for the acceptance of others. Stay true to who you are and the right people will appreciate you.

ALUMNI



Michael Mullin '20 has advanced in the prestigious 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Michael, a senior at Jesuit High School, is among one of the nation's 15,000 highest test scorers and now has the opportunity to compete for a National Merit Scholarship this spring.

In addition to being named a National Merit Finalist, Michael is also a captain of the Mock Trial Club at Jesuit High School. Jesuit reached the final night of the competition and placed 4th overall in the Sacramento County Mock Trial Competition. Michael closed his Mock Trial career at Jesuit being named MVP. Michael demonstrated exceptional debating skills and leadership qualities when he participated in his 8th Grade Mock Trial back in February of 2020. He is currently discerning between colleges.





What one word would you use to describe SJND?
Wonderful.

Who at SJND inspired you?
Mr. Terranova and Mrs. Shebert - from cross country and Science class to Aca Deca and the Speech Contest, they both challenged and inspired me to do my best.

How has your faith helped you in your current activities?
This year I've really learned to trust God's will for the next steps in my life. I remember that all of my success are for His Glory and come from Him, and that every challenge I encounter is part of His plan for me to have the best life possible.

How did your time at SJND prepare you for your current activities?
My time at SJND helped prepare me to set the model of God being part of everyday, not just Mass on Sundays. Having prayer throughout the day, starting in Kindergarten, helped me create a habit of living my faith and prayer life in everything I do. There were always ways to challenge myself at SJND, whether through sports like Cross Country or academic programs like the 1-5 Mental Math Bowl and Academic Decathlon in middle school.

CLASS NOTES

Michelle Herzog (née Keshishian) ‘06 welcomed her second child, Evelyn, on November 4, 2023. Michelle is a NICU nurse in Dallas, where she lives with her husband Andrew and their children Patrick and Evelyn.

Megan Keshishian ‘09 is working as a pediatric occupational therapist in Dallas, Texas.

Katherine Wheeler (née Heiler) ‘10 is a Registered Nurse working in the ICU at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco.

Connor Brandenburg ‘11 is working on his Ph.D. in Oligonucleotide Chemistry while working for Takeda Pharmaceuticals in San Diego.

Robert Paylor ‘11 got married last November. Robert married his beautiful bride Karsen at St. Clare Catholic Church in Roseville and it was easily the happiest day of his life. Outside of that, Robert has transitioned to full-time public speaking and continues to persevere in his rehabilitation. He is now able to walk 425 yards!



Robert and his wife are also looking forward to a religiou pilgrimage this September, being hosted by the Order of Malta to walk the Camino de Santiago. The Paylors have much to be grateful for!

LET’S CONNECT!

Send us individual or class updates to be included in next year’s Annual Report or Spring Magazine.

Sharon Penrose, Director of Advancement
sharon.penrose@sjnds.org

Alex Heiler ‘12 is a Bioengineering Ph.D. candidate in Chemical Engineering at Georgia Tech. Alex is a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow and is in the National Institute of Health Immunoengineering Training, a program with the goal to get more trained immuno-engineers into this new and highly specialized field.

Riley Hinderson (née Quiroz) ‘13 lives in Washington and works for the US Army as a Radiology Technician.

Lena Quiroz ‘17 is a student at Boise State University in Idaho studying Kinesiology.

Charlotte Daysh ‘18 is working on her double major in Communications and Musical Theater at Colorado State University. She has a 4.0 and was the only freshman to audition and earn a role in the school play last year.

Yasmin Azar ‘20 has helped lead the Troubies to victory on the soccer field many times over her four-year career at St. Francis High School. She closed out her final season strong. She’s been named Delta League Player of the Year and is a CIF NorCal Champion. St. Francis won the 2024 CIF NorCal Divison II Girls Soccer Championship title, 1-0, with a goal from Yasmin in the second half. Yasmin’s soccer career will continue at Coastal Carolina University in the fall.



PLANNED GIVING

Shape the Future.
Leave a Lasting Legacy.

One of the most transformational ways to support the students and teachers at St. John Notre Dame is through making a planned gift. As a planned gift donor, you can experience tax savings, increased income, and provide for your heirs, all while benefiting SJND.

By including St. John Notre Dame in your estate you demonstrate your commitment to our mission and your desire to safeguard its future.

Planned Giving includes a variety of philanthropic strategies that enable you to donate assets to support SJND yet defer the time that the gifts are received. In many cases, a planned gift enables you to make a significantly greater contribution than would be possible through an outright gift.

Planned Giving Options

Bequest in a Will

Charitable Gift

Life Insurance

IRA

Personal Property

Real Estate



Let Us Thank You

If you have included St. John Notre Dame in your estate plans, please let us know. We would like to thank you for your generosity, make sure the purpose of your gift is understood by the school, and recognize you as a member of the Notre Dame Legacy Society.

The Notre Dame Legacy Society recognizes and honors those alumni, families and friends who have thoughtfully provided for the future of St. John Notre Dame through their will and/or estate plans. The Notre Dame Legacy Society members provide a solid foundation to secure the future financial strength and security of the school. Behind all SJND students and alumni are generations of benefactors who helped to make a Catholic education possible through their estate plans.

To request more information, please contact:

Sharon Penrose
Director of Advancement
sharon.penrose@sjnds.org

ST. JOHN NOTRE DAME
309 MONTROSE DRIVE
FOLSOM, CA 95630
(916) 985-4129

WWW.SJNDS.ORG

IRISH STORE

School Spirit Swag & Attire

Get decked out in your SJND attire by making a purchase through our BSN store or supporting our local vendor, American LogoWear.

bit.ly/sjnd-bsn-store





THE LEGACY OF NOTRE DAME LIVES WITH OUR ALUMNI LET'S STAY CONNECTED!



SEND US INDIVIDUAL OR CLASS UPDATES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2024 - 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Sharon Penrose
Director of Advancement
sharon.penrose@sjnds.org

Grace and Hope Jenkins '16 are playing ball at UConn! Read their story inside.

LOOKING AHEAD 2024-25

Back to School BBQ	**August 10, 2024**
Jog-A-Thon	**August 16, 2024**
Oktoberfest	**September 14, 2024**
Catholic Schools Week	**January 26-31, 2025**
Gala & Auction	**May 3, 2025**