

SEASONS

A Publication for Alumni, Parents & Friends | Spring 2025

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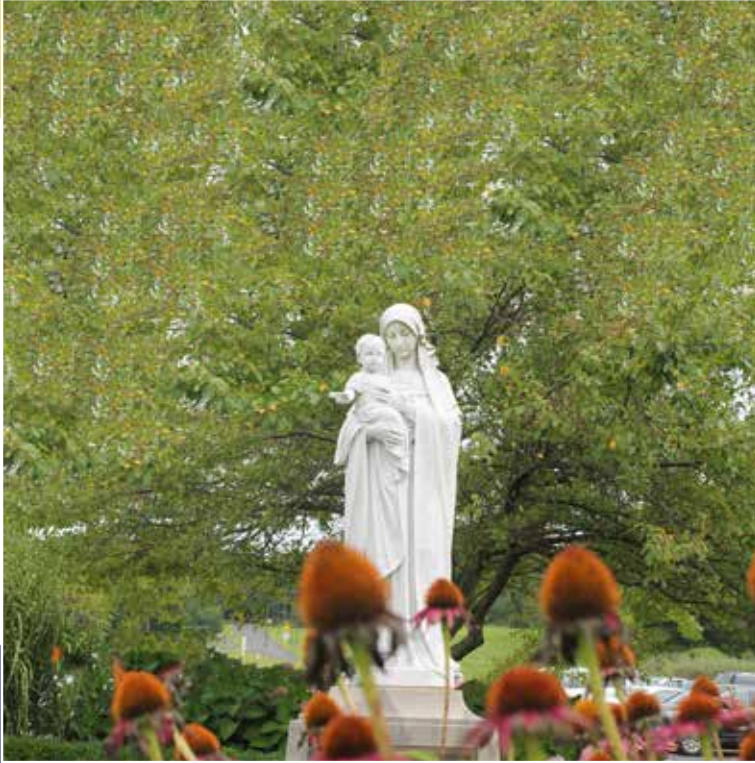
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NOTRE DAME
ND
ELEMENTARY

NOTRE DAME
ND
MIDDLE SCHOOL

NOTRE DAME
NICL
CATHEDRAL LATIN

NOTRE DAME SCHOOLS



NDES/NDMS Mission

Celebrating God's goodness and provident care, Notre Dame Elementary School educates children by nurturing dreams, excellence, and success for transforming their lives and our world.



NDCL Mission

Like Mary, who gave Christ to the world, Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School educates leaders who transform the world, as Jesus did, by living the truth in love.

Vision

Notre Dame Schools will engage students in an exceptional Catholic education. We will focus on loving, respecting, and educating all to discover and develop their God-given talents. We will challenge our students to respond faithfully to Jesus' call to transform the world by consciously doing good and bringing hope to the hearts of all.

Core Values

Justice

Respect

Integrity

Community

Excellence

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Please send all address changes
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Notre Dame Schools, Office of Advancement
 13000 Auburn Road, Chardon, Ohio 44024
Advancement@ndcl.org | 440.279.1067

Message from the President

I am thrilled to share exciting news from Notre Dame Schools! On January 7, 2025, we proudly opened the doors to our brand new \$3.2 million wing for our middle school students. This incredible expansion features a state-of-the-art science lab, five new classrooms, and spacious collaborative areas designed to foster learning and creativity.

This milestone marks yet another chapter in our rich history, which began in 1957 when the Sisters of Notre Dame opened a kindergarten across the street on Shamrock Acres. From humble beginnings, the Sisters worked tirelessly to establish a nurturing environment that has blossomed over the decades. By 1958, they embarked on building the Provincial Center and expanded their offerings with a first grade. As enrollment grew, the Sisters adapted creatively, transitioning to portable units and ultimately moving to the ground floor of what is now the current NDES building in 1968.

In the following years, they continued to expand. The addition of a dining room and gymnasium in 1976 enhanced their community spirit, while the appointment of the first lay principal in 2008 marked a significant turning point. Strategic planning initiatives introduced a full-time music, art, Spanish, and enrichment classes. In 2009, we proudly became a Sisters of Notre Dame Sponsored School with its first Board of Directors.

Throughout our history, the Sisters of Notre Dame have exemplified progressive leadership in education. Upholding their legacy, we made the thoughtful decision to open our middle school in 2021. With careful planning, we aimed to address the challenges of declining enrollment while ensuring a thoughtful and vision-driven approach to education.

Our vision for the middle school is to honor the educational ideals of the Sisters of Notre Dame, promoting Catholic identity while embodying NDES and

NDCL's core values. We strive to meet and exceed the academic and social-emotional needs of our students, all while preparing them for a successful transition to high school and welcoming new students into our vibrant school community.

We also emphasize best practices for middle school education, including enriching programs and targeted interventions, varied curriculum offerings, leadership opportunities, and the potential for students to earn high school credits.

I'm delighted to report that since the opening of the middle school, our enrollment has flourished, and we anticipate waiting lists for all three grades this fall. The new facility is truly remarkable, thanks to our generous donors who made this dream a reality. Our students and teachers have expressed their enthusiasm and appreciation, and I'd like to share a heartfelt email I recently received from a teacher:

"Thank you again for your vision and dedication to completing this new space. The students are excited; their behavior is more professional; they are smiling more; they are energized and awestruck. Everyone who walks through must lift their jaw off the floor!"

I personally LOVE my room—the location, the peacefulness, the beauty, the size, the

bells and whistles... I could go on and on! I see pep in everyone's step, kids and adults alike, and that creates a fun, positive energy!"

March is the time of year where we begin to say "goodbye" to our seniors and 8th graders. While our seniors are off to colleges and universities around the country, many of the 8th graders will be back on campus "down the hill" as we welcome the Class of 2029 to NDCL for high school registration. Our admissions team rolls out the red carpet as students from over 18 partner elementary and middle schools begin the early steps of their high school journey.

2025 marks the 175th anniversary of the Sisters of Notre Dame founding in Coesfeld, Germany. Our school community is blessed to have such remarkable legacies to build upon as we carry out our mission and core values.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the generosity of our many donors. Your support continues to shape the future of Notre Dame Schools, inspiring our students and faculty alike.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jacqueline Hoynes

President, Notre Dame Schools





Giving Day 2024

Builds the Foundation for Catholic Education for Notre Dame Schools

Notre Dame Schools' annual Giving Day on November 21st was an incredible display of philanthropy! **584 donors** helped build the foundation for Catholic education raising over **\$328,000** for our students! New this year, donors were able to designate their gifts. The top three designations were: **Greatest Need, NDCL Athletics, and Financial Aid.**

There is still time to give! If you missed Giving Day, you can still give to Notre Dame schools online at www.LionsGive.org.

LIONSGIVE.org



TOTAL RAISED:

\$328,275



Fairbanks, CA

Gift that traveled
the furthest



\$20,000

Largest Giving Day Gift

from Barnes, Dominion Foundation,
Emerson, Morgan Stanley,
Parker Hannifin
& Sherwin Williams



\$9,050

Corporate Match Gifts



584 donors



Board Member profiles

Tim Bencic '07

BOARD ROLE: Board Operations Committee and Audit Committee

EMPLOYER: Palmer Holland, Inc.

JOB TITLE: Assistant Treasurer

CONNECTION TO NDS:

2007 NDCL graduate, brother Matt is a 2009 NDCL alumni, grandfather, great uncle, and many cousins also attended.

SPOUSE: Amanda (Bagdasarian '08) Bencic

TIME ON BOARD: First year

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO JOIN THE BOARD? NDCL is special to me. It's the place I met my wife. The Board was seeking some finance professionals, and (current Board member) Frank Cappello asked me to join. I try to be selective where I dedicate my time, but this was an easy yes.

WHAT MAKES THE NOTRE DAME SCHOOLS COMMUNITY

SPECIAL? It is a living representation of the faith that is important to me, and this has only strengthened for me in a world where faith seems de-emphasized. No matter the age, the ability to connect with so many people that share those values is easy in this school community.

YOUR HOPE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION AT OUR SCHOOLS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

I'm the product of Catholic schooling from kindergarten through my Masters degree. From St. Paschal Baylon to NDCL to The University of Dayton and then John Carroll University. These are places you can speak open about faith and make it a part of your day to day life. Notre Dame Schools gives me a lot of hope that the next generation finds faith and life-long connections important.

Creating connections and making this place thrive is something I can add. This is a place that gave so much to me and now I want to give back.



Joe DuBois

BOARD ROLE: Investment Committee Chair

EMPLOYER: Retired as CFO of Oswald Companies in November 2023

CONNECTION TO NDS:

Sons Evan (2012) and Paul (2016) are NDCL graduates

SPOUSE: Married to Angie DuBois for 33 years

TIME ON BOARD: Completing 9th year.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO JOIN THE BOARD? I started on the Finance & Audit Committee and embraced the mission and vision of the school. I embrace the community that Notre Dame Schools represents, which was founded on and has thoroughly embedded in it, the Mission, Vision and Core Values established by the Sisters of Notre Dame. The commitment to our core values is consciously and subconsciously embedded at every level—the Board, the administrators and teachers, and the students. This "Community" which includes the Catholicity, the physical space, the academics, the presence of the Sisters of Notre Dame, and the involvement of families along-side teachers and administrators will maintain the legacy off the Sisters for generations to come.

WHAT MAKES THE NOTRE DAME SCHOOLS COMMUNITY SPECIAL?

Because of all that this "Community" offers, the ability for those that choose to come here to find a connection and in many cases life-long connections is greatly enhanced. I look at our own sons and the friendships they developed here, endured through different college and work experiences and now as young adults with families. Our grandson was recently baptized and nearly all of our son's core group of NDCL friends came to the baptism - the Mass, the ceremony, and the lunch and family-time afterwards. I look at these guys and despite all having had varied experiences at NDCL, they found a common thread, and one that will undoubtedly last a lifetime.

YOUR HOPE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION AT OUR SCHOOLS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

I love our mission moments at the Board meetings where students come in and share some of their Notre Dame Schools experiences. While they talk about sports and extracurriculars, academics, relationships with friends, teachers, and administrators, they never forget to mention how their Notre Dame experience has strengthened their relationship with God. My hope for all off our students, current and future, is that the noise of the outside world has a lesser place in their lives giving them plenty of room to embrace all that this wonderful community has to offer.





PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8

- FAITH FORMATION
- ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
- TECHNOLOGY, SPANISH & STEM K-8
- HONORS & ON-TRACK MATH AND ELA FOR GRADES 6-8
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Visit Us Online at www.ndes.org



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Faculty To Student
Ratio: 13:1

STEM-Focused
Curricular Offerings

Eleven College Credit
Plus Dual-Credit
Courses

Join us for our
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Personalized Tours
Meet Students, Teachers, and Coaches
Presentations on Athletics, Campus Ministry and Academics



kellie.watroski@ndcl.org



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www.ndcl.org/admissions.aspx



Middle School Construction: From Golden Sledgehammer to Shiny New Classrooms in 7 months. -Captioned by Mr. Paul Breedlove

1 Demolition begins with golden sledgehammer swing!



Stage 1: May-June 2024

"In May 2024, we began demolition. With older buildings you never know what you might find behind the walls as you start to open things up. Thankfully with strong support from our construction crews' subcontractors we were able to keep things on time and on budget. Demolition begins with a powerful swing of the golden sledgehammer. The project moves quickly to ensure that portions affected by construction are completed before the start of the 2024-2025 school year."

2 Demolition continues through summer break

"With things opening up, the future middle school really begins to take shape. This stage of the project is by far

the messiest. The fireproofing spray, required for the school to have acoustical drop ceilings, gets absolutely everywhere!"



Stage 2: July-August 2024

3 New layout takes shape; structural, drywall, and new corridors.

"Next, the new walls go up, and the utilities are run. On my daily project walks, it was fun to see the footprints left behind from the Sisters visiting the project overnight. Excitement builds as the project begins to wrap up."



Stage 3:
September - December 2024



OPENED:
January 2025

About Paul Breedlove

Paul Breedlove is Director of Facilities for Notre Dame Schools, joining our schools in 2023 after four years as Project Manager at A.J. Goulder Electric. Paul's day to day role includes overseeing the NDES/MS and NDCL buildings and grounds, ensuring their care and planning for middle and long-term usage of the buildings. The father of three, Paul and his wife Adriana live in Mentor.



4 Expanded Middle School opens to students and teachers

"The final item to be installed is the stained-glass artwork of Mary, which will be the centerpiece of the new space. With the lights up and the furniture in, the space is ready for classes to begin."

Elly Maras '12

transforms young lives as Child, Family, and School Psychologist

For some, school is something you get through as a child and young adult. But for 2012 NDCL graduate (and 2008 NDES graduate) Elly Maras, she sees school incredibly influential in her life and for other children. So much so, that she is completing her postdoctorate fellowship in preparation to be a licensed Clinical Child and Family Psychologist in Denver, Colorado.

Maras's mother, Jen Maras, retired as receptionist of Notre Dame Elementary School last year after 20 years. Elly had the opportunity to see and learn the inner workings of a school culture, which got her hooked on absorbing as much as she could about schooling and how children and adolescents learn and behave.

"My mom is an example for me to be committed to a job and career. She got to live out her strength and value at Notre Dame. I got to be involved in so much because of her working at the school."

After NDCL, Maras earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from The Ohio State University. Then she completed John Carroll University's joint graduate degree program with Master in Education and Educational Specialists degrees in school psychology. Her final spot was



the University of Denver, graduating in 2024 and earning her PhD in child family and school psychology. Talk about a love of school!

"I was fascinated by schools because of my experience at Notre Dame," she says. "The community of staff and teachers was something I wanted to be part of myself one day. The academic rigor was important to me as it taught me to be focused and driven. I felt supported here and motivated to learn by engaging in classroom discussion and dialogue. So many of my NDCL friends also went into advanced degrees. I knew that I was in the right place!"





Being fascinated with school and learning, Maras' career choice is no surprise. Her aim is to change young lives for the better.

"So much prevention that can be done with kids. My work helps kids and their families be happier and healthier. Addressing the mental health and well-being can prevent trauma and hardship as they get older. Prevention is very important in keeping people happy and healthy. It's rewarding that I get to play a meaningful role in their lives."

"I can't say enough about the English curriculum at NDCL. The level we were pushed to think and find our voice. This influenced me to complete an undergrad psychology thesis. We were taught to think beyond the material through deep discussion. I look back fondly on these classes and moments."

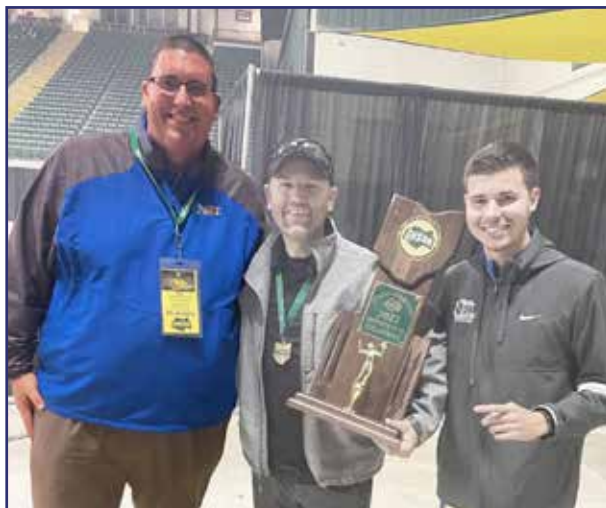
What does she miss about Cleveland and Northeast Ohio?

"The sports teams and the deep-rooted culture and traditions that Cleveland has—I miss that here. It's not quite the same in Denver or outside of NE Ohio. I have lifelong friends from NDCL—kids I met freshman year and some from NDES. With so many years together, they are those I call when I need support. The community and closeness of NE Ohio and Notre Dame had everything to do with that. I am grateful for this."



In gratitude to Jason Baxter

NDCL Athletic Director looks back at milestones and achievements



Jason Baxter, Coach Tom Ray, Nick Carillon

For an Athletic Director, seeing a team capture a State Championship is the ultimate reward for the long hours, long days, challenging NE Ohio weather and cancellations, and any other number of roadblocks they navigate in a day. But a State Championship in your first year is hard to top.

For Jason Baxter, 2022 was a special year. Starting at NDCL as Associate Athletic Director in January, Baxter shared in the joy and celebration of the volleyball state championship in November, 2022 in Dayton—NDCL's 3rd title in nine years. "Such a special moment for me," he says with a smile. "In my time at NDCL, that stands out as the proudest moment."

Baxter was promoted to Athletic Director in August 2023 when colleague Nick Carillon moved to his current Campus Ministry role. Prior to NDCL, Baxter was Athletic Director at Lakeside High School with the Ashtabula City Schools.

"As I look back on the last few years, I'm proud to position NDCL to hire coaches the caliber of Andre Griffin (football) and Pamela Malone (girls soccer and lacrosse). High school athletics is evolving. Now, a big challenge is the balance between students specializing in one sport versus the proven benefits of being a multi-sport athlete. There's a sweet spot somewhere between those two approaches, and as coaches and administrators, we have an opportunity to help the student-athletes find it."

Baxter will be leaving NDCL at the end of the school year to pursue a new career path.

"To walk in the shoes of (recent Athletic Directors) Jim Clark and (the late) Frank Platzar has been a true honor," he says. "I've worked with so many great people. Administrators, coaches, student-athletes." Baxter has high hopes and expectations for the Lions.

"Continue to strive for excellence in every part of the student-athlete experience. Our coaches on a daily basis will continue to reflect our core values in their daily interactions with the athletes. That's my wish for this program."





Cathedral Latin Class of 1970 Endowment

NDCL Announces Cathedral Latin Class of 1970 Endowed Scholarship “Challenge”

NDCL received an early Christmas present from Chris '70 and Jean Payne and a friendly “challenge” to Chris’ classmates from the Cathedral Latin Class of 1970.

Chris and Jean pledged \$25,000 to seed funding for a CL Class of 1970 Endowed Scholarship at NDCL. The threshold to start a named Endowment at NDCL is \$50,000. The “challenge” to the rest of the Class of 1970 is to collectively match the Payne’s gift with \$25,000+ in total commitments.

As an added challenge, we think \$1 million is possible by including deferred estate gifts from the Class of 1970. For example, if you plan to include NDCL in your will and estate plan, we’ll include that in the stretch goal of \$1 million.



Can we count on you to be part of the Class of 1970 Challenge? Here’s how you can help:

1. Make your commitment to the Challenge by December 31, 2025.
2. Considering a deferred gift through your estate? Let us know! Estimate today’s “cash value” and that figure will be included in the stretch goal towards \$1 million.
3. Return your commitment form to: NDCL Advancement Office, Att: Cathedral Latin Class of 1970 Endowment, 13000 Auburn Road, Chardon, OH 44024.

YES, you can make a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA towards your commitment. Many donors prefer this method of giving and its special tax benefits. This year’s cap on QCDs is \$105,000 per individual. No class scholarship at NDCL is at the \$1 million level. We think the Class of 1970 can be the first.

Questions? Contact Keven S. Krajnak '98 at (440) 279-1068 or Keven.Krajnak@ndcl.org.

Comfortable being UNCOMFORTABLE: Tony Sacco '98 thriving in Midwest “Capital”



Seasons often covers successful individuals that go “from this place” out into the world to do great things. We caught up with Tony Sacco '98 who shares his journey from Mentor, Ohio to Chicago—the “Capital of the Midwest” as he puts it. A journey filled with success, some sound advice, and sage advice for others who seek success in school and in life.

As Sacco began considering high schools in 1994, he narrowed it down to two choices.

“My mom is an NDA graduate (Jane Raby '75) and grandpa a Cathedral Latin grad (Bernard Raby '44),” Sacco says. “In 1994, it was Lake Catholic or this relatively new ‘startup’ school called Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin. Only 6 years old, it felt like NDCL

was trying to do something special. Choosing NDCL was easy because of the rich legacies of NDA and CL. It felt like a good energy. Things were shiny and new back then. I know the campus has grown so much since then but it is always will be special to me.”

After being cut from the NDCL baseball team as a senior, Sacco quickly pivoted to track. A growth spurt led him to a walk-on at Ohio State University a year later. He fondly recalls Dean of Students Mr. Charles Calovini and the impact he had on so many young men and women during his years as an NDCL administrator.

“A group of us played hearts with Mr. Calovini on several Friday nights,” he says. “He was an amazing person. He had a two-door Pontiac Grand Prix for sale. I was trying to work a deal for it. At one of our game nights I brought a check, bought his car, and drove it home. Me and several of my friends built a strong connection with Mr. Calovini. He was special.”

After NDCL, Sacco went to The Ohio State University where he earned a degree in Economics in 2003. His first job was with SunLife in Chicago—a city he fell in love with and remains today.

“Chicago is the capital of the Midwest, the market is huge,” he says. “A city bigger than Toronto which is a capital of a country with an incredible history. You have a city with all these transplants that stayed for years! I’m one of them, I’ve been here longer than I was in Mentor. Chicago is a place that has Midwest roots and work ethic. We’re not New York, not San Francisco, but a midwestern version. There’s a sense of comfort in the Midwest.”

Sacco worked for SunLife for 3 years then moved to the Hays Companies, a regional insurance broker. Sacco and his colleagues grew the company, doubling its value in 10 years. A corporate buyout changed Sacco's perspective on the new company, and he began dabbling in other ventures. In 2011 he started a dry cleaning 'on demand' service which did well until the pandemic, and he also started buying real estate in Florida.

"The side businesses were fun, but I had a little runway to play with. It's hard to grow something when you don't have the energy anymore, so I made the move to my current role with Innovative Benefit Solutions."

IBS is a benefits brokerage and consulting firm that focuses on companies with 50 to 500 employees. A startup, Sacco has a business partner and seeks to grow the company as clients come in.

"Like following a truck in a snow storm," Sacco says of his new venture. "A startup is a terrifying risk, but exciting at the same time."



But it's OK to be comfortable being uncomfortable."

While he calls Chicago home now, you can't take the Cleveland out of him.

"I miss not sharing my hometown with my kids in the same way others can. That sense of familiarity brings comfort. I miss the people and relationships. It comes back to the Catholic foundation. The 2016 World Series was especially difficult for me.

Childhood team Indians versus adult team Cubs. Home always wins out, so I was upset."

Outside of work, Sacco spends time with his children Carter (14) and Lyla (11). He is a volunteer track coach at St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago—clearly the Catholic school bug hasn't left him.

"Catholic schools create a foundation in faith and God. Belief in something greater than yourself is a big deal to me, it is the preparation for purpose-driven living. This isn't part of the curriculum of other educational settings. This is what separates Catholic schools. Those 12 years for me in Catholic schools set a foundation for me if you are open to it. Kids experience amazing highs and horrible lows through life, but having faith and being prepared through service, love, core values that build foundation for purpose driven life. That's what makes Catholic education special to me."



News and Notes from Campus

Girls Basketball play at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse

On January 8th, the girls basketball team took the court at Rocket Arena, home of the Cleveland Cavaliers, to face Garfield Heights. The Lions won 55-51. The contest was part of the Cavs Elite High School Hoops Series. The team watched the highly-anticipated Cavs/Thunder game later that night. This was a memorable experience for our student-athletes!



NDCL grads are NCAA National Champions

Hats off to NDCL alumni Caroline Jurevicius '23 and Matt Guerrieri '07. Both won NCAA national championships—Caroline as an athlete with the Penn State University volleyball team and Matt as safeties coach at The Ohio State University. Congratulations!

Lions Sport Network launches

NDCL recently launched the Lions Sports Network. In its first season, the student-driven initiative covered select boys and girls basketball games including post-game interviews with coaches and athletes. Juniors Joe Mazzolini and Colin Krajnak started the program and are seeking to grow the network with students interested in this unique experience. Contact the NDCL athletic department for more information.



Pamela Malone is new Head Lacrosse coach

Head soccer coach Pamela Malone is adding another role to her NDCL business card—head girls lacrosse coach. Malone was hired this past winter to take on the additional role in our athletic department. “It’s exciting to see the girls’ enthusiasm about improving their skills,” she says. “Their passion for learning the game and is something I look forward to this spring.”



NDCL Basketball debuts new throwback “Latin” jerseys

The Lions boys basketball team sported throwback “Latin” jerseys for select home games this season. Cathedral Latin won the state title in 1977 and then were finalists in 1978 and 1979. This season the Lion hoopsters climbed the rankings of area teams and began state playoffs in late February.



Sean Morad '27 wins Chardon Township contest for new sign

Chardon Township selected the design of sophomore Sean Morad for its new signage on area roadways. Township trustee Jacob Cimperman '16 partnered with NDCL's digital design class that submitted over 60 sign designs for consideration. Morad's design incorporated Chardon's red and black accent colors along with a silhouette of a deer and gold edging. Congratulations Sean!

News and Notes from Campus



NDCL celebrates Spirit Week

January 27th kicked off NDCL's annual Spirit Week, a celebration of our school, faith, and community. Highlights of the week included the annual coin war benefitting the Miracle League, celebrating an all-school Mass (thank you, Fr. Jacob Bearer), and culminating with the Friday rally with friendly and spirited games between the classes.

The Coin War resulted in a \$5,000 donation to the Miracle League of Lake County. This year's big winner in the Spirit Week contests and coin war was the class of 2027. Congratulations!



NDES/MS celebrate Catholic Schools Week

"Sunshine and Spirit" was the theme for Catholic Schools Week at Notre Dame Elementary School January 27th. Faith and fun filled the week's activities including praying the Rosary, making cards for the Sisters of Notre Dame, and a magic show by Rick Smith, Jr. To top off the week—snow cones for the students!

Tom '76 and Barb (Bennett '72) Kovacic donate rosaries to NDCL students

NDCL students were recipients of blue and gold rosaries gifted by Tom and Barb Kovacic. "About 15 years ago Barb and I were distributing Eucharist at the Cleveland Clinic," Tom Kovacic says. "The ladies from St. Paschal Baylon Parish were supplying rosaries to give to the patients and their visitors. Barb decided to start a rosary making group at St. Justin Martyr Parish to help the supply to CCF. This evolved to supplying rosaries to the catholic colleges in Ohio. In meeting Dr. Hoynes at a recent Notre Dame Schools event, she asked about the possibility of gifting one to every student and we were able to do that."



West Virginia Work Camp opens to alumni

For over 20 years, NDCL students traveled to rural Wayne County, West Virginia for a week-long immersive experience joining over 100 volunteers from across the country to put their Christian faith into practice serving those in need. This year, NDCL students are participating in the West Virginia Work Camp June 8 to 14, 2025 and we are opening up a parallel trip for NDCL alumni who participated in the program as a student. Interested? Contact Luke Skotzke '24 at skotzeluk@gmail.com, Hailey Karban '24 at haileykarban@yahoo.com, or Mr. Phil LeMay at phil.lemay@ndcl.org.

Advancement Office adds Kostelac, Raddell moves to Event Coordinator

In December, Notre Dame Schools welcomed Erica Kostelac '16 to its Advancement Office. Kostelac serves as Advancement Services Coordinator. Kathleen (Oesterle '83) Raddell moved into the new role of Advancement Event Coordinator.

"We're thrilled to welcome Erica to the Advancement team," says Keven S. Krajnak 98, Director of Advancement.



"Already a few months in she's a fast learner and eager to make her mark in stewarding donors to Notre Dame Schools. Kathleen moving to the event coordinator role is a no-brainer—she is a natural for the position. She already has a few new events in the works for 2025."

Teacher Feature:

Mrs. Lisa (Patton '83) Dobe



ROLE: Assistant Faith Formation Coordinator, Notre Dame Elementary School

FAMILY: Married to Michael Dobe for 37 years. One child (Mary (NDES '05)). Two grandchildren (Nora and Violet—both at NDES).

SCHOOL TIES: 1983 graduate of Notre Dame Academy, 1979 graduate of Notre Dame Elementary School. Daughter of Bob Patton '53.

FUN FACT: Dobe and her family plan to visit cousins in London this summer including a cruise to Norway and Iceland.



Lisa Dobe is as close as it comes to a Notre Dame “lifer”. She is a graduate of NDES and NDA and since 2022 works on campus as Assistant Faith Formation Coordinator for Notre Dame Elementary School. Her role as Catechist for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd introduces PreK and Kindergarteners to things they see and do in Church and the life of Jesus .

“My primary role is helping children to develop a loving relationship with Jesus. They come to know that Jesus the Good Shepherd loves them, cares for them, and calls them by name. I help them to learn to listen to His voice.”

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd was developed in Italy 70 years ago and has been used in the United States for 40 years. It is a Montessori-based method of faith formation for children and provides them with hands-on materials for their prayerful work in a specially prepared room called the Atrium.



Dobe has a special place for her Notre Dame Academy experience—especially the relationship with the Sisters of Notre Dame. Her high school graduation and the beautiful rituals of Baccalaureate, Junior Ring Ceremony, and Freshman Acceptance are all close to her heart. A few years ago, she made her covenant as an Associate of the SNDS. These are lay men and women who share the Sisters charism of God’s goodness and provident care. Sr. Virginia Reesing, SND was Dobe’s companion through the formation process, and was her principal at NDES.

“I am full of gratitude and blessing to be in this place. To be able to come back and serve in my 4th grade classroom, now our Atrium, is a wonderful opportunity. If these walls could talk! I was here, my daughter was taught here, and now my granddaughters are here.”

Teacher Feature: Mr. Alex Dyer



ROLE: Social Studies Teacher, Mock Trial Advisor, and Assistant Boys Golf Coach at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School

FAMILY: Married to Kari for 1 year

SCHOOL TIES: 2nd year on the NDCL faculty

FUN FACT: Dyer loves hockey and skiing. "If I could ski every day that would be my dream."



For a social studies teacher like Alex Dyer, the world is his classroom. With no shortage of current events, he challenges NDCL students to take classroom topics and learn through creative and interactive ways. For the 2024 election, students in Dyer's government classes created bingo cards and "played" during the 2024 election night coverage. They created a bingo squares and posted when and if they got bingo. "Race to 270" and "Too Close to Call" were some common examples of squares that students came up with.

"I love teaching here," says Dyer. "This is my first teaching job. When I first thought about getting into teaching, it was this experience, these types of thoughtful and creative students that I always pictured to be teaching."

Dyer's favorite question for his students and in his classroom is one word—"Why?"

"That one word gets students asking the next question. Why, and what is the purpose? By teaching them this, I am teaching them how to learn. This concept of critical thinking is more important than the content."

In learning about World War II, a group of Dyer's students created a newscast podcast using video software. The group covered the Battle of Okinawa and welcomed a veteran to the set. "They modeled it after Good Morning America," Dyer said. "They cover the content but have some theater and stage elements to it. I think that project makes the lesson memorable for them."

Dyer grew up in Hudson and went to Miami University for his Bachelor's Degree, then John Carroll University for his Master's. At Miami is where he got the history bug.

"There was a class called Raiders of the Lost Archive. It covered archeology, museum stewardship, arts and culture of the Indiana Jones movies. It was an immersive class that got me interested in history."

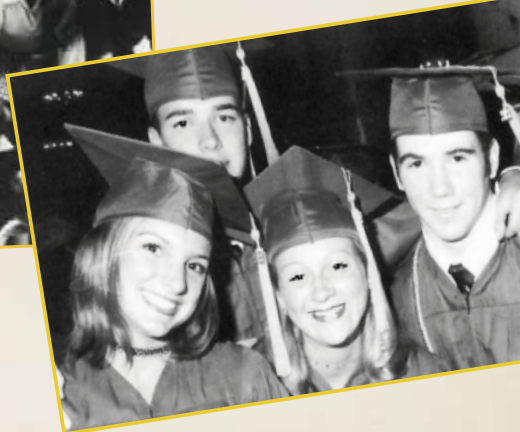
What makes NDCL a special place to Dyer?

"The beauty of the campus is mirrored in every facet. I work with incredible colleagues and mentors that teach me every day. The students are wonderful. I can tell students here are really grateful to be at a school like NDCL."

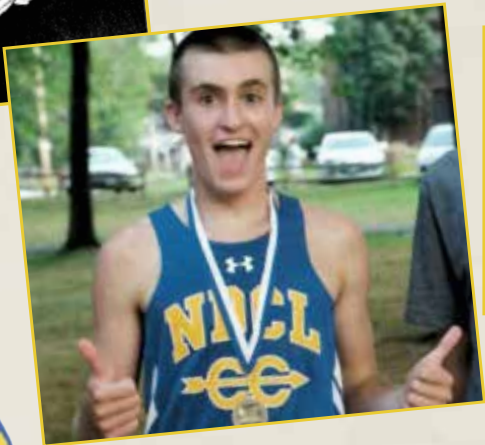
SAVE THE DATE

June 6, 2025

Join us for this fun and casual
Friday evening
event on campus
June 6th.



REUN 20 JUNE 6



NDA • CLS • NDCL

REUNION

25

2025



Celebrating class years ending in '5' and '0' in honor of your Class Reunion
New for 2025: Inaugural Pickleball Tournament Saturday, June 7th!





May our deceased alumni rejoice in God's everlasting love.



1982: Beth (Neroni) Harlor shared that this photo of members of the Class of 1982. The group continues its tradition of gathering on Dec 26th every year since their 1982 graduation. "The bonds of friendship that we formed at NDA are as strong as ever," she says.

2004: Bill Preston shared this photo of 26 teammates from his NDCL football at a 2024 Browns game. Some flew from across the country to gather.

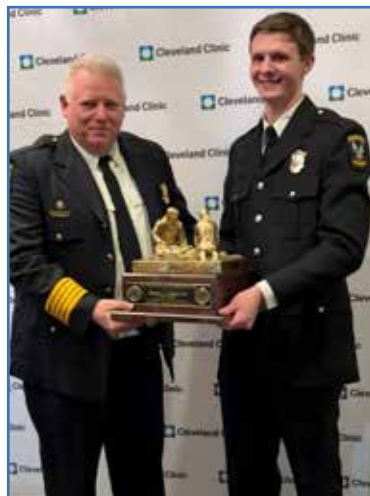


2008: Patrick Rahill was promoted from Senior Associate to Counsel at Flannery Georgalis, LLC. This achievement is certainly well deserved, given his unwavering dedication, exceptional performance, and relentless hard work. Congratulations Pat!



2012: Josh Dasch and his wife Elissa married in April 2024. Congratulations!

2021: Nick Liberatore received the prestigious William Sillasen Award at The Cleveland Clinic EMS Awards in January. The award recognizes outstanding leadership, professionalism, dedication, and service to the EMS.



Cathedral Latin School

Walter Ackley '55
Bro. Joseph Barrish, SM '47
George Brych '69
Robert Catino '57
Ken Ciolek '65
William Cooley '60
William Coyle '56
Kenneth Cudnik '57
Peter Ducic '73
Paul Fronek '49
Daniel Gacka '45
Vincent Gobozy '55
John Godman '47
Paul Graff '45
Donald Grande '59
Richard Habic '50
Richard Hora '47
Raymond Hornak '49
Edward Hyland '63
John Klimczak '60
Robert Krejci '53
Gilbert Kroboth '69
John Kunikis '61
Tedd Kwasniak '60
Gilbert Lanese '60
Donald Lawrence '55
Kenneth Lehmann '47
Charles Lockyer '65
Mark Oberdoerster '74
Chester Orlando '59
Neil Panteleano '56
James Pesek '44
Ramon Pfeiffer '52
Edwin Rowan '58
Roger Saunders '48
Basil Segro '56
John Skerl '64
Norman Sowin '47
Mark Spain '78
Daniel Stech '47
G. Albert Stevenson '52
James Sweeney '50
Raymond Tarantino '53
Thomas Turner '53
Larry Veasey '66
John Ward '59
Clemens Wicinski '52
Donald Zaylor '48
Neil Zehnal '49

Notre Dame Academy

Donna Adair '86
Agnes (Kirchner '43) Brodnik
Arlene (Vaccariello '52) Grapo
Kathryn (Wilson '81) Grimm
Patricia McCann '52
Mary Ann (Hollis '49) Schindel
Mary Ann (Gauntner '54) Siskovich
Bernadine (Lynch '57) Szymanski

NDCL Friends

Camille Schroeck (retired faculty member)

Recurring Giving Makes a HUGE IMPACT

Notre Dame Schools stands as a pillar of educational excellence and spiritual development. But behind the scenes of this bustling institution is an annual fund that needs constant support to sustain our mission. One of the most impactful ways you can contribute to this fund is through recurring giving. Here's why.

Enabling Long-Term Projects and Improvements

With a steady flow of funds, the school can embark on long-term projects that might otherwise be impossible. Whether it's expanding our arts and music programs, upgrading technology in classrooms, or building new facilities, recurring donations are the foundation upon which these dreams are built. They allow us to think big, plan for the future, and take bold steps that benefit our students for years to come.

Simplifying the Giving Process

For donors, recurring giving is a hassle-free way to contribute. Setting up a monthly, quarterly, or annual donation can be done quickly and easily at www.LionsGive.org. It's automated, secure, and incredibly convenient, ensuring that your support for the school is consistent without any extra effort on your part.

Maximizing Impact

Many donors find that they can give more overtime through recurring donations than they might be able to with a single, larger gift. This incremental approach makes it easier to manage personal finances while still making a significant impact. A small amount given regularly can add up to a substantial contribution, making a real difference in the resources available to our students and teachers.

Start making your impact on the future of our students today with your own monthly gift to Notre Dame Schools at www.lionsgive.org.

Questions? Contact **Courtney (Rice '98) Bacik** at Courtney.Bacik@ndcl.org or (440)279-1079.

LIONSGIVE.org



"Giving to NDCL is important to me because investing in quality Catholic education is worth it. I draw on the education and faith formation I received at NDCL often in my adult life. By giving a modest amount consistently through recurring giving, over time I know I am supporting Notre Dame Schools in a big way."

-Richard Sadowski '05

Pictured: Richard, Katie, and three boys:
Danny (8), Joey (5), and Matthew (1).

We are grateful to our many Recurring Donors

Elizabeth Basich '03
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Tamara Zupancic

PERSPECTIVE: Lions Athletics



*A new beginning. Championships. Perseverance.
Now in its fifth decade, NDCL athletics motivate student-athletes to compete at
the highest level—on the field and in the classroom.*

This year, let your Estate do the Giving

By including Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin or Notre Dame Elementary School in your will, you make a lasting, legacy gift that sustains Catholic education

In 2024, over \$42 billion was given to charities around the globe--just from bequests. More and more alumni, grandparents, and friends of NDCL and NDES are planning this type of giving for our school. In our current Capital Campaign, Leading Transformation, over \$4 million is declared to Notre Dame Schools in the form of future bequests. Are you next?

Estate or Planned Gifts, also known as deferred giving, helps Notre Dame Schools plan for its medium and long-range future. After your lifetime, your life's work and stewardship will make a lasting impact on Endowment and future growth on our campus. Students not even born yet will benefit from this act of generosity.

Here's what you can do:

Do you have NDCL or Notre Dame Elementary School in your will?

Let us know, and join the Notre Dame Circle of members. You can be an anonymous member but still communicate your intentions to the school.



Haven't done a will yet or left any charities in your plans?

It's easier than you think. Just add "Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School" or "Notre Dame Elementary School" as a beneficiary in your will. Declare a percentage or dollar amount of your remaining estate that will be directed to the school.

Questions about estate giving to Notre Dame Schools?

Contact Keven S. Krajnak '98, Director of Advancement, at (440) 279-1068 or Keven.Krajnak@ndcl.org.

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If this issue of *SEASONS* is addressed to your daughter or son who has established a separate permanent address, please notify us of the new address: 440.279.1068 or advancement@ndcl.org



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SAVE THE DATES

April 5: Lions Mane Event Oktoberfest

May 15: NDMS Graduation

May 23: NDCL Commencement

June 6: Reunion 2025

June 7th: Inaugural Alumni Pickleball Tournament



CONGRATULATIONS

to senior Sean Butler
 on his acceptance to
 the U.S. Military Academy
 at West Point!



Update contact 
 information here.

HELP!

About 1,000 alumni addresses are old and incorrect. The Post Office charges us for each of these returned issues and other mail and the cost adds up! Take a moment to share your current mailing address with us so you stay in the know. Parents of Alumni: take the time to update your son/daughter's contact info with us. Even if you think we may have it, send us the current information anyways. Tuffy says "Thank You!"