

SEASONS

A Publication for Alumni, Parents & Friends

Spring 2023

Celebrating the
HEART of the
LIONS

NOTRE DAME
ND
ELEMENTARY

NOTRE DAME
ND
MIDDLE SCHOOL

NOTRE DAME
NDCL
CATHEDRAL LATIN



Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School • Notre Dame Middle School • Notre Dame Elementary School
13000 Auburn Road Chardon • Ohio 44024 • ndcl.org • ndes.org



NOTRE DAME SCHOOLS



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.



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 from preschool through high school 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 •

Spring 2023

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Message from the President

March 2023

Dear Families, Alumni, and Friends of Notre Dame Schools,

In this Spring 2023 edition of *Seasons*, I hope you see schools which are strong, vibrant, and successful. In this 35th anniversary of the founding of Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin, there is much to celebrate: our state championship volleyball team, our successful Robotics and Mock Trial teams, and happy, bright, thriving students.

Also 35 years ago this spring, I was in high school. I was thriving academically, athletically, and socially. From that time as a student at Mater Dei High School in southern California, I witnessed a community that cared and a community that rallied together. It was a community that cheered together, strove for common goals, and, at the time, was the largest co-ed Catholic high school west of the Mississippi. Attending private school at that time for my family was only possible because of the sacrifice of my parents. My father worked two jobs and my mother started a night shift as the lead nurse at a local convalescent hospital. Her shift was from 10pm to 7am, 6 days a week. She could be home to say goodbye to us before we left for school. She would rest and then take care of keeping our home going for me and my three younger sisters. She would have dinner ready for us and check in with us before she left for work between 9 and 9:30pm at night. She continued in that work and with that shift until 2020 when Covid-19 forced so many changes. She retired from nursing at 86 years old.

Thirty-five years ago this spring, she joined me for my Junior Ring Ceremony. Being with her in that moment is one of the most cherished moments of my life.



The sacrifice of my parents is not something unusual, but it was life-changing for me — so, too, is the effort by our parents each day to make possible the gift of education for their children. 60% of students at NDCL and 30% of students at NDES are on need-based financial aid. Everyone in Ohio with a state tax liability can redirect up to \$750/taxpayer/per year to Notre Dame Schools. Help us make a Notre Dame Schools education possible for all of our students. I ask you to consider a gift to our LionSGO.

At Notre Dame Schools, we strive to celebrate and to challenge each student, partnering with parents to achieve something extraordinary — an awesome, life-changing, life-shaping education for our 1150 students.

In this edition, we hope you glimpse the many people who make our mission thrive:

- We profile in this edition our retiring principal as well as the gratitude we have for the 17 years of leadership and service that Mr. Joseph A. Waler has brought to Notre Dame Schools and particularly, to Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School. His leadership has been student- and community-focused, and for his dedication — our schools, graduates, staff, and students are blessed.
- The first year of Notre Dame Middle School, by so many metrics, is serving the needs of our 12-14 year old students — academically, faithfully, and social-emotionally. We are grateful to the leadership of Dr. Hoynes and the faculty and staff who serve our students each day.
- Alumni who continue to invest in our school with their time, talent, treasure, children, and grandchildren.

We thank you for your continuing support and generosity as we build an even better campus for students now and well into the future.

Go Lions!

Michael Bates

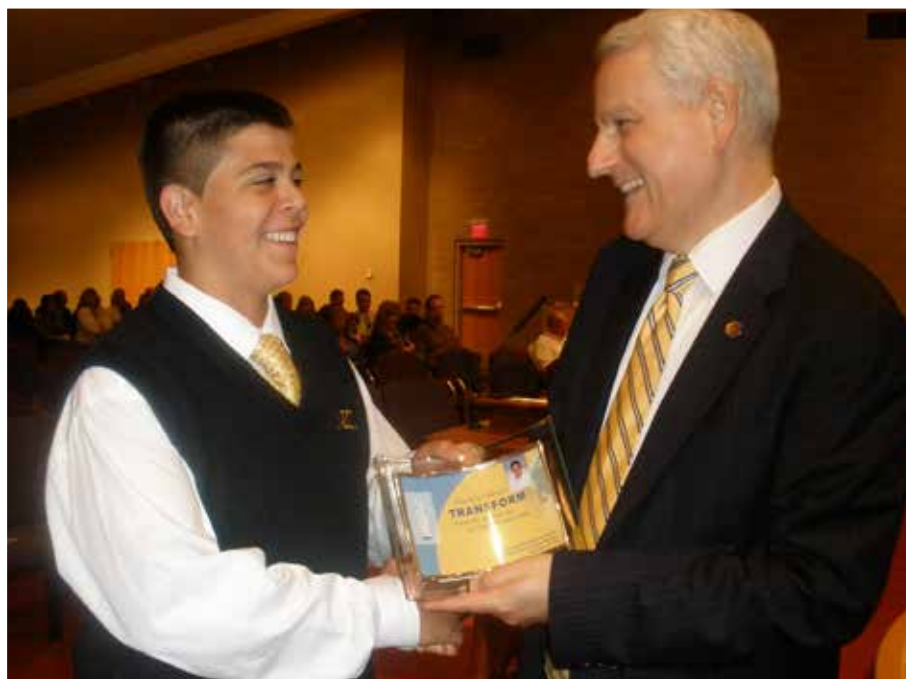
Michael Bates, Ed.D.
President, Notre Dame Schools



The HEART of the Lions for 17 years

*NDCL principal's retirement
leaves a lasting legacy for a
generation of Lions*

After 17 years as principal of Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School, Joseph A. Waler will retire on June 30th. Through photos, achievements, and personal testimonials from students, parents, alumni, colleagues, and friends, this tribute to his ministry reflects the indelible impact his leadership has had on thousands in our school community.



Over 17 years, Mr. Waler has played an important part of transformation—in the culture of the school and lives of thousands of graduates and families.



Receiving the 2018 National Blue Ribbon Award in Washington, D.C. was the “cherry on top of the sundae” of years of collaboration among teachers working towards a common goal.

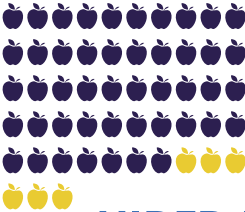
Waler


by the Numbers

2,757  **+ 185**
of NDCL graduates 2007 -2022 Seniors in the Class of 2023

3 # of graduation venues:

Palace Theater
Mentor Fine Arts
Mayfield Drive In

 **47 of 53**
current NDCL
classroom
teachers
HIRED BY WALER


7  of these are
NDCL grads
during Waler's
17 years


9 
NDCL Individual/Team
STATE CHAMPIONS
since 2006:

 **20 SNOW DAY SONGS**
Waler sent out in 17 years (his favorite: the
Irish accent or Cajun accent were two)

1 Appearances Mr. Waler made
on the popular CBS game show
"The Joker's Wild"



7  Years Mr. Waler has coached
the NDCL Dance Team
(This is true. *Who knew?*)

43 
years
working in
Catholic
education

Miles on his car, purchased when he started at NDCL in 2006

299K 



My hope is that we really live out the words that Pope Francis said: 'We know well that with Jesus, life becomes richer and that with Him is easier to find meaning in everything.'

That's what I want a Catholic school to be. I hope in some small way my legacy is to look at the eyes, the voices, the hands of those people that are here, and see Jesus.

— Joseph A. Waler

FAITH & SERVICE



✚ Mr. Waler is a regular evening Mass and dinner guest with the Sisters of Notre Dame. He treasures these moments and sharing in the Sisters' mission and educational philosophies.



An incredibly faith-driven man, Mr. Waler helps shape the Catholic identity that is part of NDCL's fabric of worship, service, and outreach. ✚



When Joe interviewed for the principal's position in 2006, a search committee member said, "This is the one we've been waiting for." At the time I thought Joe might stay 10 years, but of course he's an overachiever! During the past 17 years the Sisters of Notre Dame have been grateful for his mission-driven leadership. He has also become our brother and friend.

— Sister Margaret Gorman, SND Provincial

Waler's Words

We sat down with Mr. Waler and asked him to reflect on 17 years of ministry at NDCL. With grace and a bit of humor, here are excerpts from that interview:

Q) 17 years ago, what did you know about NDCL? Since that time, what has changed, what hasn't changed?

JW) I had the sense that the school had potential. You wouldn't apply to a place if it didn't. A place with a solid reputation, and that was largely from my interaction with the Sisters of Notre Dame. It is a relatively large school in the grand scheme of things. The college prep piece was something I knew about. But after 17 years it becomes your home. You spend a lot more time here than home. It's not just a place on a map, it's people, it's stories, it's connections. I love the quote from Thomas Merton 'The reality of personal relationships saves everything'. You can get through almost everything through the context of a relationship.

Q) Top 3 achievements that you are most proud of in the last 17 years?

JW) I know the #1 thing is the culture we've created here. This is a pleasant and purposeful place. People enjoy being here. They take responsibility for it. There is pride in the place and a belonging. Go into any classroom—you see positive interactions between the kids and the teacher. You don't sense tension. Another achievement is the opportunities we've created for faith formation and service. Labre ministry in particular. Our kids love it, our staff loves it, and those we serve love it. We now have more of those opportunities on a regular basis. I am proud of our academic achievement. The fact that we have 15 college credit courses in this building, and all these kids have to do is walk down the corridor to get them. The teachers got credentialed, the Board supported it. They've all taken off.

The National Blue Ribbon distinction, naturally is a highlight. But that was a cherry on top of a sundae. Teachers working together, knowing their content, and being goal-focused.

Q) Looking back, what are some challenges you faced?

JW) I'm no different than any other school administrator dealing with the challenges of COVID. That you could never have seen coming. You had to pivot and lead a community in a very contentious time. What was worse than the disease was the tension it created, and the divisiveness it created. I spent hours on the phone with parents walking them through what was expected of us and how that would affect their child. It was tough not to be sucked into that.

Something I'll never forget: the state-bound cross country team, when one of their teammates testing positive. At that time it meant we had to quarantine everyone on the team. I learned that on the phone as I literally watched the bus pull into our parking lot to take them to Columbus. I knew I had to gather those boys in the chapel and tell them they couldn't go.

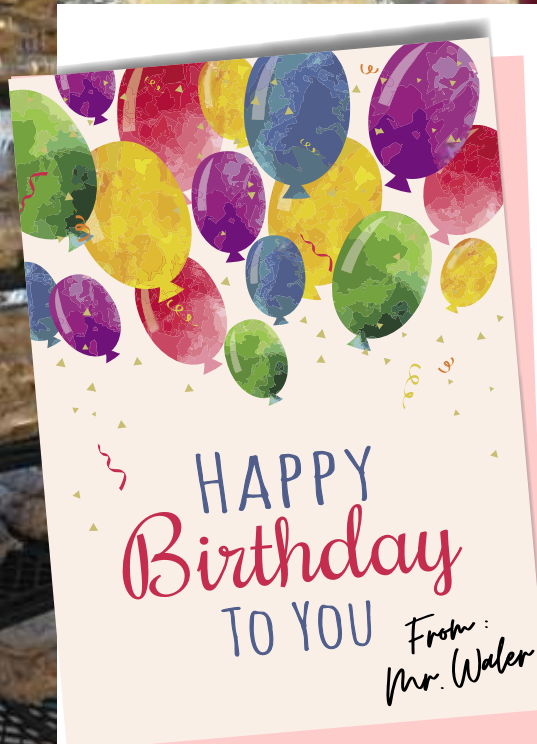
So many kids told me how good of a job I did leading through this. I guess I did a good job of hiding how bad it was for me. I don't think most people knew what it was like to hold the school together. Re-opening was the hardest part. I'll never forget our opening faculty meeting in August 2020 looking out to a masked faculty, I saw terror in those eyes. I knew my job was to re-assure them.

Q) 17 years as a principal is a lifetime these days. What kept you motivated to come back, day after day, year after year?

JW) Sometimes people don't realize, but being a principal is full of joy. You get to preside at all sorts of wonderful, happy things. Welcoming in 9th graders, graduating seniors, placing medallions on state champions. I keep coming back because I see the difference it makes. Kids only get to take this class once, the teacher might get to teach it 40 times in their career. Let's get it right for these kids. Teenagers are reasonable, you can talk them through just about anything. I've never come home in 17 years complaining to my wife about the kids. Ultimately it is spiritual reasons that keep me coming back. The human side alone is ultimately unsatisfying. I pray every morning on I-271 driving in asking 'God, what will you bring to me today and how will I respond?'

CARING

At the onset of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Mr. Waler rallied students and volunteers to make fried dough "angel wings" and partnered with a local Ukrainian church for members of the NDCL community to purchase pierogis. Proceeds were directed to relief efforts for the Ukrainian people.



☑ Every student and faculty/staff member gets a birthday card hand-delivered to their classroom from Mr. Waler.

Mr. Waler embodies exactly what it means to be a lion--having a heart of gold, wisdom beyond his years, and a gentle hand that guides others to success. I have always felt a part of the NDCL family thanks to the leadership and compassion from Mr. Waler.

— Isabella Carlozzi '17

We asked the NDCL community to share one word to describe Mr. Waler. Hundreds responded, and these were the most common words:



I am grateful to Mr. Waler for the many ways he prioritizes students in his leadership as principal. Totally organized, an awesome communicator, and a trusted colleague, Mr. Waler leads our school of faith, academics and extracurriculars by building community through his care and love of others. We celebrate Mr. Waler's outstanding career of service to Catholic schools and, particularly, to our Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School these past 17 years.

— Dr. Michael Bates
President, Notre Dame Schools

Q) I have to ask about the snow day songs/ messages. You've riffed KISS to Broadway to Joy to the World. Having fun is part of this ministry, isn't it?

JW) Joy is the surest sign of the presence of God. You come to school each day with joy on your face, let your students know you are happy to teach them. Nobody wants a leader that is sour. You have to have fun with life. A parent once told me that she likes the quirkiness of the songs, and it signals to kids that it's OK to be who they are. I never really thought of it that way, I just thought it was being playful and who I am.



Mrs. Kathy Hurt has worked side by side with Mr. Waler all 17 years. Working well together and even coordinating costumes together!

Q) You've had another NDCL icon, Kathy Hurt, at your side for 17 years. What has that meant to your work?

JW) Over the years, Kathy and I have developed a hand-in-glove relationship. We finish each other's sentences, actually we don't even have to start the sentence because we know how the other will respond. She's the front line, the first call comes into her. Her love for this school is clear. Her wanting to do right by the kids and the teachers. Anything that can be solved in this office she tries to do. And that involves working with me!

My very first visit here in 2006 when I interviewed, I bought a new suit. Had it pressed and everything. But I never bothered to check the back of it and see it was still sewn together. The very first thing Kathy did was pull out a pair of scissors and came at

me to cut it. That moment was the beginning of 17 years of friendship, helpfulness, and we've been rolling in the same direction ever since.

Q) How special is it to see a graduate have success in life and even to hire a graduate? What does that mean to you?

JW) High school is a means to an end. It is designed to be transitory. Bring in boys and girls to shape them into young men and women. You get glimmers when they are with you what kind of adult you'll be. Would I want that young kid as a 30-year old to buy a house next door to me? That is how I judge them. They are good people that come from this school. Their heads and hearts are in the right place. To see them have enough confidence, knowledge and skill to take the next step is rewarding. Last summer taking the four kids to Kentucky on the SND Rural Healthcare Experience, interacting with health officials, it wasn't hard for me to see them in white lab coats and stethoscopes checking in on me in a doctor's office one day.

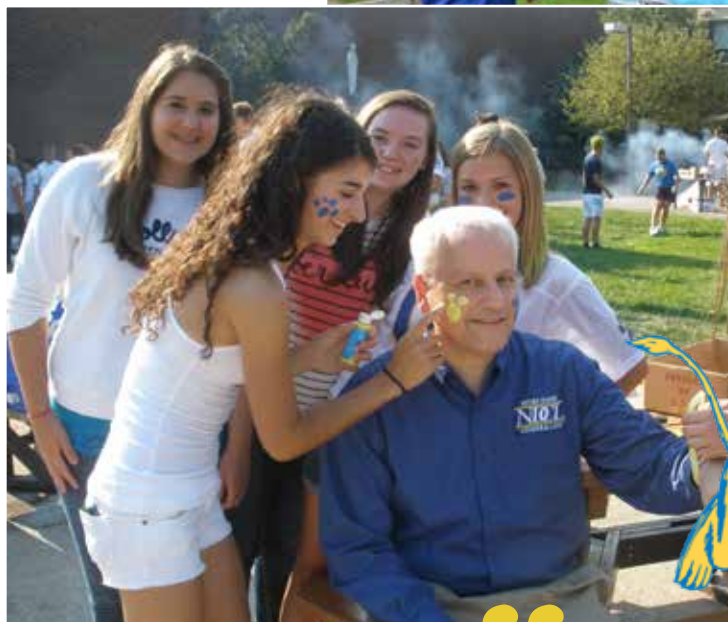
Q) The term "Powerhouse of Prayer" has taken root at NDCL. From prayer requests to honor guards at funerals, what has that meant for you?

JW) You can't say that was a planned endeavor. It flowed from our experience. I always welcomed kids and staffers bringing prayer intentions to my attention. I used it as an expression, just like that, I don't even know where the expression came from. Vince Bonacci, our Assistant Principal at the time noticed how it captured the spirit of the kids and that it just seemed to touch them. I share my cell number with all the kids. That became the vehicle that they would share. When you are faced with something difficult or joyful, you think of your school community and you want to share it. You think your school would want to know, and you WANT it to know. Some people are private and don't want to know, but that was a tiny indicator of our faith life that we wanted to be brother and sister to each other. This isn't just a 7:30 to 3:30 community, technology brings us together in those moments.

SCHOOL PRIDE



Celebrating NDCL's National Blue Ribbon award in 2018, Mr. Waler led a daylong celebration for NDCL and NDES students including blue cotton candy he personally "spun" and fun sunglasses.



☑ Mr. Waler is never one to turn down the blue and gold, even painted on his face.



My favorite moment of Mr. Waler is when he personally made pancakes for us before the ACT. Any time he bought us food like the Apple fritters, shamrock shakes, ice cream sundaes, and so much more. The atmosphere at NDCL that Mr. Waler has created through these "parties" is so unique to us and something I will carry with me forever.

— Tess Ruggeri '21

There is no greater joy for Mr. Waler than bestowing a diploma to graduates of NDCL. This, he says, is his proudest moment.



ACHIEVEMENT



NDCL received the prestigious National Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education in 2018.

The time he announced the trip to Washington to the faculty and staff to accept the Blue Ribbon award. I will always remember it as a binding moment for our community.
—Vinka Hartman (NDCL Faculty)

When I went to receive my diploma, Mr. Waler said to me “Congratulations, Doctor Mackay”. I knew at that moment that Mr. Waler really believed that I could go on to achieve my dream of becoming a doctor.”

— Kevin Mackay '14

Q) How do today's teenagers differ from teenagers when you started in Catholic education?

JW) I would say teenagers I know today like adults more than the teenagers I knew early on. Early on there was more of a tug of war between adults and kids. Years ago, there was an emphasis on controlling, which brought out resistance and resentment. Our NDCL community, we practice cooperation, not compliance. You can force compliance. They can choose to cooperate with you, you can't control 700+ teenagers. They do what I ask because we are in a relationship with each other, and we are all in a relationship with God.

Q) What's your hope for Catholic education going forward?

JW) My hope is that we really live out the words that Pope Francis said, 'We know well that with Jesus, life becomes richer and that with Him is easier to find meaning in everything.' That's what I want a Catholic school to be. It is easier to find meaning by looking at the life of the Lord. Find meaning in life, whether it's having a baby, getting or losing a job, getting married, navigating the diagnosis of an illness. Do kids see life through the eyes of Jesus? Thinking of those words from Pope Francis has helped me every step of the way.

Q) What's next for you?

JW) Lots of people have asked me that. The honest answer is 'I don't know'. I've watched people that have aged well, including our Sisters of Notre Dame. People that have routines age well. There is structure to it. The first few months I want to start crafting my own ritual. What's the structure of my life going to look like? Until now I've counted on the school to provide that. Now I have to create my own. The guys I see each morning at Panera have their ritual. I've watched that. Every day, even if it's 14 degrees, they get up and go to Panera by 6:30 in the morning. I don't know what they do after that, but they have a routine. You need that.

I always looked upon the word principal as an adjective more than a noun. You're the "principal" teacher, prayer leader, mourner, fan, comedian, everything. An adjective is a modifier. I hope I modified this place for the better. Did my presence make this place better? I hope it did. ■



“It’s Mr. Waler from Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin Calling”

Using his creative side, Mr. Waler comes up with unique voice messages to wake up the Lions when NDCL closes due to inclement weather. Urging students to use their “unexpected blessing of free time” to do something good, many families and students shared this one from 2022 as their favorite:

*To the theme of “Beth”
by KISS:*

*“It’s Mr. Waler calling,
And you know what I must do.
The snow outside is fallin’
And it’s just not safe for school.
So pull up the covers
And go straight back to bed.
NDCL’s closed. Yes, that’s
what I said.”
You go back to bed!”*

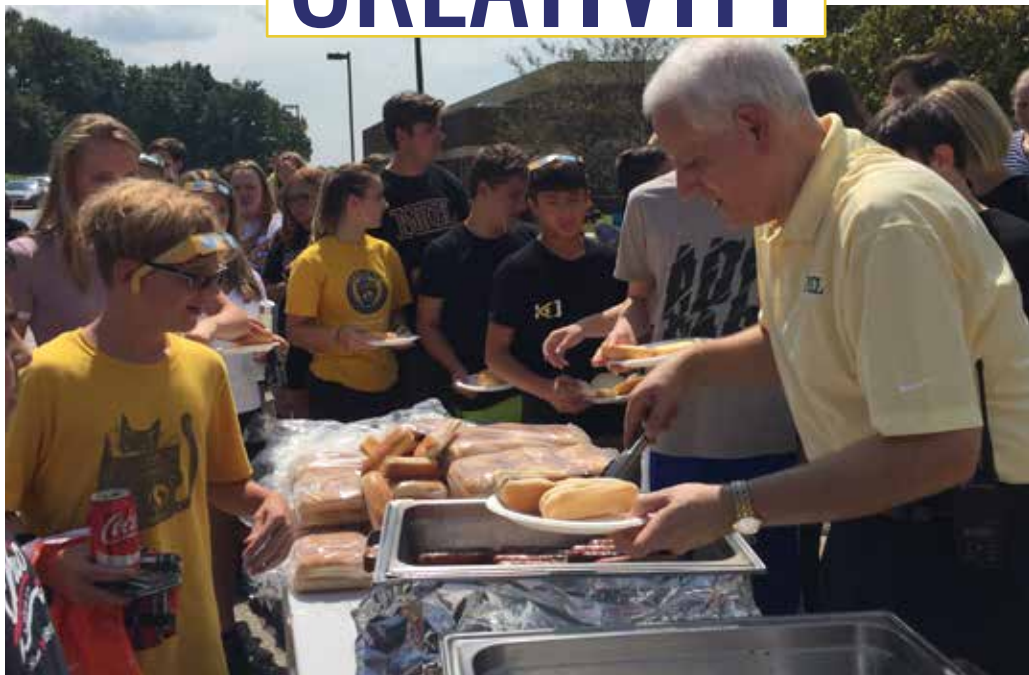


Scan this QR code to listen

Many St. Patrick’s Days at NDCL were celebrated with 800+ shamrock shakes ordered from McDonalds.



CREATIVITY



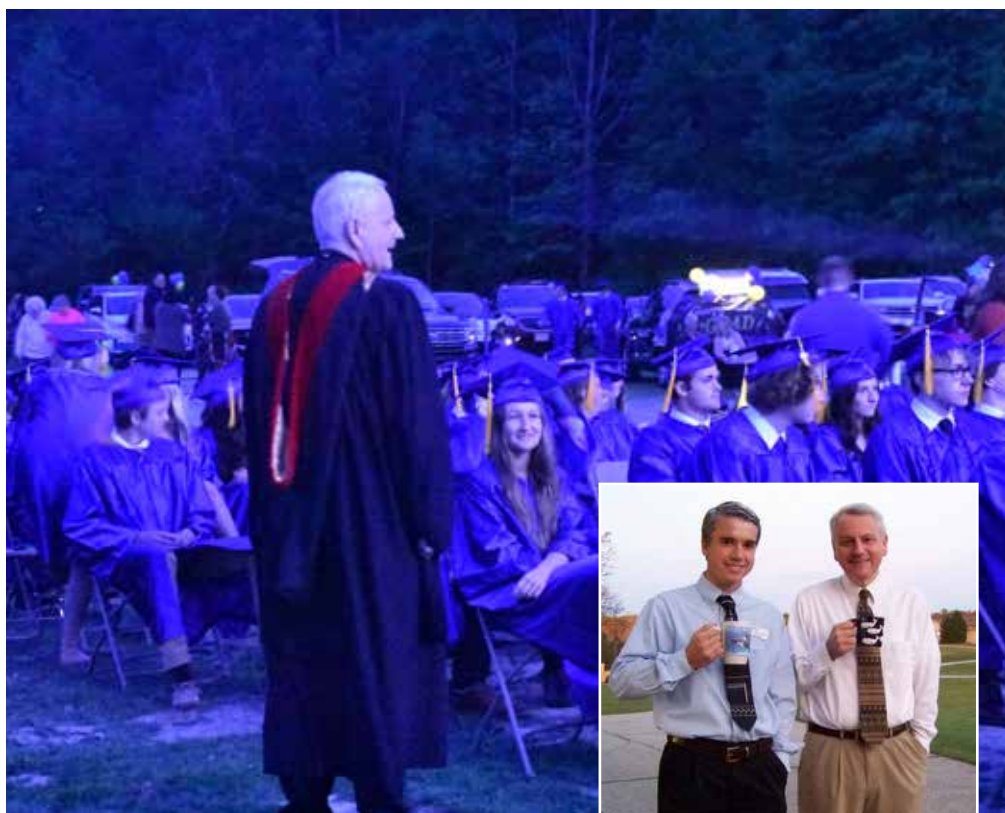
Never to miss an opportunity to celebrate a rare occurrence, during the solar eclipse in 2017, NDCL marked the rare event with a “watch party” including food and fun activities for the students.

We will always be grateful for the hilariously poetic ways in which Mr. Waler told us of a snow day. He coined the phrase “unexpected blessing of free time” and it truly was exactly that.

— The Roberts Family



The 2020 and 2021 commencement ceremonies were held at Chardon's Mayfield Drive-In theater. Even during COVID, Mr. Waler made sure NDCL graduates got their moment on the "big stage".



Having fun is part of Mr. Waler's personality. Even Dan Somrack '08 got into the spirit by dressing up as Mr. Waler (complete with whale mug) in 2007. ☺



The 2020 Graduation speech and celebration at the Chardon drive-in was a special memory for our family during the pandemic.

— Steve Jaworski

Because of the pandemic, we were not sure how, or if, the 2020 Commencement ceremony would be held. Fortunately, Mr. Waler and the staff worked tirelessly to have the ceremony at the Mayfield Drive In and the ceremony was amazing.

I will forever be grateful for Mr. Waler for making sure that the Class of 2020 was recognized in a fun and safe manner.

— Kevin Kinsella

I have always appreciated Joe's professional treatment of his colleagues. I have always been impressed with the way Joe handles tough situations, always striving for positive and supportive solutions.

Joe's caring and compassionate ways are clearly seen throughout our school, and I've seen the effects they have had on our students.

— Joe Spicuzza (NDCL faculty)

The way in which he celebrates life's littlest moments is something I wish to carry with me.

— Kendall Miller '16

I am in awe of the faith-filled motivations shared by Mr. Waler as he speaks to the NDCL community.

— Christine Carlozzi

COMMUNICATOR

Joe was behind the idea of weekly outreach to Cleveland's poor through the Labre program from the beginning.

— Phil Fogarty '76

You have made my time here so amazing already.

— current NDCL freshman

Joe is the type of person that makes you want to do better, be better and he will do all he can to make that happen. I am forever grateful for the experience my two oldest children have had with him at the helm of an outstanding high school. His kindness and compassion and dedication to his students and his work will never be forgotten.

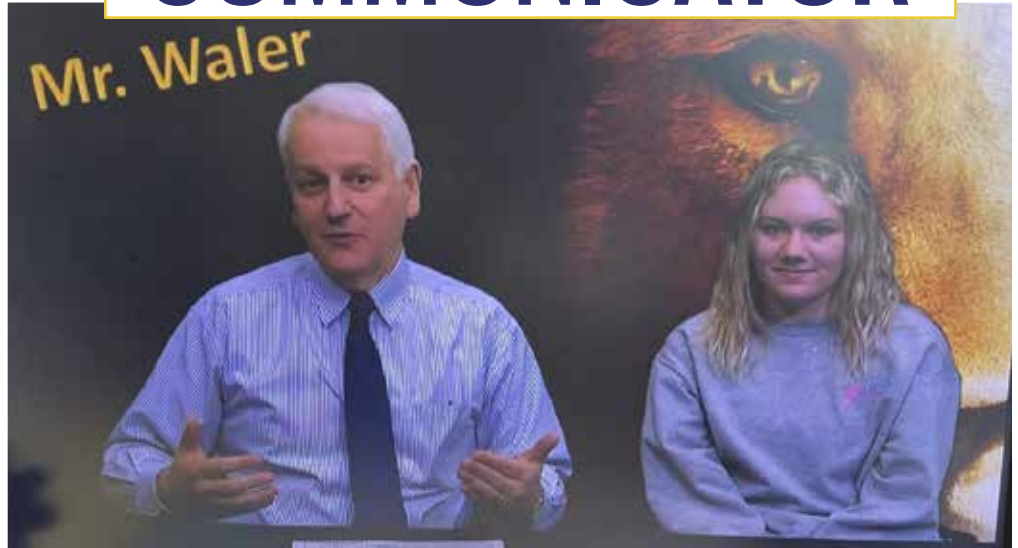
— Caroline Currier

Subbing in one of my English classes, the class was stressed because exams were near. Instead of sitting at the teacher's desk, Mr. Waler sat at a student's desk and participated in group discussions with us. He really wanted to understand what we were learning!

— Mollie Zoul '15

Mr. Waler is the "secret sauce" of what makes NDCL a special place to grow and thrive.

— Caroline Levine '93 (parent)



Often making daily appearances on NDCL Live, Mr. Waler's effective use of this communication tool is his direct link to the students and faculty each school day.



'Today our Catholic Church celebrates...'

is Mr. Waler's end of day announcement drawing attention to the feast days of various Saints in the Catholic Church. Whether the Saint's context was personal to him or relevant to teenagers, he always connected the dots in celebrating that Saint's special day with the NDCL community.



There's no doubt Mr. Waler bleeds the blue and gold





While 17 years of leadership, love, and service is difficult to completely capture in these pages, the NDCL community has forever been **TRANSFORMED** by the leadership of Mr. Waler. To paraphrase one of his favorite lines, we wish Mr. Waler the best in his expected blessing of free time!



Mr. Waler with his niece and nephew—Alex and Angelina Simerale—as young lions and today. Both will graduate from NDCL this spring! 📖📚



“

I have been so blessed to share in the lives of thousands of wonderful young people and dedicated colleagues for more than 40 years,” he added. “Their faces, the memories we share—I’ll treasure them in my heart always.

– Joseph A. Waler

Faith, Family, & Foundation

Krebs' NDCL family tree adds a fourth branch as new generation begins on Notre Dame Schools' campus



As NDCL celebrates its 35th Anniversary in 2023, we're taking a look at individuals and families that have shaped its success.

Big, Catholic families have their own special way about them. Holidays, touch football games, Mass, parades, birthdays, weddings, and funerals all hold a special place in developing deep roots as a family and within a community.

For the Krebs family, a fourth branch of Dick (CL '55) and Rita Krebs' family began at NDCL this fall, and the newest generation at Notre Dame Elementary School. Dick Krebs, who passed away in 2020, is a member of the Cathedral Latin Athletic Hall of Fame after starring in basketball at Latin and later John Carroll University.

"He was a true Man of Latin," says his granddaughter Kate Shaughnessy '18, now a theology teacher at NDCL. "I began to truly appreciate his Latin legacy for our family when I was a student at NDCL. He would be sitting at center court of the gym watching his granddaughters (Shaughnessy and Maggie Rahill '17) play basketball for the Lions."



Legacy Day

FAMILY LEGACY AT NDCL AND NDES

The Krebs family tree of 8 children and 27 grandchildren extends four branches into the NDCL community. The newest, J.T. Krebs, is a freshman at NDCL.



Joe Krebs family

"J.T. immediately felt at home at NDCL", says Joe Krebs, the youngest of the eight and now an NDCL parent. "Pulling out of the NDCL parking lot after Open House during his 8th grade year, I asked him what he thought. He said, 'I could tell that the #1 priority is the students.' He said that!"

Joe Krebs says that a lifetime of Catholic education has helped shape him as a parent. At St. Ignatius High School, he credits his

theology courses and focus on service that he now aims to instill in his three kids. "Critical thinking skills and service to one another are skills I learned through Catholic education and that I consider important for my family now. How I guide my family now is because of my personal relationship with Jesus."

When he thinks about Dick Krebs' Latin legacy, he goes right to the basketball stories. "I wish I could have seen my dad play basketball," he says. "There wasn't video back in the 1950s like you have today, so even to see that would be incredible. One longtime coach told me that he puts Dick Krebs in his Top 3 of high school players he ever saw in NE Ohio. That's such a compliment to my dad and my family!"

Shaughnessy chose NDCL twice—once as a student and now as a teacher. It's no surprise, as she was educated in Catholic schools for 17 years (St. Gregory the Great/Sacred Heart of Jesus, NDCL, and Franciscan University of Steubenville). "Being part of a big family, there was always something going on. Always a baby being born, everyone is in Cleveland, so we are all tight-knit. My family and my faith are foundational to who I am as a person. My Catholic education allowed me to deepen that faith and then in college to nourish that faith."

Shaughnessy joined the NDCL faculty this past fall as a theology teacher. "It's been a joy to be back and so enriching. So many new, yet



Kate Shaughnessy '18

at the same time familiar faces are here. I'm teaching siblings of some of my classmates. Seeing my sister in the hallways (Kelly '25), someone I love, adds to that comforting feeling of graduating from here."

Patrick Rahill '08 is the oldest grandchild of Dick and Rita Krebs and is a litigation attorney in Cleveland. As the oldest grandchild of Dick and Rita, he feels a responsibility shaping the family's evolving legacy. "My parents instilled in me to always aim to be the best, don't just settle," he says.

"My dad urged me to lead, not to follow. Now that I am a parent, I see my mom as a wonderful grandmother. She inspires me to be a parent and always be there for our son." Rahill smiles when reflecting on his years at



Maggie '17, Kelsey '13, and Pat '08 Rahill with their grandfather Dick Krebs '55

NDCL. "I learned to use my God-given gifts to excel in sports and academics. I knew early on I wanted to be an attorney. In my freshman English class at Miami University, I was overprepared thanks to NDCL and in

particular Ms. Frabotta's teaching. I never knew how much researching and writing I would do as an attorney. But the lessons she taught us has shaped my career."

As the first of the Krebs' grandchildren to enter NDCL, Rahill recalls Dick driving out to football two-a-days in the summer, afternoon football games, and later his sisters' (Maggie '17 and Kelsey '13) NDCL basketball games. "Grandpa would never brag about his basketball accomplishments at Latin or John Carroll. He was a constant supporter of all of us and cheered for our success. His only expectation for Maggie and the basketball players—make your free throws. After all, they're "free"!"

Samantha (Krebs '10) Hanley now starts the youngest generation of the Krebs family on Notre Dame Schools' campus. She and her husband, Peter Hanley '08, enrolled their daughter Ava at NDES Pre-School this fall.



MCGARRY

A HOUSEHOLD NAME AT NDCL

To many familiar with the NDCL campus, McGarry Gymnasium is a place to cheer, to pray, and to celebrate. But what's in a name?

"Tunney (Mike McGarry) wanted so bad to keep Cathedral Latin going in some way," says Rita Krebs, the sister-in-law of Mike McGarry '46. "I think he'd be grateful to God to see NDCL turn out the way it did, 35 years later. Better than he dreamt it would ever be."

McGarry was part of a small group of Cathedral Latin alumni, who in the mid-80s, sought a successor school or merger for Cathedral Latin. After considering other options, the decision was made to join Notre Dame Academy and create a co-educational school in Geauga County. McGarry died on March 17, 1987—the day the merger was publicly announced. When the new gymnasium opened in 1991, it was dedicated and named in Mike McGarry's honor as a lasting tribute.

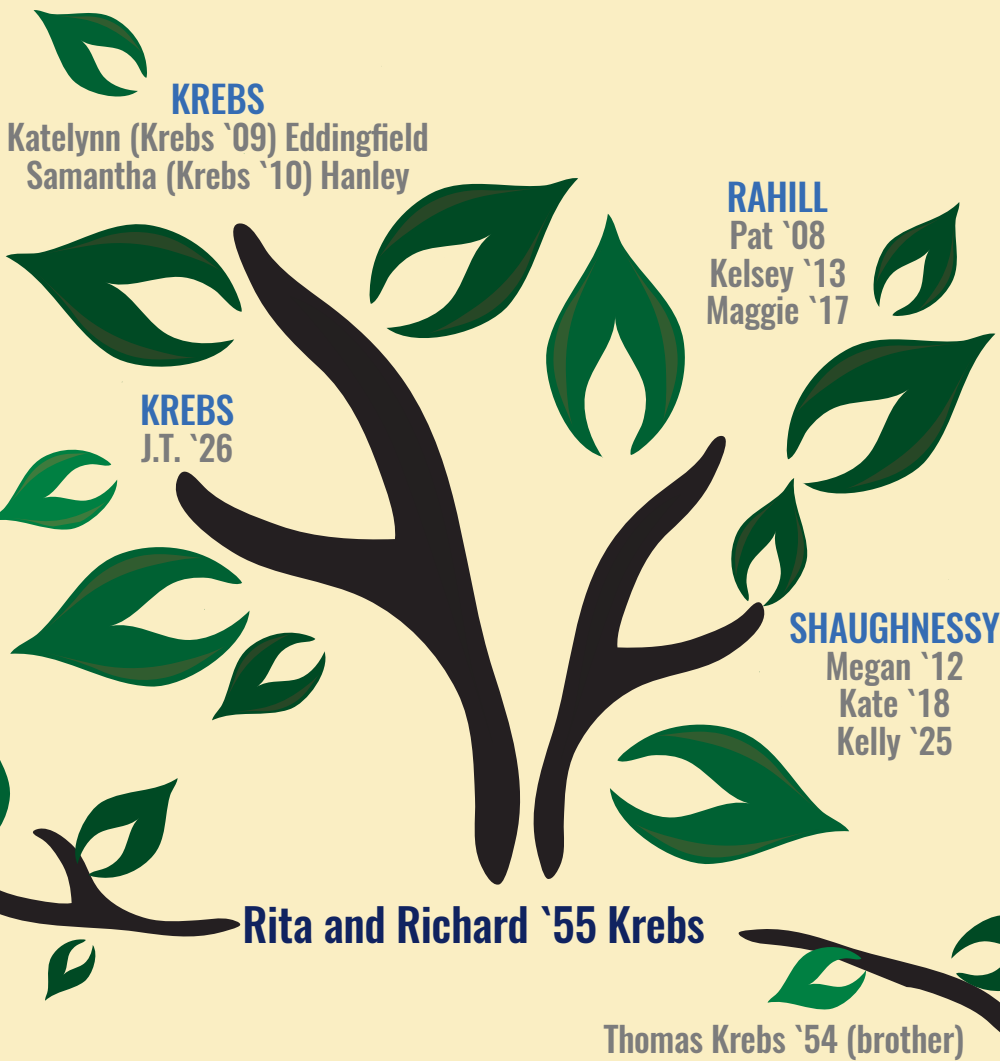
MICHAEL "TUNNEY" MCGARRY '46
 Pat McGarry '50 (brother)
 Michael McGarry '16 (grandson)
 Jack Egan '14 (great nephew)
ZBIEGIEN (great niece/nephews):
 Andrew '10, Grace '12, Joseph '12,
 Alexandra '13, Rachel '14, Jacob '16,
 Stephen '16, Stephanie '17, Anne '18

"We visited the school and who happened to be there by chance, but Mr. Waler. We loved our visit and felt special. Peter went to NDES and he ran into a former teacher who remembered him. Other elementary schools we visited were OK, but I felt something a little different at NDES."

She fondly recalls NDCL's annual Legacy Day, an event celebrating the heritage of NDA and Latin, in particular always having one of the biggest tables. "Grandpa Krebs and all my cousins at the table celebrating Legacy Day is something I'll never forget. Here we are at a family table, but part of a larger 'NDCL family' at the same time. Catholic education is foundational for me. It's something you can lean on in hard times and in good times."



Ava Hanley (NDES)





STATE CHAMPS!

NDCL volleyball team wins state championship

For the third time since 2014, the NDCL Lions won the state championship in volleyball. What an amazing championship game it was on November 12th in Dayton, as the Lions overcame a 2-1 deficit to Gilmour Academy to win in 5 sets.

Congratulations to these remarkable student-athletes in this achievement. We are so proud!



LionSGO

NOTRE DAME
ND
ELEMENTARY

NOTRE DAME
ND
MIDDLE SCHOOL

NOTRE DAME
NDCL
CATHEDRAL LATIN



Near the end of 2021, the Ohio General Assembly established a new program where Ohioans can receive a 100% tax credit against Ohio income tax liability for cash contributions to certified organization that grant scholarships to students, including Catholic schools. By the Summer of 2022, Notre Dame Schools applied and became a certified Scholarship Granting Organization. In fact, Notre Dame Schools became the first certified Scholarship Granting Organization designed specifically for a Catholic School!

Our Scholarship Granting Organization, named LionSGO, is specifically designed to award tuition assistance to qualified students who seek a Catholic education from Notre Dame Schools. The program prioritizes families and students with the highest financial need. Every gift to LionSGO is a gift to students who need it the most. As an added bonus, each gift is eligible for an Ohio income dollar-for-dollar tax credit (up to \$750 per individual gift). LionSGO is a chance for you to choose where your taxes go and what they support. What a win-win for our community!

Through the first year of certification, we are happy to report 234 gifts and \$155,160 to LionSGO. Thank you to all who contributed to our community's new opportunity allowing us to assist as many qualified students seeking a Notre Dame Schools education as we can.



Scan to visit LionSGO.org

Allows You to **REDIRECT** **YOUR STATE TAXES**

Our new program has just begun, and we believe many more people in our community can "redirect their taxes" into a Catholic education for qualified students at Notre Dame Schools. If you missed the opportunity in 2022, LionSGO is officially open for the 2023 calendar year (to be reported on your taxes in the Spring of 2024). Just go to LionSGO.org or scan the QR code with your phone, and you will be taken directly to the website. Once you are there, all you have to do is follow the website to submit your gift. Then, when tax time comes around in 2024 you can report your gift to a Scholarship Granting Organization and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit.



"Contributing to LionSGO helps those students who have a financial need to pursue their NDCL education and receiving an Ohio tax credit in return for the donation just makes it a total no brainer to do."

Brian Palisin- Former NDCL Parent

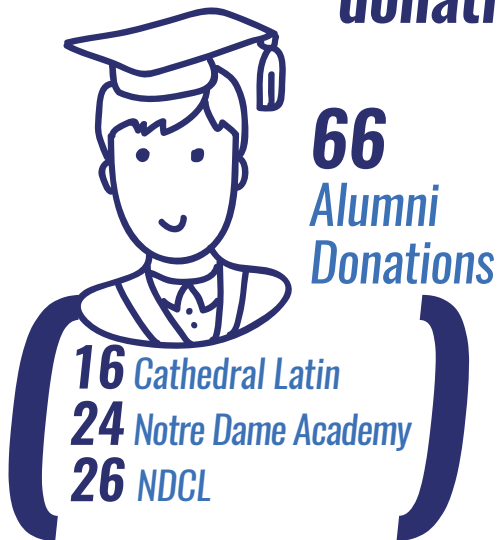
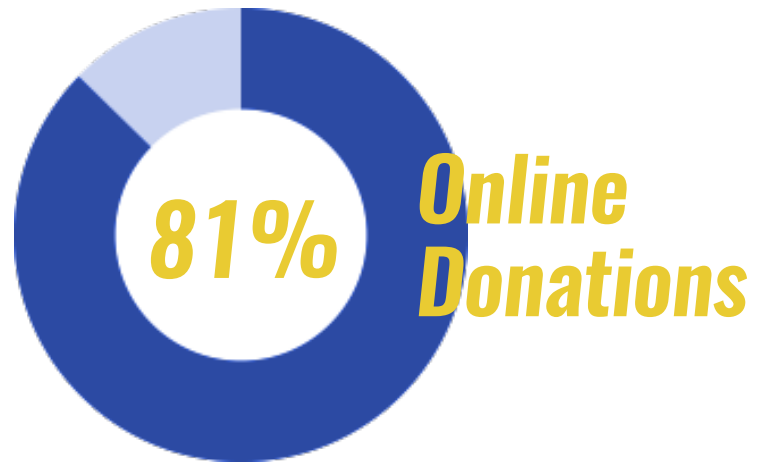
"I sincerely appreciate the mission of Notre Dame Schools, not just in the experience that my own children are provided, but especially in some of the alumni that I've hired into my own organization. Their values and good intentions well match my company. Because of this, I chose to use my tax dollars as a donation to LionSGO to support scholarships for our students, and it was incredibly easy, taking me only a few minutes from my phone."

David Payne

Current NDES Parent and Notre Dame Schools Board Member



234
Total
Donors



“Choosing to participate in LionSGO was an easy decision. Being able to have my taxes (that I was already paying anyway) redirected to something that would make a meaningful impact at Notre Dame Schools took no time at all and allowed me to support the Notre Dame Schools community in a new way.”

-Jay Mazzone '09

Contact Ben Lozar '09 at Benjamin.Lozar@ndcl.org or (440) 279-1079 for more information on LionSGO.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM CAMPUS



Robotics achieves top state ranking

We're #1! The NDCL Robotics team secured a spot in the state finals by winning the regional competition at Kirtland High School. They'll take their #1 ranking into the State Tournament in March.



Celebrating Fr. Caddy's birthday

NDCL celebrated school chaplain Fr. James Caddy's birthday during the December Mass on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. To add a special twist, everyone surprised Fr. Caddy by inflating blue balloons with his likeness on them at the conclusion of Mass.



NDCL's Labre ministry at 200 and counting

NDCL's Labre ministry recently celebrated its 200th week of serving our friends in Cleveland with meals, friendship, and warmth. Since its inception four years ago, over 14,000 meals have been served by NDCL students and volunteers.



NDES LEGO League

Congratulations to the First LEGO League team "Electric Ducks" - Madeline Rand, Emily Boehnlein, Max Platz, Jamison Smith, Evan Sammut, Madalyn Szanyi, and moderator Mrs. Halle Davis! The Ducks had a great showing, winning the Innovation trophy for their regenerative electric vehicle accessory and qualifying for the state meet which will be held at Hobart Arena in Troy, OH on March 12th. Good luck!

NDMS Power of the Pen finishes in Top 3



The Notre Dame Middle School 7th grade team won 3rd place overall and the 8th grade team won 2nd place overall (out of 19 schools) at Lake Erie College. Students from these teams moving on to the Regional competition in March are: (8th graders) Caroline Butler, Taylor Kuhn, Drusilla Mango, and Natalie Rieger and (7th graders) Karlin Kraus, Giada Poulos, and Ella Vieira. Good luck!



Coyote Peterson visits NDCL

NDCL graduate Nate Hahn '00 (Coyote Peterson) visited an audience of NDCL biology students in January. Sharing some of his Brave Wilderness content and how he went from Newbury to a multimedia broadcast/streaming celebrity in nature and science, he answered questions from our sophomores and spent time connecting with them about his journey. ➡



Spirit Week and Catholic Schools Week

NDCL and NDES celebrated Catholic Schools Week and Spirit Week January 30 to February 3. It's a weeklong celebration of our schools and mission of our Catholic identity with a lot of fun!



NEWS AND NOTES FROM CAMPUS

NDCL Mock Trial Advances to State Competition

NDCL's "Legal Lions" advanced to the State Competition in Columbus in March. In a true team effort, students and volunteer legal advisors team up for a winning formula. Parents and alumni serving as advisors include Richard Carbone '65; Kimberly Baioni, Martin Delahunty, Perrin Sah and Judge Carolyn Paschke, Judge Michael Shaughnessy, and Nick Burling '01.

Special thanks to Judge Terri Stupica and Judge Deena Calabrese '89, who officiated scrimmages for the teams; Mallory Sah '22, a current member of the mock trial team at Miami University who also helped the teams during her winter break.

English Department Chairperson Ms. Victoria Frabotta '86 and English teachers Miss Katie Martin '14 and Mr. Michael Vitale advise NDCL's mock trial teams. Way to go Lions!



Ratka to States!

Jonathan Ratka '23 advanced to the State Swimming Competition for the 4th straight year, competing in the 100 Backstroke event in Canton. Ratka finished 9th in the state last year. Jonathan plans to attend Miami University next year and major in Finance.

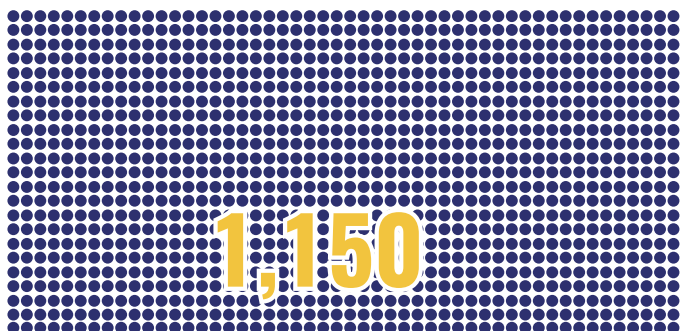


Cleveland Institute of Art recognizes NDCL's artistic touch

34 NDCL students won a combined 45 awards at the Cleveland Institute of Art's Scholastic Art and Writing Competition. NDCL was fourth out of 50 area high schools in the number of award winners. Check out the award-winning pieces in this creative 5-minute video on YouTube by searching for "NDCL Scholastic Art Winners 2022-2023". Congratulations Lions!

WOW!

Notre Dame Schools annual Giving Day on November 17th was an amazing display of philanthropy to Notre Dame Schools. We are grateful to the 700 donors contributing over \$311,000 for our students.



Notre Dame Schools students that benefit from
GIVING DAY GENEROSITY



**GIFT THAT TRAVELED THE
FARTHEST TO CHARDON, OH
(REPEAT WINNER!)**



113

of first-time donors to NDS.
WOW!



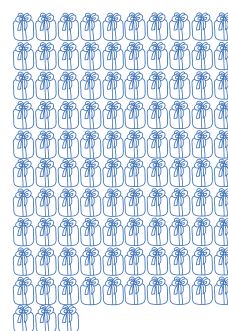
Corporate Matching
gifts for Giving Day
TOTALING OVER
\$12,000!



First Giving Day
that was also a Snow
Day for Notre Dame
Schools students



Dollars given online
during Giving Day



103

Gifts of \$1,000+
on Giving Day
(a new record!)

1944 2022

Graduating year of eldest Giving Day donor

Graduating year of youngest Giving Day donor



\$15,000

**LARGEST SINGLE GIFT
ON GIVING DAY (record-tying!)**

We are incredibly grateful to all who made Giving Day 2022 an unbelievable success!

REGISTRATION
OPENS

April 1st

ndcl.org | ndes.org

NOTRE DAME
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MIDDLE SCHOOL

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CATHEDRAL LATIN

SAVE THE DATE

LIONS MANE EVENT

NOTRE DAME SCHOOLS

MAY 13, 2023

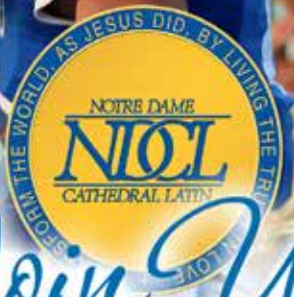
CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART



AN EVENING EVENT OF PHILANTHROPY CELEBRATING NOTRE DAME SCHOOLS

Special thanks to Preston Superstore
as the Title Sponsor for the Lions Mane Event!





Join Us!

NOTRE DAME-CATHEDRAL LATIN

OPEN HOUSE

April 26 | 6:00-8:00pm | NDCL.ORG | 440.286.6226

Contact Michael Suso '03
Director of Admissions

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ND
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NOTRE DAME
ND
MIDDLE SCHOOL



START YOUR JOURNEY AS A LION TODAY!

CONTACT BARBARA WILLIAMS (440) 279-1129 • WWW.NDES.ORG

In Memoriam

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

Cathedral Latin School

Anthony Caticchio `54
Donald Clark `49
Vincent DeCrane `45
John Dolan `72
Richard Dow `50
Richard Eastburn `70
Joseph Frank `45
Lt. Col. Frank Frydl, Jr. '54
Vincent Gatto `60
Nick Gerome `62
Jack Hare `66
Edward Hofstetter `54
Richard Jackson `73

Col. Anthony Jezior `52
Edward Kaplan `54
Henry Kiel `48
Dennis Kurowski `64
Earl Lauer `49
Carl LoPresti `58
Ray Machar `61
Richard Marks `46
Ed Moran `63
Alan Moriarty `60
Michael O'Donnell `55
Stephen Palazzo `79
George Perk `59
Charles Rohr `54

Casimir Roszak `47
Robert Shaver `72
Walter Smith `54
Richard Snider `43
Joseph Sodja `60
Charles Stahler `54
Joseph Tavano `49
Michael Toner `60
Frank Tyes, Jr. `77
George Zimmer `64

Loretta (Vargo `46) Horvath
Ruth (Dolan `46) Jameson
Rita (Muchitsch `46) Jernejcic
Ann Marie (Spisak `49) Kachmarik
Margaret (Hoeglar `54) Kinkopf
Rita (Boylan '42) Moscovic
Wanda (Kielbasa `50) Olexa
Marilou (Battista `52) Strathern

NDCL

Vanessa Astraitis `01

Notre Dame Academy

Carol (Bonney `56) Armenti
C.C. Choromanski `59

Our January 27th Alumni Outing at Masthead Brewery

was an absolute blast! We had 50 alumni and guests join us ranging from the graduating classes of 1991 to 2017. It was a great time to reconnect and reminisce. Congratulations to the Class of 2009 for having the highest attendance! We hope to do more events, locally and outside of the Cleveland area, throughout the year. Make sure you are following NDCL Alumni on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for upcoming events and announcements.



Bundles of Joy



**RORY MARCO
DIFRANCO**

born to Marco '06 and Jamie
(Summers '06) DiFranco



**LIAM ZEKE
EVANS**

born to Will and Nicole
(Trivisonno '10) Evans



**GIOVANNI
FRATE**

born to Chuck '11 and Lydia
(Alexander '13) Frate

Class News



2007 Jeff Lelko is a Launch Systems Integration Engineer with NASA and participated in the launch of Artemis in November, 2022 [↑](#)

2013 Halle Uveges married Ryland Puzzitiello in November, 2022 in Islamorada, FL. Congratulations! [↩](#)

2020 Philip Monreal has been accepted into the Berklee College of Music and is studying Contemporary Writing and Production. [↩](#)



1941 Rita (Hurajt) Vargo celebrated her milestone birthday (#100!) in January in Texas. NDCL presented her family with a framed portrait of her senior photo and a handwritten note from president Dr. Michael Bates. Rita offered the secret to life's longevity.



"God", she says simply owing to her longevity. She is a cancer survivor (at age 85), pneumonia (at age 97) and a pacemaker at 98, Rita's goal is to make it to 101. She fondly recalls her 'good ole happy school days' at Notre Dame Academy on Ansel Road, in particular this advice from the Sisters of Notre Dame:

"You won't meet Mr. Right on the dance floor...but look for Him at the communion rail."

GIVING TO NOTRE DAME SCHOOLS

This year, make Notre Dame Schools part of your philanthropic plans.

- **NDCL Fund or NDES Fund:** Make your annual gift to Notre Dame Schools to support the areas of greatest and immediate needs of the school.
- **LionSGO (Ohio residents only):** Re-direct up to \$750 of your Ohio state tax liability to Notre Dame Schools Scholarship Granting Organization and receive a credit on your 2023 state tax return! Every Ohio taxpayer should do this since it is NO COST to you! Visit www.Lionsgo.org for details.
- **Endowment:** Give to an existing, named scholarship fund or consider starting a new one to honor a loved one.
- **Estate and Planned Giving:** You can't take it with you! By leaving Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School or Notre Dame Elementary School in your will and estate plan, you leave a legacy for future students to receive an exceptional Catholic education.

Are you 72 or older? Consider making a gift to Notre Dame Schools through your IRA's required minimum distribution. It reduces your tax liability from dollars you need to withdraw anyways.

Questions about giving?

Contact Keven Krajnak '98
at Keven.Krajnak@ndcl.org or (440) 279-1068 today!



SAVE THE DATE

June 2, 2023

*Join us for this fun and casual
Friday evening event
on campus June 2nd.*

*All alumni are welcome
to this annual event!*



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 ndcl.org | ndes.org

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Parents:

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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Follow us

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@NDCLAlumni

@NDE513000



Joey Powell '13 and Emily Clemente '15 celebrated their wedding with all these NDCL Lions. Congratulations!

**SAVE
THE
DATES**

May 13th: **Lions Mane Event** at Cleveland Museum of Art
 June 2nd: **Reunion 2023 at NDCL** (classes ending in '8 and '3)
 August 28th: **Lions Golf Classic** at Fowler's Mill Golf Course