

# SEASONS

A Publication for Alumni, Parents & Friends

Summer 2023

## *Celebrating THE CLASS OF 2023*



NOTRE DAME  
**ND**  
ELEMENTARY

NOTRE DAME  
**ND**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

NOTRE DAME  
**NIOL**  
CATHEDRAL LATIN



Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School • Notre Dame Middle School • Notre Dame Elementary School  
13000 Auburn Road • Chardon, Ohio 44024 • [ndcl.org](http://ndcl.org) • [ndes.org](http://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 •



# SEASONS

Summer 2023

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**Dr. Jacqueline Hoynes**  
*Interim President, Notre Dame Schools  
Principal, Notre Dame Elementary School  
and Notre Dame Middle School*

**Mrs. Jodie Ricci**  
*Principal, Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School*



Introducing **JODIE RICCI**



My decision to assume the interim role at Notre Dame Schools was not taken lightly. My Notre Dame journey began three years ago when I became the Principal of Notre Dame Elementary School. First, I fell in love with the students, staff, and parents. I knew right from the beginning that I was home and finally in a place where I could outwardly practice my faith while working with students and staff on academic excellence.

I knew God had called on me to serve and empower others, all around the framework of our core values of respect, justice, integrity, community and excellence.

A great deal of interpersonal excitement emerged from building a Catholic Middle School, one where students' academic and social emotional needs were met while helping them develop their relationship with Jesus. I accepted the challenge of helping form a middle school that helped build enrollment at Notre Dame Middle School, and ultimately one which would also help enhance enrollment at NDCL with vigor and focus. On a larger level, I viewed this task as creating a middle school that would keep Catholic Schools growing in Geauga and Lake Counties. Not just a Catholic School, but a SND school.

The opportunity surfaced to work with the Sisters of Notre Dame during the middle school planning phase. From the plan's inception, we earned the support and confidence from the Sisters. They generously relinquished living spaces to make room for the new middle school. They supported us through their actions and through their prayers. Through those relationships, I realized how important it is for all of us to work hard to keep the legacy the Sisters have created alive, strong, vibrant, and growing.

Now, God has thrown me a little bit of a curve ball by giving me the opportunity to serve as the Interim President. I accepted His challenge because of the love I have for this Notre Dame community, but also because of the strong leadership team that will surround me. I am excited to work with Jodie Ricci, Keven Krajnak, Cole Whiting, and Paul Breedlove. Their strong faith, leadership skills and knowledge-base will further ensure that Notre Dame Schools will stay strong while the SND legacy continues here on the Notre Dame campus.

Dear Notre Dame Schools Community,

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, please join me in welcoming our new Interim President for Notre Dame Schools, Dr. Jacqueline Hoynes, the current Principal of Notre Dame Elementary and Middle School. Those who know Dr. Hoynes are familiar with her passion for being a Principal in our schools, and we are all very grateful that Dr. Hoynes is willing to support the Notre Dame Schools in the interim role as President. In doing so, Dr. Hoynes will leverage her considerable leadership experience, while we undergo a comprehensive search for a more permanent replacement for the long term.

Already, aspects of this process are underway, and a search committee is being formed to work with a specialty search firm to begin the formal and initial steps of identifying and hiring a new President. The necessary protocols to conduct this search require approximately twelve months of work, and therefore, we expect to identify and announce the news of identifying our next President, about this time next year. The search committee intends to conduct a robust and exhaustive process in order to appropriately identify the next leader of our school for a new generation.

The Board thanks our alumni, families, and friends for their ongoing support during this most significant time. As always, we are sincerely grateful to the Sisters for their leadership, direction, care, and love.

Thank you,

**David Payne**  
Board Chair,  
Notre Dame Schools



I am excited to reconnect with my former NDES and NDMS students, and to connect with the rest of the NDCL students and staff. Thank you for your love and support for our schools.

**Dr. Jacqueline Hoynes**  
Interim President, Notre Dame Schools  
Principal, Notre Dame Elementary School and  
Notre Dame Middle School



# READY to SERVE

## Jodie Ricci eager to start her role as NDCL principal

Rarely do you see anyone—student, teacher, or even parent—as eager to start a school year as Jodie Ricci is.

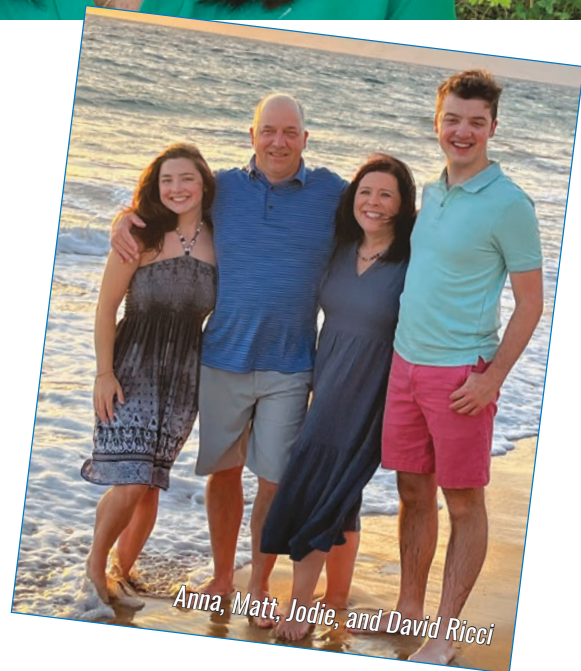
“I can’t wait to get started,” she says with great enthusiasm. “I have had the opportunity to attend several NDCL events over the past months, and there are so many incredible things happening at this school. In all of my observations and interactions, the pride in NDCL has shone through. People absolutely LOVE this place! What a great honor it is to join this already outstanding community. I am filled with gratitude as I respond to God’s call to lead NDCL and recognize the great responsibility of this ministry and position.”

Ricci was named NDCL’s 6th principal in school history in December. She succeeds Joseph A. Waler, who served as principal since 2006 and announced his retirement last fall.

“I am honored to carry on the mission and vision of the Sisters of Notre Dame and to build off of the legacy of Mr. Joseph Waler. We will keep learning and growing together to build a shared vision for the future.”

Ricci grew up in Butler, PA and attended Butler Catholic from kindergarten through grade 8. After attending Butler High School, Ricci came to Northeast Ohio and attended Baldwin-Wallace University studying music education. After graduation, she received her Master’s degree in music education from Kent State University. Recently, Ricci received a certificate in Leadership and Management and a certificate

in Change Management from the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University. She is currently working on a second Master’s degree in educational leadership at the University of Mt. Union and holds an Alternative Administrative Principals License for grades 5-12 in the state of Ohio.



Anna, Matt, Jodie, and David Ricci

Her parents still live in Butler and she has a sister in San Diego and a brother in Columbus.

Ricci and her husband Matt, an educator at Chagrin Falls High School and NDES graduate in the class of 1984, have two college-aged children. David is at The Ohio State University studying data analytics and Anna is at Ohio University majoring in nursing. Both of their children are working at the Cleveland Clinic this summer.

Since 2010, Ricci worked at Hawken Independent School in Gates Mills, serving as an Upper School Dean and Department Chair. In addition, she has worked as



Ricci serves as the Director of Music Ministry at Holy Angels Parish in Chagrin Falls.





*Ricci facilitates a professional development session for Harvard's Project Zero.*

an instructional coach and facilitator for Harvard's Project Zero, leading K-12 teams of educators and administrators in schools throughout the United States and around the world. Ricci also leads the music ministry at Holy Angels Church, her home parish in Chagrin Falls.

Since being named principal in December, Ricci has been active in meeting administrators, current and incoming students, and families to get acclimated to NDCL.

"Seeing so many students and families volunteer on a Saturday morning to help support freshman registration was inspiring," she says. "Our students, families, faculty, and staff are here because they truly believe in the mission and vision of this school. I see the values of justice, respect, integrity, community, and excellence in action every time I walk through the door. Together, we will



*Sr. Joanne Keppler, SND, Jodie Ricci, and Kathy Hurt pose with Tuffy at freshman registration.*

continue to find meaningful ways to live out our mission and to keep NDCL strong."

Faith is a bedrock of Ricci's life and background. In challenging times, she relies on her strong Catholic faith that was instilled in her at an early age.

"As a five-year old I sang my first song in my church, and I've never looked back," she says. "My Catholic faith is an anchor for my work. Everything I am, everything I do, is rooted in that faith. To be able to bring my whole self to NDCL is such a gift."

This past March, Ricci participated in the Sisters of Notre Dame Charism Experience. Vowed religious women have always held a special place in her heart and one of the many reasons she is so excited to lead NDCL.

"Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, was one of my elementary teachers and has remained a life-long friend. She taught me the importance of using the gifts you have to make the world a better place. Recently, I finished the biography of Saint Julie Billiart, a woman of great faith and a source of inspiration to our sisters of Notre Dame and so many others. I was moved by Julie's commitment to God's call, her passion for proclaiming God's goodness, and her unwavering belief in God's provident care. These are strong women, women with a vision and a legacy to build upon. These are women who have given their entire lives to serving others. I am inspired by their example, honored to share in this important ministry, and committed to learning as much as I can



*Ricci delivering the commencement address at Hawken's 2023 ceremony at Severance Hall. She was selected by the students.*



*A peek into the creative process intensive experience at Hawken.*

about their history so that I can help to carry it forward."

As NDCL marks its 35th anniversary in 2023, Ricci is looking ahead to what she hopes NDCL might look like at 50 years.

"What's most important is that we stay true to our mission, vision, and core values. Our mission, vision, and values are so powerful, and they are exactly what young people need in order to become the person that God designed them to be. Deep down, this is the real reason that I'm motivated to serve as the next principal of NDCL. I want to work with the NDCL team to pass on this beautiful mission and our Catholic faith. When we trust in God's goodness and keep our hearts open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, we can be assured that HE will take care of everything. I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for us – it's going to be pretty awesome!"





# Ricci in a few words

**Here are a few quick takeaways about Jodie Ricci.**

**What is something about you that few people know?**

I'm a first-generation college student and I absolutely love to learn! When I was little, my dad and I would read encyclopedias together.

**If you weren't in education, what profession would you be in?**

A nurse. Or a writer (I write a lot!). In high school I volunteered two to three days a week at our local hospital. I love helping people in need.

**Dogs or cats?**

Dogs. We have a mini-doodle named Millie.

**Morning person or night owl?**  
Night owl.

**Fill in the blank. When you saw the NDCL principal position posted, you said \_\_\_\_.**

"Oh my gosh, this is my dream job!" and also a nudge that God was telling me I was ready for a leadership position like this.

**Like to travel?**

We love to hike. A couple summers ago we hiked all the Geauga County parks, and then got all the Lake County parks. We went to Hawaii this summer—a first for us!

**Some things you love about Cleveland.**

We love the museums, Severance Hall, Playhouse Square and going to Guardians games. And Little Italy, especially Presti's. Basically everything around University Circle. I can't wait to see the Cathedral Latin arch and the "Castle on Ansel" my next time there.

**Coffee person?** Absolutely. Black, with a splash of half-n-half.

**Favorite movie.**  
Ironman.

**What book is on your nightstand?**  
The Bible. But also I am reading *The Business of Heaven* by C.S. Lewis.



# LIONS MANE EVENT

## NOTRE DAME SCHOOLS

MAY 13, 2023 | CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

# Lions Mane Event a ROARing success

May 13, 2023, was a huge success for the Lions Mane Event! Thank you to our sponsors, donors and all our guests who made it a night to remember under the atrium at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Generous sponsors and guests raised over \$175,000 for Notre Dame Schools, one of the highest ever! Throughout the night we auctioned off a one-week trip to Italy's wine country, a one-week stay in Hilton Head, and a suite to the Cleveland Guardians game, among other items.

Special thanks  
to our  
title sponsor,  
Preston Superstore.



*The Misiti Family* had an entire family table at this year's Mane Event! What a great idea! ✓



Great families think alike. *The Kresic Family* at their family table.



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**LIONS MANE EVENT**  
**March 9, 2024**  
at Windows on the River in Cleveland.

**The Joseph A. Waler Heart of a Lion Endowed Fund**, announced at the Lions Mane Event, is a new fund that will support school programs and initiatives that serve those in need like Labre and L'Arche ministries and other community outreach.

You can continue to honor Mr. Waler and his 17 years of leadership on our campus by contributing to this endowed fund.



# ROARING OUT OF THE GATE: EARLY SUCCESS FOR NEW LIONS COACHES



## BOYS BASKETBALL



**Pat Vuyancih** completed his first year as Head Coach of the Boys Basketball team. As a college player, he was part of Cleveland State University's Sweet 16 run in 1986. Recent coaching stops include Lake Erie College, Mount Healthy High School (Cincinnati), and Euclid High School.

The Lions tied a school record with 15 wins this past season and advanced to the District Finals in the OHSAA playoffs, the highest finish since 2016.



## HOCKEY



In March, **Keith Abood** completed his first season on the bench as head coach of NDCL's ice hockey team. NDCL achieved its first playoff victory in 5 years this past season in defeating Kent Roosevelt High School.

Abood's father is a graduate of Cathedral Latin School (Myron Abood '46). Keith's daughter, Clare graduated from NDCL in 2018. As a player, Abood was a state runner-up with Shaker Heights High School in 1979 and later competed at Kent State University.



## BASEBALL



**Marc Thibeault** completed his first season as head coach of NDCL's baseball team, succeeding Hall of Fame coach Jim Clark. Baseball had an incredible run in the OHSAA playoffs, reaching the Regional Final, the highest finish since 2017.

Thibeault was the Head Coach at John Carroll University from 1999 to 2019 and brings a wealth of experience to NDCL.



## FOOTBALL



**Anthony Baldesare** was named NDCL's Head Football coach and begins his first season on the sidelines this fall. A 2000 graduate of St. Edward High School, Anthony's father is a graduate of Cathedral Latin School (Carl Baldesare '61). His coaching experience includes Lenoir-Rhyne College (NC), Notre Dame College, and Hiram College.

"This is the type of school any parent would be excited for their child to attend. A place where they can be stimulated both academically and athletically."

The Lions open the regular season at Lion Stadium on August 18th versus Riverside.



## GIRLS BASKETBALL



**Pietro DeMichele** was named Head Coach of the Girls Basketball team this spring. DeMichele has been an assistant coach for NDCL's girls basketball, boys soccer, and boys and girls track teams over the course of the last 10 years.

*More new faces--Other recent hires include:*

**Dan Palmer**

Head Coach, boys soccer

**Ed Trebets**

Head Coach, boys golf

**Tiger Alexander**

Head Coach, girls golf

**Rick Sirl**

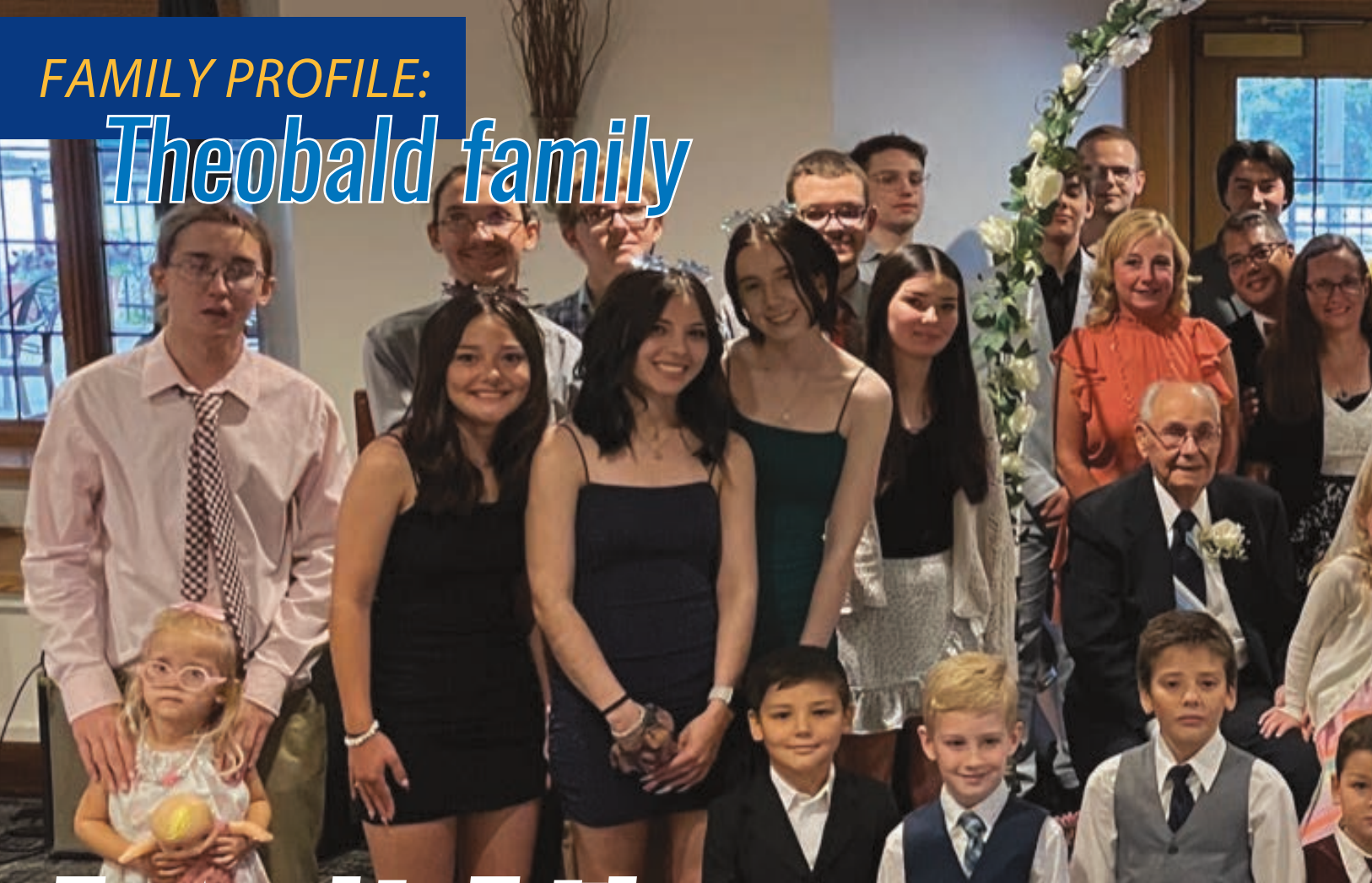
Head Coach, girls soccer

**Derek Kohanski**

Head Coach, boys and girls tennis

## FAMILY PROFILE:

# Theobald family



## Forward in Faith

### *Third generation of Theobald family carries family tradition on Notre Dame campus*

Connie (Kostelnik '70) Theobald has seen NDCL grow up right from the beginning. The NDA graduate and mother of 7 NDCL graduates put her faith in God that her family's NDCL journey would move forward after her 1970 graduation.

"When it came time in 1988 to send our oldest to high school, my husband Gerry and I looked at this "new school" called NDCL," she reflects. "But with 8 children, me being a stay at home mom, how were we going to accomplish sending our kids to Catholic school on one income? Prayerfully, we trusted in God that it would be possible, and it happened."

When Connie was choosing a high school, she too started out at a "new" school. Notre Dame Academy had only moved to Geauga County 3 years before she started.

"I was one of eleven children who all went to Catholic grade school, but the only one to graduate from a Catholic high school," she says. "I enjoyed the spirit of belonging to a family while at NDA. The development of the entire person—spiritually, physically, emotionally, and intellectually—is what makes this place stand out to this day."

Her admiration for the Sisters of Notre Dame and her memories of the faith formation at Notre Dame Academy runs deep even today.

"In 1966 when I started at Notre Dame, many of the Sisters teaching us were in their first or second year and very young. We built

relationships with them which in many cases have lasted to this day. Every morning, we walked into the school underneath the statue of our Blessed Mother at the chapel. Knowing that we were under the watchful eye of Mary and Her Son brought great comfort to me and made all the difference."

As she reflects on NDCL's 35th anniversary and the impact its mission and its people made on her family, she gives credit to people like Sr. Donna Paluf, SND; NDCL's first football coaches Dan and (his son) Mark Barren; former Dean of Students Charles Calovini, and recently retired principal Joseph Waler. All major players in developing the school NDCL is today.

"Our oldest son, Trevor was on NDCL's first football team, coached by Dan Barren," she says. "After he passed away, his son Mark





# 7 Theobald NDCL Graduates:

Julie Theobald '04

Jessica Theobald '01

Amanda Katoch '97

Sheila Fulkerson '96

Shannon Theobald '94

Tracy Theobald '93

Trevor Theobald '92



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



took over. The commitment and work ethic Trevor learned 30 years ago, he carries with him now. He runs marathons and triathlons, and credits those men for teaching him that discipline."

Today, a third generation of Theobalds is part of the Notre Dame Family. Gabe Kardum '26 will be a sophomore at NDCL and Eva Kardum will be a 5th grader at NDES this school year.

"I am grateful to God and grateful to my parents for bringing me to NDA. The best decision we made was to send our children to NDCL and we will forever be grateful to God for the blessings we received through this NDCL family."

*Three generations of Notre Dame education:  
Connie '70, Jessica '01, Gabe '26,  
and Eva (NDES '27)*



## ALUMNI PROFILE:

# Kyle Leciejewski



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



From a relatively young age, Kyle Leciejewski was selling. Now a Senior VP of Global Specialty Sales for Dell Technologies, the 2002 NDCL graduate began his successful career “selling” students on NDCL.

“There are a number of people who served as mentors to me, and one of them was Sr. Kathleen Ruddy at NDCL,” Leciejewski says from his home in Charlotte, NC. “As a high schooler, I learned to sell the NDCL experience to prospective 8th graders who were

evaluating various high school options. In her admissions role, Sr. Kathleen taught me the meaning of selling something you believe in.”

Leciejewski leads a global team of over 1,000 employees at Dell Technologies, a company he's been with for 17 years. His organization helps customers and partners navigate and accelerate their digital transformation journey focusing on information infrastructure that enables multi-cloud, cyber resilience, and high performance computing.

“Our vision is simple: to create technologies that drive human progress. Our technology can be found at the epicenter of cancer research and space exploration, to driving the backbone of our global banking and insurance system, to government, public sector and higher education across 180+ countries. The mission is incredibly rewarding.”

A husband and a father of two boys, Leciejewski says that hard work and good mentors have helped him get to this point in what has been a fabulous career.

“A strong work ethic, positive attitude and coachability are entirely in your control,” he says. “Having good role models and finding mentors is a key enabler of success.”

Leciejewski credits his parents as his first, and longest role models. He also credits former NDCL baseball coach Jim Clark. As a junior, Leciejewski was part of NDCL's—and Clark's—first state championship team. At college, and then early in his career, he developed connections with professionals that helped him achieve the success he bears today.

“Ken Hartung was Executive Director of the Sales Center at Ohio University and guided me toward a career in sales. Ed Filippine brought me into Dell/EMC, taught me the foundations of what good, professional selling looks like. John Hanlon along with Bill Scannell and others taught me invaluable leadership skills over my journey. I've had great mentors along the way and believe that success occurs when preparation and hard work meet opportunity.”





Away from work, Leciejewski practices what he calls work-life harmony. Passionate about work and family, he harmonizes the two. Given the global nature of his work and often on calls in the wee hours of the morning or night, he relishes the opportunities to wake the kids from bed or tuck them in at night. Or in other words, being a good role model to his own children.

“My most important title is ‘Dad’ and you’ve got to earn that every day. You get good at turning work on and off to live in each moment. Over the years you practice getting better at it. Work ends and family time begins.”

21 years after graduating from NDCL, Leciejewski reflects on the “trifecta” that NDCL provided him and expects today’s students to experience too—intellect, faith, and a competitive environment. He still leans on the core anchor of faith.

“My kids will start kindergarten soon. We’re sending them to Catholic school. I believe so deeply in the habits that Catholic education forms. I want my kids to grow up with these same core principles. I often say, ‘When you

*reach the top, remember to send the elevator back down to bring up the others.’ We as alumni owe it to the next generation to serve as role models and mentors. That’s how the world should work.”*







# NDCL graduates 185 at May 26th commencement

Congratulations to NDCL's Class of 2023! In conferring diplomas during NDCL's 33rd commencement ceremony, Mr. Joseph A. Waler proudly shared that 100% of the Class of 2023 graduated. "This year no Lion was left behind!", he said.

Class of 2023 graduate Aubriana Hills gave a stirring commencement address reminding her classmates:

"As we move these tassels from right to left, it signifies the entire journey," she explained. "All of our lessons and successes, all of our tears and smiles, all of our love for each other. All of the journey. I pray that you see those golden tassels are indeed much more than a piece of thread."

# CONGRATS TO



*"This year no Lion was left behind!"*





# OUR GRADUATES

## **NDES graduates 55 at Regina Mundi Chapel on Notre Dame campus**

Congratulations to the 55 graduates of Notre Dame Elementary School—our first class graduating from Notre Dame Middle School! We can't wait to see your future successes—at NDCL and beyond!





## ALUMNI PROFILE:

# Cathi Mezzopera

## Has Art in her Heart



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



As a senior at Notre Dame Academy in 1984, there was no way Cathi (Perfetto) Mezzopera knew how full circle her life would take her back to Munson Township. Her family has been part of NDCL since the beginning of its 35 years of existence.

"I can't believe it's been 35 years," Mezzopera says. "When NDCL started in 1988, and my brother Joe (Perfetto) wanted to go there, I couldn't believe it. An all-girls school? But to see it grow and succeed into what it is today is very special to me and my family."

Since NDCL's founding, multiple generations of families share that same blue and gold diploma. Mezzopera's two children—Michaelena '14 and Louis '16—are graduates who share



*"It's such a humble blessing to be able to serve these children."*





their mother's alma mater: Her sister (Lisa Vielhaber '79 and brother Joe '91) are graduates, as is her niece Nicole Lanza '13, and nephews Enzo '15 and Santino '19 Perfetto. In addition, Michaelena Mezzopera is starting her 6th year as a member of NDCL's faculty in the English Department.

"Seeing her teach at NDCL and knowing she is there day in and day out, I get a sense of peace," Cathi Mezzopera says. "We guided our kids to attend there, but ultimately we wanted it to be their choice. NDCL makes it feel like you're at home."

For Cathi, attending Notre Dame was as much about faith formation and meeting lifelong friends, and following in her sister's (Lisa) footsteps.

"Every morning I would stop in to the chapel at Notre Dame," she recalls. "To see the exposure to our faith that NDCL instills in its students, this is very special for me. Praying for someone is one of the very special things we can do. I think Notre Dame Academy, and now NDCL, plants that seed in its students."

### *Turning to Art as a Passion*

Before becoming a stay-at-home mom and wife, Mezzopera worked in advertising for several years. In 2001, she started A Kid at Art, which later evolved into a non-profit called "A Kid at Art for the Heart". The non-profit seeks to bring art education and fun to kids in need. In 2015, she purchased a bus and the program went mobile, now taking art directly to the children she serves.

"I love to see the look on the kids faces," she says. "Art is so ambiguous and there are many windows to look through. We live in such a 'no' world, and if a kid wants the sky to be green and the grass blue, we let them. That's why I love the little kids. This experience gives them confidence going into kindergarten. I am trying to break the barrier of perfectionism in the world. I want them to know that art is a positive outlet."

Cathi's work has been featured in Northeast Ohio media outlets, including Fox 8 and WEWS TV-5.

"It's such a humble blessing to be able to serve these children."



# NEWS AND NOTES FROM CAMPUS



## Two NDCL students selected by University Hospitals

University Hospitals held its first “Future Nurse Academy” at the end of June. Out of 484 applicants, 27 were chosen. Two of those students are rising NDCL seniors Olivia Morris '24 and Alexa Borally '24!

The students visited local nursing schools, shadowed professionals, and got hands-on experiences with various medical procedures. ◀

## The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Notre Dame Elementary School marked its third year of offering the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children in Pre-K and Kindergarten who gather weekly for prayer, song, contemplation, and celebration.

The students have hands-on experiences with the essential proclamations of the Christian faith. In the Atrium, the child is called into a covenant relationship with Jesus the Good Shepherd. The child hears His call, a call that is by name, and responds with deep, abiding love. ▼





## NDCL celebrates Reunion 2023 on June 2nd

NDCL celebrated the 2023 reunion classes—class years ending in “3” and “8” at Reunion 2023 on Friday, June 2nd on campus. Live music by Ed Purcell, hors d’oeuvres, drinks, and renewed friendships were the order of the day!

Guests re-lived memories by walking the halls, checking out all that’s new on campus in the years (and decades) since graduation. This year the Class of 2013 won for “best attended” among their class.

Next year’s event is scheduled for **FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH**. We’re looking at you, “4” and “9” classes. **Save the date!**



*THE ATHLETIC*

# HALL OF FAME

## Athletic Hall of Fame member reception is September 29th at NDCL

Attention all members of the Latin, Notre Dame Academy, and NDCL Athletic Hall of Fame. You are invited to campus on Friday, September 29th for a tailgate reception and Lions football game versus John Hay. The party begins at 5pm at Lion Stadium. All HOFers and a guest are invited. Be part of the pre-game tunnel that welcomes the Lions onto Lozick Field, stay for the game and cheer on the Lions in their throwback “Latin” jerseys.

Be on the lookout for a mailed invitation in the coming weeks!

Contact Keven Krajnak '98 at [Keven.Krajnak@ndcl.org](mailto:Keven.Krajnak@ndcl.org) or (440) 279-1068 for more information.

# Yes you can!

*Make a transformational gift to Notre Dame Schools through your estate plan, IRA, or donor-advised fund this year*

*Are you looking at tax-savvy ways of making a gift to further Catholic education at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin or Notre Dame Elementary School?*

**Estate gift:** Everyone can do this! Include a simple sentence in your written will that includes NDCL or NDES as a percentage or fixed amount of your estate. This is an easy addition to your existing will.

**IRA:** Are you over 72 years old and required to draw from your IRA (through a required minimum distribution)? Gift part or all of that RMD to NDCL or NDES, reduce your taxable income, and see your dollars at work benefitting our students.

**Donor-Advised Fund:** Recommend a grant to NDCL or NDES from your Donor-Advised Fund. You've already designated those dollars for charitable purposes. Direct your grant to benefit our students!

*Major gifts make transformational change and are an investment in a Catholic education on our campus. You can do it!*



## Questions about giving?

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





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# LIONS

## Golf Classic



**MONDAY, AUGUST 28TH | FOWLER'S MILL GOLF COURSE**

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO HIT THE LINKS AT  
FOWLER'S MILL GOLF COURSE ON  
MONDAY, AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup>  
IN SUPPORT OF NOTRE DAME SCHOOLS!**

**REGISTER  
TODAY AT**  
[ndcl.org](http://ndcl.org)  
or  
[ndes.org](http://ndes.org)

**Join us for this summertime event as a player, sponsor, or both!**

- ◇ 4-person scramble format
- ◇ Starting time 8:30am
- ◇ Skill prizes included; games and raffles available for purchase
- ◇ Post-round Winking Lizard BBQ and awards

**Questions?**

**Call or e-mail Keven Krajnak: (440) 279-1068 or [Keven.Krajnak@ndcl.org](mailto:Keven.Krajnak@ndcl.org)**



**Special thanks to our Title Sponsor, Mentor Nissan!**

# In Memoriam

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

## Cathedral Latin School

Joseph Abraham `64  
Fred Antonucci `67  
Neil Bambrick `72  
James Bennett `64  
Ronald Bogolin `52  
Ronald Brickman `59  
Lee Bush `56  
Thomas Carey `75  
William Conrad `50  
Charles Cox `58  
Joseph Curran `76  
Richard Cuva `56  
Don DeRoia `55  
George Eiben `68  
Edward Farkas `65  
Rev. Edward Feldkamp `48

William Fitzgerald `65  
Benjamin Gregg `55  
Mark Hayes `67  
Wallace Iglewski `56  
Edward Kane `46  
Bart Kilkenny `51  
Dennis Korosec `61  
Richard LaPorta `67  
Theodore Leyden `50  
David Lombardo `52  
Angelo Lonardo `68  
Frank Magalski `59  
Lt. Col. Edward Maj `42  
Ralph Matuska `44  
Michael Michalik `67  
John Kirk Miller `67  
Richard Moehring `69

Richard Mott `50  
Martin Murphy `55  
John Nocifora `65  
Vince Panichi `53  
Clifford Salomon `56  
Sebastian Scarpino `55  
Louis Shuster `59  
Dale Spansky `67  
Wesley Sroub `55  
Timothy Sullivan `70  
Chester Suskowicz `51  
Edward Synek `51  
Richard Texler `58  
Thomas Toth `62  
Leo Valentino `51  
Richard Veres `50  
Joseph Wagner `43

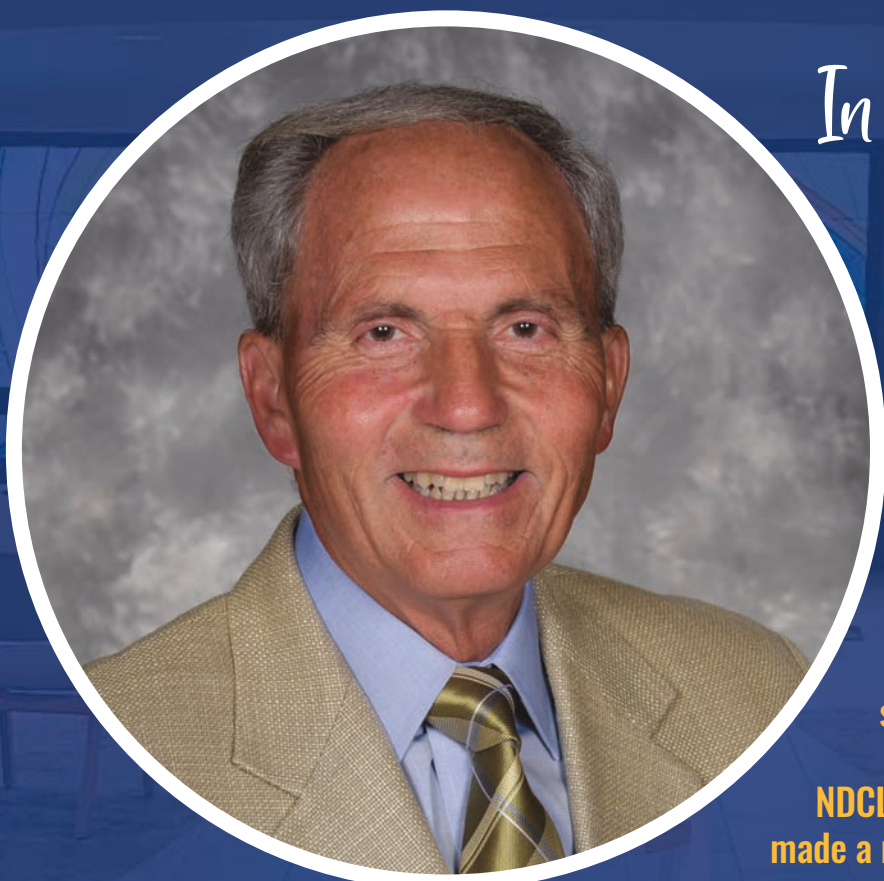
Richard Winter `64  
Thomas Zielachowski `58  
Patrick Zippert `74  
Alfred Zitnik `53  
Thomas Zurava `60

## Notre Dame Academy

Jeanette (Sadd `52) Aftoora  
Germaine (Grdina `55) Amato  
Jeanette Behlow `47  
Mary (O'Rourke `51) Coyne  
Eloise (Cirino `52) Finazzo  
Mary Catherine O'Meara `58  
Rosemary (Mallinak `47) Saus

## NDCL

Dan Artino `15  
Joseph Spicuzza (faculty)  
Heather (Green `98) Wiechert



## In remembrance of JOE SPICUZZA

**In May, Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School and the Spicuzza family lost a beloved teacher, coach, colleague, husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend.**

**Joe Spicuzza was a member of NDCL's faculty for 32 years. His sudden passing in May--just weeks before his planned retirement--has left our school community saddened and our hearts heavy.**

**NDCL is grateful to the dozens of individuals who made a memorial gift to NDCL in Joe's name.**



# Bundles of Joy



**LUKA**  
DONALD  
**BENCIC**

born to  
Matt '09 &  
Marie Bencic



**JILLIAN**  
JANE  
**ARKO**

born to  
Trevor & Valerie  
(Arko '12) Herak

## Class News

**1972: Attention 1972 NDA grads:** The St. Mary's Mentor Class of '68 is planning a grade school reunion the weekend of August 26th. Contact Ellen (Tulley) Ondrey at [Ellen.ondrey@gmail.com](mailto:Ellen.ondrey@gmail.com) or Maureen (Vidmar) O'Hearn at [wave151@gmail.com](mailto:wave151@gmail.com) for details.

**2008: Torri Huebner** is engaged to be married to Evan Sholl of Toledo this September. Included in her bridal party are **Kelly Kaminski '08** and **Allie Granakis '08**. Congratulations!

**2013: Matt Baldassarre, Steve Takacs, Bill Varcho, and Ryan Javorek** started playing lacrosse together at NDCL. Now, they go on mountaineering trips together! Here's their recent ice climbing trip in Ouray, Colorado. ▶

**2016: Amanda Spangler** graduated from the Moritz College of Law with Cum Laude recognition on May 12, 2023. She has accepted a position at Jones Day in Cleveland, Ohio.



## 24 participate in annual mission trip to West Virginia

This summer 21 students and 3 staff members attended the annual mission trip to West Virginia, the largest crew ever. The Wayne County Work Camp hosted 130 participants from 5 catholic schools and various other churches and groups. This year's projects included a new house, two wheelchair ramps, underpinning a house, remodel and repair a building which will become another community center, siding a house, drywalling, and painting. The goal is to make the house safer, warmer and drier.



**"An amazing opportunity to meet people from many different backgrounds and create lasting friendships through hard-work and collaboration. It also just feels good to you are making a difference in the community that does not live as fortunately as you." --Grayson Baird '24**



# CHOOSE WHERE YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO!

## EVERY SINGLE OHIO TAXPAYER SHOULD DO THIS IN 2023!

A “no cost” way you can support Catholic education at NDCL and Notre Dame Elementary School.

Our Scholarship Granting Organization, LionSGO, has been officially certified for the 2023-2024 school year. 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

**"There is no easier way to support Notre Dame Schools than through LionSGO. The website made the process simple, and I was fully reimbursed for my donation after filing my state taxes. It was a snap!"**

*-Adam Pyrell '05,  
Band Director at NDCL and  
Notre Dame Middle School*

most. LionSGO is a chance for you to choose where your taxes go and what they support. What a win-win for our community!

*"When I think about my high school experience, I remember the nurturing environment, the teachers who always encouraged me, and the lifelong friendships that were made within those walls. My time at NDCL helped shape who I am today, so I felt a strong urge to pay it forward. The donation process was seamless, and I received my full tax credit. It was a win-win opportunity!"*

*Nick Cappello '09*

### HERE ARE THE STEPS to contribute to LionSGO:

- Estimate your 2023 Ohio state tax liability by looking at your 2022 tax statement. You can do this by looking at line 8C on your 2022 1040 document.
- Go to [www.LionSGO.org](http://www.LionSGO.org) to and make a credit card gift to LionSGO.
- In early 2024, complete your 2023 Ohio income tax return and include your receipt from your contribution to LionSGO for a 100% dollar-for-dollar tax credit up to \$750 (\$1500 if married and filing jointly).

The maximum amount an individual can contribute and receive credit is \$750. If you are filing jointly with your spouse, you can contribute up to \$1,500.

## LionSGO

Many of our alumni and school families will have to owe the state of Ohio this money anyways. Now we are being given an opportunity to choose Notre Dame Schools as a place to contribute our tax dollars.

You can contribute whenever you are able. Just go to [www.LionSGO.org](http://www.LionSGO.org) or scan the QR code on the next page to reach the website to contribute. You can also write a check to LionSGO and send it to the Notre Dame Schools Advancement Office.

\*This does not constitute income tax advice. Always consult with your tax professional for information on the impact of any charitable donation.





# LionSGO

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**GIVE  
TODAY!**  
[WWW.LIONSGO.ORG](http://WWW.LIONSGO.ORG)

*This couple, filing jointly, gave \$1,500 to LionSGO in December 2022 and recorded that amount on Line #15 on their Ohio state tax filing as shown. The couple received a state refund of \$1,500 in 2023 after filing their state taxes. Win win!*

1500

**Ohio** | Department of Taxation | **2022 Ohio Schedule of Credits**  
Use only black ink. Use whole dollars only.  
Primary taxpayer's SSN

Many of these credits must be calculated using a worksheet and/or be supported by additional required documentation. See the instructions for worksheets and information on supporting documentation.

**Nonrefundable Credits**

1. Tax liability before credits (from Ohio IT 1040, line 8c) ..... 1.
2. Retirement income credit (include 1099-R forms) ..... 2.
3. Lump sum retirement credit (include a copy of the worksheet and 1099-R forms) ..... 3.
4. Senior citizen credit (must be 65 or older to claim this credit) ..... 4.
5. Lump sum distribution credit (include a copy of the worksheet and 1099-R forms) ..... 5.
6. Child care & dependent care credit (include a copy of the worksheet) ..... 6.
7. Displaced worker training credit (include a copy of the worksheet and all required documentation) ..... 7.
8. Campaign contribution credit for Ohio statewide office or General Assembly ..... 8.
9. Income-based exemption credit ..... 9.
10. Total (add lines 2 through 9) ..... 10.
11. Tax less credits (line 1 minus line 10; if negative, enter zero) ..... 11.
12. Joint filing credit (see instructions for table). 5 % times line 11, up to \$650 ..... 12.
13. Earned income credit ..... 13.
14. Home school expenses credit (include copies of all required documentation) ..... 14.
15. Scholarship donation credit (include copies of all required documentation) ..... 15.
16. Nonchartered, nonpublic school tuition credit (include copies of all required documentation) ..... 16.
17. Vocational job credit (include a copy of the credit certificate) ..... 17.
18. Ohio adoption credit ..... 18.
19. Nonrefundable job retention credit (include a copy of the credit certificate) ..... 19.
20. Credit for eligible new employees in an enterprise zone (include a copy of the credit certificate) ..... 20.
21. Grape production credit ..... 21.
22. InvestOhio credit (include a copy of the credit certificate) ..... 22.
23. Lead abatement credit (include a copy of the credit certificate) ..... 23.
24. Opportunity zone investment credit (include a copy of the credit certificate) ..... 24.

**Do not write in this area: for department use only.**

2022 Schedule of Credits – page 1 of 2

Here is an actual page from a 2022 Ohio state tax return showing a \$1,500 donation to LionSGO, which enabled the couple to receive the entire \$1,500 back from the State of Ohio!



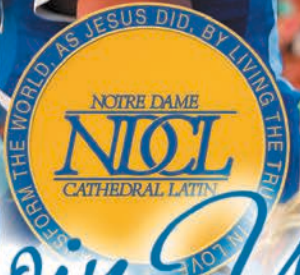
# PERSPECTIVE: **Our campus**



***Taking a unique look and perspective of our 400-acre campus***

*Take a new path. See the forest through the trees. Pray under the watchful eye of Our Blessed Mother and Jesus.*





Join Us!

NOTRE DAME-CATHEDRAL LATIN  
**OPEN HOUSE**

October 4 | 6:00-8:00pm | [NDCL.ORG](http://NDCL.ORG) | 440.279.1088

Kellie Watrobski  
Director of Admissions  
(440) 279-1088



START YOUR JOURNEY AS A LION TODAY!

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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



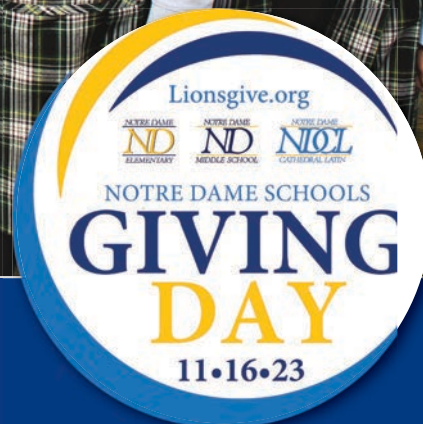
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**SAVE  
THE  
DATES**

August 28th: **Lions Golf Classic** at Fowler's Mill Golf Course

November 16th : **Notre Dame Schools Giving Day**

December 31st : Your **LAST DAY** to give to LionSGO for your 2023 Ohio state tax credit