

The Crusader

A STUDENT PUBLICATION OF NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL



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Winter 2022

Building a Strong Foundation!



Making Progress on our New Auditorium!

Editors Rosetta Shupe & Michael Hodgskin

After years and years of hopeful anticipation, the new auditorium is finally being constructed thanks to the generous donations of our valued alumni.

From now on, school plays, band performances, concerts, and even Masses will all be held in the new auditorium. Students won't have to worry about uncomfortably cramming into the gym for a monthly Mass, or National Honor Society inductions. Once the addition of Notre Dame's auditorium is finished, we will finally be able to accommodate within the walls of the new building comfortably.

The foundation of the new state of the auditorium building was laid at the beginning of this school year and construction began not long after. Bricks are currently being added to the exterior to match the main school building, and cover up the exposed inside of the fascinating establishment, making it a seamless addition to the existing building.

As students walk from class to class and pass by windows where construction is visible, they stop to view the interesting process. So much progression has occurred so quickly over the past few months, and just coming back from Thanksgiving weekend or Christmas break surprised all of the students with the advancement in the manufacturing process. Though the construction may be loud at times and sometimes distracting, it is still always exciting to watch and hear it being built with our own eyes and ears.

We remember when it used to be a grassy hill with a tree not long ago, and not even a year later, we have a huge auditorium that promises a better future for the Notre Dame family.

Growing in Faith, Service, and Stewardship!

Graceann Mattair

Construction on our school's new auditorium has strengthened our foundations while spiritual life at ND reaches new heights. So far this year, beloved traditions have returned along with some new ones. The return of the Kairos retreat has garnered more student interest than ever before, especially after the incredibly successful fall retreat. We had a record 47 students attend Kairos in the winter and hope to share this experience with even more students next year! The entire student body has been able to attend Mass twice a month, and Father Kravatz has been kind enough to celebrate daily Mass during Crusader Time a few times a week.

In addition to Father Kravatz's presence in our building, two seminarians, Nikolai and Keaton, have been with us on Thursdays to visit theology classes and help out around school. Notre Dame graduate Owen Fitzgerald is also in the seminary and has visited campus as well. For the first time, we gave female students the opportunity to attend an all-girls retreat at the Center for Spiritual Renewal, and we hope to host an all-boys retreat this spring. Thanks to Mrs. Cartier and Mr. Regnet, ND has its own Lost and Found club, providing another opportunity for students to grow in their faith. The Campus Ministry office is another safe space for students to ask questions and talk about life with Mrs. Hodgskin, Father Kravatz, and any other teacher who has stopped in to say hello.

As we move into spring there will be even more spiritual and service opportunities around school, including a school-wide retreat and various donations to charity. The addition of the new auditorium will surely open even more doors for ND.



ND Students Call to Action!

Mrs. Friel's Return to Running!

See page 2



ND Traditions Return!

Students are excited as ND traditions return!

See page 4



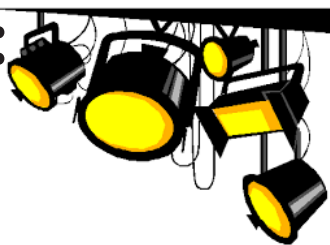
Breaking Records!

Student athletes display amazing skills!

See page 8



Spotlight: The Crusader Editors



Rosetta Shupe



Grade: 11th

Activities: Track, Cheerleading, Campus Ministry, Key Club, Peer Listeners, Student Council, Crusaders for Life, Yearbook, NHS

Fun Fact: Rose doesn't like pizza!

Superlative: "All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them." Walt Disney

Michael Hodgskin



Grade: 11th

Activities: Track, Fit Club, Student Council, Key Club, SADD, Peer Listeners, Campus Ministry, and Sacrastin/Altar Server, NHS

Fun Fact: Michael's mom works in NDHS Campus Ministry!

Superlative: "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift, that's why it is called the present." Kung Fu Panda

Lauren Raniszewski



Grade: 11th

Activities: Soccer, Track and Field, Theater, Chorus, Music Ministry for Masses, Yearbook, Key Club, Student Council, NHS

Fun Fact: Lauren LOVES chocolate!

Superlative: "And though she be but little, she is fierce." William Shakespeare

Running for a Cause

Mrs. Friel is hitting the track!

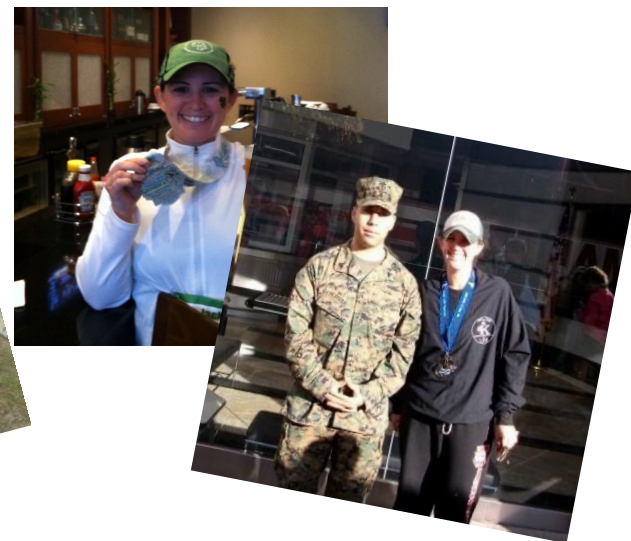
Editor Michael Hodgskin

On Sunday April 24th, our school principal, Mrs. Friel, will be running in the Lehigh Valley Half-Marathon in Allentown, but her reasons aren't just for fitness and physical reasons.

Mrs. Friel used to run all of the time, but she hasn't run since she the birth of her children. Several years ago, when she ran several times a week, it helped both her physical health and, most importantly, her mental health. Running helped her set a goal, meet her goals, and clear her mind. Now, several years later, she has decided to re-engage in her old passion and hit the track again in order to restore her physical and her mental health once more.

Because of the demands of her role as a high school principal as well as a wife and mother, her training process is going to be very different than it used to be. She used to follow a very strict training program where she would run different distances each day leading up to the actual race, but now she just runs on the weekends.

*It used to be about personal records,
but now it is just about her mental health.
It is a different mindset, and that's a good thing!*



Mrs. Friel wants to honor the school and use it as her driving force this half-marathon; in addition to challenging herself, she wants to encourage everyone else - students, faculty, and staff - to challenge themselves as well. This half-marathon is how she is focusing on her mental health, so her challenge to the student body is thinking of something that will focus on improving their mental health. She wants us to try our best to achieve this goal every day, and make our mental health more of a priority. She will also introduce a fundraising campaign before the Galla. Her goal is to have each student raise \$131 dollars, symbolizing the 13.1 half-marathon distance. This money will go to the school and to the community that has given our beloved school so much over the years.

Good luck to Mrs. Friel for reengaging in running to not only exercise herself physically but also to exercise herself mentally. Good luck to all the students who she encourages to do the same!



There are some new faces at Notre Dame!

Miss Galassi
(Theology)

Years Teaching: 2
Favorite thing about ND: Teaching Theology
Hobby: Singing



Mr. Dobias
(Mathematics)

Years Teaching: 13
Favorite thing about ND: Students
Hobby: Coaching



Mrs. Miles
(English)

Years Teaching: 30
Favorite thing about ND: Community
Hobby: Traveling



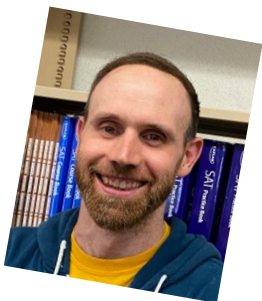
Mrs. Klabunde
(English)

Years Teaching: 20
Favorite thing about ND: My Amazing Students!
Hobby: Cooking, Baking, Reading, & Gardening



Mr. Reed
(English)

Years Teaching: 1
Favorite thing about ND: Community
Hobby: Weight-Lifting and Running



ATTENTION CRUSADER COMMUNITY!

KEEP AN EYE ON THE LOCAL PAPER, THE BEHTLEHEM PRESS! THEY WILL BE RUNNING STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS ON SEVERAL OF OUR OUTSTANDING ND SENIORS! ALSO, OUR OWN EDITOR, MICHAEL HODGSKIN, WILL BE FEATURED AS A WRITER FOR THE NEWSPAPER.

Kairos: A Student-Led Retreat

An Opportunity for Prayer and Reflection A Chance to Build Trust, Friendships, and Community

Editor
Michael Hodgskin

Kairos is a student-led retreat where students focus on themselves, their journey thus far in their life, and aspects of themselves that have not yet been explored that might prepare them for adulthood.

At Notre Dame, Kairos occurs twice a year, in the Fall and in the Spring, at the Malvern Retreat House. In the Fall, Kairos takes place from November 30th until December 3rd, and in the Spring it starts on March 8th and ends on March 11th.

In the Fall it is just seniors who have the opportunity to attend Kairos, and in the Spring, in addition to the seniors who sign up, the faculty selects several Juniors to go as well. The students who attend, have whole group sessions but also break into groups for talks throughout the week.

In the Fall Kairos, 21 students attended, so the students broke down into five groups of either four or five. This includes the five student leaders who are selected by the six attending adults. The Fall had Father Kravatz, Mrs. Hodgskin, Mrs. Weber, Mrs. Cartier, Mrs. Fenton, & Mr. L. as adult leaders.

The goal of Notre Dame's staff, faculty, and administrators is to get as many students to go as possible, due to the numerous beneficial results that have come from experiencing this retreat. Kairos is based purely off the ability to learn more about yourself and your relationship with God and others, and to spend time reflecting on your life. It is a chance for students to get to know one another in an environment outside of school and their social lives.

Kairos - Student Perspectives

We had a chance to speak with students who attended Kairos; here are some of their thoughts...



"It was amazing and so enlightening! It changed my life!"
C. Carson

"If you go in with an open mind, you'll end up learning so much more about yourself."
S. Kaulius

"EYE-OPENING!"
B. SHERIDAN



"You'll make new friends you never thought you would."
H. Nedo

"Kairos teaches you that there is so much more to the people around you than you would have ever thought!"
M. McQueen

"It was a one-of-a-kind experience!"
E. Zambo

"It was great to connect with so many fellow students."
C. Ashgar



"I have never felt so loved by so many people in my life! Kairos changed my perspective on life and others."
K. Lopez



Celebrating the Return of ND Traditions!

Spirit Week!



Students excitedly welcome back some of their favorite ND activities!

Kairos



Supporting Our Athletes



Mass



NHS Induction



Senior Nights



Homecoming



Smiling Faces!



Pro-Life March



ND Theater



Students are also looking forward to Beauty & the Beast on April 8, 9, &10 and Prom on May 13!



Are High School Exams Necessary for Students?

Miss Ketner's IA Current Event Class Weighs the Pros and Cons

Exams evaluate the student's ability of learning. It is an effective way to analyze the knowledge of students. It is a measurement of how much they learn and constraint in the study, meaning it is mainly for self-improvement. Many students and teachers have different views on taking and or giving an exam, they either agree it is a good thing or disagree and think it is a waste of time.



The question has always been, "Do we have to take exams this year?" Well, there are actually advantages to taking exams, which you probably never thought about. Here are three main things you should know that might shock you. I will sum it up, you get responsibility, a universal standard for education, and that it is good for college. Just remember, taking exams will help you in the future.

Students should have a sense of responsibility while taking exams. It is really a test of what you learned, if you did your homework, and if you paid attention in your class. The teachers set you up to do well and give you all the necessary things to succeed in their class. Students are provided with study guides and time in class to get ready for exams. They should keep the work they have gotten and use it to study for exams. Teachers look out for their students because no one wants them to fail but by not being responsible they are setting themselves up to fail.

Graduation exams provide an important measure of basic skills. High school exams, required of all students, ensure students graduate with a basic, foundational set of skills and knowledge that prepares them to pursue college and career opportunities. As exams develop them as an individual, give values, extraordinary thinking, self assessment, overcome failures, filling them with positivity to improve the quality of education. Exams help every teacher to understand the mental capacity of the students and to rectify their shortcomings.

Many students have intentions and aspirations to attend college or schooling after high school. Although they might deserve to, they might not be able to afford it. Exams give students the ability to show what they can do and potentially earn a scholarship or additional financial help. Exams can help achieve better grades which can lead to broader and better options when selecting a college. The exams may be stressful to prepare for but will bring much relief after.



Since the beginning of COVID-19, the use of standardized exams has gone down dramatically. Now that students are back in school, educators are deciding whether or not to bring the exams back. Most students would argue that you don't need exams for school as they only test your memory and not your intelligence. While others claim that they provide a better chance of getting into college. We need to know that the exams are appropriate to the knowledge being tested, and that they reinforce a good education with an array of different assessment tasks.

Exams don't have much purpose besides regurgitating information you already learned previously. They don't provide any extra benefit and make students more stressed and make students restudy topics they already learned months ago. Students who take exams are overwhelmed and have to restudy everything they learned and are stressed because of how much midterms mean for their grades. Exams provide extra stress that is unneeded in today's world where Covid is still rampant. I did not take a midterm last year and everything was fine so I don't see why we need them at all.

Midterm and final exams are not inclusive to all types of students. The lack of inclusivity that standard exams only makes students who are good test takers and cramers look good. A smart student who pays attention in class, does their homework, and participates might have test anxiety and may perform poorly on tests and exams. This sets students up for failure. If exams are mandatory, they should be made for all types of students giving them the option to opt out of exams if they already have a sufficient grade, make different exams for those who are known to have test anxiety and underperform on tests and exams, and the standard fill in the bubble exam for those who are good at regurgitating information, because in the end that's what exams are anyway.

In conclusion to both sides of this argument we see that exams are good and bad. However, there is a difference between that it helps students and it also stresses them out. Exams are great for; values, extraordinary thinking, self assessment, overcoming failures, filling them with positivity to improve the quality of education. But, exams can also make a student lack motivation and lose interest in the subject. At the end of the day it is up to the student and school, what is best for them? And what will help them?



The Crusader

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*Special Thanks
to Mr. Steinruch, Mrs. Kopp,
and all who provided
pictures for this edition of
The Crusader!*

ND Theater: Behind the Glamour

Editor Lauren Raniszewski

Did you ever think about what goes on during and before a theater performance? Well, let me take through the behind scenes of Miracle on 34th Street. Let's start off with the basics: we have stage crew, tech crew, and cast. Inside the bracket of the stage crew, we have wardrobe, props, and sets. Each group and member feels the stress and excitement of an upcoming performance. Tech crew is not backstage, but sits to the side of the stage manning the lights, sounds, and microphones. Each team works cooperatively to ensure a show's success.

It's 5 o'clock, the cast and crew should be reporting to the gym. What an exciting time. With the running up and down the stairs rushing to get ready. Clothes flying off the rack trying to grab your outfit, laughter, and nervousness fill the air. But when the doors open at 6:00, all of us go quiet. We grabbed our props, and got in position, but one thing that made our day was when Mariah Carey's All I Want for Christmas. I think this let out a little stress. Just like that the show began at 7:08 a couple minutes late, but we were off.

Then, all of a sudden, the power goes off - the microphones and stage lighting - dead!

The only thing left on was the Christmas Tree, someone said. When the crew tried to fix the power the concession stand was emptied and a question filled backstage. What's going on or will it be canceled? Everything was fixed around 7:42. We restarted and everything went smoothly. When the current closed on the packed house on the ND Theater, we all were excited and filled with energy. We went out and greeted our audience.

There is more coming to the ND theater. Just you wait, we are hoping next year at this time we'll be coming to live in the brand new ND auditorium. Last thing is come out and see ND's Beauty and the Beast, April 8, 9, and 10.



ND Teachers - Fun Facts - Matching

FUN FACT

1. I once made dinner for former President George W. Bush.
2. I was a collegiate swimmer.
3. I can rap any Macklemore song.
4. I have over 14 pets.
5. Growing up, every Christmas my friends and I would ride horses at the foot of the pyramids.
6. My five chickens are more like pets than farm animals; they all have names.
7. I was once bitten by a shark!
8. I danced competitively for 13 years - think Dance Moms.
9. I have three pet parrots!
10. My siblings and I all have the same first name, but different middle names. In my culture, middle names are more important.
11. I played the French Horn in Liberty's Grenadier Band when I was in high school.

*How well do you
know your teachers?*

TEACHERS

- A. Miss Galassi
- B. Mr. Regnet
- C. Mrs. Hodgskins
- D. Mrs. Thompson
- E. Mrs. Klabunde
- F. Mr. Gowey
- G. Dr. Lencheski
- H. Ms. Douge
- I. Miss Rodgers
- J. Mrs. Bach
- K. Mrs. Evans

Answers on page 8



Notre Dame Theatre Company
proudly presents

Disney
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

MUSIC BY ALAN MENKEN
LYRICS BY HOWARD ASHMAN and TIM RICE
BOOK BY LINDA WOOLVERTON

APRIL 8, 9 & 10, 2022

For commercial opportunities & ticketing info:
notredametheatrecompany@ndcrusaders.org or 610-868-1431 x1016
Notre Dame High School | 3417 Church Rd. Easton, PA 18045 | ndcrusaders.org

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Student Perspective - NDHS Ladies Basketball

Amber Unger, Sophia Hahn, & Lauren Bjelobrk

The 2021-2022 Lady Crusaders Varsity Basketball Team consists of fourteen members including two Senior Captains, Raegan Cooper and Anna Micklos. They led the team throughout its ups and downs this year, and have been guiding forces in our postseason berths. Now, with the regular season ending on a winning record, the team hopes to extend their run as long as possible. To gain insight from the heart of the team, we interviewed Raegan and Anna asking the following:

Q: What makes this team special to you?

A (Raegan): What makes this team so special is that I've made so many friends from different grade levels, and even though we all play different fall sports, we come together during basketball season and enjoy our time together.

A (Anna): Ever since I was little I really wanted to play basketball in high school and I never really knew what high school I was going to,

...but when I started going to basketball camps with Coach Kopp, I knew that Notre Dame was the right choice.

Throughout the past four years, everything that has happened made me so grateful to be a part of this team and I learned a lot from basketball and the many friendships I made through it.

Q: What are your main goals for the postseason?

A (Raegan): I really want to extend the season as long as we can and try to defend our district title. Then, we could continue on to States and see how far we can go, extending each game because this is my last year.

A (Anna): I feel like both Raegan and I are looking forward to defending our district title and we are going to have to put in a lot of hard work, but it is definitely worth it to achieve our goal.

Q: Describe the team atmosphere.

A (Raegan): Our team has a lot of fun together, but we also know when we need to be serious to grow as a whole.

A (Anna): Whenever we come to practices, go on the bus, and do anything together we always have fun. However, when it comes time to work we all get focused and ready to pay attention.

Q: How have you persevered through the challenges you and the team have faced throughout your four years here?

A (Raegan): We've definitely faced some ups and downs; winning a lot of championships and losing a lot of championships. So, we've been on both sides, and every time we have to take a step back, we always bounce back at the next game.

A (Anna): Every time that we had a difficulty come our way we always made a comeback by looking at the problem, evaluating it, and then pushing through it together.

Q: Why did you choose "perseverance" to be this year's motto?

A (Raegan): We chose perseverance because we knew that coming off of losing a bunch of starters from last year, new people were going to have to step up. Our league is still really strong too, so we knew that every game was going to be tough, but we could succeed together.

A (Anna): Raegan and I had perseverance as a Membean word and we felt connected to it because of all the difficulty, press, and drama that surrounded our team entering this season. We had to overcome everything and everyone's thoughts and concerns about how good our team was by powering through and creating something good for our last year.



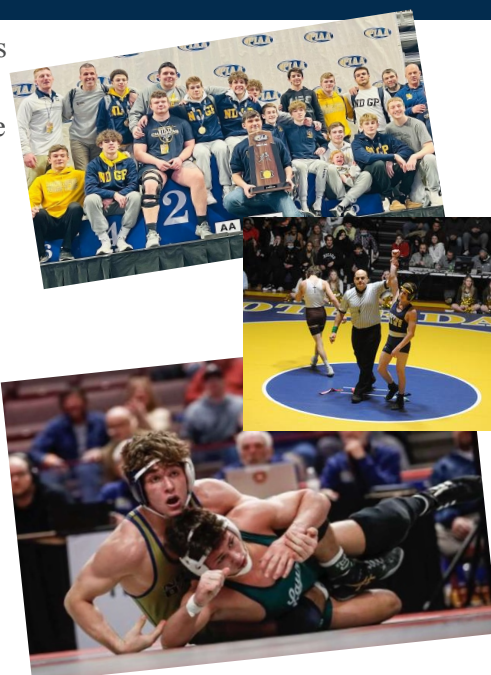
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE - BEING A NOTRE DAME WRESTLER

Enter Text H Mason Ludlow, Holden Garcia, & Eddie Melhem

The Notre Dame Green Pond wrestling team consists of a positive environment including a group of determined wrestlers, dedicated coaches, and supportive fans. All three groups together make up a surprisingly close-knit family bond that will last for many years. We brawl with each other through every practice, match, and competition, and we work together through thick and thin no matter what the circumstances are.

As wrestlers, we are expected to do the right thing for our school, community, team, and others. Our behavior, grades, what we do on social media, and how we interact with the people around us, create a representation of who we are as a team.

Our head coach, Matt Veres, has the goal to push us to exceed not only on the mat, but most importantly the classroom.



Like an older sibling or father figure, he is an inspiration to each and every one of our wrestlers, and without him we would not be the same team.

His work ethic and positivity towards our team is tremendous.

Through every competition, win or lose, we are in the room the next day working even harder than we did before. Our coaches inspire us and motivate us to develop a strong mindset and keep our composure throughout our grueling season. Our supportive parents and fanbase give us the drive and determination that we need to stay focused on our goals through the season. A good work ethic and a strong mentality can go a long way in the sport of wrestling. At Notre Dame we are pushed to our limits everyday, and without a strong mindset the chances of achieving the daily goal of excelling in practice are low.



A Winter Season of Epic Accomplishments!



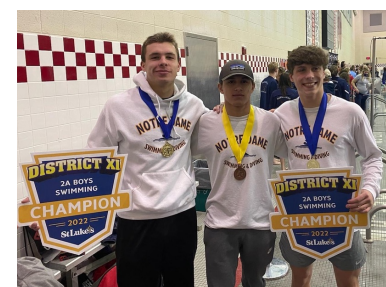
Congratulations to the ND Wrestling Team for the plethora of titles, tournaments, and matches that they dominated!



Congratulations to Coach Kopp for celebrating his 300th career win on January 27, 2022!



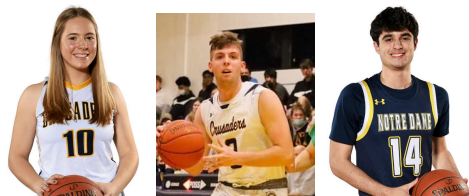
Congratulations to Seniors Reagan Cooper and Brendan Boyle for breaking records!
Raegan - 3 point record (139)
Brendan - All time boys score leader



Congratulations to our swimming champions RJ Farina, Jovannie Avila, and Francesco D'Avella!



Congratulations to Wrestling State Champions, Especially Brandan Chletsos & Holden Garcia!



Congratulations to the ND basketball players selected for the Colonial League All-Star team!
Brendan Boyle
Reagan Cooper
Sean Howlett
Anna Micklos
Zach Rodgers



Congratulations to the Boys Basketball Team for making it all the way to the 1st round of states!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR STUDENT ATHLETES!

We are SO PROUD of all you have accomplished this season!



- 6 - K
- 5 - F
- 4 - E
- 3 - C
- 2 - G
- 1 - D

Answers to Puzzle on page 6:



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