



# ND *faithful*

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER ■ SPRING 2024

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## On The High Road **BUILT BY ALUMNI**

**Notre Dame Alumni have been a “driving” force on the road to improvement of our facilities, our grounds and our academics for the past 5 years in unique and inspirational ways.** The ingenuity and generosity of so many alumni has set Notre Dame on a growth trajectory that is unprecedented!

Alumni who have contributed their time, talent and treasure to the success of our annual gala, have seen the fruits of their efforts grow exponentially. The profit from each of the galas for the past five years has been designated largely to financial aid for families who desire a Catholic education (enrollment is at an all-time high!), and also to many upgrades to our existing facilities, as well as to investment in new facilities. The enthusiastic support of alumni, families, faculty and staff is evident in our buildings, our events and our students’ successes.

The most prominent change on campus is our new Alumni Center, which opened in 2022. A vision for many years, it was recently brought into focus by an alumnus who amplified that vision. He led the way, initiating and embarking on the construction project that would become our new auditorium for use by Notre Dame students, and would also serve as a welcoming site and source of pride for Alumni to gather for events. Following his lead and inspired by his passion for Notre Dame, other alumni soon bought into that vision.

Notre Dame now boasts a spectacular 19,000 square foot auditorium that houses seating for over 600, an approximately 1,500 sq. foot stage with 2 dressing rooms backstage, luxurious stage curtains, a projector and screen, a sacristy, a bandroom, a state-of-the-art sound system, a spacious lobby (large enough to host school events and class reunions) and an elevator to provide access

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*\* Photo courtesy of Norm Steinruck Photography*

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## *Greetings!*

Notre Dame High School has proven to be a leader in Catholic education here in the Lehigh Valley! Her impact and influence is evidenced by hallways filled with the talent and energy of new and returning students and by enrollment numbers that continue to soar.

For almost 70 years, students have walked the halls of Notre Dame High School. During their time here they learned, matured and developed the skills and qualities leading them on to be successful individuals in their personal and professional lives. Our Green Pond campus has laid a solid educational and spiritual foundation for alumni doctors, lawyers, business owners, teachers, engineers, musicians, fashion icons and many, many other successful professionals. More importantly, Notre Dame has given the gift of faith and love of family to each graduate, enabling them to launch into the world beyond our campus and live the ND Mission daily of Faithful, Loyal and True service to God and others.

As we embarked on a new school year, our commitment to making Notre Dame High School the best high school it can be remained steadfast and unwavering. We welcomed 540+ students back to our campus and embraced their families as part of our Crusader family.

We are always mindful of our gratitude for YOUR investment that ensures our continued growth and that we continue to flourish. Our new state-of-the-art, 19,000 sq. ft. Alumni Center auditorium was made possible through the vision and generosity of alumni like you. A major boost to our growth, the inspiration, interest and excitement created through this visionary project, has launched us into a new era of updates and renovations to all of our facilities. If you haven't seen

*continued from cover...*

to each level of the school. All of this was made possible through the generosity of Alumni donors!


Alumni sponsorship opportunities continue to be available within the auditorium. Seat sponsorship that includes an engraved plate with the names/sentiments of your choosing is a popular option. It's a perfect way to memorialize a loved one or to leave your imprint as a dedicated alumnus.

the Alumni Center, we encourage you to visit us in the near future - we'll be happy to give you a tour!

Our alumni often share how much they benefited from their Notre Dame education, and how it paved the way for success.

During their time here as Notre Dame students, they followed in the footsteps and traditions of previous alumni, and also left their own mark on our school. They continued traditions like ND Day, Spirit Week, and pep rallies. They wore the ND colors with pride and wore the school uniform as a symbol that they belonged to our ND family. It's fun to read the comments from our ND alumni on our Facebook page and hear stories of their time here on campus. ND has left an imprint on the heart of each of our alumni.

In this issue of the ND Faithful, you will see accounts and pictures of alumni who have given back to our school. They believe in our Mission and they want to ensure that the school lives on for future Crusaders. We are forever grateful for their generosity. Making certain that our Crusader traditions continue is important to our alumni. They understand the benefits accrued because of the vision and generosity of those who came before them, and that their contributions are important to those who come after.



Jaelyn Friel  
*Principal*



We also love when our Alumni visit, and we make it easy to schedule a tour! Simply e-mail the Development team at [alumni@ndcrusaders.org](mailto:alumni@ndcrusaders.org) to request one. We're sure that you'll be inspired and will experience a renewed sense of pride in your Alma Mater!

**The road forward is clear as we carry on with our mission, with the vision of a bright future for Notre Dame.**

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# The campus ministry is spreading the “WORD”

Campus Ministry has been full of life and growth this school year, and continues to seek to develop meaningful relationships with our students and families under the guidance of our new Chaplain, Fr. Guernsey Isaac and Campus Ministry Coordinator, Mrs. Zelenda Hodgskin.

In our mission to enrich the spiritual lives of our students, many new retreats have been added from which students can choose. Visits to local shrines, including inspiring destinations such as Our Lady of Czestochowas Shrine in Doylestown and the National Padre Pio Center in Barto and Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine at Mount St. Mary's and John Paul II Shrine in Washington D.C. offer time for reflection and introduce students to ways to connect with God through the lives of saints.

A 4-day “Kairos” retreat is offered to Seniors in the Fall and in the Spring. Held at the Loyola Jesuit Center in Morristown NJ., the Kairos retreatants are afforded 4 days of a guided retreat where they spend time reflecting on their lives, learn how to build their relationships with God and with others, and learn how to carry their faith forward as they move on to adulthood.



*Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine*

“Family Faith Nights” were initiated this year in the fall, winter and spring, providing students and their families an opportunity for fellowship as they ate a potluck dinner, played games and prayed together. We look forward to seeing where the Lord takes us for the remainder of the year and into 2024-2025!

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## Crusader Band celebrates expanded membership, boasts busy schedule of upcoming events

*as reported by Mr. Klump, Crusader Band Director*

Upon Mr. Klump's arrival in April 2023, he was met by a group of 17 students who had been without a director for several months, but were unhampered in their enthusiasm as they inched forward on their own with plans to stage a spring performance. With their new band director guiding them, the students took great pride in their preparation and performance that culminated in a successful formal band



*Crusader Band 2023-24*

concert, the first in several years.

Eager to leverage that enthusiasm, Mr. Klump quickly created plans for expansion. The goals for 2023-24 were three-fold:

(1) to foster continued student leadership and accountability by appointing student officers; (2) to revive the marching band program, which had been dormant since the pandemic; and (3) to increase the visibility of the program, both at school and in the community.

This past summer, band members volunteered countless hours customizing the band room in our new auditorium, refinishing instrument cabinets and installing uniform racks and shelving. Our new band room is equipped with two sound-proofed practice rooms and a sound system that allows for music to be heard from the bandroom to the stage.

To those ends, the band performs at both home and away football games, is marching in local parades year-round, supporting winter sports teams as a pep band, performing in concert with student musicians from our partner schools, and planning an overnight trip to Cleveland to tour and perform at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame! The Crusader band is back - growing and thriving exponentially!

# ALUMNI MAKING NEWS

## *Our recognition of alumni and friends continues*

As part of our new Development team's continuous effort to reconnect with Alumni, we're excited to release our first Notre Dame High School Alumni Newsletters since 2019. Many thanks to Debbie Kopp '69 and Lisa Brandt '75 whose generous donation of time and energy were instrumental in its creation and release! In the time since our last newsletter, we have continued to host events where we honored and celebrated the generosity of selected alumni. We remain forever grateful to the following recipients of Ave Maria Awards, the Athletic Hall of Fame Awards and the Veteran of the Year Award for their shining example of what it means to be a Faithful, Loyal and True Crusader!

### **2019 Ave Maria Awards**

**Distinguished Graduate:** Debra Kopp '69

**Distinguished Educator:** Joseph R. Kramer, Jr.

**Crusader Award:** Young Volkswagen, Robert '61 and Richard Young '67

**Distinguished Religious Award:** Sister Lisa Golden '77

**Bishop's Distinguished Catholic Graduate:** Michael Koury '86

### **2021 Ave Maria Awards**

**Distinguished Graduate:** Barb Gorman '67

**Distinguished Educator:** Charley McGarvey '69

**Crusader Award:** June Castellano

**Distinguished Religious Award:** Sister Rosie Schwartz '74

**Distinguished Young Alumni:** Matthew Kopp '00

### **2022 Ave Maria Awards**

**Distinguished Graduate:** Frank Scattene '76

**Distinguished Educator:** Connie Kelton '76

**Crusader Award:** Baurkot Family ('79, '80, '81, '82, '84, '08, '11, '12, '18, '19)

**Distinguished Religious Award:** Monsignor Thomas Koons '80

**Distinguished Young Alumni:** Danielle Wallace '00

### **2023 Ave Maria Awards**

**Distinguished Graduate:** Patrick Mullins '64 (posthumously) and Mike Mullins '64

**Distinguished Educator:** Eleanor Wise (posthumously)

**Crusader Award:** Franczak Family ('68, '70, '73, '75, '78, '85)

**Distinguished Religious Award:** Deacon George Kelly

**Distinguished Young Alumni:** Ryan Umholz '01

*The 2024 Award winners will be presented at the annual gala on May 4, 2024.*

### **Veteran of the Year**

2019 - Richard Schoeny '64

2020 - Col. Victor Pereira '90

2021 - John Kachmar '66

2022 - Anthony Hanni '63

2023 - Col. Joseph Herkalo '64

### **2019 Athletic Hall of Fame**

David Hohl '89

John "Doc" Winchester (posthumously)

Timothy Rippert '67

Theodore Veresink

MaryBeth Spirk '77

1965-1966 Boys Varsity Basketball Team

### **2020 Athletic Hall of Fame**

1979-1980 Wrestling Team

James Mazza '59

Emily Cerankowski '05

Russ Lipari '67

Michael "Mickey" Martin '67

George Yencho Young '69

### **2023 Athletic Hall of Fame**

Salvatore Panto Sr.

Dr. Leonard "Lenny" Kelly '66

### **2024 Athletic Hall of Fame**



Tom Keppel '91



John McGuire (posthumously)

# AVE MARIA AWARDS *in pictures...*



Franczak Family



Mullins Family



Deacon & Mrs. Kelly



Wise Family



Umholtz Family

## OUR THEATER SHOWS THRIVE IN NEW AUDITORIUM

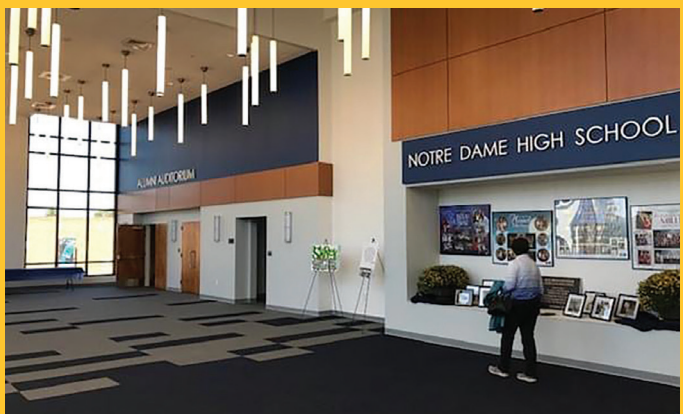
Notre Dame Theatre Company (NDTC) is growing every year and the new auditorium in the Alumni Center makes the program even more attractive. ND produces two productions each year – a play in the Fall and a musical every Spring. Notre Dame Theatre Company has a very active cast & crew community that participates in performance, athletic, charitable, and social activities throughout the entire school year.

In the Fall 2023, NDTC performed *The Diary of Anne Frank*. In addition to performing the play, the students worked with Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley to learn more about Jewish culture & the Holocaust to give a more meaningful performance. They also performed a show for some of our partner schools, who coincidentally recently read *Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl*.

*Mamma Mia!* is coming this Spring! This show will be the first to have students in staff positions in addition to the professional directors. We invite all to attend our shows: April 12 and 13 at 7PM and April 14 at 2PM. We hope to see you there!



# On The High Road **BUILT BY ALUMNI**





# Salute to Veterans and Scholarship Presentation: NDHS VETERAN'S MASS

Each November, Notre Dame High School celebrates a Mass honoring Alumni Veterans. This heartfelt gathering of Alumni, friends of Notre Dame, students, faculty and staff honors and recognizes veterans for their service to our country. Following the Mass, an award is presented to the selected "Alumni Veteran of the Year".

On November 20, 2023, the Notre Dame community was proud to honor Colonel Joseph Herkalo, a member of the Notre Dame High School class of 1964, as 2023 Alumni Veteran of the Year.

A proud graduate of Notre Dame, Col. Herkalo played basketball, baseball and football during his years as a Notre Dame student. After high school, he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Moravian College and a master's degree from Lehigh University. He returned to his alma mater to teach Social Studies from 1968 through 1977. Mentoring students through his teaching and through coaching basketball,



baseball and football, his legacy of service continued through the generations.

His service to Veterans has remained a passion, and as the current Commander of American Legion Post 379 in Bethlehem, he continues to assist fellow veterans. He is a member of the Honor Guard and actively participates in Veteran ceremonies and celebrations throughout the year.

Immediately following the Alumni Veteran award presentation, a deserving student is awarded the Patrick Mullins Memorial Scholarship.

Patrick Mullins was a Notre Dame alumnus (class of 1964) who lost his life in a helicopter crash while on a heroic mission during the war in Vietnam. He received the Silver Star posthumously for his heroism. His twin brother, Michael (class of 1964), who also served during the Vietnam war, presents the scholarship award.

If you would like to participate in the November 2024 Mass or would like to contribute to the "Above the Best" scholarship, please contact the Development Office - [alumni@ndcrusaders.org](mailto:alumni@ndcrusaders.org) or call 610-868-6710



## Talk To Us

**Have some news?**  
(milestones, weddings,  
births, **reunions**)

Email us at  
[alumni@ndcrusaders.org](mailto:alumni@ndcrusaders.org)



**Athletic Hall of  
Fame Nomination**



**Ave Maria  
Award Nomination**



# Reunions



## Meet the new Development Team!

There have been many new and exciting things happening here at ND in the past five years, including time honored traditional events like the Athletic Hall of Fame, Ave Maria ceremony, Veteran's Mass/Veteran of the Year Award, the annual Gala, etc. along with new and exciting initiatives. Many thanks to former Development Director Nancy Caroprese '82, who created or revitalized most of these events and others, laying a solid foundation for growth. When Nancy moved on from Notre Dame in 2020, new President Andrew D'Angelo absorbed the role of Development Director. Although many events had to be rescheduled or modified during the pandemic years, Mr. D'Angelo worked tirelessly to ensure continuity with our fundraising and events.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to June Castellano for her nearly 40 years of unwavering dedication to Notre Dame High School. Her journey began as a volunteer, a role she embraced with the same passion, commitment, creativity and hard work with which she performed all of her roles throughout her long tenure. She was our "resident" Notre Dame historian who was not only able to recount

historical ND events with colorful and elaborate detail and accuracy, but was also able to pass down stories of many employees and administrators through the years, and how they contributed to the success of Notre Dame. In recent years, as an essential part of the Development team, she was the guardian of the Alumni database, ensuring its precision with the utmost care. June's skill in organizing Alumni events has provided memorable experiences for ND, reinforcing the bonds that make Notre Dame High School such a special place.



A new Development team was formed in 2022, bringing renewed energy and excitement to reconnect with and engage alumni. Jacque (Delsarro) Flynn '94, Kerri (Umholtz) Vitale '98, and Kelly Weber (25+ years at ND) are moving forward with new initiatives and building on time honored traditions. For information about events or fundraising, an e-mail sent to [alumni@ndcrusaders.org](mailto:alumni@ndcrusaders.org) will connect you with any one of them. We look forward to hearing from you!!

# Sponsor A Seat!

**Notre Dame High School Alumni Center**

**Make a Difference. One Seat at a Time.**

Make a mark in the new auditorium! Adding 19,000 square feet, state-of-the-art technology and over 600 seats to the original building. You have the opportunity to be a part of the lasting legacy! Sponsor-A-Seat to honor your family, friends, loved ones, an organization, business or in memoriam of a special person for \$500 per seat.



Commemorate a show  
Give a Gift  
Graduation Memory  
Memorial

Your  
Message  
Here



Order  
Online  
Today!



For questions, more information or other order options,  
please email [alumni@ndcrusaders.org](mailto:alumni@ndcrusaders.org)  
or call 610-868-1431



# TURNING YOUR TAXES INTO

# Scholarships



## HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT?

### *What is this program?*

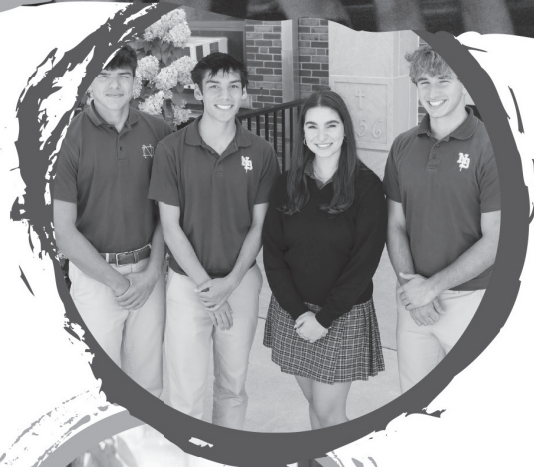
- You can create a \$5,000 scholarship for only \$500 and 100% of your contribution goes directly to Notre Dame High School.
- Through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTC) individuals can direct their tax dollars to help educate deserving students.

### *How can a business participate?*

- Determine if your business pays one of the following taxes:
  - > Corporate Net Income Tax
  - > Title Insurance Companies Shares Tax
  - > Capital Stock Franchise Tax
  - > Mutual Thrift Institution Tax
  - > Bank and Trust Company Shares Tax
  - > Insurance Premiums Tax
- All Sub-Chapter S corporations and other "pass through" entities (LLC, LLP, and other partnerships) whose members pay personal income tax on PA business income can benefit by participating as an individual.

### *How to apply?*

- Contact Kerri Vitale (kvitale@ndcrusaders.org)
- Sign an agreement via secure e-signature service
- Send your contribution to EPSF designating Notre Dame High School
- EPSF will send you a K-1 to receive your tax refund

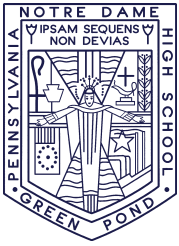


## CONTACT US

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KVITALE@NDCRUSADERS.ORG





NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL, INC.

3417 Church Rd.  
Easton, PA 18045

# JOIN THE FUN!

Dinner • Drinks • Dance • Donate

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL  
**KENTUCKY DERBY**

# GALA

2024

& Ave Maria Awards Ceremony



**May 4, 2024**  
**5:30-10:00 PM**  
**Event Center at Blue**  
**Bethlehem, PA 18020**

Photos courtesy of Norm Steinruck Photography

