



The Blue Don Bulletin

MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL—REGINA COELI ORA PRO NOBIS

Fall 2019

Volume 6, Issue 1

Join us at Madonna's 65th Year Celebration!

Madonna High School will be celebrating 65 years this fall and we would love to see you there! The celebration will be held at Mountaineer Casino Racetrack and Resort in Chester, WV on Saturday, November 30, 2019. Doors will open at 5:00PM and dinner will begin at 6:00PM.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends while celebrating Madonna High School. There are multiple ways to help make this event a success. Attend the event if you are able. Tickets are \$65 each and can be purchased until November 15th at Madonna or on our website at: www.weirtonmadonna.org/65th-year-celebration/. Items will be up for auction as well. OVAC and Mason-Dixon Championship banners will go home with the highest bidder. All auction items can be found on the website along with the information for program ads and sponsorship opportunities.

Hotel rooms have been blocked at Mountaineer as well as the Holiday Inn and Fairfield Inn in Weirton. Please make sure to mention the 65th Celebration to receive the group rates.

Join us on Sunday, December 1st for 11:00AM mass at St. Joseph the Worker and then from 12:00-3:00PM where there will be a reception and tours of the school.

Any questions can be directed to Christine Holmes at 304-723-0545 or cholmes@weirtonmadonna.org.



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To begin the school year, Madonna High School administration, faculty, staff, and coaches shared its 2019 - 2020 theme, **FORWARD TOGETHER: "God will guide our steps."** Proverbs 3:6 and participated in activities as they gathered to prepare for the upcoming school year.

The first day administrators, teachers, staff, and coaches gathered at St. Joseph the Worker Church for mass at 5pm followed by an evening of presentations by Dr. Ron Cercone '73 and Ms. Jenn Hornyak from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Office of Schools.

The following day faculty, staff, and administration gathered for mass in the Madonna Chapel with designated pastor Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens Jr., V.E. as celebrant. A retreat was lead by Mr. Lou Volpe and Mr. Chris Bayardi in the Madonna Cafeteria. They focused on the theme of Christ calling each in attendance as individuals, as a teacher, and as the Madonna High School community. After the retreat, the teachers had a fun afternoon of bowling and tacos at the Blue Steel Bowling Lanes.



On Thursday, August 22nd, four students from Madonna attended the Installation Mass for Bishop Mark Brennan. The students, Addie Backel, Jordan Dillon, Ava Loch, and Isabel Loch, were selected because of their participation on Diocesan Youth Board. Ava and Addie, representing all Catholic school students throughout West Virginia, greeted the Bishop at the beginning of the Mass. Isabel and Jordan each read a petition.

Mr. Jamie Lesho, Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens Jr., V.E. and Mrs. Amy Granato also attended the mass, and the group was able to take a picture with Bishop Brennan.



In September, Madonna students and staff attended the Opioid Awareness Summit at the WVU Coliseum in Morgantown hosted by the WVSSAC, in collaboration with WVU, MU, the WVDE, and MVB Bank. The summit featured former NBA player and recovering opioid addict Chris Herren as well as Rhonda Sciortino, a successful woman who grew up in an addictive and abusive home. The summit also launched a student based initiative called "Game Changer", an initiative that encourages students to become leaders in their respective schools and communities in the fight against the opioid crisis.



Madison Costello, Sabrina Sauer, and Mackenzie Waters attended Girls' State over the summer and Dylan Kolb went to Boys' State. These are leadership and citizenship programs sponsored by The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.



Pictures from Homecoming Week



In August, members of the Madonna Football team, Santino Arlia, Jacob Bonner, Nate Elias, Nick Elias, and Joe Soos volunteered at Wheeling University to help with their campus beautification process.





2019 Friends of Madonna Picnic



New Faces

Mrs. Karen Ferguson is Madonna's new math teacher. She began her teaching career at Saint Joseph the Worker Grade School as a middle school math teacher. She earned a Bachelor's degree from Marshall University and an MBA from Wheeling Jesuit University. Mrs. Ferguson lives in Weirton with her husband and two children. When she is not in the classroom, she enjoys spending time with her family and going to the gym. Mrs. Ferguson feels very blessed to be a part of the Madonna community!



Mrs. Emily Gust '15 is very excited to be teaching at her alma mater, Madonna High School. She teaches Drama and General Music. She recently graduated from West Liberty University with a Bachelor's in Music Education. Mrs. Gust lives in Follansbee with her husband and their dog. In her free time, she enjoys

spending time with her family, baking, acting, and singing. Mrs. Gust is grateful for the opportunity to teach the next generation of Madonna students, and she wishes everyone a wonderful school year.



New filtered water fountains have been installed and students have had the chance to get a Madonna water bottle thanks to an Environmental Health grant from the Highmark Foundation! Thank you to the School Based Health Program for applying for this grant!

The class of 1964 held their 55th reunion on August 2nd and 3rd. They had an icebreaker at Bubba's Wings, owned by classmate Harold "Bubba" Miller and their reunion was at Undo's the following evening.



Madonna Alumni won the 5th annual Madonna vs. Weir Alumni Golf Outing. This outing is made up from members of Williams Golf and Country Club who are alumni of the respective schools.



Howie Peterson IV '18 was named the MEC Men's Golf Player of the Week in September. Howie is a sophomore and plays at West Liberty University. (Photo courtesy of WLU website)



The class of '68 is having a 70th birthday bash in September of 2020. Most of the class will be turning 70 that year. The party will be held at Oglebay Resort. It will be a fun filled event with fun food, golf, and any other activities Oglebay offers. Two evenings the committee will host social time and dinner at one of the Estate Homes on the golf course. Anyone in the class if '68 who has not heard from the committee may contact Francine Bundy Swiger at 740-624-2153.



On July 27th, recent Madonna graduate, Andrea Alimario '19, was named the OVAC Queen of Queens during the Rudy Mumley OVAC All Star Charity Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. The winner is selected based on 60% talent, 25% poise and presentation, 15% personality/interview. Andrea showcased her musical talents by performing vocally and on the piano, "If I Ain't Got You" by Alicia Keys. She is the first winner in Madonna High School history to win the Queen of Queens.



Phillip Good '17, recently graduated from Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He is pictured with proud parents, PJ and Maria Good. Congratulations Airman First Class Good!

IN MEMORIAM

We ask that you please pray for the repose of souls of our dearly beloved Madonna family members who have passed away in the last few months.

Joseph Brinsko '69
James Kreyenbuhl '69
John Wright '74
Carol Ann Zagula '64

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

If you have information about deceased Madonna alumni or friends of the school that you would like to list, please contact the school.

Class Year correction from the last issue:

Nancy Lee Stefan Turrill '65

Madonna Alumni

Have reunion pictures to share? Do you have a new job? Did you get married or have a baby? Share your news with your fellow alumni! Send any information and pictures you would like to share to cholmes@weirtonmadonna.org.

Why is the Blue Don Fund Necessary?

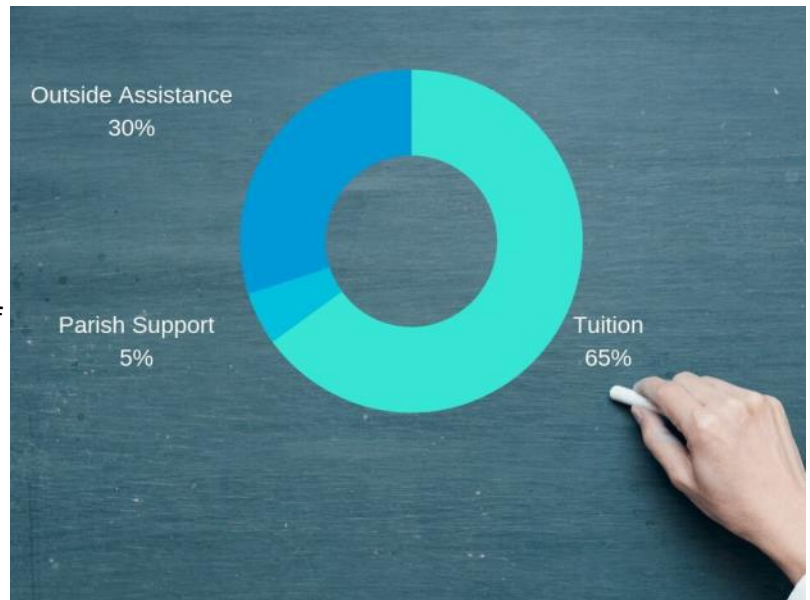
Every student who attends Madonna High School receives the benefit of a tuition grant. Since the actual cost to educate a student is \$9,153 and the Catholic tuition rate is \$5,950, Madonna is always looking for ways to fill the gap between the two. Examples include families who receive additional discounts for multiple students or tuition assistance packages from generous donors.

On average, each student is receiving assistance of at least \$3,203. That's why grants, tuition assistance packages, and your donations are crucial to keeping Catholic education affordable for our families.

You may not have realized it while walking the halls of Madonna High School, but there were many helping make the cost of your education less expensive for your family.

There has been a long history of working closely with families, community organizations, partner parishes, and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to establish funds designed to ease the burdens of our families.

Think about your experience here at Madonna and consider ways that you can help to make that same experience a reality for those currently here and those who are still to come.



Here are some things you can do:

- Get together with a group of classmates or friends to establish a "Class of" Fund or some type of fundraiser dedicated to tuition assistance.
- Take an active role in school fundraisers and events. The money that is raised is vitally important to so many of our programs.
- Consider Madonna in your estate planning. What better legacy to leave than that of knowing you are helping to secure Catholic education in our community for year and years to come?
- Continue to support the Blue Don Fund through your annual giving. Prayerfully consider increasing what you are able to give. Donations to the Blue Don Fund go directly to enhance the learning experience for our students.

Remember, there is no greater investment you can make than that of our children. By supporting Madonna, you are helping to provide the same benefits that you enjoyed to current and future generations.

Thank you to those who donated last year and helped us raise \$87,000 towards the Blue Don Fund!

2018-2019 Blue Don Fund Giving Levels

Regina Coeli Club—\$10,000+

Weirton Medical Center
Anonymous

Bishop's Club—\$5,000-\$9,999

Mrs. Donna Rodney
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Rogowski
Mr. Ronald Tisch

Blue and Silver Club—\$1,000—\$4,999

Mr. Frank Chernuta
KOC Monsignor D.P. Murphy Council 3734
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Pellegrino
Mrs. Eileen Petrola
Serra Foundation Inc.
WV Catholic Foundation

Father Dube Club—\$500-\$999

Mr. and Mrs. David C. Duerr Sr.
EQT Foundation
H.E. Neumann
Anonymous

Silver Club—\$250-\$499

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Antinone
Mrs. Rebecca Gianni Biacco
Mr. and Dr. Cris Conti
Mr. J. Mance Frankovitch
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Mazur
James McCune Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Owens
Mr. and Mrs. William Vagnoni
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Williams
Anonymous

Blue Club—\$100-\$249

Dr. & Dr. Alain Alimario
Mr. and Mrs. John Backel
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ballato
Mr & Mrs Michael Ballato
Mrs. Patricia Ballo
Ms. Kay Bilal

Blue Club continued

Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Boniti
Mrs. Maria Canella
Mrs. Sheila Cavalet
Mr. Craig Chiodo
Ms. Valerie Chiodo
Mr. August DiGirolamo
Mr. Richard DiPasquale
Mrs. Cheryl Duff
Mr and Mrs. Joseph Evano
Mr. Eli and Mrs. Mary Evkovich
Ms. Helen Ferrari
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gianni
H&R Block
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Higgins
Mr. Daniel Horvath
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hosler
Mr. and Mrs. George Kosut
Ms. JoAnn Low
Mrs. Lynda McKay
Mrs. Judith Michael
Mr. and Mrs. Luke Myers
Order Italian Sons and Daughters
of America Weirtonian Lodge
Mr. Richard Palcic
Mr. Frank Arthur Porco
Mr. John Porco
Mr. and Mrs. John Przybysz
Mr. Thomas Sessi
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Spickard
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Trella
Mr. Daniel Troia
Dr. Jeff Vista
Mrs. Brigid Waszczak
Anonymous

The 55 Year Club—\$1-\$99

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Arlia
Ms. Kayla Boyd
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Canei
Mr. and Mrs. James Ceraolo
Mr. and Mrs. James Chartier
Mr. Jordan Chilensky

The 55 Year Club continued

Mr. & Mrs. John Colabrese
Mr. Jeremy Eloj
Mr. and Dr. Steve Fournier
Mr. Daniel Frankovitch
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Good
Mr. Jim Godish
Mr. and Mrs. Hayden M. Greenlief
Mrs. Patricia Hans
Mr. Jason Heckathorn
Mr. and Mrs. Guy Holmes
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Jasko
Mr. Mark Kaczmarek
Mrs. Patricia Kelly
Mrs. Mary Kohelis
Ms. Molly Kopa
Mrs. Constance Lafferty
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Lesho
Mr. and Mrs. James Lesho
Mr. and Mrs. John Lesho
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McDonald
Mr. and Mrs. Blake Nero
Mrs. Margaret Norbutt
Mr. John Orecchio
Mr. Tim Pappas
Ms. Marilyn Perhacs
Mr. and Mrs. Lonny Riggs
Mr. Richard Runkel
Mr. Anthony Sessi
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sessi
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Sharpe
Ms. Jean Shotting
Mrs. Melissa Katsaris-Smith
Ms. Linda Stankiewicz
Mrs. Teresa Starvaggi
Mr. Jeffrey Takats
Ms. Michele Vogan
Anonymous

Every effort was made to correctly print names of our generous supporters. If a correction needs to be made, please contact Christine Holmes at cholmes@weirtonmadonna.org.



Forward Together.

**“God will direct our steps” -
Proverbs 3:6**

**Help support the Blue Don
Fund.**

**Our goal for the 2019-2020 school year
is \$100,000. Gifts of any size help and
are greatly appreciated!**

The Blue Don Fund helps supplement the funds needed to educate our students that tuition alone does not cover. The funds that are collected go to purchasing text books, classroom supplies, professional development for staff, and upkeep of our building. Your generous funds have been essential to keeping Madonna High School running for over 60 years. To make your impact today please send your tax-deductible donation to:

Madonna High School
Attn: Advancement Office
150 Michael Way
Weirton, WV 26062

or go to weirtonmadonna.org/donate/

MADONNA:
FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST...
LEADERS IN THE WORLD.



Your donation could be matched by your employer! Check with your HR Department to see if they have a matching gift program.

Are you following us on social media? Keep up to date on all the latest news and events at Madonna High School.



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FAITH, FAMILY, SERVICE...THROUGH MARY

INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL?

***THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS YOU
CAN HELP.***

Volunteer

Serve on a committee

Donate to the Blue Don Fund

Include us in your will

For more information please contact
Christine Holmes at

304-723-0545 or
cholmes@weirtonmadonna.org

Upcoming Events:

65th Celebration: November 30, 2019

Mass and Reception: December 1, 2019

Junior Ring Ceremony: December 4, 2019

**A schedule for all our athletic events are
available on our website:**

weirtonmadonna.org/athletic-events/