



The Blue Don Bulletin

MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL—REGINA COELI ORA PRO

Spring 2020

Volume 6, Issue 3

Madonna High School is Finalist for Educational Award

At Madonna High School, our dedicated and talented faculty and staff, our Advisory Council, and our commitment to learning, provide Madonna students core academic tools for college and beyond. Being more competitive than ever to get into college, it's incumbent on our students to present the strongest possible portfolio. With limited funding, we need creative solutions that leverage resources to provide our students with a strong advantage and help them take their next step in life. At the beginning of 2019, we developed a roadmap for educational excellence which included Healthcare, Engineering, Legal, and Business career tracks.

The career tracks are a combination of current courses offered, courses from a community college, AP courses, an internship and a series of MOOCs, which stands for massive open online courses. Traditional MOOCs are free online university courses offered by colleges all over the world that are normally not eligible for credit. Their enrollment can run upwards of 100,000+ students and anyone around the world can register. After registering, students will typically work at their own pace to watch informative lectures and lessons, complete assignments, and take exams.

Once the series of courses were selected, the school administration and staff communicated the benefits of the MOOCs and how they would be administered. Being a very progressive school, we had ten students sign up for the series of Healthcare MOOCs and six students signed up for the series of Engineering MOOCs. The first step for the students were to register for the certificate program for the first MOOC. This allowed them with access to the full lectures, online books, and quizzes which are graded online. The other benefit was that once our students pass the course, they will receive a certificate of completion from school which adds the student's name to a national registry that is searchable by universities and gives our students a competitive advantage when applying to college.

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The students taking these classes view the online classes individually and take notes. For problems and homework, the students work in groups helping each other better understand the concepts. This aspect has been a major benefit to our students because they learn the importance of collaboration. At the end of each section, the students take a quiz they must pass in order to move to the next section. At the end of the course, the team develops a comprehensive test the students take in order to show proficiency in the material.

To add to the benefits, we have been fortunate to have the professors that teach these courses to interact with the students. Each course that is selected is from a top five university in the discipline. For the engineering course, Dr. Whiteman from Georgia Tech, presented information to our students via video conference. In Healthcare, Dr. Bloom from Yale, presented to our students covering course material and discussing careers in Psychology.

Madonna in the Community

(Left): Student collected over 160 items to donate for the Table of Hope Christmas party.

(Left): Friendly competitions with Steubenville Central and Weir High benefitted the local communities. The Goodwill Drive to Victory brought in 5,800 pounds of donations and a Bucket Brigade to benefit Table of Hope collected over \$330!

(Below Left): Madonna had a fee dress day to benefit the Weirton United Way.

(Below Right): Madonna students visited Blue Stream Farms and picked lettuce to donate to the Community Bread Basket.

In October, the Seniors participated in a day of service in the Weirton community. Seniors served at Brooke/Hancock Family Resource Network, Hancock County Sheltered Workshop, Salvation Army, Serra Retirement Village, and Weirton Christian Center.

Catholic Schools Week

Current members of National Honor Society worked to clean up the landscaping around Madonna High School as part of their service back to the school.

Erica Rohrig from West Liberty University Financial Aid Department came to Madonna to help 12 senior families file FASFA.

The Madonna Healthcare class had a live Q&A session with Dr. Bloom, a Psychology professor from Yale University. Our students completed his course as part of the series of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) for Honors Healthcare.

Tanya Crevier shared her “Enthusiasm & Spintacular Basketball Show” with our students. She shared her basketball skills and her relationship with Jesus Christ. Tayna put on quite the show and some students joined in! This program was brought to Madonna by the OVAC.

Five Madonna students submitted art pieces showcased at the Summit Art Gallery in downtown Weirton.

Madonna High School honored veterans with a program that included both active and retired military members. The speakers included:

U.S. Air Force: Airman First Class Phillip Good '17 (Active Duty)

U.S. Navy: Petty Officer Second Class Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr. V.E.

U.S. Army: Sgt. First Class J.M. Gorrell (Active Duty)

U.S. Marine Corps: U.S. Army and Marine Corps Veteran Mr. Joe DeBartolomeo

Madonna hosted Team #2 of N.E.T. (National Evangelization Team) in October. The theme of "Strength in Numbers" about authentic friendship was enjoyed by the Juniors and Seniors on Wednesday followed by "Righteousness" about a good and right relationship with Jesus.

N.E.T., based out of St. Paul, MN, travels around the U.S. leading retreats for young people from September to May every year. They use prayer, music, skits, games, and humor to engage young men & women in the Gospel message and love for Christ and His Church.

Programs with our Partner Schools



In October, Madonna High School Sophomore and Junior students took the PSAT/NMSQT while the Freshmen and 8th graders from St. Paul and St. Joe Schools all took the PSAT 8/9. Breakfast and prayer took place before testing.

3rd-5th graders from St. Joe and St. Paul Schools came to Madonna to celebrate “Christmas in October.” The students learned about St. Francis of Assisi who created the first Nativity scene in 1223. The younger students made Christmas ornaments, toured Madonna, and enjoyed a snack. Sophomore Nate Elias portrayed St. Francis for the day.

Coach Hicks and some senior members of the Madonna Football Team visited St. Joseph the Worker Day School for Career Day.

Members of the football team had lunch with students at St. Paul School.



1965 classmates Sandy Gill, Cynthia Sullivan, Rick Barnabei (wife Patty), George Gurrera, Stephanie Gurrera got together this summer.



At halftime of the Steubenville Catholic Central football game, Madonna recognized the players and coaches of the 2009 State Championship Football Team.



Eddie Nogay '10, recently finished a 2 1/2 year term as a Federal law clerk. He is pictured here with Judge Stamp. He has begun a job in the Government Investigative Unit at McGuire Woods in Charlotte, NC.

Dr. Norman D. Ferrari III, the Vice Dean for Education and Academic Affairs, Professor and Chair of the Department of Medical Education at the West Virginia University School of Medicine and member of the Madonna Hall of Fame, was recognized as the 2019 WVU Outstanding Alumni. He is pictured with fellow alumni Ted Dillie, who is the alternate Mountaineer and the 2019 WVU Homecoming King.



The annual Thanksgiving Day Boys Basketball Alumni game was held in the Dube Dome.

Madonna Alumni

Have reunion pictures to share? 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.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Bernadette Soplinski Casto '69
Robert Valenti '76

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.

Winter Sports

Madonna Fall Sports teams enjoyed multiple successes this year. The football team made it to the playoffs! Soccer, volleyball, and cross country made it to their respective regional competitions. Madonna cheerleaders won the A Regional Title!



Individual Accomplishments



Jazzy Melnyk
Eastern Gateway Community
College High School Athlete of the
Week February 3
Belmont College Player of the



Brennan Secrist
Eastern Gateway Community
College High School Athlete of
the Week December 24



Junior, Evan Daniels, competed in the WV
State Tournament in February.



Our goal for the 2019-2020 school year is \$100,000. Gifts of any size make a difference AND are greatly appreciated!

Forward Together.

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

Help support the Blue Don Fund.

We are at 80% of our goal!

The Blue Don Fund supplements funds needed to educate our students that tuition alone does not cover. The funds collected go to purchasing text books, classroom supplies, professional development for staff, and upkeep of the physical plant. Your generous funds have been essential to keeping Madonna High School running for over 65 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/



Your donation could be matched by your employer! Check with your HR Department to see if your employer has 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.



Weirton Madonna Blue Dons



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Madonna High School
150 Michael Way
Weirton, WV 26062

Tel: 304-723-0545
Fax: 304-723-0564
E-mail: info@weirtonmadonna.org
<https://weirtonmadonna.org>

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Do you know of alumni that would like to receive information from Madonna? Please let us know!

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:

Open House: March 17, 2020

Easter Break: April 9-13, 2020

Baccalaureate Mass: May 29, 2020

Graduation: May 30, 2020

A schedule for all our athletic events are available
on our website: [weirtonmadonna.org/athletic-
events/](http://weirtonmadonna.org/athletic-events/)