



The Blue Don Bulletin

MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL—REGINA COELI ORA PRO NOBIS

Summer 2022

Volume 8, Issue 2

Madonna High School Class of 2022 Graduates

On Saturday, May 28, 2022, Madonna High School held its commencement ceremony inside Finnegan Fieldhouse located on the campus of Franciscan University of Steubenville.

The class of 2022 was led by Madonna faculty and staff into the fieldhouse to “Pomp and Circumstance.” Class President Sofia-Teresa Di Bacco sang the National Anthem, followed by a welcome to all in attendance. Madonna’s designated pastor, Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., delivered the invocation.

Salutatorian Morgan Owens and Valedictorians Matthew Amaismeier, Sofia-Teresa Di Bacco, and Angelina Spickard eloquently presented their addresses to all in attendance.



Madonna High School Class of 2022

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Commencement speaker, Dr. Regan Stetar '95, emphasized to the class of 2022 to take risks and make sure to step outside of their comfort zone. The ceremony continued with Mrs. Amy Granato announcing the scholarships and grants awarded to the senior class. The forty graduates were awarded in excess of \$2.6 million spanning over a four-year period. These awards and the colleges/universities seniors are attending can be found on page 2.

Principal, Mr. Jamie Lesho, handed each student his or her diploma. The new graduates were instructed to move the tassels on their caps to symbolize their new status as alumni. Nathan Elias led the singing of the Madonna High School Alma Mater before tossing their caps into the air!

Congratulations to the Madonna High School class of 2022! The administration, staff, and faculty wish you all the best as you begin your new endeavors!



Left: The Top 10 Students of the Class of 2022: (Top L-R) Stefani Gresko, Nick Elias, Evan Quering, Nina Daugherty, Eliza Greco, Vanessa Alatis (Bottom L-R) Morgan Owens, Sofia- Teresa Di Bacco, Matt Amaismeier, and Angelina Spickard.

Below: Class of 2022 Prefects: Sofia-Teresa Di Bacco, Morgan Owens, Eilza Greco, and Angelina Spickard

Pictures from the Commencement Ceremony.



Photo Credit:
Newbrough Photo



Dr. Regan Stetar addresses the Class of 2022 during their Commencement Ceremony.



Class of 2022 Highlights

Full or partial scholarships were awarded to 82% of the class. \$2,750,254 in scholarship funds over 4 years have been offered with \$1,345,074 being accepted over 4 years. 52% of college bound seniors qualified for the WV Promise Scholarship based upon their overall GPA, core GPA, and standardized test scores. These students met the academic requirements to receive \$5,000 annually towards their tuition and fees at public or independent colleges/universities in West Virginia.

Institutional scholarships earned and accepted by the Madonna Class of 2022 include: **Duquesne University** Academic Scholarship, **Muskingum University** Academic Scholarship, Muskingum Grant, & Muskingum Grant Plus Scholarship, **Point Park University** Athletic Merit Award, **Robert Morris University** Academic Scholarship, Trustee Scholarship, & West Virginia Grant, **University of Pittsburgh** Academic Merit Scholarship, **West Virginia University** Scholarship of Distinction Level 2, Scholarship of Distinction Level 4, Go First Scholarship Level 1, Go First Scholarship Level 2, Go First Scholarship Level 5, John & Mildred Peluso Italian-American Scholarship, Engineering Excellence Scholarship Level 2, & Business & Economics Dean's Scholarship Level 2, **West Virginia Wesleyan College** Presidential Scholarship, Sara Elizabeth Blake Scholarship, & Track Award, **Wheeling University** Presidential Scholarship, & Swint Scholarship, **Youngstown State University** Presidential Housing Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship, Honors Scholarship, Club Baseball Scholarship

Other scholarships accepted by the Madonna Class of 2022 include: Hancock County School Employees Credit Union Scholarship, Ahepa Scholarship, Louis F. Serra Family Scholarship, Phyllis DiGirolamo Scholarship, Cecelia M. Serra Scholarship, Charles M. and Thelma M. Pugliese Charitable Foundation Scholarship, Community Foundation of the Ohio Valley Beulah T. Meyer Scholarship, First Choice America Credit Union Scholarship, Weirton Medical Center Staff Scholarship, Larsen Educational Trust Scholarship, MHS Class of '64 John Colesante Memorial Scholarship, Tony Ruszkowski/Never Alone Memorial Scholarship, Marathon Petroleum Scholarship, General Federation of Women's Clubs WV, Weirton Rotary Club Scholarship, Elks Most Valuable Student, Vincent C. Oliver Memorial Scholarship, Italian-American Cultural Club Memorial Scholarship, Upper Ohio Valley Italian Heritage Festival Scholarship, North American Interfraternity Conference Men's College Scholarship, Polish Athletic Club Scholarship, Slovak Academic Fund, Michael J. Smoljanovich Memorial Scholarship, Richard F. Santilli Memorial Scholarship, Sandy Reardon Memorial Scholarship, West Virginia PROMISE Scholarship, O.V.A.C. Richard Potts Memorial Scholarship, Italian Sons & Daughters of America Scholarship, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission STEM Scholarship, Better Business Bureau Life Lessons Essay Scholarship

Graduates of the Madonna High School Class of 2022 plan to matriculate to the following colleges/universities in the fall: Duquesne University, Muskingum University, Point Park University, Robert Morris University, University of Pittsburgh, Waynesburg University, Westminster College, West Liberty University, West Virginia Northern Community College, West Virginia University, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Wheeling University, and Youngstown State University.

Additional information on the Class of 2022 can be found at www.weirtonmadonna.org/seniors

Video of the 2022 Commencement Ceremony can be seen here: [Madonna Graduation \(boxcast.tv\)](https://www.boxcast.tv)



The 2022-2023 school year will bring some exciting changes to Madonna High School! Mr. Philip Rujak (left) has been named the new principal of Madonna. The newly formed Madonna Sr. Jr High School will include 7th and 8th grade students this year. The school will also move towards a modified block schedule. Mr. Jamie Lesho will be the President of the Catholic Schools of Weirton and Principal of St. Paul School. We are looking forward to a fantastic school year!



We said goodbye to Mrs. Smith, Mr. Lesho, and Mrs. Kohelis following the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Smith is moving to Cleveland, OH. Mrs. Kohelis is retiring after 50 years of teaching. Mr. Lesho will be the President of the Catholic Schools of Weirton and Principal of St. Paul School. We wish everyone the best!

From June 12-17, rising seniors Rylie Cottrill (right) and Juliana Velegol (left) represented Madonna on the campus of Davis & Elkins College at 2022 WV Rhododendron Girls State. Juliana was awarded Outstanding Citizen of her community.

Thank you to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and the American Legion Auxiliary for sponsoring Rylie and Juliana!





Senior, Celso Chivalan, was diagnosed with Leukemia. The Madonna Family showed their support by purchasing “Celso Strong” shirts, selling root beer floats to help cover costs, and purchased an iPad for him to use. Prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery Celso!



The National Evangelization Team provided “Fully Alive” retreats to all of our students in March.

Thanks to Sheila Cupini Cavalet '78, who spoke with seniors about keeping God with them as they leave Madonna.



Sophomores, Katelynd Costa, Domenic DeMarco, and Mia Pietranton participated in the 2022 HOBY West Virginia Youth Leadership Seminar at Marshall University from May 19-May 22nd.

The Madonna Tennis Club was formed this year. Members include E.J. Cottrill, Lindsey Wheat, Grace Glover, and Marissa Sole. Mr. Eloi served as moderator.



St. Aquinas and St. Sebastian Award Winners



Nate Elias was named the 2022 Aquinas Award recipient from Madonna High School. Nate was selected by the faculty of Madonna. The award recognizes students for their outstanding qualities of faithful discipleship, academic excellence, leadership and service to the school, parish and community, reflecting the ideals of Catholic education epitomized by St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of students. It is the highest honor a student can receive from the diocese.

Nate is the son of Kevin and Michelle Elias, and brother to Emily, Nicholas, and Elizabeth Elias. He is an active member of St. Joseph the Worker Church where he is an altar server and has achieved the role of Master of Ceremonies. Nate is the president of the National Honor Society. He is also the president of the Pro-Life Club and a member of the Prayer Club. Nate lettered on the Blue Dons Football team all four years and is a one year letterman of the baseball team. Nate plans to attend West Virginia University and wants to make a big impact in his community.

Santino Arlia and Kristina Lesho were selected to receive the St. Sebastian Medal from the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston. The award is named for St. Sebastian, the Patron Saint of Athletes, because he is always depicted in fine physical shape. Santino and Kristina are being recognized as high-achieving student athletes and exhibiting the qualities of sportsmanship, teamwork, academics, and a high respect for school, classmates, teammates, opponents, parish, and the community.



Santino is the son of Michael and Maribeth Arlia and the brother of Matt and Connor Arlia. He is a member of St. Joseph the Worker Church. He is Student Council Secretary and a member of the Interact Club. Santino is treasurer of the National Honor Society. He is a four year letterman of the football team and as the starting

quarterback all four years he earned 1st Team All-Valley and 1st Team All-OVAC his sophomore, junior, and senior years. Santino also earned 2nd Team All-State his junior and senior year. He was named Captain his senior year. He holds school records in passing yards, attempts, completions, and touchdowns. He was also a 4 year member and 3 year letterman of the basketball team and was named captain this year. Santino earned 2nd Team All-OVAC his sophomore and junior year. He will compete in the OVAC All-Star football game in July. Santino will attend Wheeling University and major in Finance.

Kristina is the daughter of John and Tina Lesho, and the sister of Katelyn Lesho. She is an active member of St. Paul Church where she is a reader and teaches CCD. She is the Class Vice President. Kristina is the President of the Pep Club and a member of the Interact and SADD Clubs. She is a member of the National Honor Society. She is a four year letterman of the cheer team where she is a 4 time OVAC champion, 3 time State Qualifier, and won a Regional title. Kristina is also a four year letterman of the soccer team where she was named second team all-region and won an OVAC championship. She is a three year letterman of the track & field team and she is an OVAC champion in the 800 meter dash and 4x800 meter relay, placed 3rd in the state in the 1600 meter, and 6th in the state for the 800 meter dash. Kristina has been on the OVAC All-Academic Team and is a graduate of Youth Leadership Weirton. Next year, Kristina will attend West Virginia Wesleyan and major in Exercise Science and continue her track career.



Our Partner Schools



St. Joseph the Worker
School

St. Paul School



Congratulations to the 8th grade graduates of St. Joseph the Worker and St. Paul Schools. They will be the final 8th grader to graduate from each school as 7th and 8th grades will now be a part of Madonna Junior/Senior High School.



Baseball



Top: 2022 Baseball Team



Left: Seniors Matt Amaismeier, Sean Gilmore, and Parker Haney

Softball



Top: 2022 Softball Team

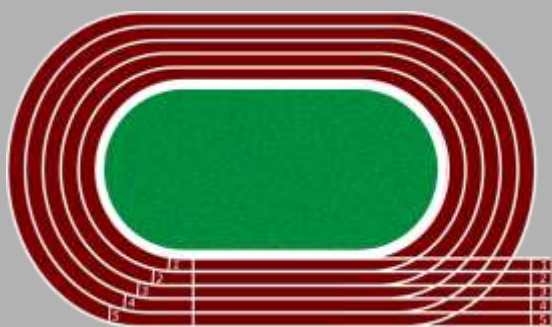
**Right: Seniors Maura Ruiz
and Anna Backel**



Track & Field



2022 Track & Field Team



Right: Seniors Sofia-Teresa Di Bacco, Kristina Lesho, Angelina Spickard, Korey Kakascik, Peyton Moore, and Mark Pietranton



OVAC Championship Meet

Angelina Spickard
100M—3rd Place
200M—3rd Place

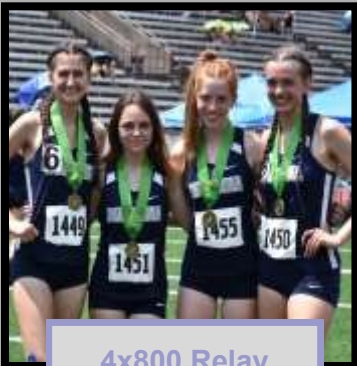
4x100M Relay: Angelina Spickard, Onna Welsh,
Gabriella Spickard, Mia Chiodo
3rd place

Gabriella Spickard
100M—2nd Place
200M—2nd Place

4x400M Relay: Angelina Spickard, Gabriella Spickard,
Sofia-Teresa Di Bacco, Ella Wingett
2nd place

Kristina Lesho
800M—2nd Place
1600M—2nd Place

4x800M Relay: Sofia-Teresa Di Bacco, Sophia Zanieski,
Ella Wingett, Kristina Lesho
3rd Place



4x800 Relay
Team

State Track Meet

Angelina Spickard
100M—5th Place & 200M—7th Place

Gabriella Spickard
100M—6th Place

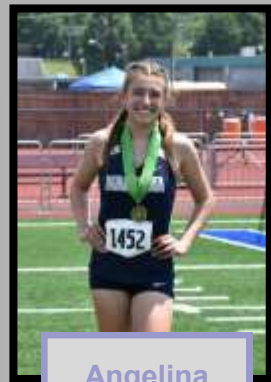
Kristina Lesho
800M—5th Place & 1600M—7th Place

4x800M Relay: Sofia-Teresa Di Bacco, Sophia Zanieski, Ella
Wingett, Kristina Lesho -5th Place

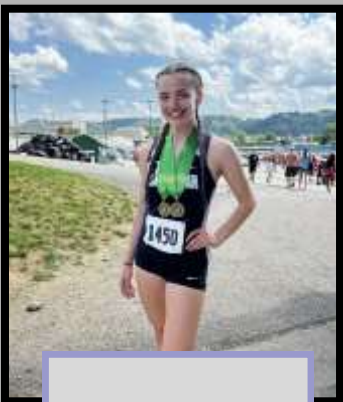
4x100M Relay: Angelina Spickard, Onna Welsh, Gabriella
Spickard, Mia Chiodo -12th place

4x400M Relay: Angelina Spickard, Gabriella Spickard, Sofia-
Teresa Di Bacco, Ella Wingett—7th place

Sofia-Teresa Di Bacco 400M –8th place



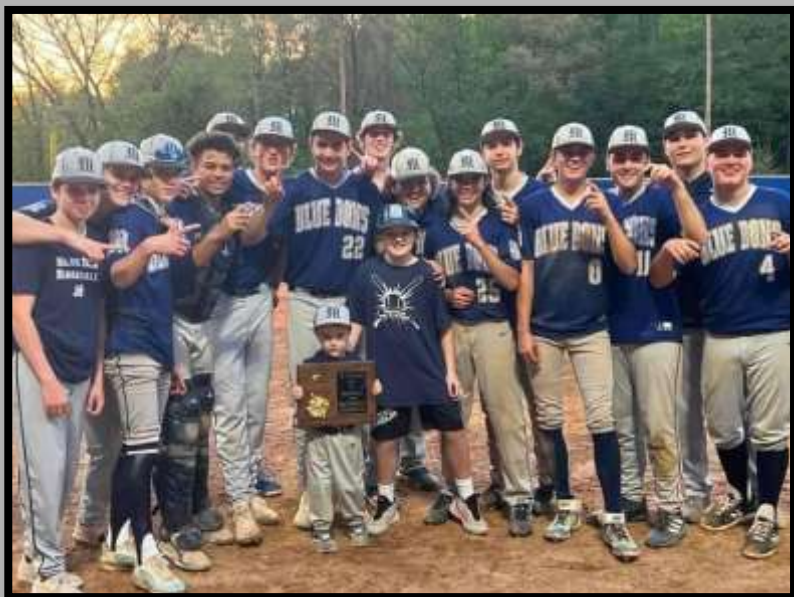
Angelina
Spickard



Kristina Lesho



Gabriella
Spickard



Boys' Baseball won the 2022 Region 1 Section 1 Championship this year!



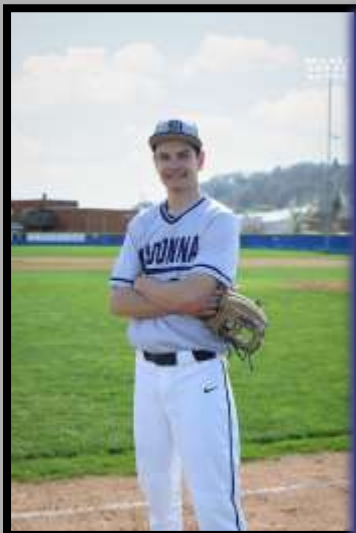
Korey Kakascik signed to run track at Muskingum University. Pictured with Korey are his parents, Mary and Tom, Coach John Lesho, and Coach Jason Heckathorn.

Peyton Moore signed to run track at Point Park University. Pictured with Peyton are his parents, Tempy and Scott, Coach John Lesho, Coach Tom Kakascik, Coach Jason Heckathorn, and sister Alaina.



Kristina Lesho signed to run track at West Virginia Wesleyan College. Pictured with Kristina are her parents, Tina and John, Coach Bob Kolanko, Coach John Lesho, and Coach Tom Kakascik.

Individual Accolades



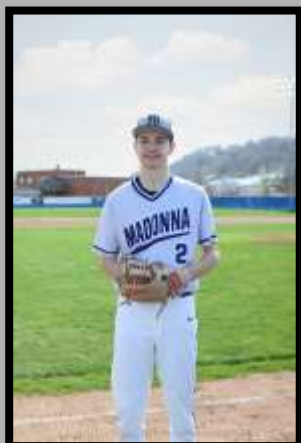
Matt Amaismeier
OVAC All-Conference 1st Team

OVAC All-Star

All-State 1st Team

**Eastern Gateway Community College
High School Athlete of the Week by
106.3 The River.**

Parker Haney
OVAC All-Star



Luke Amaismeier
**OVAC All-Conference
1st Team**

All-State Honorable Mention



Mia Pietranton

**OVAC All-
Conference 1st
Team**



Carmela Pulice
**OVAC All-
Conference 1st
Team**

Ally Laughlin
**OVAC All-
Conference 2nd
Team**





Andrew Higgins '14 was sworn in at the WV State Bar Association and the WV Southern District at the Robert C. Byrd Courthouse in Charleston by fellow alumni and cousin, Christopher Blair '03. Andrew works at Rokisky, McCune, Wilharm, & Blair Law Firm.

Dr. Paul Capito '81, a radiologist at Novant Rowan Medical Center in North Carolina, was recently named as the center's Doctor of the Year!



IN MEMORIAM

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

Joseph Buchmelter '67

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 know of any deceased Madonna alumni or friends of the school, please contact Madonna at 304-723-0545

Madonna Alumni

Scan the QR code to update your contact information and to share news for the next Blue Don Bulletin.



Mark your calendars to join us at these upcoming events!



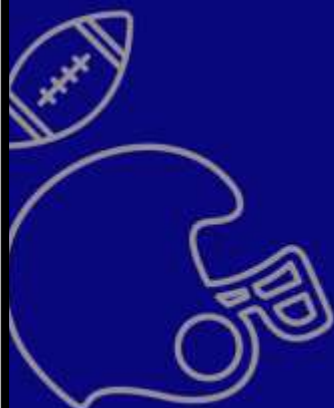
FRIENDS OF MADONNA PICNIC

**Saturday, August 20, 2022
Serbian Picnic Grounds**



HOMEcoming GAME VS. WIRT COUNTY

October 29, 2022 | 7:00 PM
Jimmy Carey Stadium.





"Stir up one another to love and good works." Hebrews 10:24

We reached our goal of \$105,000!

Thank you for supporting the 2021-2022 Blue Don Fund!

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 donations have been essential to keeping Madonna High School successful 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/giving/

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.



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code or by searching Madonna High School in the app store.





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<https://weirtonmadonna.org>

Do you know of alumni who 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*:

Mark your calendars to join us!

Friends of Madonna Picnic: August 20, 2022

Homecoming Game: October 29, 2022

***These dates are subject to change.**

Visit our website www.weirtonmadonna.org for the
most up to date information.