



The Blue Don Bulletin

MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL—REGINA COELI ORA PRO NOBIS

Spring 2023

Volume 9, Issue 1

Madonna Seniors Accept Military Academy Nominations

Madonna High School is pleased to announce that two seniors have earned appointments to U.S. Military Academies. Jillian “Rylie” Cottrill has been appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis and Luke M. Sweat has been appointed to the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs.

Rylie is the daughter of John and Rose Cottrill, and sister to EJ. She is an active member of St. Joseph the Worker Church where she is an altar server. Rylie is the class president, serves as president of the Science Club and is a member of the Pep, Pro-Life, and Interact Clubs. She is a 2 year member of the National Honor Society. She represented Madonna at WV ALA Rhododendron Girls State. She lettered on the Lady Dons Volleyball team for two years and was an OVAC

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Rylie and Luke show their letters from the Naval Academy and Air Force Academy.

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All-Star participant and a member of the OVAC All-Academic Team. She plays the piano and violin and is interested in photography. She is Madonna's recipient of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Aquinas Medal. Rylie is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist and a Presidential Scholars Program Qualifier. She accepted her nomination from Senator Joe Manchin III and also received a nomination from Congressman David B. McKinley. Rylie plans to major in Chemistry.

Luke is the son of Michael and Patricia Sweat. He is the vice-president of Student Council, president of the Interact Club, and a member of the S.A.D.D. Club. Luke is a two year member of the National Honor Society. He is a two year letterman of the football team and a member of the OVAC All-Academic Team. Luke completed the Weirton Area Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership Program. He is a 2nd Degree Black Belt in the Chuck Norris System and he placed 2nd in Fighting and 3rd in Kata at the UFAF World Championships in Las Vegas, NV. He was recognized by the City of Weirton with a Certificate of Valor in the fall of 2022 for his quick response in helping to save an injured man's life until EMS could arrive. He also received a Proclamation from Cross Creek Township in Jefferson County, Ohio for a community service project. Luke attended the Air Force Academy Summer Seminar last year. He accepted his nomination from Senator Joe Manchin III and also received nominations from Senator Shelley Moore Capito and Congressman David B. McKinley. Luke plans to major in Foreign Area Studies.

These appointments culminate years of hard work by Rylie and Luke to secure seats in the Class of 2027. We are so proud of Rylie and Luke and wish them Godspeed as they prepare to embark upon their Military Academy educations and service to the United States!





Rylie Cottrill Awarded Aquinas Medal

Rylie Cottrill has been named the 2023 Aquinas Medal recipient from Madonna High School. Rylie was selected as the award winner by the faculty of Madonna High School. 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.

Luke Amaismeier and Julia Wingett Awarded St. Sebastian Medal

Luke Amaismeier and Julia Wingett were selected to receive the St. Sebastian Medal from the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston. The St. Sebastian Medal is named for St. Sebastian, who is the Patron Saint of Athletes because he was always depicted in fine physical shape. Luke and Julia were recognized for being 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.

Luke is the son of Matt and Jill Amaismeier and the brother of Matt. He is a member of the Monsignor Murphy Chapter of the National Honor Society. He is a four-year letterman of the basketball and baseball teams. Luke was named captain of the basketball and baseball teams his senior year. He has won a 1A OVAC Championship in basketball and baseball. He has been named All-Valley and first team All-OVAC in baseball and named All-State honorable mention in baseball. Luke plans on attending West Virginia University and pursue a career in either math, accounting, or the medical field.



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Julia is the daughter of Cory and Lisa Wingett, and the sister of Ella and Luke. She is the Student Council President and Pep Club President. She is a member and secretary of the Monsignor Murphy Chapter of the National Honor Society. Julia has participated in Weirton Youth Leadership and is a member of the OVAC Varsity Board. She has lettered in basketball for four years, soccer for three years, and cheer for two years. She was named captain of the soccer and basketball teams her senior year. Julia has earned OVAC Honorable Mention, OVAC All-Conference, and OVAC All-Star selection in soccer. She was a member of the OVAC Championship soccer team her

sophomore year. Julia plans to attend Fairmont State University and major in business and finance.

Mira Jasko Receives Inaugural 8th Grade Virtue Award

In the past, an 8th grader from St. Joseph the Worker School and St. Paul School have received the Aquinas Award. With 7th and 8th grade moving up to Madonna this year, that opportunity was no longer available to our current 8th grade class. The 8th Grade Virtue Award was initiated to recognize a member of our 8th grade class.

The 8th Grade Virtue Award is given to a student that exemplifies the spirit of Madonna High School's mission and the philosophy of a Catholic school education. The recipient strives academically and spiritually, and serves their school, parish, and community while exhibiting virtues of prudence, charity, patience, kindness, humility, and stewardship.

Mira is the daughter of Brian and Melissa Jasko and the sister of Ben. She is a member of St. Paul Church and looks forward to confirmation in May. Mira is a photographer for the Madonna yearbook. Outside of school Mira enjoys horseback riding, painting, drawing, and crocheting.



Madonna Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week was from January 29-February 4, 2023 and Madonna High School took the time to celebrate the blessings of being a Catholic school.

During the course of the week students were able to wear their favorite team jerseys, dress for future careers, and dress like a Madonna teacher. Student Council treated everyone to soda floats and Rowing's Italian Ice, and provided lunch from UrbanCoffee304 for the faculty and staff. The Junior Class held a corn hole tournament during the lunch periods to help raise funds for their class. Other activities enjoyed by the students were volleyball and powder puff football.

To help close out Catholic Schools Week, students were readers and servers at weekend masses at Sacred Heart of Mary, St. Joseph the Worker, and St. Paul Churches.

There was an all-school service day planned, however the weather had other ideas and it was postponed until February. The postponement didn't slow down the effort, there were over 300 hours of service performed that day by our students, faculty, and staff at 14 different locations in the Weirton community.

Catholic Schools Week is always such a wonderful time to have some fun as a school community and celebrate the fantastic students, faculty, and staff at Madonna!



Pictures from Catholic Schools Week



N.E.T. Ministries Visits Madonna

The National Evangelization Team met with all of our students in the beginning of March. N.E.T. is based out of St. Paul, Minnesota and they travel the country providing retreats for young people in Catholic schools and parishes. The theme this year was "Love One Another (True Friendship)." We are so grateful for the opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration during prayer ministry this year! Thanks to Mr. Rujak and Fr. Dennis for bringing in the NET Ministries for our students and thank you to Mrs. Granato for organizing these wonderful retreats! We also want to thank the Madonna families who hosted and fed the N.E.T. Team.





New members of the National Honor Society include: Ella Wingett, Mia Pietranton, Carmela Pulice, Alexia Hayden, Sophia Zanieski, Gabriella Orecchio, Grace Parker, Grant Wilharm, Dominic DeMarco, Jonah McKay, Cameron Noble, Katelynd Costa, Onna Welsh, Mia Chiodo, Myah Ferguson, and Madison Long. Senior members received their cords for graduation: Olivia Shafer, Madison Long, Juliana Velegol, Elizabeth Elias, Mackenzie Sargent, Julia Wingett, Rylie Cottrill, Luke Sweat, Anthony Arnold, Luke Amaismeier, Theo Mihellis, Benjamin Jasko, and Lilly Harbin.



The Junior class attended at the NACAC college fair at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.



Jr. Ring Ceremony



Fr. Sebastian, Fr. Dennis, and Fr. Bill blessed throats of students, faculty, and staff on the Feast of St. Blaise.

MAC Facility Completes Phase II

Phase II of the Madonna Athletic Complex has been completed and includes a buildout of the current structure. The buildout consists of restrooms, a sitting area, as well as additional batting cages and a workout area.

The MAC is over 11,000 square feet and is the primary indoor practice facility for the Madonna Baseball and Softball teams. It also provides additional practice space to the other Madonna High School and Catholic grade school teams when needed.

The MAC fills a void that was lacking at Madonna High School and in the Weirton area in general, forcing parents to travel outside of the area for their kids to practice in the winter months. We are proud to have the MAC in Weirton and to be able to provide our current and future students with such a wonderful facility.



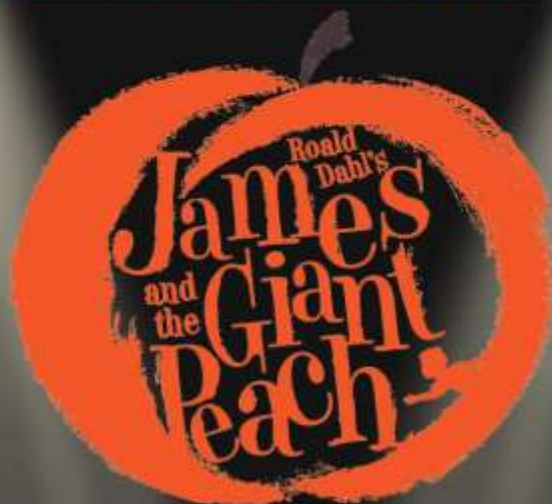
The original space includes room for fielding, throwing, and batting practice.



Phase II includes more batting cages, work out space, sitting area, and restrooms.



**MADONNA HIGH
SCHOOL
PRESENTS:**



19	20	21
MAY	MAY	MAY
7:00PM	7:00PM	2:00PM

TICKETS:
\$10 FOR ADULTS
\$7 FOR CHILDREN
10 & UNDER

THIS IS A FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

BILL BARRETT GYMNASIUM
150 MICHAEL WAY
WEIRTON, WV

Madonna in the Community

Madonna had a school-wide Day of Service that was originally scheduled for Catholic Schools Week, but was postponed until February due to the weather. Over 300 hours of service were completed in the Weirton Community by our school in one day!



West Virginia Catholic Schools are prepared to welcome new students making use of the HOPE Scholarship.

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Studies found that Catholic Schools are outperforming their peers!

- The NCES and NAEP reported that math and reading results for West Virginia's public-school scores are lower than the national average.
- Catholic schools scores remain **higher** than the state and national averages according to the Nation's Report Card reported by NAEP.

U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

	*WV 2021	**WVCS 2021
Proficiency in Math	28%	46.9% or advanced
Proficiency in ELA	40%	60.2% or advanced

*Data Source: wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021-WV-Summative-Assessment-Results-Release-FINAL.pdf

**Data Source: NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress)

To learn more about WV Catholic Schools visit **WVCatholicSchools.org**

The application and registration period is now open for WV Catholic Schools. We welcome you to be part of our school family.

APPLY BETWEEN MARCH 1-MAY 15, 2023

HOPE
SCHOLARSHIP
WEST VIRGINIA

To learn more about
the HOPE Scholarship
or to apply visit
hopescholarshipwv.com
or scan the QR code.



The WV Hope Scholarship Program is a state-run plan that allows parents and families to utilize the state portion of their education funding to tailor an individualized learning experience that works best for them.

Our Partner Schools



St. Joseph the Worker School

Students from St. Joe's joined other local middle schools in the "Every Child Is An Artist" event at the Summit Art Gallery in downtown Weirton.



St. Paul School

Local author, Abbey Duplaga visited and shared her "Ambitious Abbey" series with grades K-3.



"Girls on the Run" is in full swing at St. Paul School. They meet twice a week to get exercise and gain confidence.



Back by Popular Demand!!!

THE DUELING PLANOS

Please join us for a night of FUN
including the comical dueling pianos
incredible gift baskets and
dream vacations to bid on

Featuring:



FREE food and a
cash bar

@ St. Joseph the
Worker school gym,
The Dube Dome
Friday, April 28, 2023
Doors open at 7:00
The Planos start at
8:00

We are
offering
Babysitting
services in our
cafeteria by
our qualified
Day School
staff

Cost is \$20 per
family

Tickets \$40
can be purchased at the school office any questions call 304-723-1970

Boys Basketball



2022-23 Varsity Boys Basketball Team



2022-23 JV Boys Basketball Team



Seniors: Santo DoBraska and Luke Amaismeier



**OVAC 1A
Champions!**

Girls Basketball



2022-23 Girls Basketball Team



**Seniors: Lilly Harbin, Julia Wingett,
Shea McCoy, Madison Long**

Wrestling



2022-2023 Wrestlers: Antonio Aguirre, Logan Brown, and Leyland Nagy.



Senior: Antonio Aguirre

Cheer



2023 Competition Cheer Squad



OVAC 1A Runners-up

Jr. Dons

2022-2023 Boys Basketball Team



2022-2023 Winter Cheer Squad

2022-2023 Girls Basketball Team



Winter Sports 8th Graders:
(Back) Benjamin Lazear, Andrew Caprarese, Matthew Gontas, Jake Goddard, Reed Wilharm, Avery Morris, Adalynne Welsh
(Front) Madison Owens, Lucia Di Bacco, Danyka DeCaria, Brooklynn Cherepko, Lacy Quering, and Emilia Ohar

Individual Sports Awards



Bella DiPietrantonio

- OVAC All-Conference 1st Team



Chase Littleton

- HS/DT All Area - 1st Team DB
- All-OVAC 1st Team



Shawn McFarland

- HS/DT All Area - 1st Team WR
- All-OVAC Honorable Mention

Anthony Gross

- HS/DT All Area - 2nd Team LB
- All-OVAC Honorable Mention



Jonah McKay

- HS/DT All Area - Honorable Mention WR
- All-OVAC 1st Team



Luca Muzzi

- All-OVAC Honorable Mention



Individual Sports Awards



Luke Amaismeier

- OVAC All-Star
- All-OVAC 1st Team



Shea McCoy

- OVAC All-Star
- All-OVAC 1st Team
- All-State Honorable Mention

Chase Littleton

- 106.3 The River Player of the Week
- All-OVAC 1st Team



Anthony Mascio

- All-OVAC 1st Team
- All-State Honorable Mention



Julia Wingett

- All-OVAC 2nd Team



Santo DoBraska

- 106.3 The River Player of the Week
- All-OVAC 1st Team
- All-State Honorable Mention

Maddy Long

- All-OVAC 2nd Team



Luca Muzzi

- All-OVAC 2nd Team



Cory Gontas

- All-OVAC 2nd Team



Tim Castelli '85 was recently named Vice President of Global Advertising Sales at Instacart. (Picture from Instacart.com)

Max Nogay '10 was selected to the 2023 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame.



Jazzy Melnyk '21 was named to the Academic All-District Women's Basketball Team. She maintained a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA while being the only player to start and play in every game this season for the Franciscan Barons while averaging 12 points a game.



Kennedy Martin '20 placed 1st and set a new school record in shot put for West Liberty University at the MEC Indoor Track & Field Championships.



Alec Cook '19 won the MEC Wrestling Championship, placed 3rd in the NCAA Super Region Championship, and placed 5th in the NCAA DII Championship in the 165 bracket.



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:

Bonniegail Kucan Coleman '59

Kathleen Grossi '67

Loretta Runekl Keen '64

Thomas Kendrick '59

Richard Palcic '60

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.





MADONNA ALL-CLASS REUNION WEEKEND

AUG 17 FOOTBALL SCRIMMAGE
@JIMMY CAREY STADIUM

AUG 18 ALUMNI MIXER* *21 & OVER
@PEPSI-COLA ROADHOUSE \$30

AUG 19 MADONNA PICNIC
@SERBIAN PICNIC GROUNDS

AUG 20 BRUNCH & TOURS
@MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL

Help make this weekend a success! Download the sponsor form here: Madonna-Picnic-Sponsorships.pdf (weirtonmadonna.org)

Scan the QR code or visit www.weirtonmadonna.org/all-class-reunion-weekend for more information and to RSVP for each event.





*ONE TEAM: "...united in the
same mind and purpose."
1Corinthians 1:10*

We are 40% away from our goal of \$150,000!

Make your gift today!

The Blue Don Fund supplements funds needed to educate our students that tuition alone does not cover. The funds collected from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 go to purchasing text books, classroom supplies, professional development for staff, and upkeep of the physical property. 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.



YOU can make a DIFFERENCE!

May 2, 2023

OneMissionOneDay.org



Save the Date for One Mission One Day to Make a Difference!

Funds raised this year will be used to make needed upgrades to technology in our school. We have been able to purchase a new MacBook, two desktop computers, and a new printer for our computer lab. We are still in need of 9 more desktops that will work at a quicker speed and be able to save more data, a color printer for our main office, and bigger televisions for the cafeteria. With your support on this day of giving, our students, faculty, and staff will continue to have access to reliable and up-to-date technology.

Gifts will be matched up to \$10,000! Please help us take full advantage of this wonderful opportunity!

Visit onemissiononeday.org to make your gift on May 2nd!

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](#)



[weirtonmadonna](#)



[@madonnabluedons](#)



[Weirton Madonna High School](#)

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>

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 Madonna in your will

**For more information please
contact Christine Holmes at
304-723-0545 or
cholmes@weirtonmadonna.org**

Upcoming Events*:

**One Mission One Day to Make a Difference
(Online Day of Giving): May 2, 2023**

**School Musical *James and the Giant Peach*: May
19-21, 2023**

Graduation: May 27, 2023

All-Class Reunion Weekend: August 17-20, 2023

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

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