Madonna High School Class of 2019

On Saturday, May 25, 2019, Madonna High School held its graduation ceremony inside the William C. Barrett Gymnasium. The Knights of Columbus led the class of 2019 into the decorated gymnasium to “Pomp and Circumstance.” Andrea Alimario sung the National Anthem and Class President, Abigail Nickerson, followed with a welcome to all in attendance. Madonna’s designated pastor, Rev. Dennis Schuelkens Jr., delivered the Invocation. The Salutatorian, MaKayla Virden and the Valedictorians, Andrea Alimario, Eric Chartier, Chad Durante, and Abigail Nickerson then each eloquently gave their speeches.

Commencement speaker, Mr. Dan Manack ‘76, followed with his message to “show up” in all aspects of life. The ceremony continued with Mrs. Amy Granato announcing the scholarships and grants awarded to the senior class. The thirty-seven students were awarded over $3.4 million over a four-year period. A list of those awards and the colleges/universities seniors are attending can be found on page 5.

Principal, Mr. Jamie Lesho, handed each student his or her diploma. Andrea Alimario then made her way back to the stage to lead the singing of the Madonna High School Alma Mater. The new graduates were then instructed to move the tassels on their caps before tossing them into the air!

Congratulations to the Madonna High School class of 2019! The administration, staff, and faculty wish you all the best as you begin your new endeavors!
Valedictorians Andrea Caitlyn Torres Alimario, Eric James Chartier, Chad Christopher Durante, Abigail Lee Nickerson, and Salutatorian MaKayla Ann Virden.

From May 16-19 Madonna sophomores (front row) Krista Velegol, Sydney Crawford, Maddie Daugherty, and Madison Bine attended the WV Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership seminar held at WVU. Madonna alumni (back row) Austin Grant, Mia Antinone, Anthony Antinone, and Gianna Antinone were volunteers at the seminar.

Madonna Juniors attended the Weirton Chamber of Commerce Business Symposium in April. They learned about budgeting, interview techniques, marketing, and team building skills and had fun in the process!

Clockwise: The Knights of Columbus lead the Seniors in, Abigail Barnabei, Rachel Boniti, and Sabrina Alatis are all smiles, the new graduates throw their caps in celebration, Commencement Speaker Dan Manack.
SADD Club Puts on a Mock Crash and Trial for Prom Season

The SADD Club, under the direction of Mrs. Chartier, and with the assistance of Gold Khourey & Turak, Attorneys at Law, conducted a mock crash to remind students about the dangers of drinking and driving. Students played the parts of a drunk driver and victims with one of the victims actually being life-flighted.

Participating in the role playing were Lonni Riggs, Andrea Alimario, Alec Cook, Gabby Staffileno and Addie Backel.

A special thank you to the Weirton Police, Fire, EMS Services, and the Helicopter Team for helping to make the event as real as possible.

The mock trial was in the Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse presided over by Madonna graduate Judge James Mazzone ‘81. The court case was a follow-up to the mock crash with students assuming roles to present as a real court case. The jury of Madonna students found the defendant guilty of drunk driving, with Judge Mazzone giving a sentence of 15 years.
Madonna in the Community

Members of the Art Club attended the 3rd Annual 5K Walk/Run for Autism that was held at Tomlison Run State Park in May.

The Annual Walk/Run is sponsored by the Autism Society West Virginia Northern Panhandle Chapter.

Students that attended are Mallorie O’Brien, Chris Noble, James Todd, Eleciana Patton, Nina Doughtery, Anna Backel, Isabella Pulice, and Olivia Timko.

Every June, students and alumni of Madonna High School make a trip to the Southern Coalfields Region of West Virginia to help build and repair homes through Lend-A-Hand for Appalachia. This year four current students Ava Loch, Isabel Loch, Kennedy Martin, and Jakob McCombs joined alumni chaperones Matthew Lyons and John Martin, where they repaired a roof and installed doors to a home in Mullens, WV.
Alumni-Led Class Challenge is a Hit!

Mr. Dan McCune ‘80, came to the Madonna administration with an idea: to begin a grassroots class challenge to raise financial aid funds for students who need assistance to attend Madonna High School. The effort lasted for eight weeks and brought in just over $30,000. Mr. McCune reached out to fellow alumni contacts he had and the news spread through letters, emails, text messages, and conversations.

The funds that were generously donated have been put aside to give to students that would otherwise not be able to attend Madonna High School due to financial reasons. If you were unable to participate in this class challenge, keep an eye out for the challenge that will happen in Spring 2020 to help raise financial aid funds for the 2020-2021 school year.

Special recognition to the class of 1960, who was small, but mighty with 3 donors that brought in $10,300! Also to the class of 1966, who had the highest number from their class participate with 17 individuals.

Thank you to all of the following for contributing a gift:

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<td>Rose Marie Porco</td>
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<td>We sincerely apologize if your name was inadvertently printed incorrectly. If a correction needs to be made, please contact Christine Holmes at <a href="mailto:cholmes@weirtonmadonna.org">cholmes@weirtonmadonna.org</a>.</td>
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Achievements

Highlights of the Madonna High School Class of 2019

- Full or partial scholarships were awarded to 81% of the class.
- $3,479,650 in scholarship funds over 4 years have been offered with $1,111,250 being accepted over 4 years.
- Ten Seniors earned the WV Promise Scholarship. These students met the academic requirements to receive $4,750 annually towards their tuition and fees at public or independent colleges/universities in West Virginia.
- Other scholarships include:
  - American Legion National Oratorical Scholarship, Auburn University Charter Scholarship, Beulah T. Meyer Scholarship, Bethany Honors Scholarship, Bethany Merit Scholarship, Cecelia Serra Scholarship, Charles and Thelma Pugliese Scholarship, Clarion Academic and Athletic Scholarships, Cove Presbyterian Church Helen T. Hamill Memorial Scholarship, Elk’s National Foundation Scholarship, EQT Students of Excellence Award, Eugene and Neil Petrucci Scholarship, Fairmont State Opportunity Grant, Franciscan University of Steubenville Alumni Legacy, Center for Leadership, Chancellor, Dean’s, and Fides et Ratio Scholarships, Guido Magnone Golf Scholarship, Larsen Educational Trust Scholarship, Louis F. Serra Scholarship, Michael Smoljanovich Scholarship, Mountaineer Connection 19 Grant, Never Alone Scholarship, Pace University Incentive and Resident Scholars Awards, Phyllis DiGiomalo Scholarship, Richard Santilli Memorial Scholarship, Rick Kucan Memorial Scholarship, Robert Morris Rising Business and Cumulative GPA Scholarships, Sandy Reardon Memorial Scholarship, St. John’s Church Youth Scholarship, St. Vincent College and Tom and Sandra Usher Awards, St. Vincent College Alumni and 1st Generation Scholarships, St. Vincent College Catholic High School, and Administrative Grants, Undo’s Upper Ohio Valley Italian Heritage Scholarship, Weirton Medical Center Staff Scholarship, Weirton Rotary Scholarship, West Liberty Athletic Scholarships, Wheeling Oglebay Tennis Scholarship, WVU Distinction Award Levels 2, 3, and 4.
- Graduates will matriculate to the following colleges/universities in the fall:
  - Auburn University, Bethany College, Clarion University, Community College of Allegheny County, Eastern Gateway Community College, Fairmont State University, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Morgantown Beauty College, Pace University, Robert Morris University, St. Vincent College, West Liberty University, West Virginia Northern Community College, and West Virginia University.

Dylan Austin, recent Madonna High School graduate, won first place in the West Virginia Fall Stock Market Game, High School Division, sponsored by SIMGA Foundation. The Stock Market Game is a real-world, real-time program used by teachers across the state where teams of one to four students begin the simulation with $100,000 in imaginary cash they can use to buy stocks, mutual funds and bonds on the NYSE and NASDAQ. Mrs. Lafferty’s Personal Finance and Introduction to Business classes participated in the game during the fall semester of the 2018-2019 school year. Dylan finished the game with $101,134.69.
Senior representatives of the OVAC Champion Cheerleading Squad, Baseball, and Softball Teams attended the OVAC Banquet in Wheeling. Madonna High School won the Division 1A All Academic Award for best overall GPA as well as Division 1A Overall Sports Champion (for the tenth year in a row). Congratulations to all of our amazing athletes who excel not only on their playing fields, but also in the classroom. Pictured below are the trophies.

Madonna Track and Field had numerous athletes place at the WV State Track Meet in May (Clockwise beginning top left):

Kennedy Martin: 2nd Place Discus and 6th Place Shot Put
Kristina Lesho: 4th Place 1600M
4x800 Girls Relay (Sofia-Teresa DiBacco, Abby Macek, Andrea Alimario, Kristina Lesho): 6th Place
4x100 Girls Relay (Kelsey Crawford, MaKayla Virden, Angelina Spickard, Carly Dowiak): 6th Place
Brennan Secrist: 5th Place 110M Hurdles
Carly Dowiak: 5th Place 200M
Angelo Quattrochi: 5th Place 1600M
Miranda Sole was named the OVAC Class 1A 2nd Team All-Conference.

Madalena Daugherty was named the OVAC Class 1A Softball Player of the Year and 1st Team All-Conference!

Michaela Battista and Mikayla Sole were named OVAC Class 1A 1st Team All-Conference.

The Madonna Softball Team celebrates winning their 5th consecutive OVAC Championship!

Seniors Abby Nickerson and Alex Backel, two members of Madonna’s OVAC Champion Cheering squad, were selected for WVU’s cheering Blue Squad.

The Madonna Baseball Team won the OVAC Championship for the 2nd year in a row!

Madalena Daugherty, Gavin Dietrich, and Dom Mazur were named 1A All-OVAC.

Luke Beatty, Gavin Dietrich, and Dom Mazur were named 1A All-OVAC.

Miranda Sole was named the OVAC Class 1A 2nd Team All-Conference.
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.

Thomas Bait ’61  
John Colesante ’64  
Joseph R. Duco III ’82  
Joseph Evano ’61  
Frank Arthur Porco ’66  
Nancy Lee Stefan Turrill ’71

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.

1960’s

- Cheryl Bosnic Smith ’64 and her husband Tom celebrated their 50th anniversary with daughter, Brittany, son-in-law Jamie, granddaughter Makena and son, Ryan. She also her 72nd birthday and Makena’s 13th birthday!

- 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.

1980’s

- Shelley Sadler Greenlief ’81 has recently changed jobs. After 20 1/2 years working as a phlebotomists for a cardiologist she accepted a position at WMC working as a phlebotomists on the oncology floor in the medical annex at WMC.

2000’s

- In April, Michael Kranak, ’10 graduated with his PhD in Psychology and Behavior Analysis from Western Michigan University. He is now a researcher at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Kennedy Krieger Institute.

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.
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/

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

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

Friends of Madonna Picnic: August 17, 2019
Homecoming Tailgate and Game: September 20, 2019
65th Celebration Gala: November 30, 2019

A schedule for all our athletic events are available on our website: weirtonmadonna.org/athletic-events/