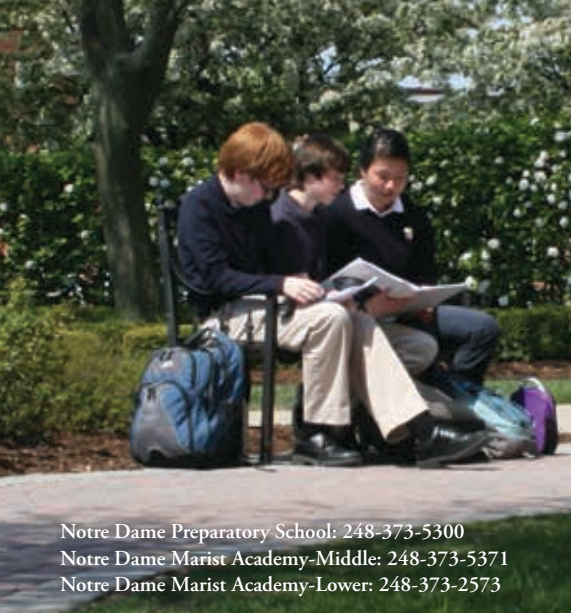


# THE blarney stone

A PUBLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY OF NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND MARIST ACADEMY



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## The future of NDPMA is at hand

### Notre Dame announces \$7.5-million science, art and technology building expansion

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy on March 9, 2017, launched the public phase of its philanthropic campaign to raise a total of \$5.5 million toward a \$7.5 million science, art and technology wing to be built on its campus in Pontiac.

Dubbed the “March on to Victory” campaign, the public phase of the fundraising effort was introduced at a special celebration to a crowd of more than 500 who heard from school and campaign officials and watched a special video presentation.

Daron Gifford, NDPMA board chairman and co-chair of the campaign emceed the event and said it was a momentous day for Notre Dame.

“The big goals of this campaign, which is the most ambitious in the school’s history, are to help our great school to maintain its educational leadership not only for our current generation of students, but also for many generations of students to come,” said Gifford, who also is an alumni parent.

Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., corporate president, explained that the new facilities planned as part of the campaign, which total 26,000 square feet, will include a one-story science, technology and arts wing to be added to the shared middle



The planned new facilities, which total 26,000 square feet, will include a one-story science, technology and arts wing to be added to the existing shared middle-division and upper-division building.

division and upper division building. The new wing will house science laboratory facilities, collaborative learning classrooms, a robotics lab, a specially designed greenhouse, and a fine arts studio.

“We’ve always tried to be on the cutting edge here at Notre Dame,” said Olszamowski. “And the educational program we have here now is not necessarily for students living in today’s world, but with this project, we are looking at what students will need in the future.”

The new fine arts studio will be dedicated solely to the visual arts and provide a setting that encourages and fosters the talent and imagination of Notre Dame students. Natural lighting, abundant wall and floor space, proper worktables, ample shelving and storage, a kiln room and

more will provide a setting to help aspiring young student-artists flourish. The space also will include a modern gallery to exhibit student-artists’ work.

Sandra LewAllen, who is chair of Notre Dame’s arts department, said she is excited about the big changes ahead for the school.

“It will be absolutely beautiful,” she said after reviewing the latest architectural renderings. “The art studio and gallery’s many features are amazing. In fact, I think I might teach here until I’m 80!”

The planned science labs have been designed to promote inquiry-based learning through design and functionality, according to the school. Work areas will accommodate small group collabora-

*Please see FUTURE, page 3*

**Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy provides its diverse student body a Catholic and internationally recognized college-preparatory experience of lasting value.**



**READ WHAT NOTRE DAME’S HEAD OF SCHOOL AND CORPORATE PRESIDENT SAY ABOUT THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

# Achieving big goals

Alum's academic and professional journey goes from Pontiac through West Lafayette to Waterloo.

**L**uke Moriguchi, a 2012 graduate of Notre Dame Prep, paid a visit in January to his alma mater, and among those he spent some time with was Vlado Salic, who directs the upper division's counseling department.

"Luke came to see us to share what he's been up to before his afternoon flight out to Iowa to get to his new apartment and job," Salic said. "It's always very nice and a highly appreciated gesture when an alum visits, but this one really felt special because he also has a great story about his educational journey and his family, which includes his sister, Francine, who graduated from Notre Dame in 2014.

Moriguchi was heading to Iowa because he soon will begin his new job as a quality engineer at John Deere's Product Engineering Center, located in Waterloo.

"I will be working with John Deere Power Systems, and that facility engineers and builds all powertrain applications for the company," Moriguchi said in an interview with IRISH magazine. "My first rotation will focus on quality planning of supplier parts within new engine programs."

Moriguchi's journey to Iowa follows a very successful stint at Purdue University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering.

Among the many extra activities during his years at Purdue, which included serving on the Purdue Marching Band's drumline, Moriguchi joined the Institute of Healthcare Improvement Purdue Chapter, a relatively new club at Purdue with countless chapters internationally.

"I took the opportunity to get involved in this club and served as the secretary and webmaster on the executive board

and had the opportunity to work with some incredible students in the nursing program at Purdue," he said. "Having the opportunity to work with people from other majors was valuable in gaining different perspectives in my own studies."

Last semester, Moriguchi said his senior design team project was voted the best project of the senior class by peers, staff, and

professional organizations. "We were able to minimize production space by 30% and improve productivity by 60%, a number that greatly surpassed the client's request. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to be the project manager, which provided much experience in leadership, decision-making and working with a client."

Such academic success in college didn't just come out of nowhere for Moriguchi. He said his time spent at Notre Dame was a real catalyst for him.

"Through academics and extracurricular activities at Notre Dame, I learned countless life skills that would later be reinforced throughout college and my intern experiences," he said. "First and most importantly, NDP taught me to set high goals for myself as well as critical time-management skills. I was involved in two varsity teams at Notre Dame (hockey and tennis), band (marching/concert/jazz), and theater (sound crew) through my years at NDP."

By the end of his high school career, Moriguchi was leading most of those activities to some extent. And despite the countless hours spent at these extracurriculars, he maintained a high GPA and achieved consistently excellent standardized test scores.

"Without the discipline and time-management skills I learned in high school, finding success in these areas going forward would not have been possible," he said. "When I went on to become a student leader in the Purdue band's drumline, which demanded a lot of time as well, I was able to maintain my grades, and I directly attribute to the time-management skills gained at NDP. The things I learned from leading, teaching, and working with peers at Notre Dame prepared me for the leadership experi-



Luke Moriguchi, a 2012 graduate of Notre Dame Prep, is starting a new engineering position with John Deere after graduating from Purdue University.

*Please see MORIGUCHI, page 7*



The new wing will house science laboratory facilities, collaborative learning classrooms, a robotics lab, a specially designed greenhouse, and a fine arts studio.

tion and technology will be incorporated into the teacher demonstration station. Counters and chairs have been designed with students in mind and a prep room conveniently situated between each of the science labs will provide a safe and secure environment for the storage of equipment and any potentially hazardous chemicals. General storage also will be housed in the prep room.

The new collaborative learning classrooms have been thoughtfully designed as flexible and fluid learning spaces that emphasize the roles that comfort and environment play in fostering group work as well as the hands-on learning—concepts so critical to Notre Dame’s progressive and comprehensive curriculum.

Another key component of the academic expansion is a 1,200 square-foot robotics lab and 850 square-foot adjoining classroom. Notre Dame’s robotics program has grown to encompass world-ranked programs at its lower, middle and upper divisions. The robotics center will complement the space currently provided through our relationship with FIAT Chrysler, a sponsor of our robotics program since its inception. The robotics room also will provide dedicated education, construction, storage and training space; mobile work stations that will allow for both computer-aided instruction and robot-building space as well as indoor and outdoor work space that will be centrally located between the upper and middle divisions.

The new greenhouse is designed to

be a powerful environmental education tool for Notre Dame students of all ages. The greenhouse will also provide students with the unique opportunity to explore hydroponic growing systems, which is a new way to develop efficient food sources. Throughout each school year, students studying natural and social science, math, language arts, visual arts and more will benefit from the greenhouse and its garden-like setting.

“The whole idea around sciences, technology, the arts and math is that they are part of the analytical skills that children need today and will be even more vital to them in the future,” Gifford said.

Andy Guest, Notre Dame’s head of


school, told those on hand at the launch that nearly \$4.1 million already has been raised through the quiet phase of the campaign with the participation of more than 100 donors, including faculty and staff who came together to contribute over \$100,000 and counting. He added that the new facilities are a continuation of the momentum the school has experienced over a number of years to become an institution with one of southeast Michigan’s most diverse and innovative curriculums.

“We are proud of how Notre Dame has taken root and flourished in Oakland County in just over 20 years,” Guest said. “We set high standards for our students from junior kindergarten on, and every year our students exceed established goals and raise the bar for the next class. And this new wing will no doubt help our amazing and accomplished faculty to continue their work in encouraging every student to reach his or her full potential.”

Olszamowski added that he thinks that faith has been a guiding force for the campaign from the very beginning.

“It’s always been our belief that God is there to help out this school and its students,” he said. “So we believe that this project will move forward and be quite successful.”

TMP Architecture, headquartered in Bloomfield Hills, is the architect for Notre Dame’s new building initiative.

To learn more about the campaign, its impact and how to participate, please visit [ndpma.org/marchontovictory](http://ndpma.org/marchontovictory). 



More than 500 people were on hand at the Notre Dame campus when current parent Brad Seitzinger and school officials announced the March on to Victory capital campaign.

# 'Make dreams come true' for Notre Dame

NDPMA Corporate President Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., addressed those on hand at the March 9 event at Notre Dame to announce the "March on to Victory" capital campaign.

**G**ood evening, and thank you for joining us on this happy occasion. As you know, one of the consistent hallmarks of our school is that we deliver what we say we will deliver. This is evidenced by our academic scores, our college placement, and the wonderful all-around decorum of our student body—truly a Christ-like community that lives its mission well. We have been a body of Christian people "on the go" and "on the grow" ever since our inception in 1994. As schools go, ours is a mere 23 years old—as it were, just a young adult with a bright future ahead. We are an academic gem shining brightly here on Giddings Road, filled with remarkable students and staff. We are well-supported by parents and friends. All these factors and friends make for a very good school destined for greatness.

Every school day our mission calls us to help our students find their niche in life and develop their God-given talents to occupy their station in life well. Our mission calls us to become an educational bee-hive, teaching and learning to do our part to strengthen the hive itself and successfully complete any project we encounter. Our mission demands our staff to deliver the best academic program in superior surroundings that invite exploration, experimentation, deep thinking, and even deeper creative, moral judgement.

Since I arrived here 24 years ago, (even before our school began), I have watched our staff, programs, our athletic fields, and our building's square footage expand to deliver our students many of the tools they will need to live and grow in their "future world" much more than into our "world today." Our Board of Trustees, administrative team, and our staff, have done the requisite thinking and planning to provide an ethos in which our kids can succeed and bear much fruit. In fact, we have just helped to prosper our lower division last week as we celebrated the completion of its new 7,000-square foot school addition.



Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., is corporate president for Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy.

This evening, I have more good news—this time about our middle and upper divisions. I want to share briefly our plan for a 26,000-square foot addition that will help the middle and upper divisions to prosper, particularly in collaborative Art, Science and Technology. Our curricular space must always match our student needs and continued demands for more science (a mainstay of modern left-brained education), more graphic and fine arts (which increase creative right-brained activity), and a much-needed robotics lab (to further whet our appetite for STEM, STEAM and STREAM.) Our new Art, Science and Technology wing is only a beginning, a start down a path of building for the next 10 years.

May I add that, although our natural and biological science programs have been very strong, we have not paid enough attention to the biological kingdom opposite the animals. We

will address the plant kingdom with a new, well-equipped botanical center, indoor greenhouse and outdoor experimental garden; and we will offer new courses in botanical science.

Because of the nature of our student body, we know they are destined to be tomorrow's leaders; so, today we will do what we can to prepare them for that role, making sure that they can hone their tools and skills at a school that allows them to engage and create a better world.

Our new Art, Science, and Technology wing is, as I said, only a first step that will address many of our academic needs; but I want you to know that this is only a beginning. We have a long list of future academic, athletic and arts projects to match our students' hunger for knowledge in arts and sciences and hunger for healthy athletic competition.

I think we are all well-aware of the powerful dynamic that goes on at this school each day. After all, that's why your children attended, attend, or want to attend this school. That's why we taught, teach, and will continue to teach at NDPMA. All you need to do is look at our track record and the caliber of our student graduates to know that this is a magically productive incubator for Christian people, upright citizens and academic scholars. We board members, we Marist Fathers, we faculty/staff associates, and we, the local Catholic community are proud of what we have built here in Pontiac.

May I conclude by saying that we love your kids almost as much as you do. Our promise is to do our best to provide what they need to be productive adults and healthy people.

So, join me now in taking a look at what we have in mind. We hope you like what you see and work with us to make dreams come true. 🙏



The planned new greenhouse will provide students with the unique opportunity to explore hydroponic growing systems, which is a new way to develop efficient food sources.

## Guest, Simon get key appointments



Andrew J. Guest was named head of school on Feb. 7.

Notre Dame's Board of Trustees announced on Feb. 7 that Andrew J. Guest was named head of school. In this position, Guest oversees the day-to-day operations of the school, including all academic, arts and athletic programs. He succeeds Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., who was named corporate president, a position that will be responsible for Notre Dame's long-term vision, strategy and board development as well as alumni and donor relations.

Since July of last year, Guest has been serving as interim president of the school, while Olszamowski was on a six-month sabbatical.

Guest first came to Notre Dame in 2005 as director of advancement, charged with overseeing the school's alumni relations, marketing and fundraising efforts. Since then, the school has experienced extensive growth in both its annual giving and number of donors. Most recently, in 2013, Guest was named executive vice president. During his tenure at Notre Dame, he has been a member of the strategic planning, building, finance, advancement, legal and education committees and the committee on trustees and has helped raise nearly \$25 million for the school.

Gregory Simon, who first moved into Notre Dame's advancement department in 2014 to direct its annual fund activities, was named Feb. 9 by Head of School Andy Guest to lead the department as director of advancement. In this position, Simon will manage and administer advancement and development initiatives as well as the procurement of major and designated gifts. In addition, he will oversee alumni relations, market research, the Notre Dame Fund, the school's webmaster and the day-to-day operations of the advancement department at the Colin House.



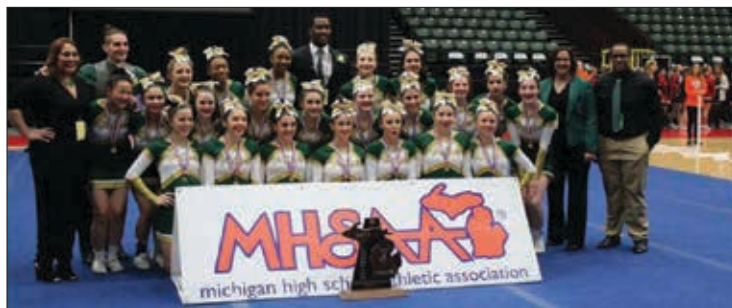
Gregory Simon was named director of advancement on Feb. 9.

Simon first came to the NDPMA campus in 1995 shortly after the school opened. Since then he has served as both a social studies and government teacher in the upper division in addition to roles as student council moderator, assistant athletic director and coach of both basketball and baseball. In January 2014, Simon moved from a nine-year tenure as Notre Dame's dean of admissions and diversity to the school's advancement department as annual fund director where he planned and managed the annual-giving component of advancement.

## Notre Dame Prep cheer wins 4th straight state title

The Notre Dame competitive cheer team took its fourth consecutive MHSAA Division III state title this past Saturday at the DeltaPlex in Grand Rapids. The Irish, who placed second in both the district and regional competitions behind Richmond, posted the top score in each round in the state finals meet.

Notre Dame posted scores of 235.30 and 230.36 in the first and second rounds respectively to lead Richmond by just 1.24 points heading into the critical third round. Despite going first in the round, Notre Dame topped the Blue Devils 315.90 to 314.70



in round three and 781.56 to 779.12 on the day. Monroe Jefferson took third with 772.62 and Comstock was fourth with 767.34. Flat Rock was fifth with 761.46 with Lake Odessa Lakewood sixth (756.62), Paw Paw seventh (752.84) and Howard City Tri-County eighth (748.58).

The Irish graduate seniors Kaitlin Boncore, Caroline Hauck, Grace Mackey, Sarah Nantel, Jenny Redoutey, Brooke Ringler, and Anne Seyferth from a class that took state titles in all four years at Notre Dame.

## Lower-, middle-division robotics teams win state championships

Team 3333K of Notre Dame's VEX IQ robotics group, the Bumble Bees, came out on top last month in the GM-sponsored VEX IQ Elementary School Michigan State Championship, which was held at Charlotte Middle School in Charlotte, Mich. As a result of their big win, the team qualifies for the VEX IQ World Championship, which will be held in April in Louisville, Kentucky.

Team 3333K, also known as the "Poison Vipers," is comprised of third graders from Notre Dame's lower division. They are Brooke Beaudoin, Andrew Chang, Augustin Villajuan and Lucas DiGrande.



Team 3333B from the middle division, "The Engineers who say Ni," are Jackson Plas, Aaron Palardy, William Schmit and Joseph Lasota.

Following the state championship win by the team from the lower division, a team from Notre Dame's middle division also brought home a state title in February after defeating 31 other teams in the VEX IQ Middle School Michigan State Championship, which also was held in Charlotte.

Team 3333B, "The Engineers who say Ni," finished first followed by Notre Dame's Team 3333A, 3333X and 3333P. As a result of the big win, these teams of 6th graders automatically qualify for the VEX IQ World Championship in Louisville. They will be joined by the following NDPMA robotics teams: Yellow Jackets – 3333Y, Code Crushers – 3333J, Poison Vipers – 3333K, Motorheads – 3333N and The Terminators – 3333T, which finished ahead of all other NDPMA lower-division teams in the skills challenge.



Team 3333K, or the "Poison Vipers," are third graders from Notre Dame's lower division. They are Brooke Beaudoin, Andrew Chang, Augustin Villajuan and Lucas DiGrande.

# Unruffled and completely dedicated to students

Longtime fixture on campus says Notre Dame always has taken pride in its academics.

**J**erold (a.k.a. Jerry) McGhee has been a quiet yet prominent fixture on campus since first coming to Notre Dame in 1999. He typically can be seen on the football field or in one of the two gymnasiums as part of his primary role as physical education teacher for the middle and upper divisions. He also can be found in a classroom on certain days of the week when he presides over health classes.

While he thoroughly enjoys his job, McGhee never loses focus on what Notre Dame is all about.

“I believe that the most important part of my job here is to help promote the mission of the school,” he said. “The school’s identity comes from its mission as a Catholic school, so helping to form good Christian persons who are upright citizens and academic scholars is a very worthy cause to help promote and maintain. This is one of the things that make this such a unique and important school.”

Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m., principal of Notre Dame’s upper division, said that while McGhee always takes things in stride, he has no doubt about his complete dedication to the school. “He is always there to help the students,” Hindelang said. “And over the years, he’s probably heard most of the issues they face. Mr. McGhee always takes care of things calmly and not much can ruffle his feathers.”

McGhee’s journey to becoming an “unruffled” teacher at one of Michigan’s more elite schools, however, had a decidedly “non-elite” beginning, although his original inspiration was similar to what we hear a lot from other Notre Dame faculty members.

“I chose to become a teacher initially because of the people that helped make a difference in my life as a teenager,” said McGhee. “I grew up in a pretty rough environment in the inner city of Detroit, and high school back then seemed like a safe place for me. My teachers there showed a genuine care for us as students, and I felt that was something that I would like to give back.”

He said his primary role models were



Jerry McGhee, who hired into Notre Dame in 1999, is also an assistant coach for Notre Dame’s football team.

teachers who also coached because they provided a little more of a structure and set of expectations that he had not experienced previously.

So he decided to follow his inspiration and become a teacher.

After earning a B.A. in health and psychology from Alma College and an M.A. in administration from the University of Detroit-Mercy, McGhee spent 10 years in various capacities at Royal Oak’s Dondero and Kimball high schools. He also served in a long-term substitute position at South Lake Middle School in St. Clair Shores.

He loves to teach and loves to coach sports, which he was able to do in nearly all his positions — including the one he currently holds at Notre Dame, a school he admits he knew little about it before hiring in.

“I knew a bit about Notre Dame Prep from previous coaching that I had done, but didn’t really know anything about the school itself,” McGhee said. “When I started working here in 1999, there was construction going on, and the school looked like a place on the rise. But even though it was growing, the school didn’t really seem too big for its own good, and it also seemed very welcoming to me as well as to the students who were also new here at the time. And, even that many

years ago, the school seemed to take much pride in its academic success.”

Since then, McGhee, who currently lives in Royal Oak with his wife and three sons, has had a front-row view of many significant changes on campus.

“After more than 16 years here at Notre Dame, the biggest changes I’ve seen included the addition of the artificial turf athletic field, the tennis courts, the Grimaldi and Gifford buildings and the weight room,” he said. “When I first got here, the school was going through a big growth spurt and the facilities were not adequate to accommodate the students, teams and events that were happening more and more. The new facilities were a huge step forward to help make the sports teams even more competitive.”

McGhee also said that by adding the International Baccalaureate programs, the school solidified the already high academic standards at NDPMA.

“As had been said many times back then, IB seemed to take all of the good things that were going on here academically and gave it an official ‘title,’” he added.

Titles are not necessarily a big deal personally for McGhee even as he’s conducted a long career being called “teacher” and “coach.” But if he wasn’t a teacher or coach, what might he want to do with his life, career-wise?

“If I had not gone into teaching, I would be an aviator, a pilot,” he said. “I earned a private pilot license shortly out of college, and would have loved to pursue that venture if teaching had not taken precedence.”

Jill Mistretta, who is the principal of the school’s middle division, sums it all up with high praise for McGhee. She said “Jerry sees everything,” and that he’s very observant and understands the value of students living through their experiences naturally.

“Without a doubt, I trust that students in Mr. McGhee’s care are safe both physically and emotionally,” Mistretta said. “At the same time, I notice that he allows them to be free to be themselves with one another.

“But perhaps most important, I’ve always admired Jerry’s trust in the Catholic Church,” she continued. “The Marist Way is thoroughly ingrained in him, which shows up in his own three boys as well.”

ences I had at Purdue as well.”

Moriguchi also noted that NDP prepared him for the intensity needed to be successful in the university classroom.

“Learning to study smarter and not harder allowed me to maintain a balance between school, activities and social life,” he said. “This balance helped lead to success in the classroom, an expanded social network, and other new opportunities.”

Moriguchi’s visit to NDP last week wasn’t his first since he graduated in 2012. He said he always loves to catch up with Notre Dame teachers.

“Whenever I visit the school, I make it a point to visit my former teachers, including Mr. Riley, Mr. Martin, Ms. Glick, Ms. Phillips, and Ms. Pauwels,” he said. “I have been fortunate to have several opportunities to stop and speak with these amazing teachers since my graduation and I hope to have more opportunities to visit, despite working in Iowa. Besides the teaching staff, I would be remiss not to mention Mr. Vlado Salic, who was my counselor until I graduated. He helped me through the entire college application process. He provided the confidence and support I needed to prepare and submit my college applications and has continued to support me. I am proud to consider him a friend.”

Now embarking on a major new phase in his life, Moriguchi is very excited to begin his new job at John Deere. But he’s also focused on the longer road ahead on his journey.

“I look forward to starting my career as a quality engineer for John Deere, but, as many others, I hope to eventually transition to more managerial roles and have the opportunity to lead and influence larger groups of people,” he said. “I have learned that work experience in quality, manufacturing and operations in industry will develop a solid foundation for me to make this transition and cultivate success in a position of leadership.

“Besides the work experience, I also hope to soon get my MBA to further enhance my repertoire and to continue to positively contribute at John Deere. For the next couple of years, I look forward to working very hard to learn more, contribute and innovate!” 📷

## Dedication to mission: Head of School Andy Guest discusses March on to Victory project in a speech given at the March 9 event at Notre Dame

Good evening everyone. And, thank you, Brad [Seitzinger], for that truly inspirational message. I cannot express in words how moving it is to hear such great thoughts from you and other members of our community that have chosen to support this cause so freely and generously. Thank you.

We “pitched” this evening as a chance to “come see the future.” And this science, arts and technology wing is just the beginning. This project will provide us with extra classrooms, science labs, a prep room, an art studio for both the middle and upper divisions, a robotics room and a green house. Notre Dame is a school truly on the move. We are growing and expanding at a time when others stand still.

We do this because we are driven by a sense of purpose and dedication to our mission, to work with God, to create Christian persons, upright citizens and academic scholars.

Let’s face it. It can be a crazy, difficult and confusing world out there for kids. But we believe we are an educational and spiritual oasis in the desert of modern society.

We prepare our students not only for success in college, but also for life....and, ultimately heaven. For what good would it be to send our students to the best colleges and universities in the world if they did not become good people in the process—kind and caring adults who make the world a better place.

When I first joined the school 12 years ago, I was sitting in Mass in this very gymnasium. It was springtime and a little warm. A young boy in the middle division was sitting in the row behind me. I think he was a little bored and more than a little fidgety. I didn’t think too much of it, but noticed one of our teachers leaned over to remind him that we were in church and to behave. Nothing that I hadn’t done with my own kids on multiple occasions.

At the end of Mass, the young boy approached me and said, “Excuse me, but I wanted to apologize if my behavior in Mass distracted you.” I was blown away and I immediately fell in love with the school. I knew right then and there that Notre Dame was a special place. Since that time, I have seen so many random acts of kindness from both students and teachers I could go on for hours. You’ll be glad to hear, I won’t.

What we do, I think better than any Catholic or parochial school in the area, is offer an internationally recognized, college preparatory experience of lasting value. And, we do that within the loving arms of the Church and through the guidance of our patroness, Mary, the Mother of God.

We offer an outstanding academic curriculum, second to none, delivered by exceptional teachers, received by talented young students and raised by families who want the best for their children. Through God’s grace, we have created a culture where “it’s cool to be smart.”

We understand that if we do Catholic education well, we not only bring our students, but their entire family closer to God. And, that my friends, is an awesome responsibility.

We want to build this science, technology and arts addition....We **need** to build this science, arts and technology addition...because it will offer our students access to the best facilities we can provide to maximize their academic potential and best prepare them for college....and beyond.

As you can imagine, this is an aggressive undertaking. The total cost of this project is \$7.5 million dollars. Our goal is to raise \$5.5 million, by the summer of 2018. If we can raise at least \$5.5 million by the summer of 2018, we will have this beautiful, new science, arts and technology wing open and operational as early as one year from this fall. That means that any parent with a student who is a sophomore or younger will be able to learn in the new addition before they graduate. This is a very aggressive timeline, but very doable. In fact, we have already received our site plan approval from the City of Pontiac.

Now, while the goal is to raise \$5.5 million, the closer we get to the total project cost,



Andrew J. Guest was named head of school for Notre Dame on February 7, 2017.

Notre Dame  
Preparatory  
School and Marist  
Academy is an  
International  
Baccalaureate  
World School.

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School website: [ndpma.org](http://ndpma.org)

*A world of education*



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NDPMA also is on Facebook! Find a link on the NDPMA web site: [ndpma.org](http://ndpma.org).



### **GUEST, from page 7**

the better it will be for the school. Today, I am happy to announce that we have already raised a total of \$4,103,591 toward our goal of \$5.5 million. This \$4.1 million includes a gift of \$50,000 from our own Marist Fathers United States province and \$103,000 from 73 members of our faculty and staff, who came forward on their own accord to make voluntary contributions, mostly through payroll deductions, to support this important initiative for our kids.

It warms my heart to know that no one cares more about the kids than our own Marist Fathers and Brother and our own teachers and staff. Virtually everyone that works at our school could make

more money elsewhere... and certainly if they chose different professions. But, they are here because they love kids, they love teaching and they love our Catholic mission.

The first \$4.1 million, toward our goal of \$5.5 million, has been raised by a relatively small number of families who have made



Another key component of the academic expansion is a 1,200 square-foot robotics lab and 850 square-foot adjoining classroom.

some very meaningful contributions to help get the campaign off the ground. Many of those names are listed in tonight’s program.

Please thank them when you see them this evening. Many of our initial donors are alum parents and grandparents, who do not even have children at the school, but recognize the importance of giving back.

I did want to point out that Steve and Karen Hoke have also

made a commitment to this project. But we just received their commitment a couple of days ago, after the programs were printed, so we did not have them listed in the program.

So, to achieve our goal, we only need to raise an additional \$1.5 million from the rest of our community. If we exceed that goal, it will benefit the school that much more and take us one step closer to our next “big announcement.”

We have a couple of messages for you tonight. First, we are not asking for gifts this evening, but we will be reaching out to families over the next several weeks. Second, no gift is too small and gifts of all sizes will be appreciated. For us to achieve our goal, we will need support at many different levels. Third, we are willing to work with families that would like to make larger gifts on timing. For example, we will accept multi-year pledges in the three to five-year range if it helps families to increase their gift and helps them from a budgeting standpoint.

Finally, our only request of you tonight, is that you take in the message that we are delivering, discuss it among yourselves and prayerfully consider what you can do as parents, alumni, family or friends of Notre Dame to help make this project a reality for our children.

If you receive a call from a member of our steering committee, asking for an appointment or a gift, we only ask that you say “yes” to our request. Say “yes” to our mission. Say “yes” to Notre Dame. Say “yes” to the future of Catholic education. And, say “yes” to our children.

Many people say that we are the best Catholic school in the state of Michigan and one of the top Catholic schools in the nation. I couldn’t agree more. Thank you and God bless! 🙏