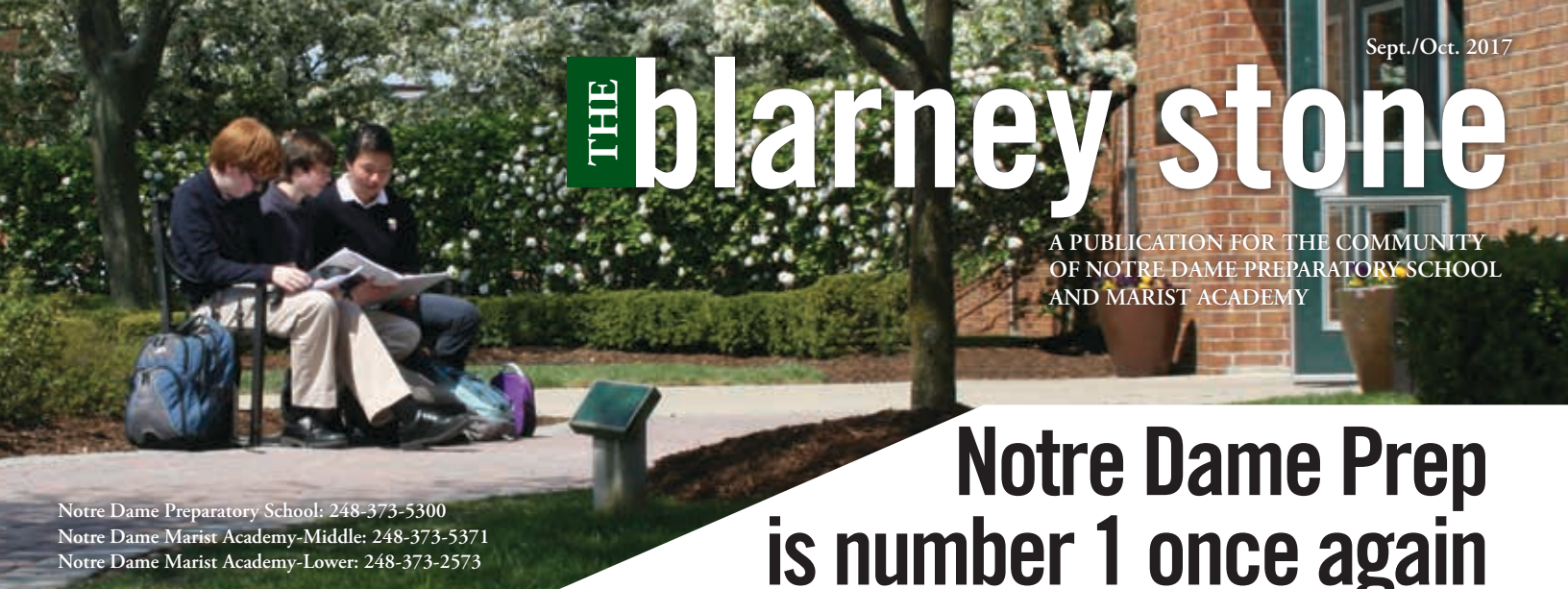


# THE blarney stone

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



Notre Dame Preparatory School: 248-373-5300  
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## Notre Dame Prep is number 1 once again

Second time in three years at the top of Catholic high schools list; NDP also earned no. 6 ranking for all private high schools in the state.



For the second time in three years, Notre Dame Preparatory School was named the top Catholic high school in the state of Michigan, according to Niche, a national organization that annually ranks colleges and K-12 schools across the country. Niche also rated Notre Dame Prep the 6th best private high school, religious or non-religious, in the state and 65th best Catholic high school in the entire country.

In 2016, NDP also was named the #1 Catholic high school in Michigan by Niche.

For this latest round of rankings, Niche named Notre Dame Prep #5 of the best college prep high schools in Michigan (public or private).

For K-12 private schools in Michigan, Niche rated NDPMA 3rd best, with Cranbrook and Country Day ranked one and two, respectively, on the list.

According to Niche, the 2018 Best Catholic High Schools ranking provides a comprehensive assessment of the overall experience at a Catholic high school. This grade takes into account key factors such as the strength of academics, school culture and diversity, as well as student and parent

"Not only is Notre Dame the #1 best Catholic high school in Michigan, but it's within the top 100 in America (out of over 1,100)," said Jessica Hair, Niche's marketing outreach coordinator.

*Please see NUMBER 1, 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.*



**ALUM AT CORNELL PLANS TO BE PART OF DETROIT'S REVOLUTION, PG. 2**

# Alum/Cornell student and Detroit's revolution

Ivy League sophomore is flourishing but says she misses the close support she received from Notre Dame Prep teachers; plans to be part of the burgeoning revolution in Detroit.

**M**ichelle Lo is more than a year into her college education in economics at New York's Cornell University's College of Arts and Sciences. She graduated from Notre Dame Prep in 2016 and while she has adapted well to a university environment and being so far from home, she's noticed one big difference between Cornell and Notre Dame Prep.

"I miss the close-knit relationships I formed with all my teachers over the years at NDP," Lo said. "Walking to class and joking around with Mr. Devine or stopping in to say hi to my teachers is what makes me miss the halls of NDP the most."

Lo said it's different being close with teachers you see everyday and who you turn to for guidance versus the limited support that university professors can offer.

"My teachers at NDP took a genuine interest in me and the track I was on in life," she said.

Still, Lo is thriving at Cornell.

"Although classes are extremely rigorous and my coursework requires me to really apply myself, I owe my success so far here to the study habits I developed at NDP," Lo said. "The workload I was given at NDP, especially in my AP classes, is what I believe gave me the ability to manage my time well and it's what prepared me for the level of rigor I've experienced during my first year at Cornell."

She said the in-class essays and demanding prep work for AP exams at Notre Dame are very similar to the assignments she's completed so far in her college classes.

"If it hadn't been for the discipline that NDP instilled in me during my time in high school, I wouldn't have had such a big advantage going into my classes at Cornell last fall."

Currently, Lo is majoring in economics and minoring in business, and she hopes to become an analyst for a consulting company or maybe follow in her dad's footsteps and work as an auto analyst in Detroit.

## WANTS TO BE PART OF THE 'REVOLUTION'

"My accounting class with Mrs. Palushaj at NDP has inspired me to return to Detroit and get involved with the revolution the city is currently experiencing," she said. "I remember Mrs. Palushaj took our class to the Quicken Loans Finance Park in Detroit and

that got me thinking that eventually I would bring my education and experiences back to the city to 'industrialize' it further. Those business classes at NDP influenced my decision to write the majority of my college application essays about my passion for both Detroit and business, and how I'd like to take the education I receive and bring it back home to become a part of the revolution myself."

This summer, Lo interned with the business department of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and she did some research work with a professor at Oakland University. She's also a longtime violinist and believes the discipline necessary to learn and play the instrument also factored in her success both at Notre Dame and Cornell so far.

"I really think my ability to tie my passions for music and business together will allow me to excel in the business world when I get there," she said. "I never thought that my education in music or my role as a violinist would be influential in what I do in terms of economics or finance, and yet my work as the social chair of the Cornell Chamber and my previous involvement with the

Detroit Symphony Orchestra has led me to where I am today."


She said she's been able to turn her passion for classical music into a business interest in Detroit and thinks that the role the DSO has played in Detroit's comeback is critical.

"I want to bring back symphony music even stronger in Detroit by marketing it to a younger audience, which could also generate revenue and interest for other cities as well," she said.

## NOT ONE, BUT TWO IVY LEAGUE SCHOOLS

Lo's work at Cornell isn't her first foray into learning about the world of business at an Ivy League school.

While still a student at Notre Dame Prep, Lo was able to spend a summer interning at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, something she said resulted from help courtesy of NDP math and business teacher Joanne Beauchamp.

"Yes, I've always loved business, but without the guidance of Mrs. Beauchamp, I would not have learned about the different branches that business really encompasses," she said. "Mrs. Beauchamp actually wrote one of my recommendation letters for that prestigious Wharton program for high school seniors at Penn, which also served as a catalyst in discovering my passion for management and what got me interested in consulting. I was able to study with Wharton professors and write a business plan for a service that my team and I pitched to a panel of actual venture capitalists and business professionals." 



2016 Notre Dame graduate Michelle Lo says her high school experience set her up for a successful first year at Cornell University.





Notre Dame Prep was rated the best Catholic school in Michigan; the 6th best private high school — religious or non-religious — in the state; and the 65th best Catholic high school in the entire country.

reviews, in an attempt to measure the overall excellence of the school.

“Not only is Notre Dame the #1 best Catholic high school in Michigan, but it’s within the top 100 in America (out of over 1,100),” said Jessica Hair, Niche’s marketing outreach coordinator. “Our rankings really strive to capture the entire experience of attending a school, so Notre Dame’s great ranking represents excellence

among all aspects of the student experience - from great test scores and high college enrollment rates to student and parent satisfaction with the quality of education.”

Factors used in the ranking include average ACT/SAT composite scores; “college scores,” which means the average score of colleges that students are most interested in or go on to attend based on Niche’s best overall college rankings;

four-year matriculation rate, which is the percentage of seniors who go on to four-year colleges; and student-teacher ratios.

Parent and student surveys of opinions on the overall experience at each school also are included in the rating process.

In addition, data and statistics were obtained by the U.S. Department of Education, says Niche. 🇺🇸

## Mission to Peru

For the past several years, students from Marist School in Atlanta have spent about a week each summer in Peru on a mission trip. Their home base during the trips typically is a Marist-operated school in Callao, Peru, which is located near Lima, Peru’s capital.

This year, Daniel Fox, who is a senior at Notre Dame Prep, joined the Marist School students on the trip. According to upper division principal Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m., Fox took the initiative on his own to go and make all of his own arrangements.

“Peru was amazing,” said Fox, who said he made a lot of friends on the trip, including students of Marist School and the many children in Peru he met.

“It was an incredible experience and what I really enjoyed the most were the orphanages,” Fox said. “There were so many amazing kids who were happy in spite of their very terrible situations, which was very humbling. The language barrier was present, but I found out a smile goes a long way down there!”



Fox said getting to know the kids at the orphanages and schools was special.

“The love I received from them was overwhelming. We visited many regular orphanages, but the children who were mentally or physically disabled or cancer-inflicted really got to me the most.”

He said one little girl in particular really hit it off with him. “Her name is Rose,” he said, “and she has cancer. But she was the most beautiful and loving child I have ever met.”

Also on the group’s itinerary were a number of visits to elderly homes in the area, but Fox unfortunately got pretty sick with a virus for a couple days and could not attend any of them.

“But we also visited after-school programs for kids who come from homes with violence and drugs,” he said. “And they were just as happy as the kids

in the orphanages.”

Fox said the mission opened his eyes, for sure. “It really made me see how blessed I am and helped me to gain a greater appreciation for all that I have,” he said. 🇺🇸

# Alum earns national recognition for philanthropy

1988 alumnus is honored for work in helping underprivileged children receive a Notre Dame Prep education; also a finalist in the 2017 Invest in Others Awards.

Paul Housey, an alumnus of Notre Dame High School and cofounder of Troy-based ISTO Advisors, has been announced as one of three national finalists for the Catalyst Award as part of the eleventh annual Invest in Others Awards. Housey is being honored for his work with Building Bridges,



Nearly two decades ago, Notre Dame alum Paul Housey ('88) founded Building Bridges, a non-profit dedicated to inspiring underprivileged children in Pontiac, Mich., to believe in themselves by connecting them with adult role models and private high school scholarships.

which will receive a \$5,000 donation from the Invest in Others Charitable Foundation. If Housey wins his category, the donation will increase to \$20,000.

Nearly two decades ago, Housey, who graduated from NDHS in 1988, founded Building Bridges, a non-profit dedicated to inspiring underprivileged children in Pontiac, Mich., to believe in themselves by connecting them with adult role models and private high school scholarships. Since 2004, Building Bridges has partnered with Notre Dame Preparatory High School in Pontiac to sponsor dozens of high school students, connecting them with high-quality education and putting them on the path to a college education.

According to Housey, kids who haven't had a fair chance for a good

education should get one. "So we get good and generous people together as donors or advocates to inspire these kids to believe in themselves, and once they believe in themselves, the sky's the limit."

The Building Bridges organization's work has included helping to educate schoolchildren through its school-based program, ongoing mentoring activities with children at Christ Child House in Detroit and an annual holiday gifting program that provides hundreds of gifts to children whose families cannot afford even a single gift.

"Notre Dame Prep and Building Bridges truly have a unique and meaningful partnership," said Housey, who will be traveling to New York City in late September for the final award ceremony. "From the early days of working with Gregory Simon (director of advancement) and Andy Guest (head of school) to get this off the ground, to all of Greg's hard work for 10 years on identifying strong candidates, to (dean of diversity and associate dean of admissions) Kala Parker's tireless efforts that now help support 38 students on scholarship, the Notre Dame team has been extraordinary."

Housey said he is committed to spending every dollar Building Bridges raises on scholarships and related programming; he and his wife personally finance all other organizational overhead expenses. His enthusiasm for education inspires annual fundraising events and encourages the Board members he has assembled over the past decades to also give generously. 🇺🇸

## Notre Dame announces new trustees

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy has named Elizabeth Brisley and Fabian Fregoli school trustees, effective August 16, 2017.

Fr. Paul Frechette, s.m., who is provincial superior of the Society of Mary, U.S.A. Province, which sponsors Notre Dame's Catholic identity and mission, also approved the two new trustees.

Brisley and her husband, Robert, have three children, one of whom graduated in 2014 as well as a current freshman and sophomore in the school's upper division. She has been a tireless supporter and volunteer at Notre Dame for the past 10 years and has served as co-chair of the school's annual fashion show, which raises funds to support the Parents Club. Outside of Notre Dame, she volunteers in various capacities for Humble Design, a nonprofit that helps families transition out



Elizabeth Brisley, left, and Fabian Fregoli were named new trustees for NDPMA on August 16, 2017.

of homeless shelters by providing furnishings and design services.

Currently a stay-at-home mother, Brisley has previously worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers as a compensation and HR consultant. She holds a BA degree in international relations from Michigan State University and an MBA from Wayne State University.

Fregoli and his wife, Loreta, who have three children currently attending Notre Dame, two in the upper division and one

in the lower, have been strong supporters of the school for many years. Fabian, who also is an alumnus of Notre Dame, Class of 1989, has been serving for a number of years as treasurer of the Notre Dame Prep band board, a subcommittee of the Parents Club.

Fregoli currently works as vice president of quality and patient safety and chief medical informatics officer at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland/St. Joseph Mercy Health System, a member of Trinity Health.

He earned his medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine and completed his residency in family medicine at William Beaumont Hospital-Grosse Pointe where he also served as chief resident. He also serves as a clinical assistant professor at Wayne State University's School of Medicine and the Michigan State University School of Medicine in the Department of Family Medicine. 🇺🇸



## Notre Dame secures \$1 million donation for ball fields



Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy announced on Aug. 22 that it had secured a \$1 million gift from an anonymous donor to support an extensive renovation of the school's softball and baseball fields. The donation represents the largest designated gift to the school in its 23-year history.

"This unbelievably generous gift to Notre Dame and its athletic department ensures that our softball and baseball complex will provide the best possible environment for our student-athlete ballplayers," said Betty Wroubel, Notre Dame's athletic director, assistant principal and head softball coach. "Coupled with the recent upgrades to our stadium, we believe we will have one of the finest high school athletic facilities in southeast Michigan."

According to Wroubel, the gift will make possible the installation of field turf on both the infield and outfield of the softball and baseball fields, which are located on the northeast section of the Notre Dame campus in Pontiac. In addition, both backstops and the softball dugouts will be completely replaced and a permanent press box will be built at the baseball field.

Other projects in the renovation plan include completely new bullpens and batting cages for both softball and baseball, baseball dugout upgrades and an improved drainage system throughout the complex. More information on this will be available in the coming months. 🇺🇸

## Olympian signs on to coach girls swim team

The Notre Dame athletic department announced in July that Nimrod (Nim) Shapira Bar-Or, a two-time participant in the Summer Olympics, has been hired to coach girls swimming and diving at the school's upper division.

A member of the 2008 and 2012 Israeli Olympic swim team, Shapira Bar-Or currently heads the AQUA Swim Club based in southeast Michigan, named one of the top 200 swim clubs in the U.S. He has been a member of the national team of Israel since the age of 15 and has competed at all international levels including the Maccabiah Games, European Championships, World Championships as well as the Olympics.

"We are excited to welcome Nim to our coaching staff," said Betty Wroubel, Notre Dame's athletic director. "Nim brings a variety of experiences with him that I believe will translate well to



our program. He is the total package: He embraces the mission of the school, supports multi-sport athletes and has an overall astounding passion for swimming. I think Nim will quickly connect with our community and fit nicely into our girls swim program."

For Shapira Bar-Or, he said he's honored to have the trust of the Notre Dame athletic department in leading the girls swim team.

"Swimming is my life passion," he said. "And my philosophy is to build a supportive swim community for all swimmers at all levels. Very excited for fun and fast swimming at NDP!"

A native of Jerusalem, Israel, Shapira Bar-Or attended high school in Florida where he was named Times-Union Florida All-First Coast Swimmer of the Year. He graduated from the University of Arizona where he was a silver medalist at the NCAA Championships at College Station, Texas, as part of the Wildcats 800 free relay team (6:11.82). In 2010, he was a bronze medalist in the same event in Columbus, Ohio. He was named All American 12 times at Arizona.

In Olympic competition, Shapira Bar-Or competed on behalf of Israel at the 2008 Summer Games in Beijing, China, where he swam to a 100-meter freestyle Israeli national record. In the 200-meter freestyle, he swam a 1:47.78 (also a national record) in the first heat, and a 1:48.16 in the semifinals, becoming the first Israeli swimmer to compete in an Olympic semifinals. He also competed on behalf of Israel at the 2012 Summer Olympics, which were held in London. 🇮🇱

## IB Diploma success rate again far surpasses world, U.S. averages

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy announced in early July that 95% of those enrolled in the school's International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (DP) had successfully received an



IB Diploma Program candidates were celebrated on April 24, 2017, in a special ceremony held in the Notre Dame media center.

IB Diploma. This number nearly matches last year's outstanding IB-Diploma Program graduation result of 97% and is far ahead of U.S. and worldwide average pass rates.

Kim Anderson, who is an IB Diploma program coordinator at NDPMA and a Spanish teacher, said that today's results were "awesome."

"Our kids did an amazing job and I could not be more proud of them," she said. Thanks to all of our NDP teachers who taught them

*Please see LATEST NEWS, page 7*

# The power of the mission

A long time ago, Kyle Lilek gave up on a career as a Power Ranger. Now a teacher in Notre Dame's upper division, he's impressed with how the entire NDPMA teaching community embraces its mission. He also says he's never had a bad day at Notre Dame "that I didn't cause myself."

**W**hen Notre Dame upper division English and IB-Theory of Knowledge teacher Kyle Lilek first got on campus as a substitute teacher in 2012, one of the first of many things that impressed him about the school was how the other teachers embraced the institution's mission. He also was more than a little nervous initially.

"My sister, Clare, graduated from NDP, but I did not," said Lilek, who grew up in Naperville, Illinois, and attended a Catholic high school in Minnesota. "As a result, when I first started working at NDP, the discipline instilled in me by my Catholic education warred with the anxiety of starting my career, and for a while I awkwardly referred to all staff by their titles, i.e., 'mister,' 'missus,' etc. However, I knew that I wanted to teach full time at Notre Dame very early on. I totally fell in love with the mission of the school and how the staff seemed to effortlessly instill it in everything they did."

## JUST WOKE UP ONE DAY AND WANTED TO BE A TEACHER

"What impressed me the most back then

about Notre Dame and still does to this day is how naturally the mission is implemented into the school through a living theology and faith, ethics through action, and education through mutual respect. It makes me really proud to be part of this community."

Lilek's journey to becoming part of the Notre Dame community — and in fact becoming a teacher at all — began after he graduated from Michigan State University in 2008 with a degree in English and a minor in film studies. Many teachers will tell you that they are either inspired by one of their own teachers or love their subject and want to share it with others. But for Lilek. . .?

"I'm neither. Call it divine inspiration or grogginess, but I pretty much just woke up one day and thought I could teach," he said.

He then soon began the teaching program at Oakland University, which among its requirements mandated 40 hours of working with the age group each grad student intended to teach. That led to a stint as a youth leader at St. Andrew in Rochester Hills.

"I contacted the head of the program at St. Andrew and was up front with him about only needing 40 hours," he said.

"But I stayed there for five years."

While teaching is his true passion, the first job Lilek applied for at Notre Dame, however, wasn't technically for a teaching spot.

"I interviewed at Notre Dame in 2012 for a position in campus ministry, but did not get the job," recalled Lilek. Nevertheless, I was still looking to get my foot in the door, so I name-dropped my sister, Clare, who was in NDP's Class of 2010, and got on the substitute teacher list. A day or two later, I was offered the position of 'building sub' and I accepted. The following year, principal Fr. Joe [Hindelang, s.m.] asked me to take over the yearbook class in addition to remaining the building sub."

At the end of his second year as the building sub and yearbook class teacher, Lilek thought it was time to go bigger and he approached Fr. Joe to interview for a full-time teaching position.

"Fr. Joe laughed at the idea of me interviewing after what was essentially a two-year, on-the-job interview. NDP is my first real job and I've loved every minute of it. I've never had a bad day at NDP that I didn't cause myself."

## SEARCH FOR IRONY

When asked what he thinks are the most important things about doing his job well at Notre Dame, near the top of his list is having a "nonsensical" sense of humor, which will surprise no one he's taught so far at NDP.

"I can do anything as long as I can laugh at the absurdity of my life," he said. "In my lifelong search for irony, I now live it. I hate waking up early and I'm terrified of public speaking. . .so therefore I'm a



Kyle Lilek teaches English and IB-Theory of Knowledge in Notre Dame's upper division.



Lilek is with his sister, Clare, who graduated from Notre Dame Prep in 2010.

Please see POWER, page 8



## LATEST NEWS, from page 5

over the past four years. We are so blessed to have such a fantastic teaching staff.”

According to the International Baccalaureate, in 2016, the worldwide average pass rate was 79.2% and the U.S. average was 67.7%.

Anderson also noted that in the past seven years, Notre Dame has not had any student in its IB Diploma program fail the Theory of Knowledge course or the extended essay, two very critical components of the program.

Notre Dame Head of School Andy Guest said this year’s results were terrific.

“I am very proud of the hard work put forth by all of our IB Diploma Program students and faculty,” he said. “Each of these 42 students could have chosen a less rigorous academic path, but they all chose to push themselves to achieve a higher level of college preparedness.”

## New baseball coach at NDP



Notre Dame announced in June that Jason Gendreau has been named head coach of the high school’s varsity baseball team. Gendreau comes to Notre Dame after complet-

ing his 10th season this spring as head varsity baseball coach at Eisenhower High School in Utica.

Currently a teacher of business education and technology in the Utica Community School System, Gendreau earned 219 wins as head coach at Eisenhower along with four district championships and finished the 2017 campaign with 30 wins, the most in Eisenhower school history. Before Eisenhower, he also coached baseball at L’Anse Creuse and New Haven high schools.

“The opportunity to coach at Notre Dame is a tremendous honor and privilege,” Gendreau said. “Leaving what we built up at Ike over the past decade wasn’t an easy decision, but my staff and I are very excited about this new journey with the Irish!”

A graduate of Central Michigan University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education, Gendreau also holds a Master of Science degree in education administration from Saginaw Valley State University. In addition, he is a member of the Michigan Education Association, Michigan Business Education Association and the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association.

## Notre Dame holds groundbreaking and blessing for new science, art and technology wing



Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy held a blessing and groundbreaking ceremony for the new science, art and technology wing currently under construction on its campus in Pontiac. The event, which included school administration officials, donors, board members, teachers, parents and students, took place June 6 outside of the school’s media center.

In early March, school officials launched the public phase of the “March on to Victory” capital campaign with a goal of raising a total of \$5.5 million toward the \$7.5 million science, art and technology facility.

According to Andy Guest, Notre Dame’s head of school, to date nearly \$5 million has been raised toward the initial goal of \$5.5 million. “We didn’t plan on holding this groundbreaking so soon, but the campaign has been doing very well. In fact, we have raised more than \$700,000 since we went public on March 9,” Guest said at today’s groundbreaking ceremony. “And what is very heartening to all of us at Notre Dame is the fact that as of today, a total of nearly \$120,000 has been donated to the campaign by members of our faculty and staff.”

Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., corporate president for NDPMA, is excited about both the groundbreaking and the forthcoming new facility.

“When we look at our school, we’ve always tried to be on the cutting edge,” he said. “The academic program we want to have here now is not to make an education for people living in today’s world, but we want one that is designed for generations to come. This groundbreaking and what will follow are yet more positive steps toward ensuring that we have the educational programs necessary for those future students.”

The new facilities planned as part of the campaign will consist of a one-story science, technology and arts wing to be added to the existing shared middle division and upper division wings. The new wing will house science-laboratory facilities, collaborative-learning classrooms, a robotics lab, a specially designed greenhouse, and a fine arts studio.

Head of School Guest said the timing of the construction start is ideal.

“The school has been around since 1994,” he said. “We’re currently heading into our 23rd year and we’re deciding what type of school we will become going forward. So now we will build the facilities that will take us into the next generations of students.”

Guest also noted that the entire 26,000-square-foot addition will take a full year to build and is expected to be fully operational for student use by the fall of 2018.

TMP Architecture, headquartered in Bloomfield Hills, is the architect for the project and Frank Rewold and Son Inc., Rochester, is the construction manager.

To learn more about the campaign, its impact on students and teachers, and how to participate, please visit [ndpma.org/marchontovictory](http://ndpma.org/marchontovictory), or contact Gregory P. Simon, director of advancement at 248-373-2171 ext. 5, or [gsimon@ndpma.org](mailto:gsimon@ndpma.org).



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*A world of education*



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Get the latest news and updates on your cell phone by texting “follow NDPMA” to 40404. Scan the QR code at right with your smartphone QR-code reader to get to instructions.



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



## **POWER, from page 6**

teacher! All you can do is laugh and go about life one day at a time. My sense of humor has served me better in the classroom than almost anything else.”

After Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., decided to ‘semi-retire’ as head of school and teacher of the Theory of Knowledge class (he is now NDPMA’s corporate president), Lilek picked up TOK.

“I’ve loved Theory of Knowledge since the first time I subbed for Fr. Leon back when I was the building sub,” he said. “It was unlike any high school class I’d ever experienced. My first impression of the class was closer to a combination of a college-level class

and a book club, but instead of analyzing literary subtext, you geek out on knowledge.”

He said the atmosphere of the class and relationship between the students and teacher take on a completely different tone than most other classes.

“I may be the teacher, but everyone is a learner in that class, including and especially me,” he said. “I learn something new with every class. I always tell my students that my primary goal in TOK is not to teach them something, but instead to put them in situations where they are forced to develop their own thinking, knowledge and opinions — and then articulate them. I consider it a big win in TOK when students get so invested in whatever we’re discussing that they continue to talk about it in other classes, lunch or at home.”

## **POWER RANGER**

So it seems that Lilek, who also is the girls golf coach at Notre Dame, is perfectly placed in a job that feeds both his senses of irony and humor as well as a lifelong desire to learn something new every day. But what if perchance he was not a teacher — what does he think he’d be doing with his adult life?

“When I was little I wanted to be a Power Ranger,” he said, “but then my parents told me that I could never be one because they aren’t real. It was heartbreaking. Growing up I was very capricious regarding a possible future career. It’s not that being a teacher never crossed my mind when I was young, but I was very immature. So I never gave it any serious consideration. Now that I’m here, I could not consider doing anything else. I love being part of this school and its community!”



Lilek loves his job at Notre Dame and his dog, O'Reilly.