

THE blarney stone

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



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NDPMA receives approval for IB MYP

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy receives authorization from the International Baccalaureate Organization to teach Middle Years Programme in grades six through ten.

NDPMA is now fully authorized as a world school for the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP). The MYP joins the IB Diploma Programme (DP), which has been taught to juniors and seniors since 2007.

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy currently is the only Catholic school in Michigan with an IB curriculum and the only state school, public or private, with both MYP and DP programs. School officials said the IB philosophy of education is important for NDPMA because it fits so well into its Catholic and Marist mission.

MYP provides a curriculum framework that gives participants the knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes they need to be effective in a world of increasing globalism.

The Middle Years Programme curricu-

lum, designed and implemented through the collaborative effort of NDPMA teachers, focuses on active student learning, interdisciplinary connections and community service. Like the Primary Years and Diploma Programmes, MYP aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. MYP teaches students how to evaluate information critically while promoting active participation and responsible citizenship in an ever changing world.

“The entire Notre Dame community is extremely proud and honored to now present this rigorous program to our sixth- through tenth-grade students,” said school president Fr. Leon Olszamowski. “Like our existing IB Diploma Programme, the inquiry-based instruction of MYP will function as a conduit that will serve to expand the possibilities of our learning process, which is built on already high academ-

ic standards.”

According to Brenda Kambakhsh, middle school IB coordinator for the MYP program at NDPMA, students who

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MYP PROGRAMME FEATURES

- Eight content areas: language arts, mathematics, humanities, science, Spanish or Mandarin, technology, fine arts, physical education
- Content organized through five areas of interaction: human ingenuity, health and social education, community and service, environments and approaches to learning
- Guiding, unit questions provide a larger purpose for learning targeted content and make students aware of the specific skills they will learn
- Interdisciplinary learning breaks down artificial barriers enabling students to discover relationships between knowledge areas and the real world
- Student-centered, interactive learning replaces lectures with independent and collaborative learning, problem-solving activities, hands-on experimentation, organized debates, analysis, investigation, and reflection
- Learner-profile attributes infuse the curriculum and enhance development of an internationally-minded critical and creative thinker and lifelong learner
- Intercultural and international curriculum framework enhances global awareness and understanding
- Focused and frequent criterion-referenced assessments of student skills and knowledge with formative assessments occurring throughout instruction and summative assessments done after instruction

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

SENIOR SCORES SCHOOL'S SECOND
CONSECUTIVE PERFECT ACT

(See page 6)

Doctoral student going abroad to study child nutrition issues in Uruguay

ND Prep alum Stephanie Rink heads to Penn State and South America after completing studies at Bucknell (and giving speech at school commencement)

Through her experiences in student government, undergraduate research, community service and studying in Grenada, Spain, Stephanie Rink, a 2005 graduate of Notre Dame Prep and now an alumna of Bucknell University, has built connections with her classmates, professors and university staff. Now she heads to Penn State University to study Nutrition Sciences, which includes a research stint in Uruguay. Rink also recently was selected in a competition judged by fellow class members, faculty and staff to be the class of '09 speaker for Bucknell's commencement on May 17. She recently answered a few questions from The



Blarney Stone.

Could you give us an update on Bucknell? Why did you choose this college?

I just graduated from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa., in May with a double Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Chemistry. I chose this exceptional institution for its high-caliber academics, welcoming feel, and impressive opportunities for students to be involved outside of the classroom.

What about post-graduate plans?

I will be attending Penn State University next fall to pursue a PhD in Nutrition Sciences. I will be actively researching how iron deficiency and lead exposure affect childhood development. Data collection will be taking place in Uruguay.

Were you involved in your college?

Did you hold any special office?

I became very involved on campus at Bucknell. I was particularly involved in student government. I served as secretary/treasurer of my class all four years, was the student liaison to the Town Borough Council, the student representative on the International Education Committee, the chair of the Fiscal Committee, and the chair of the Community Affairs Committee. Outside of student government, I held a job as the assistant community service coordinator under the dean of students. I was an active member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, within which I held the position of parliamentarian and ritual chair. I also assisted with new student orientation for two years.

What advice would you offer current NDP students about getting involved at the high school level?

Step outside of your comfort zone! Try something new if it interests you! Even if you have no experience in a field

but are interested in joining (or even starting) a club or organization, give it a go. It never hurts to try.

What has been the most challenging part about attending your college?

Time management is definitely the hardest part of attending college. Managing extracurricular commitments, social engagements, personal wellbeing, along with an intense workload that is inherent with university courses. It is important to make time for every part of college life.

Do you feel that Notre Dame Prep prepared you for life after high school?

Certainly! I felt academically prepared for the college-course load.

What are your hopes, dreams and aspirations?

My hopes, dreams, and aspirations are constantly changing. I am always growing and evolving, and my future goals must grow and evolve with me. Generally speaking, I know that I want to use my career in nutrition to improve the health and the lives of others to help them create the best life possible. 🌱

Stephanie Rink, left and below, a 2005 graduate of Notre Dame Prep, was chosen to address 900 of her fellow graduates as well as thousands of visitors at Bucknell University's 159th commencement ceremony on May 17 in Lewisburg, Pa.





NDP '09 grads, from left, Jackson Hopcroft and Sarah Fredin, along with sophomores Palmer D'Orazio and Victoria Kulesza show off the first-place trophy won at the first annual China Quiz Bowl held April 25 at Madonna University. Also shown are John Brender, Director of the Confucius Institute at Wayne State University, and Notre Dame Prep teacher Joanne Liu.

Students take first place in China Quiz Bowl

Four students from Notre Dame Preparatory School earned first place in the China Quiz Bowl, an annual competition where teams from Michigan middle schools and high schools vie at various levels for the highest scores in the areas of Chinese language, culture and geography.

The event, which was sponsored by the Confucius Institutes at Wayne State University and Michigan State University and the Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Michigan, was held April 25 at Madonna University in Livonia.

ND Prep sophomores Palmer D'Orazio and Victoria Kulesza, and 2009 graduates Sarah Fredin and Jackson Hopcroft competed in three preliminary rounds and advanced to the final round where they doubled the score of the nearest competitor.

Notre Dame Prep and Marist Academy teaches Mandarin Chinese in grades 6 through 12. 🇺🇸

RESPECTED MEMBER OF FACULTY WAS AN INSPIRATION TO STUDENTS

Beverly Williams, one of Notre Dame Prep's most beloved faculty members, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on July 1 at her home in Dryden.

Beverly "Bev" Williams, 64, was very well-liked and respected by her peers, the administration and most notably the students who had her in class. Bev taught Psychology, AP Psychology, Sociology and Current Issues at the upper division and has been with the school since 1999. She also was the loving wife of Tim Williams and the proud parent of Carley Williams, who graduated from Notre Dame Prep in 2003.



A memorial service attended by hundreds of family members, friends, NDPMA faculty and staff, students and alumni was held July 7 in the Jim Grimaldi Athletic Center. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be made to the Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy Scholarship Fund. 🇺🇸

LOWER DIVISION TWISTS A CLASSIC FAIRY TALE

Most people know, of course, the classic story of "Cinderella." But many don't know that Cinderella had a twin brother named Bob. On May 28, 2009, the students of the ND Marist Academy's lower division took on a modern version of the fairy tale that featured both sister and brother.

In "Twinderella," written by playwright Charlie Lovett and winner of the 2004 Shubert Fendrich playwriting contest, Cinderella reunites with her long-lost brother Bob, who lives in the same kingdom with his own family of evil step-siblings. But unlike his sister who looks forward to attending the birthday gala for Princess Petunia, Bob has his sights set on Prince Percy's all-kingdom baseball game.

This contemporary take on the age-old tale, which was performed at NDMA's Waterford campus, still included all the usual elements of a little girl's dreams—a pumpkin carriage pulled by horses, glass slippers and a beautiful gown, an invitation to the palace ball and, most importantly, a handsome prince.

But Bob's aspirations in this story included a pair of cleats and a ticket to the kingdom baseball game. Much like Cinderella, only gender-reversed, Bob has an evil stepfather and stepbrothers and a godfather.

Directed by NDMA teachers Kimberly Dodd and Emily Giacona, Twinderella played to rave reviews from an attentive and enchanted audience.

Students Emily Stegmeyer and William Watts played Cinderella and Bob, respectively, and were backed by a fine cast of supporting players in this fun and funny play. 🇺🇸



NDMA fourth-grader Emily Stegmeyer played Cinderella and fifth-grader William Watts was Bob in the school's spring production of "Twinderella."



After 52 years of teaching, 13 at ND Prep, 33 at HWND and six at St. Sebastian in Dearborn Heights, Harold Rice has decided to hang up his chalk.

Rice had been teaching Religion (History of Christianity) at Prep for the past several years. He taught Social Studies when he signed on at the Pontiac school in 1995. His social studies classes at HWND were legendary with many alumni fondly recalling their time spent in his classroom.

In an interview published in the fall 2008 edition of IRISH magazine, Rice commented on his career at Notre Dame Prep: "The kids are wonderful. We have a dedicated staff here—and on the young side (of course they would be in the eyes of a 75 year old!). But the teachers are dedicated, spend lots of time with their kids, and are willing to take on the challenge of the International Baccalaureate Programme."

In a recent note to faculty and staff of NDPMA, he said that it has been a wonderful experience to have worked with everyone at Prep. "It is a great group of teachers. Young teachers with fresh and innovative ideas. Master teachers giving valuable knowledge and experience to the kids. You have all been kind and gracious to me and I thank you for your friendship."

We also thank Mr. Rice for his friendship and years of dedication to the mission of Marist and Catholic education. 🇺🇸

Graduate wins congressional art competition

Congratulations to Andreana Rosnick, a 2009 graduate of Notre Dame Prep. Rosnick was selected as the winner of the 2009 Congressional Art Competition (The Artistic Discovery Contest) in the 9th District by Congressman Gary Peters.

Rosnick's winning piece was a painting titled "Intrigue."

Her artwork will hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol for one year. Cannon Tunnel is a busy walkway used daily by members of Congress and visitors to Washington, D.C. The artist flew out to Washington for a June 24th ceremony and to view her work as well as the work of other district winners from around the country.

Each spring, this nationwide, high school arts competition is sponsored by the members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Artistic Discovery Contest is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent in the nation, as well as in each Congressional District.

The competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents.



ND Prep 2009 graduate Andreana Rosnick is shown at the Bloomfield Township Public Library after accepting an award as the winner of the Congressional Art Competition - 9th District. Congressman Gary Peters represents the 9th District.

Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nationwide competition. 🇺🇸

MYP, from page 1

attend ND Marist Academy will be better prepared to move into an IB course of study in high school.

"The way we teach in the MYP and the curriculum framework we use creates active and caring learners who are prepared for the demands and rigor expected as they move into MYP in the 9th and 10th grades, as well as in the Diploma Programme and beyond," she said.

High school students who graduate with an IB Diploma benefit from much higher acceptance rates at competitive

universities and can earn college credit in the process.

NDPMA's lower division, comprised of junior-kindergarten through fifth-grade students, is an IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) candidate school and has been provisionally teaching the IB curriculum since January of 2008. Full authorization is expected within the next 12 months. 🇺🇸

Teacher returns to her roots to make a difference

NDMA first-grade teacher Emily Giacona says she's glad to be working at a school where "it's cool to be smart." What makes it even better is that she's working at her old stomping grounds. Giacona was in the first graduating class of Notre Dame Marist Academy (1997) and graduated from ND Prep in 2001. The '05 Albion College alumna says she's also glad to be working in a profession where she can make a real difference in someone's life.

Giacona, who starts her fifth year of teaching (all at NDPMA), talks to the Blarney Stone about her career and her employer.

On why she became a teacher:

I knew at a young age that I wanted to be a teacher. I've always been drawn to kids and serving others. Being a teacher has provided me an opportunity to use many different talents and disciplines. It's kept me on my toes. Everyday is different and I enjoy the challenges. I always felt that teaching is one of the most rewarding professions because you help students fulfill their own dreams.

On the most important part of her job:

It is crucial for me to live the mission of the school every day. By instilling the school's mission statement into young minds and by living the mission myself, I am able to achieve success as a teacher. The students' achievement and well-being is always at the top of my priority list, but not losing sight of each student's needs is (really) the most important part of my job.

On how she handled her first teaching experience:

It was definitely challenging, but very exciting. I learned a lot and it was great confirmation that education was the right career path for me. Albion College prepared me well and having gone to Notre Dame Prep also worked to my advantage. Traditions never change. The students and staff were very welcoming!

On her impression of NDPMA as an employee (and not a student):

I've always had fond impressions of NDPMA. My favorite thing is that it was and still is, "cool to be smart." The school is strong academically and I think that comes from strict discipline and Christian values. They put forth an impression of excellence.

Returning to my alma mater after college was lovely. I was reunited with staff members I once had in the classroom. It was truly a unique experience. I felt welcomed back from the moment I stepped into Diana Atkins' office for my interview.

"It is crucial for me to live the mission of the school every day."

Emily Giacona

Balancing the emotional needs of students with their intellectual needs:

(Importantly) I myself need to be well-balanced. But first and foremost, school should be fun! Students should enjoy learning. They should not dread coming to school but rather they should want to come. It is my responsibility to produce a classroom that promotes learning as fun and exciting. Also, it is important for me to get to know each student individually so I can cater to his or her specific needs both emotionally and intellectually. I believe that an education is best formed from many areas of life, not just from the classroom and text books. I vary teaching styles and expect students to participate in a variety of activities.



First-grade teacher Emily Giacona with former student and now second-grader Julia Mistretta.

On the difference in teaching in public vs. private/parochial:

Overall, the main differences I've found are the emphases on God both in action and in word, the well-behaved students, extreme levels of parental involvement, and a highly committed faculty/staff. These are all reasons why I'm glad to be at a parochial school.

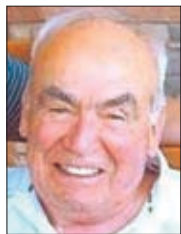
Comparing teaching with other professions:

(I believe) teaching is one of the most rewarding professions possible. I cannot describe the feeling it gives me to know that I've truly made a difference for the better in a child's life. Teachers are rewarded for their work with every small success that each student has. I look forward to going to work every day because I know that so many people depend on me. Not many of my friends in non-teaching professions are able to say that. 🌈

School loses a friend and supporter

On June 24, 2009, the school lost a dear friend with the death of Jim Grimaldi at the age of 83. Grimaldi was a champion for Catholic causes and Catholic education throughout his lifetime, but became particularly fond of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy in the early to mid 90s when he formed a close and personal relationship with Fr. Leon Olszamowski.

Grimaldi believed deeply in the need for Catholic education and the need for a quality Catholic school in Pontiac. In fact, his support for the school dates back to the time that the school operated as Oakland Catholic from 1988 to 1994. However, it was with



Fr. Leon and the Marist Fathers that Grimaldi's support grew.

During his relationship with the school, Grimaldi supported many ventures. His donations included property across the street from the main campus where the tennis courts are now located, the cafetorium stage, and regular contributions toward financial aid so that more students could benefit from a Catholic education. He always gave freely without the need or desire for recognition.

Grimaldi also was a close personal friend of Andy Guest, VP for Advancement. During the last four years of Grimaldi's life, Guest got to know him very well. According to Guest, Grimaldi will forever be remembered as a good friend, a kind man and a generous supporter. "Jim's sacrificial, kind and pragmatic approach to giving is something that I will carry with me the rest of my life. I truly admired the man and will miss him deeply."

In 2008, the school recognized Grimaldi's 15-plus years of support by naming the new auxiliary gym, concession stand and rest-room complex, the "Jim Grimaldi Athletic Center." The center will stand as a permanent legacy of Grimaldi's philanthropic spirit. 🇺🇸

NOTRE DAME PREP STUDENT SCORES A PERFECT 36 ON ACT; SECOND YEAR IN A ROW FOR SCHOOL



Jonathan Sheperd, a senior this fall at NDP, has scored a perfect 36 on his ACT test. He also scored perfect 800s on his SAT math and chemistry tests.

Recent ND Prep graduate Ryan McIntosh scored a 36 on his ACT last year.

ACT, the independent, not-for-profit organization that administers the test nationwide, says that typically less than one-tenth of one percent of ACT test takers earn a composite score of 36. And that's out of about 2.4 million ACT tests administered in the United States each year.

According to ACT, the proportion of 2008 graduates to score a perfect 36 was 1-in-3300. The national average ACT composite score for 2008 was 21.1. Also, the ACT college entrance exam is preferred by more four-year public universities than any other. 🇺🇸

A higher grade of learning

The Blarney Stone is published five times per year by the Advancement Office of NDPMA. Contact The Blarney Stone at 248-373-2171 or jkopytek@ndpma.org. School web site: ndpma.org

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy - Middle Division and International Baccalaureate "World Schools"



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