

THE blarney stone

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

A new era opens in Pontiac

Notre Dame Preparatory School: 248-373-5300
Notre Dame Marist Academy-Middle: 248-373-5371
Notre Dame Marist Academy-Lower: 248-373-2573

On August 22, 167 students in Notre Dame's lower division started a full day of classes for the first time in Pontiac.

Location, location, location. When planning a move, most real estate agents will tell you that location is the most important thing to consider. Well, when Notre Dame's administration and its Board of Trustees were contemplating a possible move of the lower division from Waterford, the number one criterion they cited was that it should be located on or near the school's main campus on Giddings Road, in Pontiac.

That is exactly where Notre Dame Marist Academy's lower division now is located. On August 22, 167 students in junior kindergarten through fifth grade started the first full day of a new school year in a brand new 12-classroom building literally a stone's throw from the main campus.

Lower division principal Diana Atkins couldn't contain her excitement a few weeks ago as she prepared for the new year. "The new building is truly breathtaking! As I walk around, I am in awe and completely pleased with the project," she said. "I cannot wait for the students to come to school and see what their reaction is."

It was on Jan. 3, 2012, that Notre Dame's head of school Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., announced that the school's trustees approved plans to move the division to a new location. He said at

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



LOWER DIVISION PHOTOS BY MARY JANE PASCO

Parents and students attend the August 18 open house and blessing ceremony at Notre Dame's new lower division school building. The division moved to a location down the street from the school's main campus after 10 years in Waterford.

the time that bringing all three divisions together would fulfill a long-time goal. "Our school was meant to be one school with three divisions, but that hasn't necessarily been the case due to the distance," he said.

TEN YEARS IN WATERFORD

When the lower division first opened for students in 2003, it was located in Water-

ford, about five miles from Notre Dame's middle and upper division. "Though the lower division has done well on its own, it is seen as part of a larger community," Olszamowski said. "But it was tough when family members, parents, teachers and students only saw each other once in awhile. We believe strongly that, being

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ALUM SAYS HER TIME AT NOTRE DAME MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN HER LIFE, WANTS TO GIVE BACK (See page 2)

John Carroll junior is ‘Irish for life’

English and communications major says NDP was a blessing, wants to help those who follow

Notre Dame Prep grad Robin Weaver ('11) is studying English and communications at John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio. She says her time at Notre Dame was invaluable to her becoming the person she is today and who she hopes to become in the future. Read on. . .

Tell us about your experience so far at John Carroll University.

I started looking at John Carroll because my cousin (who also attended NDP) went to Carroll and suggested I look there. John Carroll had the academics I desired, a very strong communications program, and the opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities. One of the deciding factors for me was the feeling on campus. Even when I was touring, everyone was very kind, and campus felt like home.

As far as my majors, I knew going into my freshman year that I wanted to major in communications because the communications program at Carroll encompasses both theater and advertising, two areas of study in which I am interested. I became interested in pursuing English in college after AP Composition with Mr. Butorac and AP Literature with Mrs. Bembas, but I had not chosen which path of study I wanted to pursue. (John Carroll offers both a literature-based major and a writing-based major.) I decided to major in writing after several wonderful English classes my freshman and sophomore years.

What has sparked your interest in pursuing a career in stage management?

I started getting involved with theater at NDP. I was in the chorus for “Anything Goes” my freshman year and I was hooked. I was part of every show after that at NDP, be it on stage or backstage. After co-student directing “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,” I realized that I really loved the stage-management aspect of theater. At John Carroll, I have worked both the main stage shows and the one acts, which are directed by students in the directing classes (which I hope to take next year). I have been a member of running crew and stage-managed “The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940,” our main stage show last fall. This fall I will be stage-managing “Legally Blonde.”

Ultimately, I would love to stage-manage in either Cleveland or New York. There is a wonderfully vibrant theater community in Cleveland, and I have been lucky enough to work with some key members of that community. Of course, Broadway is the dream job of just about everyone in the theater world!

You also have interest in a career in advertising. If you go this route, do you hope to use your English and writing skills?

I do! I waffled between majoring and minoring in English for a long time, but my interest in advertising pushed me to major in the subject. Writing is a skill that I can utilize in any career path, but it will be especially beneficial in marketing- and advertising-based jobs.



You have continued to play the flute, correct? Are you in the band at JCU?

Yes! I started playing the flute in sixth grade—my choices were to join the band, orchestra or choir. I wanted to play the trombone, but my mom suggested that I play the flute because it would fit into my locker and because my arms weren’t long enough to reach all of the slide positions for the trombone! I have never looked back!

The reasons I’m still in band are the reasons why band was so important to me at NDP: I love the music and I love the people.

Playing music has always been really relaxing for me, so being able to go to rehearsal and play is great stress relief at John Carroll, especially around finals. The sense of community that accompanies band is amazing as well. At John Carroll, the band moves in early and has a full-day rehearsal before the freshmen move-in for orientation. As a freshman, getting to move in early and meeting more than 20 upperclassmen was a great experience. Before classes even started I knew people around campus, which was fantastic. Currently, I am the promotions officer for the John Carroll University Pep Band.

Tell us about any other extracurricular activities in college.

I am a member of the Little Theater Society at JCU and work for the theater department as work study. I also participate in campus-ministry events. My main leadership roles are in theater and band as the stage manager and promotions officer, respectively. I am the student-at-large representative for the Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee, which reviews the Activity Fee budget and makes recommendations as to how the money should be allocated. We

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located nearly next door, we are filling this gap so that the younger students can see our great role-model students more often, where all teachers can work together more regularly, and parents can get to know each other better, ultimately learning what it's like to be in the middle and upper divisions."

Principal Atkins sees even more advantages to the move. "The move to Pontiac will allow us to expand our program," she said. "Teachers from the three divisions will have the ability to collaborate more on the articulation of our programs, which is vital as we continue to advance our International Baccalaureate program in all three divisions. Additionally it will allow students from the upper and middle division to build relationships with the lower division students, a much easier task now since we are a five-minute walk away versus a five-mile drive."

Notre Dame third-grade teacher Bob Patterson agrees. He cites as a good example the occasional visits of varsity football players to the lower division to interact with and read to the younger students. "The kids love when Coach Zimm sends his players a few times during the school year to read and lead activities with the kids. Their close proximity will allow for these types of things to happen more often. It also will be convenient during all-school Mass days and for families with kids in multiple divisions. This building is a major-league addition to the



NDPMA head of school Fr. Leon Olszamowski blesses the gymnasium of the new lower school building in Pontiac. The students' first full day of classes was August 22.

ND campus and Giddings Road."

Taken together, the combined parcels of land and buildings give the new school approximately 2.75 acres of property and provide nearly 20,000 sq. ft. of classroom, gathering, play, interactive learning and administrative space to support a student population of between 150 and 175 students, along with 26 faculty, staff and administrators. Both the exterior and interior of the new school were modeled after Notre Dame's two other divisions. When

Patterson walked in the new building as it was being finished, he says he was very impressed with how well done and put together everything was. "I appreciate how the design was modeled after the main campus with landscaping, flooring, lockers and other details. Just awesome!"

HARD WORK AND GENEROSITY

School officials say that this new building and move from Waterford would not have been possible without the hard work and generosity of many in the Notre Dame community.

"I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for their support in moving the lower division to Pontiac," Atkins said. "And I would like to thank the many people—from our generous donors to the contractors and builders—who have helped with this project. I truly am grateful for the wonderful job they did. I know the building will be well-loved by all those who enter."

Atkins notes that parents also are excited about the new facility. "I recently met with a new family looking at the school and they were amazed," she said. "They also were amazed at how quickly it was built."

A dedication ceremony and Mass were held Sunday, August 18, to bless the new building. The school also will be open for tours during Notre Dame's upcoming Grand Anniversary Celebration, which will be held on October 19-20. See back page for more information. 🇺🇸

NOTRE DAME LOSES LONGTIME EDUCATOR AND FRIEND

The Notre Dame community lost a beloved friend as longtime educator and administrator Harold (Hal) Rice passed away at his home in Warren. According to his daughter, Terri Krasicky, he died peacefully on July 14.



Rice spent more than 50 years as a faculty member at Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods and Notre Dame Preparatory School in Pontiac. He retired in 2009 but still continued to teach part time at NDP.

Much loved and respected by both former students and fellow teachers, Rice had a big impact on all he came in contact with. In a recent issue of Notre Dame's alumni magazine, IRISH, Alexis (Burns) Bonucchi, O.D., a 1997 graduate of ND Prep, said "I loved Mr. Rice. He had such a good way of relating to us as teenagers."

Nineteen seventy-five NDHS graduate Michael Paletta, M.D., said

in another issue of IRISH that he thought Rice made him a better scholar, more thorough researcher, better writer and a "more critical thinker."

"For those of us who were fortunate enough to be taught by Hal Rice, this is truly sad news," adds Kris Powell, a 1975 NDHS graduate and member of the NDPMA Board of Trustees. "I would dare say that if you asked anyone who attended ND to list their best teachers, his name would always come up."

In 1963, Rice accepted a position with NDHS where he taught history and religion, served in the administration and coached a number of athletic teams. At Notre Dame Prep, in addition to teaching history and religion, he served as assistant principal and vice principal under current head of school Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., who said: "What a great man, great exemplar of Marist life, great teacher and confidant of the young. I am very, very saddened by Harold's passing. He taught with us, the Marists, for 51 years before his retirement at Notre Dame High School and Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy." 🇺🇸

Latest data show NDP grads averaged \$88,000+ in scholarships

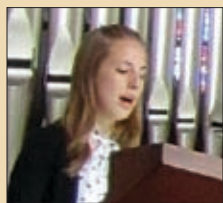
On May 19, 2013, Notre Dame Prep's Class of 2013 received their diplomas, marking the completion of a high school career.

According to the latest data compiled by Notre Dame's counseling office, more than \$16.8 million in college/university academic scholarships and grants have been offered to the class, which numbered 189 students. This is once again a record amount in total for the school, and the \$88,000+ per-student average exceeds the per-student average of 18 previous NDP graduating classes.

Many esteemed colleges and universities are welcoming Notre Dame's Class of 2013 this fall, including the University of Michigan, which is enrolling 28 graduates, and the University of Notre Dame, with four from NDP. New York University and the College for Creative Studies also are seeing Notre Dame Prep grads among their new students this fall.

In addition, the 2013 graduating class again logged more than 15,000 hours in community service—once again proving that besides turning out academic scholars, Notre Dame continues to graduate “Christian people and upright citizens.”

Notre Dame senior chosen as cantor for World Youth Day events



Brittany Johnson, a senior at Notre Dame Prep, was picked to be a cantor at World Youth Day for young adults held last month at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit.

Pope Francis celebrated International World Youth Day July 27-28 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. For those in the United States who could not travel to Brazil, Chicago held a World Youth Day for teens, and Detroit hosted events for young adults.

Johnson is a member of the Archdiocese of Detroit choir. As its youngest member, she was asked to cantor for Holy Hour with Bishop Donald Hanchon on July 27, and for Mass with Archbishop Allen Vigneron and Bishop Arturo Cepeda on July 28 at the cathedral. “It was an honor to be asked to participate in such a meaningful event for young people,” Johnson said.

New addition to athletics staff

NDPMA Athletic Director Betty Wroubel announced Aug. 9 that the school hired Mike Venos as its new head women's swimming and diving coach.

Venos comes to Notre Dame after 29 years of coaching, 15 as head of swimming and diving at Birmingham (Mich.) Brother Rice where he compiled a 105-21-1 record. His teams at Brother Rice earned fourteen straight Catholic League championships and two Division-1 state championships. He has coached nine individual state champions, five relay-team state champions, 91 all-state swimmers, 52 All-American swimmers and two United States Olympic Trial qualifiers.



Mike Venos, ND Prep women's swimming and diving coach. He continues to coach men's swimming at Brother Rice.

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work closely with both the Student Union and the faculty to provide the best recommendations for students.

Have you completed any internships, study-abroad programs, or work-study programs?

I participate in work-study through the theater on campus, which has been a great experience. In the evenings when I'm working on the shows, I focus mainly on calling the shows and what the actors/crew are doing. While I'm at work, I get to build sets and props, which gives me a holistic view of theater. As far as study-abroad, I am planning on taking a class senior year that will go to London over spring break, which works really well for me. I can continue to work on campus and stay involved in the activities in Ohio but I can have the study-abroad experience to some degree as well.

Did your English classes at Notre Dame prepare you for college-level studies?

My English classes at NDP absolutely prepared me for college English courses! I tested out of all freshmen English classes so I got to start taking courses geared toward my major right away. I took two 300-level writing workshops last year and was nervous at the beginning of each course. But because of my background in English at Prep, I was a strong student in each course. The English courses at Carroll feel like a natural progression from the English courses at Prep—the two complement each other nicely. The foundation in English that Notre Dame gave me has helped me get my work published as well. I had two pieces, a short story and a poem, published in John Carroll's literary magazine, The Carroll Review.

Mr. Butorac was one of the major reasons I decided to pursue English in college. He pushed me to improve my writing skills and encouraged me to branch out. Working with him on the Creative Writing Club was another factor that cemented my desire to continue with English.

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

NDP did a great job preparing me for life after high school. I was not only prepared academically, but socially as well. I learned how to lead groups effectively at Notre Dame, which has been invaluable. I also gained a lot of self-confidence at NDP because of the environment, which has led me to be a lot more outgoing now.

As an alumna, why do you feel it's important to support your high school alma mater?

I think it's important to support Notre Dame because Notre Dame supported me. During my four years there I grew and changed so much because of the programs offered to students. These programs would not have been possible without the support of the alumni. Now it's my turn to help give others the opportunity to have the same experience I had. Being able to attend Notre Dame Prep was such a blessing for me. My time at Notre Dame is the reason that I am the person I am today. I cannot say thank you enough to everyone who participated in my education, from my parents to my teachers to my friends. I'm proud to be Irish for life!

Social studies, poli-sci teacher interested in how and why, not so much what

At Notre Dame since 1999, Pete Riley loves that the school never rests on laurels

Notre Dame upper-school social studies and political science teacher Pete Riley thinks one of the most important parts of his job is making sure his students understand how and why, not just what they learn in the classroom. “To me education is more about the ‘process’ of learning than the results,” he says.

Which fits perfectly with Notre Dame’s education philosophy, particularly with its International Baccalaureate curriculum since a big part of this innovative program is concerned not just with “right” and “wrong,” but rather with the quality of justification and a balanced approach to knowledge.

Balance in education, Riley says, or the lack thereof, is one of reasons he decided to become a high school teacher after real-

izing his own public high school experience fell short compared with some of his fellow college students. “After my first year at the University of Detroit, I realized that my high school education was inadequate for college,” he says. “I was taught the basics but never was taught how to think on different levels, become independent and have self-discipline. At U-D, I met many students who were graduates of Catholic schools and they seemed to all have those qualities.” He felt that by becoming a teacher, he could do his part to help other students develop those same qualities.

Riley, who also coaches men’s and women’s tennis for the Fighting Irish, came to Notre Dame mid-way through the school year in 1999. But it wasn’t his first teaching job. He had spent 12 years

teaching within the alternative and adult education program at the Avondale and Rochester school districts, working primarily with students from troubled backgrounds. When he got to Notre Dame, he realized very soon that it was more than a little different than what he experienced at Avondale.

“The students at Avondale’s alternative education program were not always motivated to succeed in the classroom,” he says. “At NDP, the students were highly motivated and seemed very happy to be at school, which was really new to me. Also, the faculty included great people who were always willing to help me out if I had any questions.”

He says what has continued to impress him since joining the Notre Dame family is that the school seems to constantly be in a state of change. “We do not rest on our laurels. We always seem to be at the forefront of education.” Take the IB program, for example, he says. “When we became an IB school, it appeared that other schools in the area were soon following our lead.”

Even with a full complement of daily classes along with two seasons per year of coaching tennis, it isn’t always Notre Dame all the time for Riley. He is a big fan of the Detroit Tigers and Red Wings, and enjoys playing tennis for fun. He also manages to carve out plenty of time for his family. He lives in Troy, not far from where he grew up, with wife, Susan, and daughters Maddie, who graduated from NDP last spring, and Olivia, currently a junior at NDP.

When asked what he might do if he wasn’t teaching school, Riley says he’d like to be an airplane pilot who flies into remote areas far from civilization. “This would take care of two of my favorite things—flying and discovering new places.” 🇺🇸

Notre Dame Prep teacher Pete Riley also is head coach of both men’s and women’s tennis for the Fighting Irish.





NOTRE DAME

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and Marist Academy
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Pontiac, MI 48340

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The Blarney Stone is published five times per year by the Advancement Office of NDPMA. Contact *The Blarney Stone* at 248-373-2171 or mkelly@ndpma.org.

School web site: ndpma.org

A world of education



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NOTRE DAME PLANS BIG ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN OCTOBER

NDPMA is planning a "Grand Anniversary Celebration" during the October 19-20 weekend commemorating five different important milestones in the history of Notre Dame: the 150-year anniversary of the Marist Fathers' Apostolate in the United States, the 60-year anniversary of Notre Dame High School, the 45-year anniversary of Pontiac/Oakland Catholic, the 20-year anniversary of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy, and the 10-year anniversary of Notre Dame Marist Academy - Lower Division. The two days of celebration kick off with an alumni event Saturday night, and an all-family Mass and pig roast on Sunday.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2013

All Alumni Reception

6:30 p.m. –10 p.m. Dinner served at 7 p.m.

Alumni and guests are invited to a special reception in the cafeteria.

Pasta dinner, beer, wine and a live band.

Cost is free. 18+ welcome. Must show ID to be served. Space is limited to the first 300 who RSVP.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2013

Family Mass and Pig Roast Lunch

10 a.m. Mass in gymnasium

11:15 a.m. Blessing of the new lower division

Noon–3 p.m. pig roast and open house, entire school

Musical entertainment and activities for kids. Cost is free. All ages welcome.

Space is limited to the first 1,000 who RSVP.

RSVP online by October 1

www.ndpma.org/anniversary

Call 248-373-5300 with questions.

A new logo was designed to highlight five different milestones involved in this year's grand anniversary celebration.