

# THE blarney stone

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



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## Creative collaborators

New Stations of the Cross sculptures come to fruition after unlikely team gets together on concept, design and fabrication.

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the object of the Stations of the Cross, sometimes called Way of the Cross, is to help the faithful make a spiritual pilgrimage to the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. In their physical forms, the Stations



Middle-division religion teacher Mark McGreevy came up with the inspiration and design for the school's new Stations of the Cross installation.

are typically represented by a series of pictures or tableaux representing certain scenes in the Passion of Christ, each corresponding to a particular incident in his sorrowful journey.

The Stations have become "one of the most popular of Catholic devotions," says the Catholic Encyclopedia, "a devotion carried out by passing from Station to Station, with certain prayers at each and devout meditation on the various

incidents in turn."

For members of the Notre Dame community, the completion of the new science, art and technology wing brought an additional bonus as the courtyard adjacent to the wing now includes stunning representations of those Stations of the Cross, which were installed in early November after a nearly year-long fabrication effort by Detroit artist Scott Berels.

"I had just finished with this other giant metal rebar project, so it seemed very fitting and the timing was right when I met with Mark and Sandy over at the school," recalled Berels, whose metalwork art has won numerous awards over the years, including from the Detroit Artists Market and ArtPrize.

"Sandy" is Notre Dame art department chair Sandy LewAllen and "Mark" is longtime NDPMA middle-division religion

teacher Mark McGreevy, who provided the original inspiration for the project.

"All three of us really hit it off," Berels said. "And I think we all were sort of on the same mental track as far as what the end product would look like. Mark, Sandy and I just really got along well through the concept stage and as we were figuring out how we were going to convey each step of the story. We knew we wanted to do it differently than how it was ever done before — but still make it understandable, too." This unlikely team of a decidedly nonreligious sculptor and two Catholic schoolteachers had its beginnings even before the bricks and mortar were first laid on the new wing's foundation. That's when McGreevy

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



ALUM IS WORKING AT NASA AND STUDYING LAW IN HOUSTON, PG. 2

# Splitting molecules on Mars and studying law

Notre Dame alum is attending law school in Houston and working full time at NASA on innovative space-suit breathing technologies.



Notre Dame alum Andrew Long '13 is working at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, on the next generation of high-pressure, high-purity oxygen spacesuits.

Over the years, there have been numerous robotic missions to Mars, including NASA's InSight lander that successfully touched down November 26 on the red planet after an almost seven-month, 300-million-mile journey from Earth. But when a human finally walks on the surface of Mars, which could happen as soon as 2030, it's possible the scientific know-how involved in supplying oxygen to that human will be made possible by 2013 Notre Dame alum Andrew Long.

That's because Long is now working full time on some pretty cool advanced technology at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, a job he got after completing an internship with the same organization during his final year of undergrad at the University of Michigan.

"All of my summers in undergrad were spent doing engineering internships," said Long, who grew up in Rochester, Mich. "The first two summers were spent interning within the automotive industry, working for Delphi and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. Those internships gave me a great foundation in engineering."

But it was his final summer internship while at U-M that really set the bar high for Long. Really high.

"For my final summer as an undergraduate, I applied to the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston and received an internship opportunity in their Life Support Systems branch of the Air Revitalization team," he said. "During that internship, I worked on developing technologies that allow astronauts to breathe in space."

At NASA, Long also worked on developing systems that selectively remove carbon dioxide from a manned cabin in microgravity. He said that without carbon dioxide removal, astronauts would

suffocate in space — carbon dioxide exhaled by the astronauts would build up, and they would be unable to inhale enough oxygen to survive.

"It boggles my mind to say this, but my work is actually being pursued by NASA as a way to remove carbon dioxide within the cabin of manned space rovers," he said. As a result of that work, Long was awarded the "Outstanding Achievement" intern award and the "NASA Achievement Award" for his lasting contributions to developing air-revitalization technology.

Also because of that hard work, after he graduated from Michigan with a BSE in chemical engineering, Long was offered a full-time job at NASA. If that wasn't enough to keep him busy, he also decided to attend law school at night at the University of Houston. Ultimately, he said, he wants to become a patent attorney. Now well entrenched at NASA, however, Long continues to work on the next generation of high-pressure, high-purity oxygen spacesuits. He said the technology basically involves splitting water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen through a process called electrolysis.

"NASA has expressed a lot of interest in my project because future manned exploration missions, like the mission to Mars, will require spacesuits that generate a lot of high-pressure oxygen," he said. "The current method of supplying high-pressure oxygen for human spaceflight involves tanks filled on Earth and then launched into space. This is unsustainable for future exploration missions, he said, because it would be too expensive and too heavy to add all those tanks as payload for long-duration exploration missions. Instead, a water source such as ice on Mars or even processed astronaut urine could be used to generate oxygen for spacesuits."

Long said it's been both a lot of work and a lot of fun to spend the day at NASA on human space exploration while studying law in the evening.

"I like the challenge of the long days and have used my knowledge gained at NASA already in my legal academic career," he said. "In fact, I'm currently the treasurer of the University of Houston's Space Law Society, a student-led organization and I'm also enrolled in a space law class offered by the university."

When he's not working on space travel to Mars or taking classes in law school, Long still finds time to stay connected to his high school and to his high school classmates.

"I believe strongly that my Notre Dame Prep experiences still affect my life today in Houston," he said. "I have many unwavering friendships that were started at Notre Dame. Some of those friends from NDP have visited me in Houston where I've given some occasional tours of NASA. I also have to say that NDP definitely taught me the importance of service to others and giving back, and I've continued to live that out in Houston by working in my community, for example, as a relief volunteer after Hurricane Harvey devastated our area last year."

For Notre Dame itself, Long says, he greatly appreciated his time there and has many fond memories from the school, including Mrs. [Jocelyn] Yaroch's biology class and Mr. [Anthony] Butorac's English class.

"Lots of fun times in those classes. Plus, I'm fortunate enough to be able to apply what I had learned back then to my current work and studies in both science and law." 🇺🇸



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first approached school administrators about his idea to install the Stations near the new facility.

After NDPMA corporate president Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., and school head Andy Guest both agreed to explore the project, McGreevy put together a number of sketches to help define what his vision was for each of the Stations. Olszamowski and Guest immediately signed off and the project was begun.

### FROM CONCEPT TO COMPLETION

But first they needed to find someone to make those sketches a reality.

“I originally reached out to a group of metal artists I was aware of based in Detroit,” LewAllen said. “Scott Berels was highly recommended, so we met with him and knew immediately that he was the right person. His previous work in metal was not

project.”

Berels said he started with McGreevy’s basic compositional images and then elaborated on them — or simplified them in some cases. He cited the eighth Station where Jesus greets the women of Jerusalem as a good example of this.

“Mark and I had a really, really interesting time with that one as we went back and forth with at least four or five different iterations. Mark’s original sketch showed these numerous delicate hands almost touching the face of Jesus face. But we totally changed that composition to be more minimal and yet more impactful.”

McGreevy agreed that that particular piece presented some additional challenges.

“It looked really nice on paper, but the reality of doing it in steel posed a huge problem,” he said. “Scott and I got together and we tried to ‘imply’ rather than depict a woman’s touch, a caress, if you will, on Christ’s face. I suggested only one hand



The eighth Station, “Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem,” proved to be more difficult to fabricate than the others and was changed a number of times before arriving at this rendering. All of the pieces were designed to eventually take on a weathered, rusted surface finish.

where “this whole art thing first started,” he said.

He would go on to earn degrees from Oakland Community College and Wayne State University, where he studied photography and sculpture. Today, happily ensconced in a studio/workshop near Corktown in Detroit, Berels specializes in sculpture, especially metalwork sculpture, and fabrication and CNC applications. He has earned numerous accolades and scholarships, and has held solo and group exhibitions at Detroit’s 555 Gallery, the College for Creative Studies, MOCAD Detroit, Wayne State University and the Cass Cafe, among many others.

His work and reputation also have led to many commissions, including a special metalworked sign for the front of Jack White’s Third Man Records store that opened in 2015 in Detroit’s Cass Corridor. Berels’ sculptural style has been compared to “graffiti using recycled metal” and one of his go-to materials is rebar, or reinforced steel bars, which typically are used to help reinforce concrete roads, bridges and building structures.

### TRIP TO ISRAEL

According to McGreevy, it was Berels’ familiarity with welding and metal pieces like rebar that helped turn the Stations



Noted Detroit artist Scott Berels collaborated with Notre Dame teacher Mark McGreevy on special Stations of the Cross sculptures recently installed outside the school’s new science, art and technology wing.

only creative, it was inspiring.”

For Berels, he said that in the beginning, after receiving the green light for the project, he basically told McGreevy he was initially going to be in listen-only mode.

“I said to Mark that he’s more of the conceptual expert on this project, although I’m also going to do my own homework and chime in where appropriate,” he said. “But you know, at the end of the day, I told him that he was going to be the guy who says yes or no during the entirety of the

vs. many reaching and embracing Christ’s face and Scott did a great job interpreting that idea. He also added strands of hair that ran through the hand, giving it that extra touch.”

### FLOURISHING CAREER

Berels’ “extra touch” has been evident on many projects over the course of a career that began during his last year of high school at Birmingham Seaholm — which is

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## Singing and sharing

On Dec. 20, members of Notre Dame's student and alumni choirs visited Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak to sing Christmas carols and participate in the hospital's "Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams," a program created by the Beaumont Children's Pediatric Family Advisory Council to bring holiday cheer to its youngest patients.



The program ran every evening at 8 p.m. during the month of December and features pediatric patients shining flashlights from their hospital windows. They then look for community members

standing outside the hospital's East Tower of the Children's Hospital to shine them back.

"Many children are unable to leave their rooms and can feel isolated in the hospital as the rest of the world continues without them," Beaumont Children's Child Life Supervisor Kathleen Grobbel said. "With the help of the community, we can make sure they go to bed with smiles on their faces."

According to Notre Dame choir director Dave Fazzini, who helped organize the school's participation in the event, it's a very worthwhile way for students to give back to their community.

"With so many of those young patients in the hospital during the Christmas season, we think that if we can bring just a few minutes of joy to them, we are very glad to do it," he said. "Our kids were great that night and I am so proud of them." 🇺🇸

## Top 100 nationwide

Notre Dame's middle division debate team was ranked 22nd among the Top 100 School teams nationwide for the 2017-18 school year, a list shared with 99 high schools. According to the National Speech & Debate Association, the 100 chapters with the largest number of new degrees in the National Forensic League Honor Society receive a Top 100 Schools designation.

"Our Top 100 schools show an incredible commitment to growing speech and debate," said J. Scott Wunn, executive director of the National Speech & Debate Association. "These programs demonstrate outstanding commitment to the values of integrity, humility, respect, leadership and service that are central to our Code of Honor."

In addition, LeAnne Schmidt, who teaches the 8th-grade individuals and societies class and 7th-grade writing and manages the debate activity at NDPMA, said the middle division also made the National Speech and Debate Association's 500 Club, and achieved Pentagon Society designation (top 1% of all middle schools) status last year. Club awards are awarded to schools that meet a certain threshold of strength points.

"Students earn points and degrees in the NSDA honor society based on competitive and service-related activities," Schmidt said, "ranging from the Degree of Merit with 25 or more points to the Degree of Premier Distinction with 1,500 or more points." 🇺🇸

## Senior earns prestigious citizenship award

John Kenny, a senior in Notre Dame's upper division, earned the prestigious "Good Citizen" award Tuesday, Dec. 11, from the local chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Sponsored by the Piety Hill chapter of DAR, located in Birmingham, the Good Citizens Awards and Scholarship Program grants awards for essay writing on an annual basis to area high schoolers on a per-school basis.

Kenny, whose essay was on "Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It," picked up his award at a ceremony held at the Bloomfield Township Public Library.

This annual award recognizes and rewards individuals who possess good citizenship qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism in their homes, schools and communities.

"I am truly honored to have won this award," said Kenny, who's also a member of Notre Dame's Model United Nations (MUN) club. "Hearing my fellow nominees' stories of service and charity was truly inspiring. I could not have achieved this award without the continuous support from the amazing NDP staff, my family and my friends. I am looking forward to taking the values that I gained here at NDP to college with me next year."

In addition to receiving a scholarship, pin and a certificate from DAR for his winning essay, Kenny, who earned Eagle Scout status from the Boy Scouts of America nearly a year ago, received his own personal American flag that eventually will be flown over the nation's Capitol on his behalf. He now goes on to a statewide DAR competition. 🇺🇸



## Notre Dame football coach gets hall of fame nod



Patrick Fox, who has been leading the Notre Dame Fighting Irish football program since 2014, has been named to the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame, which honors and recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the game of football in the state of Michigan.

"Being inducted into the MHSFCA Hall of Fame is a great honor that reflects directly back to all the dedicated young people I've been able to coach as well as to the tremendous coaches which whom I've shared my career so far," said Fox, who has compiled a winning record for the Irish in his five seasons managing the program. "I am also very proud of the accomplishments of the young people who I have spent a lifetime coaching and hope they all know how much they have meant to me."

Fox came to Notre Dame in the summer of 2014 from Milford High School in Highland, Mich., where he served as head coach from 2000 to 2007 and then from 2011 through the 2013 season. He began his head-coaching career in 1988 at Ortonville Brandon High School and then in 1989 as varsity coach at Berkley High School in Berkley, Mich., where his teams earned an OAA champi-

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project into such a success.

“My initial reaction after we started on the project back in January was that it was going to take a lot longer than I thought,” McGreevy said. “Some of the Stations were way too complex and we knew some of them needed to be redefined. It’s a very complicated medium to work with. At the same time, however, I was very excited to see everything get going.”

McGreevy noted that in the case of the Station that depicts Veronica wiping the face of Jesus, a trip he took to Israel this year was instrumental in a redefining of its design.

“I actually learned there that Veronica was not the actual name of the woman, so it placed a bit of a different value on the cloth part of my original sketch,” he said. “That is how we ended up with the final piece, which most people I have talked to like the most. It puts emphasis on the cloth itself rather than the woman. It’s also a good example of how things were changed throughout this process because of the complexity of the original design vs. the materials Scott was using. However, I think those redesigns are extremely successful.”

### PERFECT TEAM

Also successful, according to McGreevy, was the rather unique relationship he established with the artist.

“Scott was so easy to work with,” he said. “I think at first he was skeptical and held back a little. He does not have a strong Catholic background, but I actually viewed that as an asset, not a hindrance.”

McGreevy said Berels was like a “tabula

rasa,” or blank slate, when it came to religion, which, he said, allowed for a unique perspective of Catholic history.

“From the start I told him that he is the artist and I will rely on his judgment and creativity,” McGreevy said. “I think he felt comfortable with that idea as we built trust in each other.”

It’s a process McGreevy is very familiar with due to his early years as a practicing architect.

“Back then, I often had to develop relationships with the tradesman,” he said. “It is a strange sort of thing because each job I was required to show that I knew what I was talking about yet at the same time I was not a threat to them. I think Scott was a little like that in the beginning; ‘Who is this old guy and he’s probably not going to listen to me at all.’ I think in the end the product speaks for itself. It was a great collaboration and I would do it again the very same way.”

For Berels, he, too, was very happy with the working relationship with McGreevy.

“I think he really kind of broke out of his mold a little bit with me,” he said. “It was funny, when people would observe us



Berels is in his studio/workshop near Detroit’s Corktown neighborhood.

working together they would say things like ‘wow, you guys really are an awesome team.’ And we both would look at each other and laugh. But it’s true, we really were an awesome team.”

Berels noted that despite their obvious differences, there never was an issue.

“We just kept in really good contact along the way and during every meeting we had,” he said.

“Mark was so enthusiastic. I was constantly surprised by his reactions every time he came down here to my studio, which was at least five or six times during the project.”

Now, as the Stations of the Cross are gathering a more pronounced oxidized “patina” — all by design, according to both McGreevy and Berels — Notre



Berels installed his Stations artwork on November 2, 2018.

Dame’s Sandy LewAllen weighs in with her overall assessment of their collaboration, which she can easily see just outside her new art room.

“The medium of metal itself has many limitations, but Mark and Scott’s way of using it as a way to tell the story of Christ’s Passion is nothing short of remarkable,” she said. “The abstract designs draw us in and encourages us to meditate on the shapes and forms that depict each special station of the cross. They are gorgeous and occupy a perfect setting for our students and staff to draw nearer to Christ by contemplating and meditating on each station.”



Before becoming a teacher, McGreevy spent 25 years working as an architect.

# It's all about family and caring

Notre Dame science teacher, now in his 11th year on campus, says the strong sense of family and caring for students is what impresses him most about the school.

When Notre Dame upper-division science teacher Brian Little graduated from the University of Michigan in 2006, the job market for teachers was less than ideal. He said it seemed like for every job opening in the metro Detroit area, there were 100 applicants. Having only student-teaching experience on his résumé didn't help much either. But he kept looking and he also kept a job at the university to pay the bills.

"Then my future mother-in-law, who at the time was a local high school chemistry teacher, found out about the ND Prep job through a local group of chemistry teachers that had reached out to see if she knew anybody looking to teach high school science," Little said. "It kind of felt like divine intervention when I got the job because this also was where my wife, Maureen (Convery) '04 and her three younger siblings went to school."

But it likely was more motherly intervention than divine intervention that led Little to want to become a teacher in the first place. That's because he grew up watching how fulfilling the job seemed to be for his mother and he ultimately figured that what was good for mom would also be good for son.

"I became a teacher at first because my mom was a teacher," he said. "I saw her come home every night and it was very clear to me that she was really happy about her job. Even though I knew there were some days that were better than others for her, especially teaching middle school math, but in general, she always seemed happy and pleased. She was willing to stay late and help students, and her telling me about witnessing those 'ah-ha' moments while working with the kids made becoming a teacher an easy decision for me. I wanted to be like her."

Little also said he didn't realize until later in life how much his teaching job allowed for the joy he took in showing people his extreme enthusiasm for the outdoors, and for rocks, minerals,

fossils, and environmental sciences in general.

"I wanted that passion I had to be infectious toward students," he said. "I wanted them to care about our planet as much as I did — and in the process, if I could get one student to major in geology or Earth sciences, then I felt like that was a win! All joking aside, however, I thought, what better way to influence youth with what I felt so deeply and passionately about than teaching! I was not at all interested in a 9-5 desk job. I just really like interacting with people of all ages."

## FAMILY AND CARING

When he first started at NDPMA in the fall of 2008, Little was struck with the very obvious welcoming and positive atmosphere all over campus.

"The first impression I felt was that there was such a strong sense of family and caring," he recalled. "From the time I met with Mrs. Pasko, to my interview with Fr. Joe and Mrs. Wylie (retired), I felt that the staff really cared about the school and its students. Right away, it felt like this is where I belonged. The facilities were gorgeous, everything seemed pristine, and the



Brian Little, in his 11th year of teaching science in Notre Dame's upper division, earned a BA degree in Secondary Education (Earth Science, History) from the University of Michigan.

school's academics, of course, spoke for itself."

Little also notes that during his time at Notre Dame, the school has continued to grow and improve.

"In my 11 years thus far, I have seen numerous changes," he said. "The overhaul of the media center, getting away from rolling cart laptops, additional collaborative space for teachers and students alike, but mostly because I am lucky and fortunate enough now to be located in a room in the new science, art and technology wing."

He's also witnessed the football field get new field turf, the softball/baseball fields get new dugouts and artificial turf, a state-of-the-art weight room, sand volleyball courts, 1:1 tablet implementation, and countless other changes as well.

"Yes, I'm only talking about facilities now, but these changes have nonetheless brought about a positive attitude on campus and has allowed us as a staff to see not only where we've been,

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onship and a spot in the MHSAA round of eight.

Betty Wroubel, Notre Dame's athletic director, said she was thrilled to receive word of Fox's Hall of Fame nod.

"Coach Fox is a coaches' coach," she said. "While there is no doubt that he understands and can coach the game, it's his relationships with his players that separates him from many. I see him greet almost every player in our program from grades 6-12 almost every day. He has a genuine concern for his players and was well ahead of the curve when it came to player safety rules."

The MHSFCA Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held March 9 at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West in Lansing, Mich. 🇺🇸

## Students of state

A contingent of students from Notre Dame's middle division spent three days and two nights in Lansing recently working alongside other students at an MYIG conference to share ideas, develop their own legislative bills and grow as leaders. The YMCA Michigan Youth in Government (MYIG) program provides high school and middle school students with an opportunity to become acting state legislators.



Luka Cvetkovic, a Notre Dame eighth grader, center, in the blue shirt, sits in the Michigan State House Chamber in Lansing.

It was the second year in a row that Notre Dame middle division students participated in the annual event, which is always held in the state capital when the house and senate are not in session. All of the students on hand were given the use of the actual Michigan House and Senate Chambers along with legislative committee rooms to carry out their duties as "legislators."

"It was a fun, learning experience and also helps you get better at public speaking while having a good time, said sixth-grader Meetal Mohindra.

According to LeAnne Schmidt, who teaches Notre Dame's 8th-grade individuals and societies class and seventh-grade writing and manages the school's debate activity, the students participated in one of two simulation-based activities: political compromise and legislation.

"Everyone from our group was engaged in the Capitol building at least part of the day," she said. "Legislators debated from the floor of the Michigan state senate chamber, and 'political compromise' was conducted at the Lansing campus of WMU-Cooley Law School with time in the Capitol building between sessions included."

Schmidt added that the students who were involved with the political compromise part of the conference addressed the use of the Great Lakes as a fresh water source for other parts of our nation. 🇺🇸

## Lower division earns 'Apple Distinguished School' designation

Notre Dame's lower division has been recognized by Apple as a "distinguished school" for its iPad-powered continuous innovation

in learning, teaching, and the school environment for 2019-2021. Only about 400 schools are recognized worldwide by Apple with this designation.

"With the technology integration in the lower division, our students are so much more prepared for their later academic career as we regularly hear from our middle- and upper-school teachers," said Eden Konja, director of information and academic technology for NDPMA. "They say the students are creative, can type well, understand file use, and are able to utilize digital tools efficiently."

The Apple Distinguished School designation is reserved for programs that meet criteria for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence, and demonstrate a clear vision of exemplary learning environments.

Lower-division principal Diana Atkins is excited about the new designation by Apple.

"Apple Distinguished Schools utilize technology to create academic outcomes," she said. "As such, this creative and technology leadership provides opportunities for students to be innovative with their learning." 🇺🇸

## Chinn named Miss Volleyball

Notre Dame Prep senior Madeline Chinn was named Michigan's Miss Volleyball for 2018 on Nov. 13, and while it may have come as a surprise for Chinn when the honor was announced in front of fellow students in Notre Dame's gym, it wasn't for those who know her.

In fact, according to NDPMA athletic director Betty Wroubel who is Chinn's volleyball coach, the honor seemed almost predestined.

"From the day that Maddy stepped onto our campus, I knew she was a special player due to her immediate and positive impact on our program," said Wroubel, whose Fighting Irish team fell to Grand Rapids Christian in the MHSAA state final. "She is a good teammate, very competitive, has a great volleyball IQ and works hard to be the success that she is."

The Miss Volleyball award is voted on by varsity volleyball coaches who are Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association members as well. The award is based on performance throughout a player's high school career with emphasis on their senior year and on players who represent characteristics of scholarship, sportsmanship and citizenship. 🇺🇸



Notre Dame lower division principal Diana Atkins, far left, is with a certificate designating the division as an Apple Distinguished School. Joining Atkins are Apple representatives Gabrielle Meyers and Jason Lewandowski, technology teacher Andy Hopkins and former technology specialist Lin Krankel, who helped spearhead the effort to become an Apple Distinguished School.





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but also to continue to look forward to even more positive changes in the future,” he said.

As far as his students, Little is super clear about what he sees as the most important aspect of his job teaching young men and women who, he says, can spot a phony a mile away.

“Connections,” he said, “being real, and showing the students who you really are. Basically, it means having organic, non-force-fed conversations about academics or non-academics, and the relationships that are formed as a result. This is what is most important to me. I place a high premium on learning, obviously, but I also like to show students other parts of my life and personality. And, on the other side of the coin, I’m always very interested in their lives outside the walls of NDP as well.”

When Little himself is outside the walls of NDP, he and his wife, Maureen, and their kids, Charlotte, who is five, and Jack, who’s 2-1/2 years old, definitely stay busy.

“With the revival of Detroit in the last decade or so, with activities and restaurants popping up, we love to explore the city in many different ways, including on our bikes,” he said. “We’ve made it a goal of ours to constantly bike different parts of the city and check out new establishments, enjoy the old homes and architecture of neighborhoods like Boston Edison, bike along the



Little is with daughter, Charlotte, wife, Maureen, and son, Jack, during a trip to Hawaii last summer.

riverfront, hang out in Corktown, and attend sporting events like the Tigers.”

## DAUGHTER LOVES SCHOOL IN THE LD

He also continues a love affair with his university, which, coincidentally is where he met Maureen, who’s currently a teacher at International Academy West in White Lake Township.

“We attend football and basketball games in Ann Arbor when time allows, but we’re big foodies as well,” he said. “We love to just stroll around the college campus, meet with friends who still live there, and enjoy a great dinner at many of our favorite restaurants, some of which are a little bit nicer than what we remembered from our early 20s.”

Meanwhile, back on the Notre Dame campus, Little’s daughter, Charlotte, is his constant companion to and from NDPMA on their trips from home in Commerce Township. That’s because she is currently

attending kindergarten in the lower division.

“We love that school,” he said. “We feel the teachers are great, knowledgeable, warm and inviting. Charlotte always talks to me on the ride home about how much she loves school. It’s a great sign and reinforces what a fostering environment it is. And she continues to make lasting relationships with her classmates and teachers.” 🙌