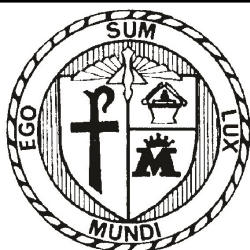




Sister Mary Walter Hickey, RSM
President Emerita



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NO SCHOOL

Nov 27 – Nov 29
Thanksgiving Recess



MESSAGE FROM THE EMERITA -

A teacher gave this assignment to her students: "Find an unnoticed flower around your home and study it. Note its petals – their shape and their color. Turn it over and look at its underside. As you do, remember this is your flower. It might have died unappreciated had you not found it and admired it." Next day, after the students reported on their flowers, the teacher said: "Each one of us is like your flower. We are unique. But we often go unappreciated because no one takes the time to notice our unique beauty. Each of us is a masterpiece of God. There won't be another person like us – ever again."



From Challenge 2000 by Mark Link S.J>

During the month of November when we celebrate Thanksgiving, we need to take time to thank God for our gifts and reflect on the one special gift or unique talent that God has blessed us with. Perhaps we still need to discover our talent and appreciate our special gifts. When we do, we need to develop and use these gifts in the service of others. We need to share them with a generous heart and remember that we too are a Masterpiece of God.

At Thanksgiving we need to give thanks for our God given gifts and praise Him for the gifts He has given us. In my thanksgiving, I will include my family and friends, the gift of Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy, the gift of Notre Dame High School and its students, faculty, staff, parents, friends and graduates as well as the gift of our school to the wider community. There is so much to appreciate and notice.

—*Sister Mary Walter Hickey, RSM—President Emerita*

FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL -

Dear Crusaders:

I have always been fascinated by what can be accomplished when faced with adversity- whether it be a situation, an individual, a sports team, a business or even a place. As children, we learned of the story of *The Little Engine That Could*. As a teenager, I cheered on Rocky in the theater and was inspired when I read the story of Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan at school. I remember all too well the game now known as "The Comeback" when the Buffalo Bills came back from a 35-3 deficit to win an NFL playoff game against the Oilers.



FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL (CON'T) -

As a former project manager in the business sector, I remember the predictions that Apple was facing certain death twenty years ago as it teetered on bankruptcy, losing over a billion dollars each year. The day before I interviewed for the position of principal at Notre Dame HS, I spoke to a man sitting next to me at the counter of Anne's Pancakes telling me that I was crazy to even consider moving to Elmira as he explained it would never be what it once was. (Interestingly enough, I saw him again when I returned three months later and took advantage of our chance meeting to tell him I had accepted the job. He offered his congratulations and wished me well). In the two and a half years that I have lived here, I have witnessed the transformation of the airport after it underwent over \$58 million in renovations, the resurrection of long deserted buildings to house residents and commercial tenants, the resurgence of small businesses taking root, and now the near completion of the construction of LECOM's new facility on the Elmira College campus. Positive comments on Facebook with regards to Elmira are now outweighing the criticisms.

Honestly speaking, Notre Dame HS has gone through a rough patch over the past few years. It is no secret that our enrollment has gone down. Adversity, however, can be a hidden blessing if we choose to learn from it and make improvements in the process to make us stronger as a result. Following are some examples of the changes that have taken place:

- ♦ Notre Dame has a committed board that is rethinking how we do things. Pending approval from our governing entity MESA (Mercy Education System of the Americas), we are in the process of adding four new board members who joined our first meeting of the school year in September. All of them graduated from Notre Dame HS in the 90's. They not only have a vested interest in the continued success of the school, but their experience in business and education enables them to offer unique, fresh perspectives.
- ♦ The hiring of a new advancement director, also a graduate of Notre Dame, has already put us on track to generate more revenue for our school as she offers fresh ideas and a new energy.
- ♦ Having come to Notre Dame with no prior knowledge of the school or community, I sent online surveys to parents and students in the spring of 2018. I spent much time making follow up phone calls and writing emails to get a better understanding of concerns and changes have taken place as a direct result of that feedback. In addition, I believe students feel comfortable stopping by my office to speak with me. Brett Moore, who now serves as our newly appointed Director of Enrollment, will soon be distributing another round of surveys to continue this process of soliciting input.
- ♦ The financial committee is comprised of a dedicated team of individuals who continue to identify ways to reduce overhead. In just the past two years, overhead expenses have been reduced by nearly \$200,000. In addition, the purchase of a school bus last year will soon enable us to begin to realize savings from money that would otherwise be spent on continued outsourcing of not only our daily commutes to Ithaca but also area field trips in which we employed bus companies.
- ♦ With the addition of a new food services director, our school kitchen now offers students a variety of healthier options to eat for breakfast and mid-morning during study halls. Not only does this benefit our students, but this enables the school to generate more money.

While the number of students from our feeder schools has dropped in recent years, this has prompted us to increase our marketing initiatives in outlying areas. We have "Information Nights" scheduled in multiple locations and already have over twenty visiting students signed up to attend "Discover ND Day" to spend the day with a Notre Dame friend this month. Also, the fact that Notre Dame HS is not affiliated with the Diocese of Rochester gives us more freedom in marketing our school and soliciting donations.

FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL (CON'T) -

- ♦ As a result of making improvements with our database management, Notre Dame is beginning to receive donations from individuals and corporations who have not given in a long period of time, if ever.
- ♦ We are taking a stronger initiative to form partnerships with area organizations and businesses. For example, I and other members of the executive committee of the Board of Trustees met with a group of individuals from LECOM last week and are excited about announcing our affiliation with them in January.
- ♦ As mentioned previously, we now have a dedicated enrollment person as well as an additional person assisting with our marketing initiatives to help attract new families to our school.
- ♦ The addition of the newly created Crusader Spirit Store will generate money to help offset some of the costs of clubs and organizations. It will also promote school spirit as well as help us market our school to the local community.
- ♦ We are pursuing additional agencies aside from our current agreement with 3W to assist us in increasing our international enrollment and reach.
- ♦ Updates to our school help us to be a more attractive offering to new families and has helped boost morale for our current students.
- ♦ Beginning in the spring, we are implementing a new process by which we provide financial aid to qualified families while also holding them more accountable.
- ♦ Faculty and staff have been very agreeable in assuming additional responsibilities in the interest of consolidating expenses.
- ♦ While still adhering to the values of the Sisters of Mercy, we are taking a more aggressive approach in seeking payment of individuals who have longstanding overdue balances.
- ♦ Previously unused fields have been converted to practice fields, which will enable us to hold multiples practices simultaneously and serve as a possible revenue opportunity if we were to rent fields to other schools and organizations.

I feel incredibly blessed that three years ago about this time I came across an online job posting for a school principal at a Catholic school 1,500 miles away. While I do not have the longstanding affiliation with Notre Dame HS that many of you do, I can not thank you enough for embracing me and helping me to navigate our school thus far. I continue to be amazed and inspired by our students, faculty and staff each day and am committed to keeping NDHS strong for many years to come. To quote Helen Keller, *Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.*”

Thank you and God Bless Notre Dame HS

- Deborah Franklin - Head of School



7th & 8th Grade News -

November is the month for pondering gratitude before the big Christmas celebrations. As I look back on the first quarter of this school year, I see so much to be grateful for. We've had our prayers answered with the healing of our student, Nick Viselli, and our art teacher, Mrs. LaVelle. We've participated in field trips and the 7th grade Retreat, thanks to our amazing and numerous community partners: the Parish of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, Mrs. Valerie Colunio and Little Peeps Play Care, Mrs. Terri Olszowy and the Friends of the Elmira Civil War Prison Camp, Tanglewood Nature Center, Jim Pfiffer and the Friends of the Chemung River, the Corning Museum of Glass, and the Chemung County Historical Society. Most importantly, we have an amazing group of students who have grown by leaps and bounds since September.

Hopefully you have all been following your student's progress on School Tool, using the **Assignments tab**, which allows you to see scores on all graded work, and the **Grades tab** for **Marking Period Grades** and **Progress Reports**. If you are having difficulties with your School Tool account, please contact the Guidance Department or Mr. Allington, our Director of IT. Junior High is the time for students to begin taking responsibility for their own learning, with their families and teachers helping them on this lifelong journey. I suggest that parents discuss the Marking Period report card with their student, asking the student what he or she is proud of, what is a concern or worry, what his or her goals are for the next marking period, and what he or she sees as ways that parents and teachers can help.

Midterm exams are coming in January, covering material from September until January, so binders need to be up to date. If you have concerns for your student, please contact me or your child's teachers, as we all share the same goals—the success of each student, achieving his or her own personal best.

Save the date for the **2019 Snowflake Ball/Party**. This year it will be held on Saturday, **December 7, 7:30-10 PM**, at the **Faith Formation Center at St. Casimir's, 1010 Davis St., Elmira**. We will need a Snowflake Committee to help with sparkly ideas to make the evening special. Parents are needed to help decorate on the afternoon of the party, chaperone, and to provide refreshments. The Snowflake has a party atmosphere, and is a casual, fun event rather than a formal date-type occasion. Dress is whatever the student is comfortable wearing—within modest limits. We hope that all of our junior high students will be able to attend.

At the 7th grade retreat, we were so grateful to have seniors Maddie Wirth, Caroline Ronsiville, and Katie Bukowski to act as senior leaders. These incredible young women helped Mrs. McCaig with all of the activities and opened their hearts to our girls. Our parent volunteers, Mrs. Agan and Ms. Gorman, arranged a delicious lunch in a delightfully Halloween atmosphere and assisted with the Saints Scavenger Hunt.

In 2019, I am thankful for my enormous family including my ND family, for God's grace and care for my creaky knees, and for the privilege of teaching at a school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, wherein we dedicate ourselves to their critical concerns. Happy Thanksgiving!

*- Karen Jennings, Director, Grade 7 & 8
Guidance Counselor Grade 7, 8, & 9*



Campus Ministry -



I must confess that I was a bit apprehensive as last week's 7th grade retreat approached! I do not teach 7th grade Theology and have not yet established a relationship with these youngest members of the Notre Dame student body. I was especially nervous in consideration that part of their retreat experience involved visiting the Little Peeps Play Care Center to host a Halloween Fair. Toddlers, infants, babies and 7th graders suddenly seemed like a recipe for disaster. How wrong I was! Our day was delightful. It was quite impressive to see our youngest students interact with the much younger. They were gentle, patient and loving, and suddenly very grown up! We couldn't have asked for better behavior. It is at times like this when I feel most grateful for the opportunity to share my time and my faith at Notre Dame. Our commitment to providing enriching experiences outside the classroom makes Notre Dame shine. Serving impacts the heart. For confirmation, ask a 7th grader!

Peace,
Marie McCaig
Campus Minister

7th Grade Retreat



December

- Dec 3** Tree Lighting & Christmas Caroling 5pm
Brand Park Select & Concert Choir
- Dec 4** Gr. 7 & 8 Soup Kitchen
- Dec 5-8** NYSSMA All State Conference & Concert
- Dec 7** SAT
Snowflake Ball/Party 7:30 pm-10pm
St. Casmir Faith Formation Center
- Dec 10** Poinsettia Pick-up Freshman Class
- Dec 10** Spring Play Auditions - 3pm-6pm
Dec 11 Spring Play Auditions - 6pm - 9 pm
- Dec 11 & 12** Elcor Shopping Trip
- Dec 13** Mandarin II Field Trip Beijing Garden
- Dec 14** ACT
- Dec 17** Christmas Concert @ 7pm
- Dec 20** **Golden Mass @ 1:30 pm**
Christmas Caroling- Woodbrook
- Dec 23-Jan 3** **Christmas Recess**

**Looking Ahead***A Sneak Peek into January*

- Jan 1** New Year's Day - Gr. 7 & 8
Soup Kitchen
- Jan 6** School Resumes
- Jan 20** Martin Luther King Jr. Day-No School
Faculty In service
- Jan 21-24** Mid-terms
- Jan 25** Snowball
- Jan 26-Feb 2** Catholic Schools Week
- Jan 28** **OPEN HOUSE**

WINTER SCHOOL CLOSING INFO

Please be aware of Notre Dame's school closing policy: ND follows the Elmira City District for weather related closings and delays. Check these announcements on our local television and radio stations, including stations in Pennsylvania, or call the ECSD weather line at 735-3970. You will also receive an email regarding ND's closing status and it will be posted on the ND Facebook page.

Fourteenth Annual McAuley Award Dinner –

On Tuesday, October 8 more than 200 friends of Notre Dame gathered at the Elmira Country Club to celebrate the 14th Annual McAuley Award Dinner. Catherine McAuley founded the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland in 1831. Notre Dame High School is one of five co-educational high schools in the United States sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Notre Dame continues the commitment of Catherine McAuley to meet the needs of young men and women.



This year, the school was pleased to honor Mr. Bob Edger, posthumously, and Rev. Lewis Brown '59 for their dedication and their unwavering commitment to Notre Dame High School Gr. 7-12 over the past years.

Bob Edger was known for his fairness and compassion. His determined work ethic and never quit attitude came to the assistance of others whenever and wherever it was needed. Throughout Father Brown's priestly life his capacity for leadership translated vision into reality as he directed and inspired others to be and do good. Our world is a better place because of these two men who mirrored the vision of Catherine McAuley in assisting others in need.

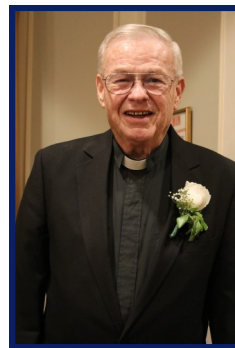
Bishop Emeritus Matthew H. Clark presented the awards to Jodi Edger, accepting on his father's behalf, and Rev. Lewis Brown '59. Notre Dame wishes to once again congratulate this year's winners and thank them both for their support of Notre Dame and their belief in Catholic Education.

A special thank you to our sponsors:

Robert & Sharon Agan, Arnot Health, Reverend Lew Brown/Class of 1959, Chemung Canal Trust Company, Corning Enterprises, Martin & Susan Curran, Dalrymple Gravel & Contracting, Reverend John A. DeSocio '66, Kathleen Dubel, Edger Enterprises of Elmira, Inc., Excellus Blue Cross & Blue Shield, Dr. Thomas & Marie Finnerty, F. M. Howell & Company, Anne Fitzpatrick '63, Gannon Associates/Murray Agency, Gough Holding Corporation, John & Elinor Gough, Hale Contracting Inc., The Hickey Family, Walter B.D. Hickey Jr., Hillard Corporation, John H. Cook, Jr. Painting Contracting, Inc., R. Joseph Landy, Robert '65 & Theresa (Rodzai '66) McNamara, John & Christine Meier, Mengel Metzger Barr & Co. LLP, James & Christine Nagel, Perry & Carroll, Inc., Dr. Joseph & Karen Ronsivalle, Thomas '67 & Patricia Santulli, Seneca Beverage Corporation, Sisters of Mercy, Mr. & Mrs. William Steed, Swift Glass/Dan Burke, G. Thomas '72 & Elizabeth Tranter Jr., David Velasquez, George & Paula Welch, Welliver McGuire Inc., X-Gen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



Jodi Edger



Rev. Lewis Brown '59

Guidance Department -

College Applications

College application season has begun in the Guidance Office! Below is a checklist with some general and useful guidelines:

- **CHECKING DEADLINES:** Students should be checking the application deadlines for schools that they are interested in to make sure they will be able to have everything in on time.
 - **REQUESTING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIONS:** Seniors need to give teachers at least two weeks to write their letter. Teachers should be provided with a resume or fact sheet, a list of schools the letter should be submitted to and a deadline to submit the letter. *Letters should be requested online through Naviance.*
 - **REQUESTING TRANSCRIPTS:** Students must fill out a **transcript request form** for every school they apply to. This needs to be done at least two weeks in advance of your deadline and the **forms** can be found in the **Guidance Office**. For any applications due January 1st, the transcript request forms must be submitted to your counselor no later than December 8th.
 - **APPLICATION SUPPORT:** Mrs. Barron, Mrs. Shannon, and Mr. Moore are available by 8 am every morning, until at least 3:30pm every afternoon. Students are encouraged to stop in any time or schedule an appointment for application support or review with Mrs. Barron. Parents are also encouraged to call, email or schedule an appointment with Mrs. Barron if they have any questions.
-

College Representatives

Juniors and Seniors should check the college representative's visitation schedule posted at the top of the stairs by the Guidance Office, in Junior and Senior homerooms, and in the Weekly Update. Students are highly encouraged to attend these sessions, even for schools they are not initially interested in.

Career Development Council

Ms. Katie McKenzie from the **Career Development Council** will be in the Guidance Office on Friday, **November 15**, as well as Friday, **December 6** and **20**, to talk to the juniors and seniors about shadowing and career panel opportunities. Encourage your student to contact Ms. Katie McKenzie to arrange one of these worthwhile experiences. These are excellent opportunities for students to gain experience in different career fields.



NAVIANCE

Naviance, an online program, is a valuable resource for the Guidance Department. This program has a student interface called Family Connection, which students can use for college and career planning.

The Naviance/Family Connection platform allows students to search careers, colleges, and majors, and also houses a variety of other features. In addition to the capabilities on the student end, it provides our department a large variety of reports along with valuable data, and has streamlined our college application process.

STUDENTS are strongly encouraged to access the Family Connection component independently to utilize its features to the fullest extent. Students can access their accounts by clicking the link below and using their Notre Dame High School email address for username. <http://connection.naviance.com/ndcrusaders>

SENIORS should be checking Naviance regularly to see scholarship opportunities that have been added.

PARENTS are welcome to access a guest account by following the link above, clicking "I'm a guest" on the right hand side, and using the password "ndhs."

Senior Internship Elmira Neighborhood Transformation Center Olivia Murray



When I was in seventh grade, I joined Elmira City Youth Court, a program that seeks to prevent juvenile delinquency by providing an alternative to Family Court as well as an opportunity for youth to be judged by his or her peers. Youth Court is comprised of over 100 members who see over 200 cases a year. Over the years, I fell in love with the work we did with youth in our community and decided I wanted to do more. But like most, I had no clue how to begin.

As a sophomore, I joined Rose's Youth Philanthropists of the Community Foundation a regional youth grants committee requesting proposals from organizations that impact youth in a wide variety of fields in Chemung and Southeastern Steuben counties. The S. Roberts Rose Fund was established at the Community Foundation of the Elmira - Corning and the Finger Lakes in order to give youth a voice at the grant making table. RYP offers grants of \$200-\$2000 to local youth-serving organizations. Last year, I worked my way to Volunteer Coordinator of Chemung County setting an example of volunteerism, encouraging volunteering among members, providing them

with lists of opportunities, and praising them when they took such opportunities. This year, I earned the spot of chair, which is the head position of the committee, due to my dedication to philanthropy as well as the ideals RYP promotes.

During my first year, we visited a local community center called the Elmira Neighborhood Transformation Center where I was deeply impacted by what I saw. After we came across the organization again through the grant writing cycle during 2018, I decided to become involved. I reached out to the program coordinator over the summer before my junior year and by September I was volunteering every day in their After School Program. Very quickly, I realized the trauma and difficulties these children endure due to their family's severe poverty and drug abuse. These children, and their family, often felt very disconnected from the rest of the community.

One day at the center, a girl came in for the first time and we were handing out permission slips for a trip to an indoor waterpark; her whole persona transitioned from introvert to excitedly outgoing. This occurrence inspired me to find a way for disadvantaged families to be able to enjoy the activities available in our community. I went to my program coordinator for RYP at the Community Foundation with my idea and she helped me write out a plan, goals, donation letter, and application. We named this project Basket of Smiles. Due to the generosity of donors and cooperation of Transformation Center staff, we are able to give families baskets full of vouchers and gift certificates to enjoy the cultural, educational, and recreational experiences our community has to offer as well as promote healthy and happy family relationships.

These experiences have allowed me to realize my passion for helping others and making a difference in my community as well as pushed me to go beyond the classroom to learn more about what I find interesting. As a sophomore, I found in my Social Studies classes I had a particular interest for Economics so I self studied both Macro and Micro Economics and challenged the AP exams. Similarly, I loved my experiences in Youth Court so I sat in on over 20 hours of Criminal Court dockets observing both proceedings and trials to explore my interest in law. I now plan to attend a four year college to study Business with a minor in Public Policy and either go on to Law School or a Masters of Business Administration Program.

While on the outside Elmira and Notre Dame may seem like a small community, there are countless opportunities to explore and expand whatever interest you may have and make a difference while doing so.

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."Mahatma Gandhi



Discover the Notre Dame Difference!

INFO SESSIONS

NDHS LIBRARY - NOVEMBER 13

EPIPHANY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SAYRE - NOVEMBER 13

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY- NOVEMBER 18

MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY- NOVEMBER 19

All Information Nights and Open House begin at 6:30 pm.

SHADOW & DISCOVER ND DAY - NOVEMBER 19

OPEN HOUSE - JANUARY 29

SHADOW & DISCOVER ND DAY - APRIL 29

For More Information

Call 607-734-2267

www.notredamehighschool.com

Join us on Thanksgiving morning!



Notre Dame High School 1400 Maple Avenue Elmira, NY
www.notredamehighschool.com

9 AM START
1400 Maple Avenue, Elmira NY

To register online click [here](#).
Registration includes t-shirt for first 500 registrants
Register by 10/31 to guarantee your shirt size!

Packet P/U & On-Site registration—ND Gymnasium
Wednesday, November 27 5:00-7:00 pm &
Thursday, November 28 starting at 7:00 am

For more information about the Turkey Day 5K please contact

Race Directors Karen Charnetski & Steve Eller at
TurkeyDay5K@notredamehighschool.com



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FLX Gives. National Philanthropy Day. Share with everyone you know!
ONE DAY ONLY!

Please take a look at Notre Dame High School's FLX Gives Page and consider this opportunity to help support ND!

Click [here](#) to view Notre Dame High School FLX Gives page.

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 School.**

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