

# MH-MA CONNECTION

Spring 2021



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*Live the Faith, Pursue the Truth, Strive for Excellence*



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Phil Baniewicz**

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• You may be wondering why a graduation picture of the Class of 2020 is on the cover. It's 2021, isn't it? Why yes, it is 2021, but in the wacky world impacted by COVID-19, the graduation of the Class of 2020 is how we started this school year! It has been over a year of "not what we expected" and out of the normal. We were forced to adapt and overcome whatever obstacle was in our way. We won't forget about the Class of 2021. In fact, we will highlight them and this year's Spring sports and activities in the next edition of The Connection. For now, we have a lot to catch up on from the past year.

• I won't take much space mentioning how Maur Hill-Mount Academy adapted to the impact of COVID-19, conducting in-person schooling the entire year with only a little over a week of remote learning. You should be proud that Ravens have flown high during this trying time, especially our teachers, principal, staff, and students. We had to adjust to most countries not sending boarders to America, which substantially challenged MH-MA, giving us the smallest boarder enrollment the school has ever seen. Yet we made it and are ready to move forward toward greater times.

• As you read through this edition of The Connection, you will see that we have met the challenges head on and many outstanding Ravens have stood out in the midst of difficulty. I am humbled by how the Lord has carried us through this year and how many alumni have come forward to help us. The support of alumni to help the school - through the virtual League of St. Maur Throwback event, the Jim Slattery and Carol Rogers challenge (to classes 65-69), student sponsorships, and membership in the President's Circle/League of St. Maur - is why MH-MA now looks at next year as one in which the school will once again excel.

• It's hard for me to believe I have been the President/Headmaster of MH-MA for the past 11 years. I have enjoyed watching our students succeed, our teachers help kids strive for excellence, and our alumni come back to campus with pride in what the school has become. Most of all, I have enjoyed watching the Lord do amazing things. I have seen Him transform the hearts of students, bring a school back to life, provide for us even in difficult times, and lead us to become a better school.

• Finally, I want to mention and thank a couple of longtime employees. This year, both Dick Hunninghake (Athletic Director) and Bernadette Urban (Alumni Director and HR) have decided to retire. Both of them gave over 40 years to Maur Hill Prep and Maur Hill-Mount Academy. I am grateful for how "Coach Hunninghake" revived the athletic success in the past decade as a hard-working athletic director, and for Bernadette's endless energy in making our events, especially the Bob Goalby Golf Classic, an annual success. They will be missed, but never forgotten. Thanks to both of you for leaving your mark on our school and the students who came through the doors. May the Lord bless you abundantly in retirement.

• Enjoy reading through this edition of our newsletter. Know that we continue to pray for you in our chapel regularly.

• God bless you!  
• Phil Baniewicz  
• President / Headmaster

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

2021

18 SEPTEMBER

LEAGUE OF SAINT MAUR

Honoring Steve '68 and Alice '71 Brentano

8-9 OCTOBER

HOMECOMING

Honoring Classes: 1945-46, 1950-51, 1955-56, 1960-61,  
1965-66, 1970-71, 1975-76, 1980-81, 1985-86, 1990-91,  
1995-96, 2000-01, 2005-06, 2010-11, 2015-16

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STAY CONNECTED

Please send us story ideas and your  
favorite MH-MA photos.

Update contact information by:  
emailing [lisab@mh-ma.com](mailto:lisab@mh-ma.com) or via  
“alumni & friends” tab at [www.mh-ma.com](http://www.mh-ma.com)





Rev. Joel Haug, '08  
Graduation speaker

## GRADUATION

# CLASS OF 2020 GETS THEIR GRADUATION

The class of 2020 had already been through a lot during their four years at Maur Hill-Mount Academy. Tragically, they lost two of their classmates, and then they unexpectedly finished their senior year virtually when the country shut down. Prom was canceled and spring sports were too. Holding an in-person graduation ceremony in May was not possible, but this class deserved one more time together before moving on to college, the military, and the workforce.

Finally, on August 1st the class of 2020 had their ceremony in-person and on campus in the Haverty Gym. It looked a little different, but the students didn't seem to mind. Chairs for the graduates were spaced six feet apart on the gym floor to allow for social distancing, board members who usually attended the graduation ceremonies each year were asked to stay home, and entrance required a ticket in order to stay within Atchison County requirements. Not all of the international graduates were able to attend due to their countries' restrictions, so the ceremony was livestreamed.



Smith family - Brian Smith  
(board member), Savanna,  
Dylan (graduate), Jack,  
Jessica



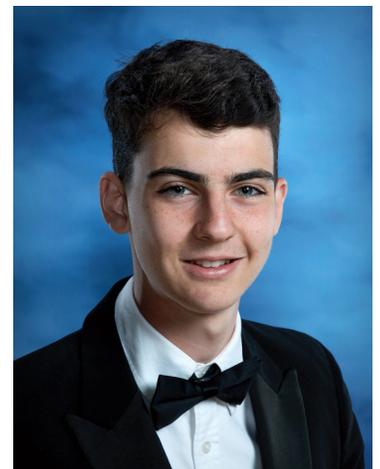
Valedictorian

Emma Rose Buhman-Wiggs



Salutatorian

Cade Patrick Wilburn



Salutatorian

John Anthony Mulholland

“In the moment it felt like we were all just one.”

— Hamilton Snyder

## BOARDING STUDENTS

# BOARDING LIFE

by Hamilton Snyder, junior

What is it like to be a boarding student? Well, if you had asked me four years ago where I would be my junior year of high school, attending boarding school would have been my last answer. Now that I have been a boarding student for three years, I could not think of any place I would rather be. The boarding experience at Maur Hill-Mount Academy has definitely changed my outlook on life and on how I go about my daily life. I have met friends from all different cultural backgrounds and lifestyles. I have made inimitable memories that I will never forget. When you live with 20 other guys in the same dorm, at some point in the year you grow closer together sharing memories and laughs.

One of my fondest memories happened on a Saturday night when the dorms had gone under quarantine after spring break 2020. We had a fire pit that was rarely ever used by the dorm or anyone else. I had come up with the idea to just have a little bonfire with some of my friends in the dorm to just fill the time. The night started slow because I had to clean the pit of plastic debris and rogue trash. Once we got the fire going, one by one more people started to show up. It got to the point where we had to go up to the dorm and get more drinks and food for everyone. But, the most memorable moment of this night was when a song came on that everyone knew. Everyone circled around the fire pit with their arms around each other and we all started to sing our hearts out along with the music. In the moment it felt like we were all just one.

Out of many experiences I have had here at Maur Hill this is the one that really exemplifies the strong bond and unity that people will get from being a boarding student. So, what is it like to be a boarding student? It's like being part of a huge, loud, and dysfunctional family that is always by your side no matter the circumstances.



## BOARDING STUDENTS

# STUDYING ABROAD by Yen Tran, junior

*“The past school year was a stepping stone for me... More importantly, I had a good environment to practice and supplement my skills and knowledge.”*

— Yen Tran

Studying abroad is one of the strongest steps in my youth - a life away from home, away from friends, entering a new life in another country. I chose to study in the U.S. and I am a student at Maur Hill-Mount Academy High School. Studying abroad is a journey that helps me grow up every day. Although it is hard, life away from home will give me invaluable lessons! I'm going to talk about how my life has changed in America.

I was born in Vietnam, and grew up in a well-off family. I lived in a life of freedom from worry and turmoil. Under the tutelage and upbringing of my parents, I have a free life. My parents took care of me little by little. I had no intention to study. I didn't realize the importance of it. I used to think my life would be comfortable like that forever, and I already had my parents by my side so why would I worry?

One day my parents suggested that they would let me study abroad. I was still thinking it would be very simple, because I thought I could call my parents every day. I was like a child, innocently and childishly despising everything. I passed the interview with the consulate the first time. My friends, teachers, and my parents were really glad and proud of me. I started to fulfill my dream and my parents dream of studying in the U.S.

A new page of my life opened. I chose Maur Hill-Mount Academy. I stepped into America by myself at 15. Everything was unfamiliar to me from friends, teachers, the environment, living methods, teaching, and learning methods. I struggled with my English during the journey here. I was like a lamb in the human world trying to communicate. It was really hard and strange for me at that time, but then I found a way to overcome those difficulties. I interacted more with students from different countries to practice communication. I got used to the food dishes here, and had free time to go to Walmart to buy things to cook for myself.

The past school year was a stepping stone for me to get to know and integrate with the life and people in this new country. More importantly, I had a good environment to practice and supplement my skills and knowledge. Practical learning methods rather than theory, presentations, essays, well-equipped laboratories, and modern libraries were good conditions for me to research and find all the fields of education that I like.

I cannot describe my life here without mentioning my best friend, August. She started this school on the same day with me, so we were together almost all the time at school and the dorm. We talk and share lots of things with each other. She is a great student. I would say that she is really smart! I feel very lucky to have her as a best friend while I am studying abroad.

Honestly for me, going through a year in this school, I have matured in all aspects. I have quite a strong knowledge of English as well as my other subjects of study. Perhaps starting to get used to independent life was a big change for me. I have to do everything myself now, things that I rarely think about when I'm with my family.

I will continue to walk steadily on my educational path. Everything is ahead of me and I am ready to continue to experience it. What color your life is for studying abroad is your choice. Even when the first few strokes are a bit gloomy, the artist finds a way to change the color of the picture. To change the color of an international student's life, it is all about effort. If you study abroad, you will not regret it.





Staff checking golfers in before the tournament. Back row: Whitney McGinnis, Br. Placidus, Abby Kesinger. Front row: Debbie Schneider, Cathy Paolucci '76, Mary Murphy '70.



President Phil Baniewicz giving instructions for the day.

## BOB GOALBY

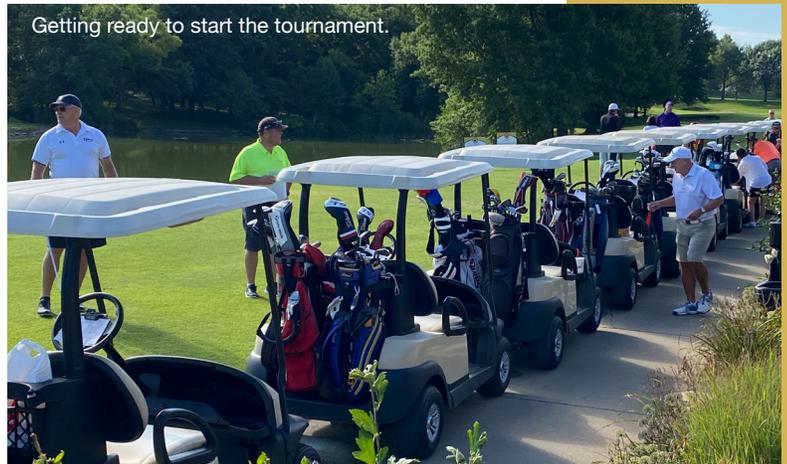
# BOB GOALBY 2020

The 2020 Bob Goalby Golf Tournament teed off August 21, 2020, and was a sell out once again! Brats, drinks, games, and more were on the course all day. Kim Lewman '78, Andrew Lewman '07, Courtney Lewman, Eric Eisman, Barry Saengerhausen, and Carol Saengerhausen were the overall winning team!

Goalby registration with staff. Front left: Holly Black, Abby Kesinger, and Bernadette Urban '63.



'90 Alum Chad Folsom with his daughter Madison (senior)



Getting ready to start the tournament.



Golfers: Raymond Schrick '99, County Sheriff Jack Laurie '97, and Mick Hundley '02

Golfers: Justin Pregont '05, Joe Zigtema '05, and Robbie Shriwise '05



# LEAGUE OF SAINT MAUR

## LEAGUE OF SAINT MAUR VIRTUAL EVENT 2020

Usually only 300 people get to experience the ever-popular Maur Hill-Mount Academy Annual League of St. Maur fundraiser because that's all that can fit into a hotel ballroom. This year, the League of St. Maur event was virtual and broadcasted live Saturday, February 13 on the MH-MA YouTube channel.

Participants were able to snuggle up by their fireplaces in the comfort of their own home. That certainly was appealing due to the record-breaking arctic temperatures in Atchison, Kansas. It didn't stop the fun and excitement or anyone's generosity. The school raised over \$165,000!

This year's event was a throwback to the 60s, 70s, and 80s highlighting the days of telethons, phone booths, and tuxedos. The event replicated the days when stars would make guest appearances on a show to help the cause. Special guests included actor Tom Wilson (Biff from Back to the Future), Grammy-nominated musical artist Matt Maher, KC Royals Hall of Famer Mike Sweeney, actress Yareli Arizmendi from the class of '82, and more.

There were a variety of sponsorship levels available that included food from Jack Stack BBQ and specialty cocktail ingredients. Specialty drinks were created by mixologist, Kevin Denton, from the class of '97 using local products from Holladay Distillery and MGP Ingredients.

The silent auction raised over \$27,000 and everyone was bidding right up until the end on Kansas City Chiefs tickets, state champion gym banners, and pieces of the old Haverty Gym floor.

If you weren't able to watch this year's virtual League of Saint Maur Event, you may have missed out on the live excitement, but the 90-minute event can be viewed on our MH-MA YouTube channel.



Silent Auction items up for bid.



Mixologist and '97 Alum, Kevin Denton



Floor Director Hope Baniewicz (freshman), Producer and parent Josh Pound.



View of live show in action.



Jaden Ekiti (freshman) answers phones during the telethon.



President Phil Baniewicz hosting the live event as Hamilton Snyder (junior) films. Photo by Anne Faucett

## STUDENT SUCCESS

# ACADEMICS

## RAVENS PURSUING THE TRUTH

### SCHOLARS BOWL

For the eighth time in nine years, the Ravens were the Regional Scholars Bowl Champions. They placed 5th overall at state. Congratulations on a great season to the Ravens team.



Scholars Bowl Team: James Buhman-Wiggs (sophomore), Brooke Trompeter (senior), Rory Mata (senior), Ariel Jang (sophomore), Annabelle Diebolt (senior).

Class of 2020 socially distanced in Haverly Gym.



**The Class of 2020 earned a total of \$2,976,254.00 in scholarships.**

Average Per Person: \$60,739.88

Average per person that applied for scholarships: \$135,284.27

Valedictorian and National Merit Scholar,  
Emma Buhman-Wiggs receives her diploma.



### 2020 KANSAS HONORS SCHOLARS

Kansas Honors Scholars are honored by the University of Kansas Alumni Association as being in the top 10% of the graduating class.

- Emma Rose Buhman-Wiggs
- Zhijun (Mavis) Ding
- Yuxuan Mao
- John Anthony Muholland
- Cade Patrick Wilburn

### 2020 KANSAS ACT SCHOLAR AWARD

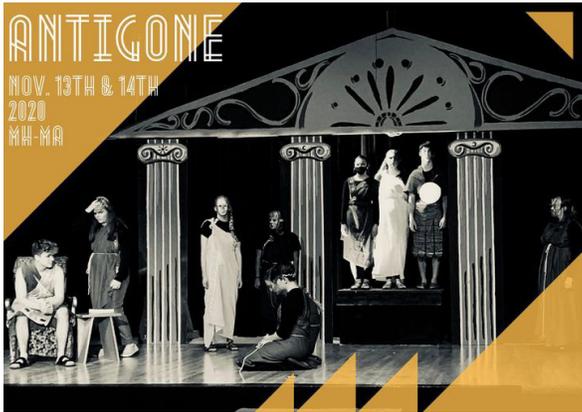
Awarded by the Kansas State Board of Education and Board of Regents to students who have been recognized for achieving a score of 32 or above on the ACT assessment.

- Emma Rose Buhman-Wiggs
- John Anthony Mulholland
- Cade Patrick Wilburn

### 2020 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

The National Merit Scholarship Program is a United States academic scholarship competition.

- Emma Rose Buhman-Wiggs



**SCHOOL PLAY:  
ANTIGONE A SUCCESS!**

The MH-MA Performing Arts Department has been hard at work this year! In the Fall, the students presented a spectacular, and socially distant, performance of Sophocles' ANTIGONE. Starring Hamilton Snyder (junior) and Jackson Spencer (senior) as King Creon, Sydney Snowden (junior) and Annabelle Diebolt (senior) as Antigone, and featured an original music score by senior Nicole Kuan. The show was a great success!



Antigone Cast Members

National Qualifier  
Martha Madden (junior).  
Photo by Erin Wolf



STUDENT SUCCESS

ARTS & CULTURE

FORENSICS TEAM

The Maur Hill - Mount Academy Forensics Team has been having a great season under the tutelage of Head Coach Erin Wolf and Captain, Senior Brooke Trompeter. Not only did the team win first place in Sweepstakes at the NEK League Tournament in February, but can boast a total of 18 individual entries that have qualified for the 2A State Speech and Drama Championship Tournament.

Special congratulations to Junior Martha Madden who took 2nd place in Humorous Interpretation at the East Kansas District National Qualifying Tournament in April. Martha will compete in the National Speech and Debate Tournament in June. Competing at the National level is the highest honor a student can achieve in Forensics and we wish her luck this summer!



Forensics members: Felicity West (sophomore), Brooke Trompeter (senior), and Cora Thorne (freshman). Photo by Erin Wolf



Senior Nicole Kuan, accompanist for the production of Antigone. Photo by Erin Wolf

# STUDENT SUCCESS

## ATHLETICS

### RAVENS STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE .....

#### 2019-20 WINTER SPORTS

Coach Luke Noll came to MH-MA from Hayden as a math teacher and a successful head girls basketball coach who led his teams to multiple trips to the State tournament. His first season could not have started any better as his squad defeated defending league champion Pleasant Ridge. The Lady Ravens came away with a third place finish at the McLouth Invitational Tournament. Juniors Madison Folsom and Malia Dulac were named to the Northeast Kansas All-League team.

Head Coach Brad Kunecke led our boys basketball team to their third consecutive Northeast Kansas League title. They were also runner-up at the McLouth Invitational Tournament. The Ravens finished with a 17-5 record before bowing out to Nemaha Central at Sub-State. Seniors Abe Siebenmorgen and Jack Caudle were named All-League.

Coach Craig Handke led his Raven wrestling squad through a fantastic season for our grapplers. Four wrestlers qualified for the State Tournament in Hays: Ethan Seager, Will Madden, Patrick Madden, and Dylan Smith. Ethan had the distinct honor of being the Regional champion. During the regular season, there were many medalists at the various Saturday tournaments. MH-MA continued hosting one of the best mixer wrestling tournaments in the area.



2020 State Wrestling Tournament. Left to right: Head Coach Craig Handke, Patrick Madden, Dylan Smith, Ethan Seager, Will Madden, and Asst. Coach Blake Wilson.



Left to right: Brendan Madden (freshman), Jamie Wolf (freshman), Clare Harris (freshman), Grace Raplinger (sophomore), and Margaret Kerr (sophomore) running in the game ball at Homecoming.



Senior Madison Folsom hitting at sub-state.

## STUDENT SUCCESS

# ATHLETICS

## RAVENS STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

### 2020 FALL SPORTS

Coach Brandon Wilkes' second season in his return was a tremendous one. The Ravens had an undefeated regular season and were the NEK league champions. The postseason began with a home playoff win against Mission Valley in a wild shoot out, 56-32. Eventual state champion Rossville eliminated the Ravens in the Regional round. Senior running back Andrew Schwinn joined other illustrious Raven running backs like Mike Weber, Mike Moriarty, Greg Lange, Josh Holthusen, and Harry Trotter by rushing for over 1,800 yards. He is following in Harry's footsteps by joining the Kansas State University football team in the fall.

Like her husband Luke, Head Volleyball Coach Sara Noll came to MH-MA from Hayden and teaches Chemistry and Physics. A regular season highlight was a home win over league rival and State tournament qualifier JCN. Our Lady Ravens finished 17-5 and second in the NEKL and garnered a second seed at Sub-State. However, a two-week COVID-19 absence saw our team go in cold and were defeated by McLouth in the semifinals after an impressive win over Horton.

Coach Addrienne Raplinger is our veteran cross-country coach who has overseen a program that consistently places our runners in position to medal at regular season meets and to compete in Regionals. This year was no different as several of the Raven runners narrowly missed qualifying for the privilege of running at the State Cross Country Tournament. Senior Jake Heim was an all-league performer for the boys, as were Charlotte Haigh and Clare Harris for the girls.

Head Coach Eric Burghart began his first year at the helm of our soccer program. He comes to us with a wealth of experience from his time coaching at the state powerhouse McPherson. Eric is currently a Residence Director at Benedictine College and is married to MH-MA alum Makinzie Vowels '09. He inherited an extremely young team who had to endure some COVID cancellations. Probably their best game came in the regional vs number one seeded Tonganoxie. The Ravens stayed right with them until the final ten minutes of the contest.

## 2020-21 WINTER SPORTS

Our girls basketball team got off to a 2-0 start that included a win over state-ranked JCN, coached by Luke Noll's Dad, Steve. The Lady Ravens hosted a regional game for the first time in five years. Seniors Madison Folsom and Malia Dulac were once again named to the NEK all-league team. Malia had the honor of performing in the Northeast Kansas All-Star game held at Highland Community College.

The Ravens boys basketball team came up short in their bid for a fourth straight title. They still finished with a strong 15-6 record. Kolbran Korbelik was one of the top vote getters and named all-league. Drew Caudle was honorable mention. Shane Sachse competed in the All-Star game at HCC. Coach Brad Kunecke racked up his 400th win in his career that also included boys basketball in Iowa and a long stint coaching our Lady Ravens.

Wrestling was coming off a great 2019-20 season and came up with a lot of strong finishes throughout the season. MH-MA upped their game when hosting mixers by having 9 teams compete. Besides strong competition, the live streaming of the event was excellent, featuring commentary by MH-MA board member Brian Smith and his son Dylan, a State qualifier from last year. The post-season was an extremely difficult four-tier format with seniors Jake Peltzer and Leif Malm advancing to the Regionals.

Head basketball coach, Brad Kunecke, clinched his 400th career win after the Ravens defeated Republic County 49-27 this past season.  
Photo by MH-MA President Phil Baniewicz



Working hard while broadcasting a home Ravens baseball game. Left to right: Kayden Haupt (junior), Ann Gorrell (junior), and Jamie Wolf (freshman).

### NEW THIS YEAR: SPORTS BROADCASTING CLUB

Due to COVID restrictions, MH-MA began to live stream all home sports games. Thanks to generous donations from Raven parents, the expertise of parent Josh Pound, and under the direction of Theatre Director Erin Wolf, the school was able to set up an entire sports broadcasting club to be run entirely by students.



## STUDENT SUCCESS

# FAITH & SERVICE

## RAVENS LIVING THE FAITH

### ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH NAUMANN VISITS MH-MA

On February 25, the student body gathered in Haverty Gym for Adoration with Archbishop Joseph Naumann. Class of 2017 alumnus and Benedictine College student, Noah Baniewicz, led music as Archbishop Naumann led prayer and walked throughout Haverty Gym blessing groups of students and staff members for this special Holy Hour.

Even with his busy schedule, the Archbishop made another visit to MH-MA. This time on April 12 for an all-school Mass. Students not only celebrated the Eucharistic, but were left inspired by Naumann's words of encouragement.



All-school Mass with Archbishop Naumann.  
Photo by Monika King



Benedictine College student, Reed Levi, presenting to students during Black History Month.  
Photo by Addrienne Raplinger

### BC SPEAKER VISITS CAMPUS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Benedictine College student and football player, Reed Levi, visited campus in February in honor of Black History Month. Levi engaged students with historic and present-day pictures as he spoke passionately about black history and the need for students to be educated. "We need to start changing things so history stops repeating itself," said Levi. He talked about his experience growing up in predominately white schools in Kansas City and spoke about tragic events that have happened from slavery to present day.

*"We need to start changing things so history stops repeating itself."*

— Reed Levi, guest speaker, Benedictine College student and football player

MH-MA Chaplain Fr. Jay Kythe, OSB  
Photo by Sherri Schwinn, Twin Images Photography



## ALL-SCHOOL RETREATS THRIVE

In the midst of COVID-19, the staff knew the students greatly needed some normalcy, and this included still having their spring and fall all-school retreats. With a lot of prayer, creativity, and social distancing, both retreats were carried out.

In September, national Catholic speaker and missionary, Meg Hunter-Kilmer, led a retreat for the students about the lives of saints. She shared the story of their lives and how they are relevant today. With two degrees from Notre Dame, a Bachelor's in theology and a Master's in systematic theology, her insights about growing in faith were very beneficial for students.

For the spring retreat in March, the faculty and staff came together under the guidance of Fr. Jay, who chose the Lenten retreat theme: The Way of the Cross. Principal Monika King organized many of the details, history teacher and youth minister Christian Wessel, along with English teacher Jacqueline Grindinger, hosted the two-day retreat. Each additional MH-MA teacher chose one of the stations of the cross and shared scripture along with a personal reflection of what it means to them. The students were blown away by seeing their teachers in a new light, or as some students said, "like a real person, not just a teacher."

Both retreats included Adoration, Mass, confession, small groups, and house competitions.



Girls from the House of St. Sebastian at spring retreat. Clockwise from left to right: Bethany Dang (freshman), Clare Harris (freshman), Macie Adams (freshman), Sarah Humburg (freshman), Yorleny Carbajal (so), Ashtyn Young (freshman).



2020-2021 House Leadership: Kennedy Kelley (St. Teresa), Jackson Spencer (St. Gabriel), Mary Sienkiewicz (Head Girl), Samuel Underwood (Head Boy), Malia DuLac (St. Sebastian), Shane Sachse (St. George) by Whitney McGinnis.





## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### RECOGNIZE THIS EMPLOYEE AND ALUMNA?

After more than four decades as an employee of Maur Hill-Mount Academy and Maur Hill Prep, this Mount St. Scholastica alumnus decided to retire earlier this school year. Yes, Bernadette (Enzbrenner) Urban from the class of 1963 has moved on to better things and is enjoying the good life. Luckily for MH-MA, she has agreed to stay involved. You will still see her taking tickets at various Raven sporting events, and she will be the honorary chair of the annual Bob Goalby Golf Classic. Thank you Bernadette for your service and dedication. We wish you the best.



### HUNNINGHAKE TO RETIRE

Iconic Athletic Director and Assistant Principal Richard “Dick” Hunninghake is set to retire at the end of this school year. After working just two short years at a public school in Norwich, Kansas, Hunninghake started working at Maur Hill-Mount Academy and has stayed for 41 years. “My whole life I’ve been involved in Benedictine Catholic education. That’s the only place I really wanted to be,” said Hunninghake. “You take the Catholic element of our school and the relationships, that’s really the thing that made me stay for all of these years.”

Students, staff, and alumni are grateful for Hunninghake’s decades of hard work and dedication to the school. He will be greatly missed and has left some pretty big shoes to fill.

## THE HANDKE FAMILY TIES

Anyone who stops by the MH-MA campus is bound to run into a Handke family member or at least someone related to them. Three work in St. Michael’s Dining Hall, one works in maintenance overseeing the entire campus, one cleans the girls’ dorm, Howard Hall, and one is a prefect in Howard Hall. She’s the matriarch of the Handke family and an alumnus from Mount St. Scholastica class of 1973. Her name is Marcy Handke.

Marcy started working at the school after owning a Mexican restaurant in Atchison and has been here for nearly 30 years. She started out part-time and once a full-time position opened up, she jumped at the opportunity. In her time at the school, she has met many students over the years. Several who have stayed

with her family over holiday breaks instead of traveling back home.

“It got to be like I was a mother to them,” said Marcy. “Now it’s more like I’m a grandmother.”

No matter her title to the students, she loves her job. She often wakes up the girls by playing “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” over the intercom. And, she doesn’t just save all her energy for the boarding students either.

A few years ago she helped her son Craig with a fundraiser for the Raven wrestling team. As head coach, he wanted to improve the wrestling room and at a Catholic school that means raise money. Marcy stayed

up all night with her sister, Pam, making homemade enchiladas. The team had pre-sold 200 dozen, and she wanted them to be fresh.

“We kept saying we would go to bed for a few hours and then start again in the morning,” said Marcy. “Next thing we knew it was light out already and people started coming to pick them up.”

Craig learned his hard-work ethic from both of his parents. His father, Kevin, who worked for the railroad for 30 years, now helps Craig in the kitchen. He also drives a bus for the school occasionally and helps Marcy in the dorms.

“My dad is such a hard worker,” said Craig. “If you give dad the day off, he still comes up here.”

During the school year, Craig works long hours, and once the wrestling season starts, he averages 12 to 14 hour days that start at 4:20 a.m. He doesn't seem to mind though. He believes and coaches the Latin phrase “Ora et labora.” He said he tells his wrestlers, “You work and you pray. Work a little harder than the next person, and you'll be fine.”

Prior to coming to MH-MA, Craig was a restaurant owner like his mom. He was one half of Chuck & Hanks in Atchison. His heart is at the school though.

“People ask if I want to do a restaurant again, but I like this,” said Craig. “I'm involved in the Men's Group in the morning, and I've gotten to know a lot of other students. Before they just knew me as the loud wrestling coach. Now they see all of me.”

Craig learned his cooking skills from his mother at a young age. His father was good with engines, and Craig wasn't interested. So, he'd find his way back to the kitchen where his mom was always cooking.

“It's a Mexican tradition,” said Marcy. “You start cooking at 5 or 6-years-old and you learn a lot by watching.”

She taught all of her children to cook every meal as if you're cooking for your own family. And now, even though Craig is in charge of the kitchen, he includes his mom.

“I bounce ideas off of her,” said Craig. “She does the menu. We do the groceries together. If I change something, she notices and asks my sister to send a picture.”

And Marcy does not hesitate to tell him what he needs to fix.

“After I see the picture,” said Marcy, “Sometimes I tell him, it needs more cheese!”

She may give her opinion but it's with a good heart. The Handke's are a close knit family always willing to help each other out.

“It's what you do,” said Craig. “It's family.”

Marcy Handke's Relatives at MH-MA:

Marcy's son Craig runs the kitchen and is the head wrestling coach. Her husband, Kevin, helps cook and serve food, along with Craig's sister, Ammie. Frank Contreras, Marcy's brother, is head of maintenance, and her sister, Pam Larkin, has been on the cleaning staff for years. On top of that, Marcy's granddaughter (and Craig's daughter), Emma, is a sophomore at the school.



Kevin Handke serves students Sam Joyce (sophomore) and Clare Sande (junior).



Handke family left to right: Teckla, Marcy, Kevin, Ammie, and Craig

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION HONOR ROLL

# MH-MA RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Maur Hill-Mount Academy has been recognized as a Catholic Education Honor Roll School four years in a row. The National Honor Roll program is directed by the Cardinal Newman Society and MH-MA is one of 60 Catholic high schools in America to make the list.

MH-MA engaged in a thorough internal and external review of its comprehensive program offerings before being awarded this status. The school has received specific recognition for its strong integration of Catholic identity throughout its efforts, including the integrity of its mission, and the strength of its community and rich spiritual life. The Honor Roll also recognized the school's efforts at integral formation of the minds, bodies, and spirits of its students, as well as its comprehensive academic program which seeks to instill a Christian vision of the world and human wisdom and culture.

“The Honor Roll is a helpful tool for families and benefactors in recognizing the quality of a Catholic high school,” said Patrick J. Reilly, president of The Cardinal Newman Society. “It is external validation that a school is both focused and successful in meeting the high calling of Catholic schools to serve the well-being and salvation of students and to serve the common good.”

MH-MA President and Headmaster said, “It is great affirmation for our faculty, staff, board members, and students to be recognized by the Cardinal Newman Society for what we try to do on a daily basis. This distinction confirms our commitment to the mission of Catholic education. We are preparing our students to be future leaders in both society and the Church. We take this responsibility very seriously.”

Founded in 1993, the mission of **The Cardinal Newman Society** is to promote and defend faithful Catholic education. We serve the needs of Catholic families and educators by:

- advocating and supporting fidelity to the teaching of the Catholic Church across all levels and methods of Catholic education
- identifying and promoting clear standards of Catholic identity and best practices in Catholic education; and
- recognizing exemplary Catholic educators and institutions committed to truth and the integral formation of their students.

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