

# CRUSADER CONNECTION

FALL 2018

A PUBLICATION DEDICATED TO THE MARIAN / MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY



## 2018 GRADS

IGNITING CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP  
ACROSS THE NATION

PLUS: ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, AQUINAS CENTER FOR LEARNING & LANGUAGE ACADEMY ELEVATE STUDENTS TO NEW HEIGHTS / THIS ISSUE USES AUGMENTED REALITY... LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS! / MDCHS.NET



# MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## BY THE NUMBERS

**99.5%**  
Attending College

**80%**  
ATTENDING  
4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES



**70%**  
Involved in Athletics

**90%**  
Involved in Extracurricular Activities



**67%**

Faculty with Advanced Degrees



**860**  
STUDENTS

**22.6** Average Class Size **AND** **16.3:1** Student/Teacher Ratio

**\$3.4 MILLION**  
Awarded in Tuition Assistance  
**\$1.3 MILLION**  
Awarded in Scholarships  
**70%**  
Students Receiving Tuition Assistance

**91**  
College Prep Courses

**16**  
AP Courses

**12**  
Honors Classes

**94**  
UC Approved Courses

**47%**  
Taking AP/Honors

**74%**  
Passing Scores on AP Exams

**3**  
College Courses Offered on Campus



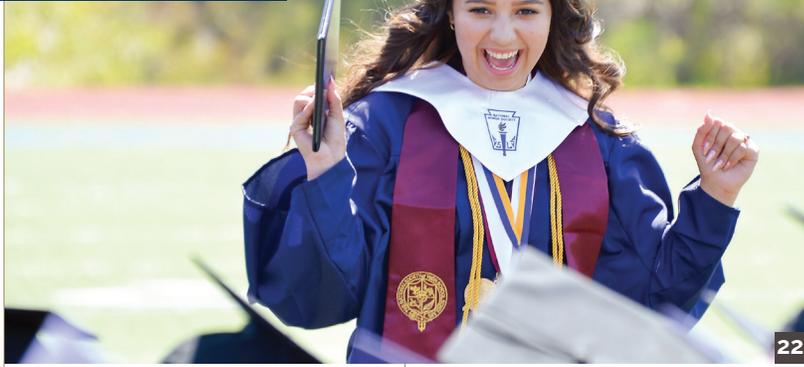
**232**  
National Honor Society Members

**244**  
Academy of Science Students



**15**  
VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS COURSES

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## This year, the *Crusader Connection Magazine* is integrating augmented reality with HP Reveal!



Please follow these directions and watch our magazine come to life!

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## LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Anamaria Anthony**  
*Theology Department Chair*
- Michelle Brooks**  
*Visual & Performing Arts Chair*
- Domonic Cruz '98**  
*Social Science Teacher*
- Noel Leon**  
*Assistant Principal of Students Services*
- Marissa Meda**  
*Head Counselor*
- Katheryn Olson**  
*English Department Chair*
- Leticia Oseguera**  
*MDJDA Principal*
- John Rey**  
*President*
- Frank Stingo**  
*MDCHS Principal*
- Roy Vasquez**  
*Director of Admissions*

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A MESSAGE FROM  
THE PRESIDENT



# DEVELOPING TRUE LEADERS

There could not be a more exciting time to be at Mater Dei. *Here's why:*

We have worked hard to provide the best Catholic education for young men and women in a safe and secure environment. As we get ready to open our doors this fall, we'd like to share some of our recent accomplishments.

**STUDENT ENROLLMENT IS BOOMING!** The word is getting out about our high rate of college acceptances, prestigious Academy of Science, strong internship program and small class sizes, all of which have contributed to five consecutive years of growth. Mater Dei now serves 860 students – that's a 12% increase from just one year ago!

**NEW LEADERSHIP AND TEAM MEMBERS.** I am so delighted with the appointment of the new Principals for both our elementary and high school. Last year, we hired Leticia Oseguera as the new Principal of Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy. Mrs. Oseguera came to us from Our Lady of Peace (OLP) High School, bringing 15 years of experience in education and lots of creativity, energy and strong leadership.

Frank Stingo was hired this past spring as the new Principal of Mater Dei Catholic High School. He has held many leadership roles at MDCHS, most recently serving the Mater Dei faith and learning community for six years as Vice Principal for Curriculum and Instruction. For the ten years prior, Mr. Stingo was a valued member of MDCHS, teaching English courses and acting as Department Chair. Mr. Stingo exhibits incredible organizational skills, a strong attention to detail, the ability to motivate others and outstanding communication skills.

He recently filled some key teaching and staffing positions to meet the mental, social and spiritual needs of our growing student body and further the quality of education at our school.

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.** Mater Dei is the only school that offers an Academy of Science. This program provided 94 summer internships for students throughout San Diego in science, technology, math, engineering and the arts this year. We are committed to providing real-world experiences for our students

and further opportunities to bolster their college applications. Our most recent graduating classes were accepted into MIT, Harvey Mudd, Berkeley, Columbia, Fordham, CalTech, USC, Notre Dame, UCLA, NYU, Brown, Cal Poly, Georgetown and the United States Naval Academy, just to name a few.

**At Mater Dei,  
our commitment is  
to provide the best  
Catholic education  
for young men and  
women in a safe and  
secure environment.  
There is a reason why  
Mater Dei is  
The Place To Be.**

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE TO ALL FAMILIES.** Our \$20 million endowment is the largest of any Catholic high school in San Diego County. This year, we are awarding \$4.7 million in scholarships and tuition assistance across 70% of our student body, including 43 HSPT scholars who received guaranteed 4-year scholarships of 100%, 75% and 50% off tuition, making us the most affordable Catholic high school in San Diego. Thanks to the generous contributions to our scholarship fund from dedicated donors, and the fact that we operate a debt-free campus, we are well positioned to make Catholic education a reality for many families.

**STRONG ATHLETICS.** We witnessed a strong year for our Crusaders in a variety of sports, including two CIF titles and five League titles. We also had stellar individual athletic performances, which you can read about throughout the magazine (*see pages 34-35*).

**MATER DEI CULTURE REMAINS UNIQUE.** The MDCHS culture is centered around achievement, character development, teamwork and service. Our students last year completed 22,982 service hours both globally and in the U.S. This past Easter break, the Crusader Impact Club funded and built a new house for a homeless family in Tijuana. It is extremely gratifying to see our core value of "*spirit of service*" put into action.

These are just a handful of the reasons why Mater Dei is **The Place To Be**. I look forward to the opportunity to meet you and to continue learning how we can best serve your needs!

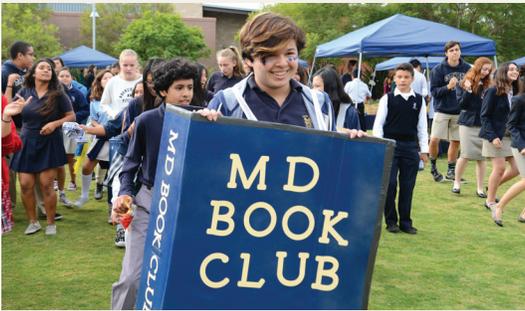


In Mission,  
John Rey, MSBA, CPA, CFP®  
President

← Scan photo with HP Reveal here to learn more about Mater Dei! (Instructions on page 1)



# MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL... THE PLACE TO BE



**8TH  
GRADE  
VISITATION**



**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR 2018 HSPT  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!**

**ARROYO VISTA CHARTER**

Maria Felix (M)

**EASTLAKE MIDDLE**

Gianna Figueroa (M)

**GOOD SHEPHERD  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Paul Dolby (M)

**HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL**

Kathryn Dick (PR)

**MUSEUM SCHOOL**

Aidan Alpenia (M)

Luca Watson (M)

**NAZARETH SCHOOL**

James Walrath (PR)

**OUR LADY OF GRACE**

Nathaniel Check (P)

Erik Lefebvre (P)

Isabella Sevilla (M)

Christopher Sulier (M)

**OUR LADY OF  
MT. CARMEL SCHOOL**

Arantxa Mendiola (P)

Abril Rivera (M)

Bernardette Solares

Bolanos (M)

**RANCHO DEL REY MIDDLE**

Sofia Santiago (M)

**SACRED HEART  
PARISH SCHOOL**

Andre Wichman (M)

**SANTA SOPHIA ACADEMY**

Henry Coard (P)

Mya Hiatt (M)

**ST. CHARLES SCHOOL**

Nicole Kateri Manuel (P)

Alejandro Alcocer (M)

Charlize Maltby (M)

Valeria Favila (M)

**ST. KIERAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Dominic Reilly (PR)

Michal Machniak (P)

**ST. PATRICK SCHOOL**

Haylee Hoffman (M)

**ST. PIUS X SCHOOL**

Kristiana Ibanez (P)

Melissa Esparza-Villarreal (P)

Derek Castillo (M)

Connor Pham (M)

Isaac Valdez (M)

**ST. RITA SCHOOL**

Angelo Ganzon (P)

**ST. ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL**

Mark Allen Cu (PR)

**WARREN WALKER**

Skylar Pay (M)

Presidential (PR)

Principal (P)

Merit (M)

*Students had to take the HSPT exam at Mater Dei Catholic in January to be eligible to receive scholarships.*

**THE NEXT HSPT EXAM  
WILL BE ON  
JANUARY 26, 2019.**

**PRESIDENTIAL**

100% SCHOLARSHIP FOR 4 YEARS

**PRINCIPAL**

75% SCHOLARSHIP FOR 4 YEARS

**MERIT**

50% SCHOLARSHIP FOR 4 YEARS

GRANDPARENTS' DAY



THANK YOU to our volunteers, players and sponsors who helped make our 41st Annual Crusader Golf Tournament a success.

*Special thanks to our title sponsor Jason Scott and the Eastlake Country Club for their support.*





## Campus Ministry Helps Students Grow Spiritually on Retreat

Each student at Mater Dei gets the opportunity to retreat and grow spiritually. For freshmen and sophomore students, Mater Dei offers a mandatory retreat on campus. The theme of the freshman retreat is "Welcome to Mater Dei." Students are introduced to Catholic traditions and provided with an experience to begin a spiritual journey with Christ. The theme of the sophomore retreat is "Love Yourself, Love Your Neighbor" and it touches on the issues of respect, bullying, alcohol and drugs, chastity and purity.

For juniors and seniors, attending retreats is optional. In December, 18 juniors took the opportunity to participate in a service retreat at Fr. Joe's Village, where they fed the homeless. This January, Mater Dei's dedicated senior Campus Ministry team led an impactful retreat at Whispering Winds Catholic Camp for the junior class on the topic of forgiveness. For the first time in school history, the retreat took place over a two-day weekend. It was led by Mr. Chris Schnitzius and Ms. Arla Sigarlaki, and was guided by Retreat Masters Roman Flores, Jonas Bongulto, Aislin Hilgeman and Rosalind Moore. Sixty-eight juniors received a series of powerful faith talks and carefully-structured icebreakers and activities to guide them towards forgiving themselves and others for their personal struggles. The retreat's final evening culminated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and an emotional session of Eucharistic Adoration, during which juniors and seniors symbolically placed their sufferings at the foot of the cross and truly surrendered them to Christ.

Later in March, 99 seniors enjoyed their final MDCHS retreat on the grounds of Whispering Winds. The theme, "Looking Back, Looking Forward," was a platform to recap each student's four years at Mater Dei and inspire them to be Catholic leaders in college and beyond. After listening to the testimony of several faculty members about the struggles and successes of adult life, the class deepened its bond through prayer, reflection and fun games while spiritually preparing for the reality of graduation. The retreat served as a fitting conclusion to four years of religious education at Mater Dei and will certainly be remembered fondly by the Class of 2018 for years to come. ★

## STUDENTS CELEBRATE ALL SAINTS' DAY MASS WITH BISHOP MCELROY

Bishop McElroy made it clear that nobody is perfect! Even in our imperfection, we can become saints if we do our best to honor God. In his Homily at the All Saints' Day Mass at Mater Dei, the Bishop told us that we must live a life of purpose and work towards excellence. The feast of All Saints' is a Holy Day of Obligation in which the Church celebrates all those who have attained heaven. Mater Dei students were blessed to be inspired by Bishop McElroy's encouraging words this past All Saints' Day during one of the 13 all-school Masses celebrated together by our student body. Roughly twice a month, Campus Ministry and Choir help to prepare and serve at the all-school liturgies so students can continue to grow in Christ's loving spirit. This year, Campus Ministry will consist of 80 students who will help to set an example for Christian leadership, lead retreats and serve at Mass.





## Mater Dei Language Academy BOOSTS STUDY HABITS AND STUDENT CONFIDENCE

Mater Dei's Language Academy has helped make Catholic education possible for all students, even those students who struggle academically. Thanks to generous funding, the Language Academy serves at least 150 students per year, and that number is growing.

"The Language Academy has been allowing students who might struggle with language skills the opportunity to access the same college prep curriculum with added support and instruction. The smaller class sizes also allow us to work with each student to reach his or her full potential," said Cliff Rachlin, Language Academy Support Coordinator.

Among those students who entered the program last year with low test scores, 50% were at grade level at the end of freshman year and this figure increases to 90% by the end of junior year. Last fall, 18% of Language Academy students received first or second honors and approximately 10% were members of the National Honor Society. Many Language Academy students entered Mater Dei struggling not only with English, but with study skills and confidence as well. These young people are now becoming part of the Academy of Science and participating in summer internships to gain real-world experience.

The Language Academy is fully integrated into the mainstream high school program, and Language Academy classes are UC-approved. The majority of Language Academy students can

be found in advanced programs, sports and campus ministry. Language Academy students with low entrance test scores

are making their way to four-year colleges, with CSU as a typical pathway. Some students are often challenged with a lack of confidence and motivation due to past academic struggles. However, most students experience academic gains and increased confidence after just one year. While the academy has always served English-Language learners, it has recently expanded to assist American-born students with low language, reading and writing scores as well. Many Language Academy students formerly attended public elementary and middle schools, but did not receive the help they needed in oversized classrooms. Benefiting from the smaller class size and personalized attention is making a difference.

Language Academy class sizes are typically 15-20 students and max out at 25. Each year, 20-25% of freshmen receive Language Academy services along with tutoring services. The Mater Dei tutoring program is available to all students. Last year, Mater Dei's tutoring program averaged

40-50 students per week reaching as high as 75-80 students. Approximately one out of every seven Mater Dei Catholic High School students benefits from tutoring services. ★

**Among those students who entered the program last year with low test scores, 50% were at grade level at the end of freshman year and this figure increases to 90% by the end of junior year. Last fall, 18% of Language Academy students received first or second honors. About 8-10% are members of the National Honor Society.**



# STUDENTS IMPACTED BY THE MATER DEI AQUINAS CENTER PAY IT FORWARD

**T**he Mater Dei Aquinas Center has been in place for the past two years and is a full-fledged support program for students with mild to moderate learning disabilities.

"Our program is different from other learning programs or tutoring centers. As a Catholic institution, we believe each child is fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God, and we fully embrace this belief in the way we approach each individual," said Jacquelyn Ackman, the director of the Aquinas Center. "The Aquinas Center solidifies the idea that we are fully accepting of everybody in our community. We have a diverse population and need to offer programs for everyone."

Since each student in the program requires personalized accommodations according to their specific disability, MDCHS created a tiered support system to offer study skills classes, which are embedded in the students' everyday schedule. By offering this class as a separate block, students do not have to feel different or as if they have been removed from a class. Mater Dei also offers a Testing Center, which provides students with extended time to take tests in a quiet, anxiety-free zone.

To participate in this program, every enrolled student is required to have documentation of a need, with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Individualized Service Plan (ISP), 504 plan or a neuro-psych evaluation. Mater Dei works with the Sweetwater or San Diego Unified School Districts or a third-party to help facilitate an educational assessment when there is a need.

Mater Dei has its own standards when it comes to creating a student's accommodation or learning plan. We not only strive to align with IEP/ISP/504 plan neuro-psych data, but our standards also include additional information about the individual student.

"We take time to discover and understand the student's unique needs. What makes that child fantastic? What is their significant history? Are they creative? How do they learn best? What sets them apart? In addition to their challenges, we include strengths of the student. Most times, IEPs solely focus on the student's disabilities, but we look at the whole picture of the child. Then we partner with their teachers and families to help make improvements both in the classroom and at home," said Mrs. Ackman.



The Aquinas Center places a lot of attention on family involvement. "We will have approximately 70 students in our program this year, and we are excited to form a team with each of these students' families. The small size of our classrooms is another great benefit to our students. Many who have come from public school would have had to deal with classrooms almost double the size if they remained there," added Mrs. Ackman. "Our 6-week grading period also helps keep our students aware of their progress, so they can't slip before we help move them forward again."

Mater Dei provides an opportunity for students to re-learn and master material they struggled with on a prior test. If students go to three hours of tutoring on that subject, they will earn the ability to re-take the test. Mater Dei teachers are the tutors. This is called "restorative tutoring" and is available through our afterschool tutoring program.

Last fall, the Aquinas Center partnered with the Crusader Impact Club and attended the Special Olympics in Orange County. Our hope is to bring the Special Olympics to our school and have our cheerleaders and student body cheer for the students and athletes with intellectual disabilities.

One student who graduated two years ago after struggling with dyslexia, ADHD, anxiety and depression is now thriving in junior college and wants to go into special education. This summer, she will be completing observation hours at Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy. At one point she hated school, but now she is finding ways to continue working in the classroom.

Most recently, eight students graduated the program in 2018. They are great athletes, and one is going into the military. The others will go to top-tier four-year universities and one student just received a scholarship to Xavier University. One junior will be working this summer at a fashion internship at Nordstrom's. "We see success when our students leave our program with life skills, good study habits and a true sense of themselves," Mrs. Ackman proudly shared.



## [VAPA] ARTS & MUSIC at Mater Dei



Mater Dei offers a breadth of classes in the area of Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA), including Art, Advanced Studio Art, Computer Graphics, Band, AP Art History, Drama, Guitar, Piano and Choir. We will soon offer a Mural Painting class and a Video Production/Cinema class as well.

This year, Art 2 students collaborated on a special sports mural that will be installed in the Men's Locker Room. This is the second mural coming out of the VAPA program, the first being the Crusader mural installed last spring in the administration building.

**THIS PAGE, ART WORK: (TOP)** By Daniela Dalton; **(BOTTOM)** by Tiffany Sheng, Alexa Coronado, Alana Hurd, Daniella Becerra, Gabriela Alatorre, Spencer Kacijancic, Mei Wei, Laurence Massa, Sebastian Romero and Lauren Reilly



The Mater Dei music program continues to grow, with currently 144 students enrolled in classes. We expanded to include two UC-approved piano classes and a band class, which performs at various school events such as football games and pep rallies. The band is growing and always looking for new talent.

The choir, integrated with instrumentalists, supports the All-School Liturgies every two weeks and performs at community service events for organizations like the Rady's Children's Hospital and retirement homes. The school also holds an annual talent show, where many of the music students get to perform. The choir participates in the Choral Festival in L.A. every other year, where they perform with other schools and receive feedback for improvement from a panel of professional judges.

In addition to offering choir as a class, the school also allows students the opportunity to participate in the Choir Club, an after-school meet-up that gives students who couldn't take the choir class the chance to participate and sing at Mass and other school events.

"We've had some amazing talent come through our music program," said Mr. Rosales, who has directed the Mater Dei music program for the past six years. "It's really gratifying to see former students flourishing and working in the music and entertainment industries. Many want to stay connected to their alma mater. Martina Lopez, Glen Quiroga and Danielle Bongulto are examples of former students who have come back to help coach other students." ★



## MATER DEI THEATRE PERFORMANCES DAZZLE AUDIENCES

MDCHS drama students dazzled audiences with two amazing productions: Kaufman and Hart's comedy, *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and Albert Casella's *Death Takes a Holiday*. Both plays were well attended and captivating.

The lead character in the Fall production, Sheridan Whiteside, was brilliantly performed by freshman newcomer Timothy Jordan. The play centered on an eccentric critic who falls and breaks his hip at the home of a Midwestern businessman, resulting in his convalescence at the Stanley household. The family, played by Alex Gayosso, Sophia Jordan, Daniela Reynoso, Louis Cimmino and Grace Bayron, had their home turned upside down by the arrival of multiple bizarre guests, played by Amy Parra, Alexa Coronado, Maximo Gutierrez and Zeke Oakley. Besides the unusual visitors, Whiteside had an entourage of a secretary, a nurse and a doctor played remarkably by Liana Malunes, Isabella Delgado and Joseph Sandoval. The play's love interest was played by Henry Esparza.

The zany antics in this show culminated with the revelation that Whiteside was not actually injured. But upon his much anticipated departure, he re-injured himself and started the crazy cycle all over again! The show could not have run as smoothly as it did without this amazing crew led by stage manager Gaby Fonseca Luna.

The Spring production consisted of the Italian fantasy comedy set in 1928 in the home of a wealthy nobleman Duke Lambert, played by Alex Gayosso, and his wife Duchess Stephanie, played by Sophia Jordan. The play revolved around the eternal question of death and people's attitudes toward it. The character Death, played by Henry Esparza, decides to take on human form in the guise of Prince Sirki, who wonders why people are so reluctant to leave this world with him. Slowly, death realizes through the beautiful and innocent Grazia (Grace Bayron), that love is the reason for people's reluctance.

Death tries initially to find love with the beautiful Mila Schnitzius and Sarah Salisbury before he falls for the bewitching Grazia. The cast was rounded out by outstanding performances by Amy Parra, Stephanie Otte, Carlos Hernandez, Timothy Jordan, Joseph Sandoval, Jorge Ortiz and Maximo Gutierrez. This magical production was again managed by Gaby Fonseca Luna and her magnificent crew. The play also showcased fashion designer Liana Malunes' skills and Sarah Salisbury's violin. Audiences also welcomed the adorable new mascot – "Biscotte the Pomeranian!"



# Social Entrepreneurship Class Empowers Students to Develop and Innovate

This past year, Steve Smith's vision for creating the spirit of entrepreneurship on Mater Dei's campus became a reality. More than 80 students participated over the course of the year to learn about story creation and the development of new products, applications, and even a company. In the fall, students learned technological skills, how to build a product, monetize it and ultimately develop a company. They started with writing and publishing children's books. Then they connected with our Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy students and developed an invention while integrating 3D printing into one of their projects.

Water Polo player Ben Brown, who upon reading the book *Kite Runner*, was inspired to develop and prototype a new way to kite fight. Ben and his classmates developed a balloon clip that attaches to a kite, so when two kites hit, the balloons pop and kites automatically collapse. They had seniors test out the invention with the Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy students helping to fix kites as they went down. The whole process was videotaped. Students learned how to go about patenting their invention

and they are even exploring the possibility of actually taking this balloon clip to market.

Students also worked on helping film maker Miguel Moreno fundraise and debut his short film on campus this past May. Spring semester students were taught design through the Stanford D School, which focuses on how to design a product from concept to launch. For their final, the class was divided into two teams – boys vs. girls – to enter Google's "Change the Game" App Development contest.

This Google app contest offered \$10,000 to selected students and \$15,000 to the winning school. The goal was to design an app to help women. The teams looked at the problem women face when traveling. Our students decided to develop an app that networks women together in the event of a car breakdown. Students were able to use existing Google Map technology to help women connect with professional women such as police, uber drivers and car mechanics that could help them. "It was so exciting to watch our students work together to prototype an app, solve a problem and now have the tools to go and build their own apps in the future," said Mr. Smith.

## MATER DEI LAUNCHES NEW FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES CLASS

Calling all aspiring film makers.

Mater Dei is launching a new Film and Media Studies class this fall, taught by Steve Smith.

The course will provide a project-based visual arts program, which guides students to achieve technical skills for aspiring video and film makers. In pre-production, students will learn the basic principles of story development, screenplay writing, storyboarding, scheduling and budget planning. Instruction in the production stage includes basic visual composition, color theory and set up and operation of camera, sound and lighting equipment. In addition, students will learn to use cutting-edge applications for video editing and audio post-production. The course also covers the history and development of the cinema, documentaries and other new media and film technologies.

Mater Dei invested in new video production technology and Steve Smith has created an Innovation Center with editing bays and a collaboration hub to bring students, technology and instruction all in one place. One new investment is a wireless, portable TV studio which will be used at sporting events and pep rallies and allows for live streaming to social media.

This class will have a positive impact in supporting MDTV's production this year.



In addition to being the mastermind behind the kite-fighting balloon clip, Varsity Water Polo player Ben Brown was awarded \$1.2 million in athletic scholarships for his performance in the pool. He graciously accepted an offer to play for Cal Lutheran University - a tough decision after receiving nine generous packages from University of the Pacific, Cal Baptist University, UC Irvine, Wagner College in N.Y., San Jose State University, Lindenwood University, Fresno Pacific University, Cal Lutheran University and Austin College.

When asked why he selected Cal Lutheran University, Ben Brown humbly said, "Their campus reminds me the most of Mater Dei!"

# MIGUEL MORENO DEBUTS SHORT FILM

Senior Miguel Moreno held the first screening of "The Last Knock" in the Kassebaum Theater on May 12, 2018. This was a project he created and has been investing his time and money in for three years. The film follows a man who has accepted being the last man on earth and who grapples with the idea that there may be others like him. Miguel hopes to screen the movie at the Austin Film Festival this summer.

Miguel will be attending San Francisco State University this fall, majoring in Cinema Studies and minoring in Sociology. His passion for film started in seventh grade when he was assigned a project to make a modern-day fairytale. He decided to create a stop-motion video using Legos. "It took me four weekends and ended up being 17-minutes long." Ironically, Miguel's recent film, "The Last Knock" also ended up running 17-minutes long.

When Miguel arrived at Mater Dei, his love for film continued and he pursued an internship by volunteering on the weekends at the Specola Production Company in Tijuana. He worked on a zombie film, commercials and small documentaries. Eventually, under his mentor,



Scan photo with HP Reveal here to see a preview of Miguel's film! → (Instructions on page 1)



Ricardo Silva, Miguel was inspired to write and produce his own movie during his sophomore year.

Miguel wrote, produced, directed, and edited "The Last Knock," after first creating a Kickstart campaign to raise \$4,500 to film the movie. In December 2017, the crew took seven days to film the movie, followed by four months to edit it.

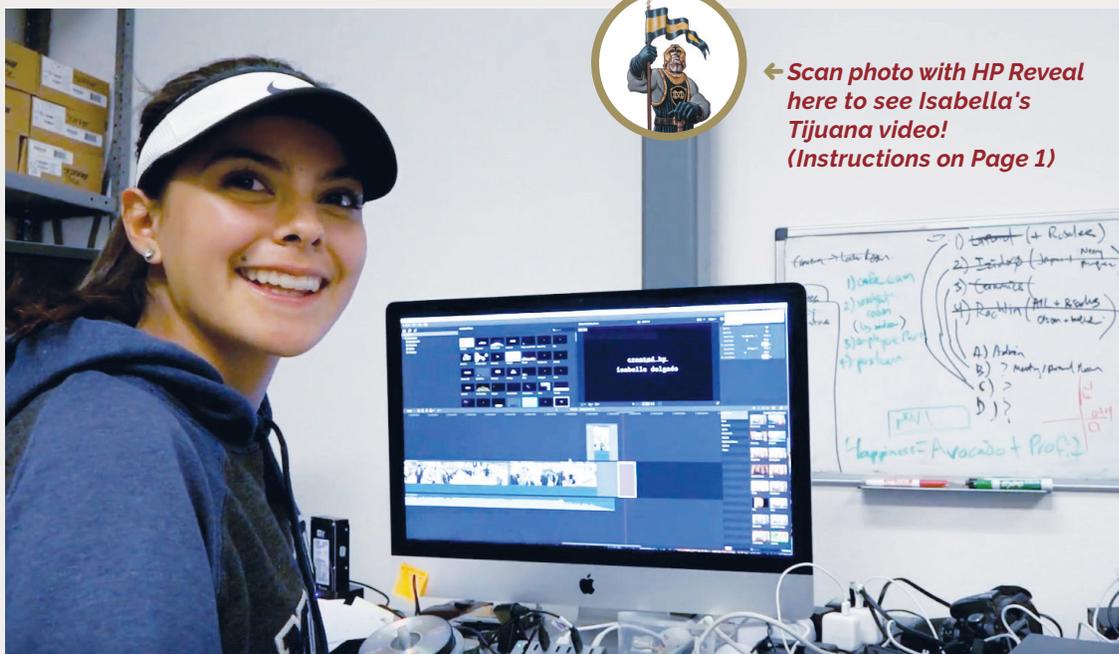
At the screening, movie supporters got to hear from the film's lone actor Mark Banks, producer Ricardo Silva, and cinematographer Adrian Durazo. These gentlemen took the time to answer the many questions fans had. Miguel repeatedly thanked his family, colleagues and classmates

for supporting him. In the credits, Mater Dei teachers and classmates are also thanked, and the class of 2018 is given a special shout-out.

While attending Mater Dei, Miguel took over Mater Dei Television (MDTV) his sophomore year and began producing, directing and editing the video news series monthly in the fall and twice a month in the spring. He also helped create several pep rally and Academy of Science videos for the school.

***We cannot wait to see what Miguel's future brings!***





## ISABELLA DELGADO PUTS DREAMS INTO ACTION

“My experience at Mater Dei has been filled with opportunities,” says Junior Isabella Delgado. “During freshman year, I applied for ASB Class President and received that position two years in a row. Being involved with ASB has been eye-opening because it allowed me to talk to new people, make new friends and become a leader at my school.”

Isabella was nominated sophomore year to join the Ambassadors for Christ, where she was able to expand her reach to help her school in even more ways: going to events, talking to parents and students, and showcasing Mater Dei to new families.

Isabella is also a member of the Varsity Tennis Team, as well as the Academy of Science. She received a two-month summer internship through the Academy of Science in Summer 2017 at the Old Globe. This gave her hands-on experience working with Shakespearean literature while becoming accustomed to the Shakespearean language, meeting a lot of talented people, and helping to perform *Twelfth Night* at the Old Globe.

This past year, Isabella started her first club on campus: The Film Making Club. She gathered fellow classmates who were interested in film making, writing,

acting, editing and camera work, and they developed an idea for a project. Steve Smith, the Entrepreneurship teacher, worked with the club to develop their project story, resulting in the birth of a new Cinema Class opening on campus this fall. Isabella also joined the Crusader Impact Club to make an impression through service. During Easter Break, a group of twenty students traveled to a small community in Tijuana to build a house for a family in need. “At the end of the day, it was amazing to see what we had created,” said Isabella.

One of Isabella’s biggest dreams came together this past year, as she helped complete a special project for Mater Dei’s Marketing team. Isabella created and produced an international commercial promoting the school on video billboards that played at the International Border.

“I’ll never forget the feeling I had when my parents drove to the border and said, ‘Just look up.’ I saw my video playing on the big screen and I couldn’t believe it. If you put your mind to it, you can accomplish big things. I am really grateful to Mater Dei for giving that opportunity to me. This has encouraged other students for sure.”

In the future, Isabella hopes to study Film and TV production in L.A., hopefully at USC.



## Mater Dei Hosts Microsoft Showcase Classroom

Microsoft recently recognized Mater Dei for the school's dedication to furthering student involvement and comfort with using technology. On Wednesday, May 23rd, Microsoft, along with staff from the Escondido Unified High School District (a high school district of over 9,400 students), visited Mater Dei Catholic High School to witness Mater Dei's use of technology. The day consisted of classroom tours, discussions and a Q&A panel with students & faculty.

This designation as a Microsoft Showcase Classroom is a result of hefty investments in the implementation of new technology on campus. Last year, the school purchased 275 Microsoft Surface Laptops for the Freshman Class. The school also made a significant investment in its infrastructure with a new Cox 2-Gigabyte Fiber Network, which operates four times as fast, and updated wireless access points throughout campus. This will allow for significant increases in usage and speed on the network for multimedia, cloud services and educational apps.

This coming fall, MDCHS is proud to start the BYOL (Bring Your Own Laptop) program, whereby freshmen students will be able to bring their own Windows or Mac laptops to class. MDCHS will be monitoring these devices to ensure they are not running malware or accessing inappropriate content.

The school has also utilized technological opportunities to strengthen student safety on the web and throughout the campus. "We have been working with Cisco engineers to ready the integration of multiple platforms into our network and ensure the necessary safety of content filtering, privacy and security programs. Our goal is to make the BYOL transition seamless," said Danny Pasawongse, Director of IT at Mater Dei. "We have implemented more access points and security cameras on campus. We want to ensure parents we are protecting their kids physically, emotionally, spiritually and technologically."

This spring, MDCHS installed and implemented five new state-of-the-art access points in the theater to boost its ability to hold large classes and stream live videos at special events such as awards ceremonies and graduation. These access points, along with new video-studio technology investments, will allow MDCHS to capture key events and share them with the community.

Another noteworthy technological improvement came mid-year with the launch of the school's new website. The result of this collaborative project is a site with an increase in content, a more user-friendly design, fast content updates, easier navigation, the ability to download content, functioning store portals and a better overall showcase of all aspects of life on campus at Mater Dei. ★



# Charting new waters

with college-level coursework, real-life research and community service



Preparing our students for college is a priority at Mater Dei. Last year, juniors chose a pathway and enrolled in their choice of a college-level or AP science class. Dr. Till completed the first year of teaching Geography 130, "Introduction to Human Geography," in association with Cuyamaca Community College. This class is consistent with the Geography 102, "People, Places and Environment," class offered by San Diego State University. In addition, Ms. Ashley Morris taught an AP Chemistry class, which may also be offered as a college-level class in the future.

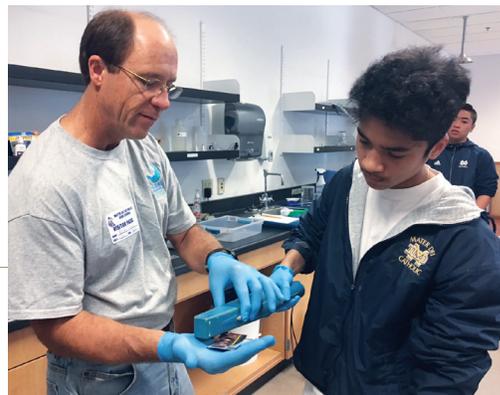
## SEABASS PROJECT

Mrs. Michelle Beeche trained sophomore Academy of Science students in wet lab skills and helped them maintain the aquaculture system and rebuild a carbon dioxide stripper. According to Mrs. Beeche, the Seabass In The Classroom project is an invaluable experience for

the Academy of Science students. The students receive the opportunity to work in collaboration with Hubbs SeaWorld Research Institute and learn, through real-world experience, the importance of being stewards of their environment. Through "hands-on" responsibilities that connect the students' knowledge of Biology, Chemistry, and Engineering, the aquaculture's nitrogen cycle, pathogens, and the importance of function and design take on true meaning. We are truly fortunate to have the chance to take part in this unique program.

## STEAM POSTER NIGHT & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Academy of Science seniors organized, directed and participated in the 3rd Academy of Science STEAM night on October 19, 2017 by presenting 34 posters and one video. Dr. Jair de Siqueira-Neto from UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy was the guest speaker for this event, where he spoke about Chagas disease and his work with Academy of Science Senior Brandon Moore. Over 500 people attended this event along with the Mayor of Chula Vista. Students also presented posters and interactive science activities at the MDCHS Open House on October 23. Having poster presentations assists students in communicating their research and internship experiences to colleges, and these presentations have been especially useful for our students during interviews regarding admission and scholarships.





## ← SOLAR ECLIPSE AT MDCHS

Academy of Science sophomore teachers developed a curriculum to explain the solar eclipse and build pinpoint viewers to safely experience the phenomenon. Dr. Till's college-level geography class learned about geospatial technologies associated with the solar eclipse. In addition, the entire school viewed the eclipse using the pinpoint viewers. To make sure that the eclipse viewing glasses were safe, Academy of Science teachers Mrs. Crystal Serrano and Dr. Till conducted further research and produced a report for parents and students. On October 10th, 40 students attended a presentation at UCSD on the solar eclipse by world-famous professor, author and astronomer, Jay Pasachoff.

## OCEAN BOWL

The Ocean Bowl club competed in the San Diego Regional NOSB competition, also known as the Garibaldi Bowl. This competition is held by USD Department of Science, whereby our students received amazing opportunities to further their interest in many different science fields. Our students also attended a STEM fair held by USD, where they learned about the different USD majors offered and furthered their science lab skills.

## MATHEMATICAL MODELING COMPETITION

The Mathworks Math Modeling Competition (M3 Challenge) is a nationwide competition for high school juniors and seniors, where teams of five have 14 hours to compete in solving a challenging and rigorous real-world problem. Winning teams could win up to \$20,000 in scholarship money. This was the first year that MDCHS participated with two separate teams. In the 14 hours allowed, the teams each devised a plan to solve the large amounts of food waste within the United States, using math to find their solution for this epidemic. The students arrived at school one Sunday morning to start working on their plan. There were three problems to solve, and the question prompts required much more than the typical math problem in need of a missing variable. They were open-ended questions, demanding that the teams think of many factors and variables that could play a role in the problem at hand. Most teams do not solve all the problems within their first



year participating in the competition, but one of our teams successfully solved each question and even hit the maximum number of pages allowed in their solutions essay. Those students who participated have since expressed that they cannot wait to compete again this upcoming year.

## LION'S CLUB SPEECH TOURNAMENT

Each year, MDCHS students participate in the Lion's Club Speech Tournament. The speech tournament's topic usually addresses ethical or legal issues associated with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The topic for this year's contest was, "What Role Does Integrity and Civility Play in Today's Society?" Two Mater Dei Catholic High School contestants won awards. Natalie Chavarria wrote an excellent speech on Russia's involvement in the 2016 presidential election and how it damaged our nation's electoral integrity and promoted a lack of civility.

Mariana Garcia wrote her speech on politicians who have demonstrated a lack of integrity and civility through the response to mass shootings in schools.

## ACADEMY OF SCIENCE CPR TRAINING AND BLOOD DRIVE

After completing a rigorous curriculum and college applications, Science Academy 3 students completed CPR training. It was excellent to see all the seniors trained and ready to assist on campus.

On March 14, 2018, the students of Mater Dei Academy of Science hosted a blood drive by the San Diego Blood Bank. They collected 20 units of blood from 28 donors. The amount of blood collected at this one drive will touch the lives of at least 60 people. Organizing this event is just one example of the ways Mater Dei students make a difference in their local community. The next blood drive is scheduled for the upcoming Fall Semester. ★



# 2018 Crusader Academic Awards

## AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

(Cumulative Grade Point Average of 4.0 or Higher)

### BISHOP FUREY AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

#### { FRESHMEN }

Christian Arambula  
Evelyn Arambula  
Sara Beckman  
David Brown  
Sofía Cacho  
Marissa Caquiao  
Craig Carter  
Priscilla Ceja  
Kate Clifton  
Matthew Dharmawan  
Victor Duenas Gonzalez  
Carlos Elias  
Isabella Estrada  
Diana Felix-Ibarra  
Brynn Gorney  
Maximo Gutierrez  
Rodrigo Hernandez  
Emilio Hernandez-Equihua  
Abigail Ilusorio  
Alexander Ilusorio  
Timothy Jordan  
Gillian Justice  
Amalia Koch  
Charles Krokkel  
Emily Kwon  
Richard Manalo  
Ethan Marshall  
Simon Mattar  
John Meshinsky  
Madeline Meyers  
Veronica Molina  
Sophia Nguyen  
Patrick Nieves  
James Andrew Paredes  
Rachel Penick  
Bryan Potter  
Abraham Rachlin  
Benjamin Ramirez  
Dominic Ramirez  
Lauren Reilly  
Maria Reyes  
George Roddy  
Galia Santana-Oikawa  
Camille Ann Schnitzius  
Miguel Serrato  
Brenda Tamayo  
Rachel Trus

### BISHOP BUDDY AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

#### { SOPHOMORES }

Frances Nicole Alfonso  
Kailey Araki

Carolina Arevalo Moises  
Aaliyah Balagtas  
Jade Barajas  
Joany Bayron  
Alexi Brown  
Christine Carey  
Zaia Castruita  
Samantha Firsht  
Gabriela Fonseca Luna  
Andrea Garibaldi Guerrero  
Elia Garibaldi Guerrero  
Isabella Garibaldi Guerrero  
Valeria Gonzalez Perez  
Joseph Hagerty  
Ezekiel Isidro  
Nigel Aidan Jorge  
Reagan Koster  
Alexis Lona  
Kyler Mamou  
Hennessy Martinez  
Miguel Mendoza  
Preston Munoz  
Jordan Norman  
Anahid Ounigian  
Samantha Peter  
Alena Ramirez  
Antonio Reyes  
Hector Reyes  
Sarah Salisbury  
Joseph Sandoval  
Fernanda Serrano-Reyes  
Nathalia Solano Avalos  
Linda Solares Bolaños  
Mackenzie Tassiello  
Julian Tiong  
Alejandra Zepeda

### BISHOP BROM AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

#### { JUNIORS }

Jasmine Riannah Adamos  
Fernando Alcocer  
Karlos Bautista  
Telehax Baxter  
Tristan Brown  
Karen Campos  
Adrian Carretero  
Madeline Castillo  
Natalie Chavarria  
Enrique Corona  
Ryan Cu  
Edward De Leon  
Enrique Esparza-Villarreal  
John Estrada  
Ryan Gapski  
Maria Garcia-Estreya  
Jonathan Gaytan  
Cesar Gomez  
Jonathan Emmanuel Gomez  
Sophia Jordan  
Sophia Jorge

Edria Kabling  
Alfred Lopez  
Isabella Molina  
Alexia Morales  
Eduardo Nunez  
John Rodinec  
Isabel Roji  
Nicholas Salisbury  
Jackson Salvestrini  
Paul Samson  
Phoebe San Pedro  
Arleth Santana  
Christian Silva  
Kathryn Zwick

### BISHOP MAHER AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

#### { SENIORS }

Elena Arnold  
Jonas Philip Bongulto  
Nicholas Dell'Acqua  
Roman Flores  
Dimitri Gianousopoulos  
Edward Hagerty  
Natalia Jimenez  
Vanessa Leon  
Zoe Manalo  
Brandon Moore  
Rosalind Moore  
Joshua Narezo  
Eduardo Navarro Gomez  
Oscar Prado  
Enrique Ramirez  
Samantha Ruiz  
Alessandra Salas  
Manuella Sobol  
Elena Valdes  
Jordan Wesson  
Madison (O'Hara) Wickham  
Luoyu (Roy) Yang

## AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC FIRST HONORS

(Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.8 to 3.99)

#### { FRESHMEN }

Zoie Aquino-Limbag  
Julianne Arballo  
Ana Luisa Carrillo  
Mary Margaret Chiappe  
Jannah Chu  
Louis Cimmino  
Patty Contreras  
Christopher Joseph De Vault  
Alexander DeGuzman  
Nicholas De La Rosa  
Itzel Esparza  
Anna Ilusorio  
David Jazo  
Imani Kirksy

Chantal Lopez  
Sean Olivas  
Alisha Pipkins  
Emma Rosendale  
Sophia Salcido  
Isabella Sanchez  
Mason Spounias  
Sabrina Tabiu  
Brielle Tapia  
Damian To  
Sofia Torres Garcia  
Lara Vizon

#### { SOPHOMORES }

Isabella Alvarez  
Evan Besker  
Jeremiah Bishop  
Timothy-Ewart Boyd  
Adrian Calderon  
Daniella Campuzano  
Daniela Dalton  
Kaylee Dundee  
Alexander Gayosso-Valencia  
Oscar Gracias  
Arelly Jimenez Vidrio  
Brianna Keller  
Ziye Liu  
Frida Lizarraga-Manguy  
Sabino Muro  
Ximenna Nieto Millan  
Jorge Ortiz  
Stephanie Otte  
Mary Grace Reilly  
Andrea Ruvalcaba  
Mariam Sanchez  
Eric Trus  
Jesus Vindiola

#### { JUNIORS }

Jameson Coolidge  
Spencer Kacijancic  
Rodrigo Lamas  
Andrew Landin  
David Monjaraz  
Mariana Solares Bolaños

#### { SENIORS }

Ricardo Cardoza  
Carson Gorney  
Pablo Hernandez  
Aislin Hilgeman  
Cynthia Leon  
Liana Malunes  
Enrique Marcilla  
Emily Miranda  
Jorge Tagle  
Hanna Taglinao

Mater Dei  
Students  
Embrace the  
Concept of



# “Learning BY doing”

**T**his year, Academy of Science students earned placement in 94 summer internships. Academy of Science faculty significantly increased internship placement at the UCSD School of Pharmacy and Medicine. Students will be conducting advanced chemistry, environmental, engineering and computer science research at the University of Southern California, University of San Diego and San Diego State University. Students attending the Aviation Careers Education Camp will be receiving intensive training in the physics of flight, along with personal flight time in the cockpit. In addition to these local experiences, Academy of Science students are serving in internships at Cornell University, US Naval Academy, Loyola Marymount, Columbia University, Vietnam and Costa Rica. These “Learning by Doing” experiences are making an impact on students and on our world at large.



## JONAS BONGULTO

Jonas Bongulto will be attending UC Irvine with honors this fall to study Mechanical Engineering. He is considering double majoring or minoring in vocal performance. Jonas has been involved in ASB for all four years at Mater Dei, most recently holding the position of Executive Treasurer. He was also involved with Ambassadors for Christ, proudly showing off the Mater Dei campus on school tours and hosting school visitations. As a member of Campus Ministry, Jonas aided in liturgies and led retreats. His favorite pastime has been cantoring and playing the piano at all-school Masses. He was also the founder and president of the 30-member Choir Club, which he started freshman year with Mr. Ricardo Rosales to create an opportunity for any student to share their talents by singing and playing at Masses, Christmas concerts and other community events.

Through the Academy of Science, Jonas was selected for a 6-week paid internship in Mechanical Engineering Research at USD’s Shily Marcos School of Engineering. His mentor, Dr. Odesma Dalrymple, guided him in creating a curriculum for the STEAM Team Summer Academy for middle school to high school-aged students, which took place the final week of his internship. The curriculum came from Jonas’ research of origami models, both static and dynamic, as well as mechanisms that would be able to cause movement within those models. To create the curriculum, he had to combine the artistic elements of the origami and the scientific elements of the mechanical systems to teach the students engineering concepts.

"I was always interested in creating and building things since I was a young child. My parents facilitated that with Legos," said Jonas. "I have also always loved writing and making music. I believe becoming an engineer will satisfy my hunger for creating."

In the future, Jonas hopes to research and develop robotic prosthetics. "I'd like to make prosthetics easier to use and more accessible to people since they are currently so rudimentary and expensive," he added.

*"Give your all with everything that you do. You may not be the best at everything, but if you try your hardest, then you can definitely excel in the things that you love."*



## RICARDO CARDOZA

Ricardo will be attending USD this fall and will major in International Relations. His

interests in this area of study and experiences with environmental science internships have sparked a dream to one day work in the United Nations. At Mater Dei, he ran Cross Country and Track & Field for four years and was a part of the Academy of Science for two years. He was able to participate in several internships while attending Mater Dei. In the Summer of 2017, Ricardo attended ACE (Aviation Career and Education) camp, the Ethnobotany Shaman Science Program at UCSD and the Environmental Science Camp.

At the ACE Camp, his mentor was Allister Lewis, a control tower manager. They visited naval stations at Mission Bay, met naval and commercial airline pilots, and learned about the mechanics of MH-60 Seahawk helicopters. Ricardo focused his Senior Passion Project on his experience at the UCSD camp. He collected exotic and native species of plants and used chemical compounds to identify components of the plants and see if they had the potential to be used in medicine. He created a presentation to detail the process and communicate his findings. One of the main takeaways of his presentation was the knowledge that many exotic species of plants in San Diego originally came from South Africa and Asia.

Ricardo's work at the Environmental Science Camp involved operating off a boat in Mission Bay to collect sediment, fauna and water samples to research mussel species that have infested Mission Bay. Ricardo worked with a team to create a spreadsheet of data associated with their collection of mussels. His final presentation discussed their findings and how the infestation could affect both tourism and the structure of Mission Bay.

*"I highly recommend every student to consider participating in an internship prior to graduation," he said. "It will help you decide what you want to do in the future. You don't know until you actually try something, what your real feelings are about it. Internships are the perfect way to help focus your goals." \**



## JACKSON SALVESTRINI

Jackson is an incoming senior and completed his first internship the summer before his junior year at Mater Dei. His

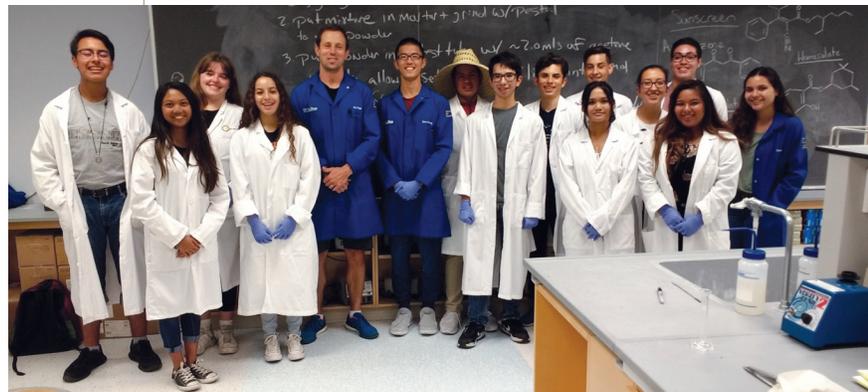
internship was with the Living Coast Discovery Center and lasted 12 weeks. He worked Saturdays and Sundays, eight hours each day. Jackson was responsible for working with the aquatic animals, scheduling feedings, cleaning tanks, preparing food and managing care for each animal. The Living Coast Discovery Center is a non-profit aquarium and aviary known for its work with endangered species of birds. Jackson was able to get real-world experience at this summer program and voluntarily chose to extend his internship beyond the required hours. This experience has prepared him well, helping him to understand how to work with others, how to work under a manager and how to take on increased responsibilities.

This past summer, Jackson participated in another internship, this time being paid for eight weeks of work in medicinal chemistry at UCSD. He is very appreciative of Dr. Till and the Academy of Science's influence in helping pave the way for these valuable opportunities.

Jackson has been involved in Volleyball, the Debate Club, Math Modeling Club and the Prestigious College Club. After graduating from Mater Dei, Jackson hopes to work in pharmaceuticals or radiology. His dream is to go to medical school!

*"Don't be afraid to ask for help and use all of the resources available to you. Teachers are there for you."*

**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** Student Emily Miranda, studying cyanobacteria at UCSD School of Pharmacy and Scripps Institute of Oceanography; Student Isabel Roji at USD Environmental Science Camp visits San Diego's Mission Bay; Group photo UCSD Organic Chemistry Lab; MDCHS students at the The Aviation Careers Education Camp.

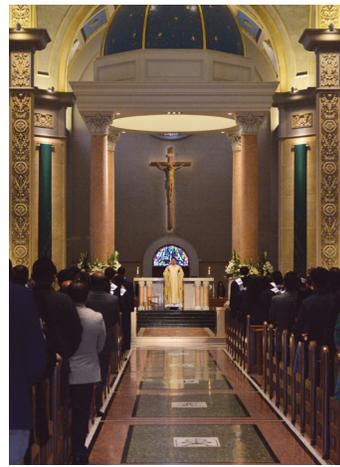
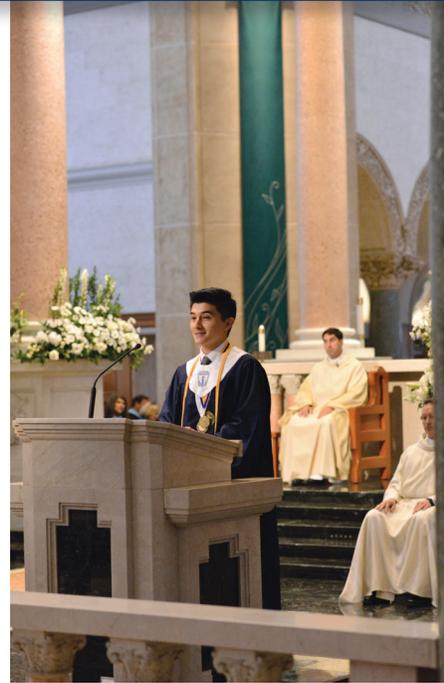


# *Congratulations to the class of 2018!*

*Senior  
Luncheon*

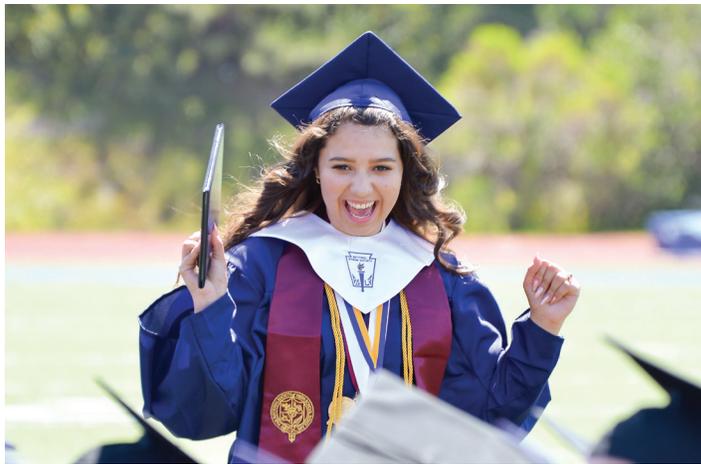


*Baccalaureate  
Mass at USD*



*Graduation Ceremony*





# Class of 2018



## BRANDON MOORE

Valedictorian Brandon Moore has had an impressive career at Mater Dei, which he accomplished with a 100% Academic scholarship. Brandon also earned the 2018 Crusader of the Year award, a title given to one male student who made a difference during their past four years. Brandon was a Campus Minister, member of the Academy of Science and the ASB Executive President. He also co-founded the Crusader Impact Club, which inspired 110 students to undertake community service projects in Southern and Baja California. These projects fed the homeless, mobilized 50 students to the Southern California Special Olympics, collected resources for earthquake victims in Mexico City and raised \$8,000 to build a home for a Tijuana family. Brandon was able to get a competitive internship at UCSD, where he researched potential cures for a tropical disease. Brandon will be attending UCLA in the fall, majoring in Biochemistry or Human Biology in Society. He hopes to attend medical school to pursue a career as a surgeon.

“Follow your passions and get involved. Work hard and don't give up because that's going to help you shine throughout your life.”



## JORDAN WESSON

Salutatorian Jordan Wesson will be attending UCLA on full scholarship to study Molecular Cell Biology and Developmental Biology. He hopes to some day become a Plastic Surgeon. Jordan competed on Mater Dei's Wrestling and Volleyball teams. He also competed in the Spartan Race, an intensive obstacle course. He became involved with Challenged Athletes while fulfilling service hours. Jordan supported wounded veteran Sarah Rudder through her first race, and began speaking at seminars encouraging other wounded veterans to get involved. He is planning to attend the world championship obstacle course race this summer. Jordan received an internship at a plastic surgeon's office in La Jolla, researching benefits of facial rejuvenation techniques. Jordan credits the Academy of Science for helping him receive a full scholarship to UCLA as well as a paid internship over the next three summers.

“Start doing stuff that makes you stand out as early as possible.”



## LIANA MALUNES

Liana was named the 2018 Lady Crusader, an award given to one female student for her passion and contribution to MDCHS. Liana will attend either Mesa or Southwestern Community College and plans to study Fashion Design and Business after transferring to a four-year university. She would like to start her own fashion line. She interned with Grossmont College's theatre and helped create costumes for their performance of Treasure Island. Liana was on the track team for three years and managed the men's basketball team for two years. She was also the ASB Executive Vice President, and a member of Ambassadors for Christ, Campus Ministry and the Drama Club. As the president of the Pro-Life Club, Liana collected resources for mothers in need, walked at the March for Life, and rallied students for the Silent Day of Solidarity.

“Being in an environment that was filled with Christ really made me desire to grow in my faith. Embrace all of the opportunities Mater Dei provides to grow closer to Christ. Get involved, participate in everything and meet new people.”



## PAIGE HUSTON

Paige was named Mater Dei's 2018 Female Scholar Athlete of the Year for her two-year Varsity standing in both Volleyball and Water Polo. This Homecoming Queen was a member of the National Honor Society and participated in many other school activities. For her Senior Project, Paige interned at an elementary school and worked in a classroom. Her passion for volunteering can also be seen in her work at a surf camp where she helps teach kids with Autism how to surf. This summer, she will be interning at a summer school and working with The National Autism Society of San Diego to continue to teach children with Autism how to surf and swim. Paige will be attending San Diego State University to major either in Communications or Education.

“Don't be afraid to put yourself out there. That's the best way to meet new friends and make strong connections, I met my best friends playing volleyball and water polo.”



## NICK DELL'ACQUA

The Naval Academy is lucky to have Nick Dell'Acqua this fall. Nick transferred to Mater Dei his sophomore year and quickly became involved. He played Varsity Football for three years, earned the Iron Hog Award from KUSI PPR as Best Lineman, made the 2nd team all-CIF Offense Team in San Diego, Senior 1st Team Offensive Player in Mesa League and Junior 1st Team Defensive Player in Mesa League. Nick was Mater Dei's 2018 Male Scholar Athlete of the Year. He will be playing football for the Naval Academy while studying Mechanical Engineering and Economics. Nick was an Ambassador for Christ and he participated in an internship at ACE (Aviation Careers Exploration) Camp, where he became interested in becoming a pilot. For his passion project, Nick shadowed Naval Officer Captain John Cummings. He hopes to go to Aviation School after the Naval Academy.

“Life's not easy. We all face a lot of challenges but take one day at a time to get through it all. Take advantage of the support offered at Mater Dei. Mater Dei is like a tight-knit family!”



## HANNA TAGLINAO

This fall, Hanna will attend UC Merced to major in Biology with an emphasis in Microbiology and Immunology. Hanna has been involved with many different organizations at Mater Dei. She was in ASB for three years, attended the Academy of Science, founded the Mater Dei Marching Band and was the band's drum major during her sophomore and junior years. She was also the first junior to hold an executive position in ASB. Hanna has volunteered at Sharp Hospital since freshman year, where she assisted by playing music for comatose patients and working as a maternity aid. She participated in a very competitive internship at the UCSD Reproductive Oncofertility Academy through the Academy of Science and earned five medical credits. Hanna hopes to become a gynecologist with a specialty in oncology. She wants to bring advanced medicine to third-world countries.

“I've done so much at Mater Dei and I'll forever be grateful for all the opportunities this amazing school provided to me.”

# Class of 2018



## VANESSA LEON

Vanessa Leon will be attending UCSD in the fall of 2018 to major in Business with a minor in Public Health. This wonderful achievement of attending UCSD can be attributed to Vanessa's hard work and involvement at Mater Dei. During her time in high school, she participated in Campus Ministry, Ambassadors for Christ, AP and Honors classes and the Academy of Science. She was also the swim manager for the past two years. With the assistance of the Academy of Science, Vanessa was able to intern at the Fleet Science Center at Balboa Park where she taught science and astrology at a summer camp for seven to eight-year-olds. Vanessa hopes to take what she has learned at Mater Dei and apply it to international travel and work, where she can continue to learn about other cultures.

“Get involved, and don't be afraid to try new things!”



## DIMITRI GIANOUSOPOULOS

Dimitri will be attending the University of Southern California and majoring in Astronautical Engineering. His goal is to become an astronaut. Dimitri's spirit of service led him to co-found the Crusader Impact Club, which provided close to 1,700 hours of service in one year through various activities. After he begins his career, Dimitri hopes to donate money to help other high school students continue in his path of leadership and service. Dimitri was a member of ASB, Campus Ministry, the Cross Country and Track teams, and an Ambassador for Christ. As a retreat leader and speaker, he shared the importance of maintaining hope in a seemingly hopeless world by encouraging community service. As a member of the Academy of Science, Dimitri participated in an internship at USD, where he researched and studied environmental impacts on Mission Bay.

“Do not be afraid to stand out around campus because Mater Dei does give you the safety to do that. They give you every perspective possible in art, faith and community service. Do not be afraid to get involved.”



## MADISON O'HARA WICKMAN

Madison had a big focus on service while attending Mater Dei. She became the president of Junior Optimist International, where she led the overall growth and financial development of the organization's programs. Madison planned international conventions in more than nineteen countries and helped create a program promoting education to girls in Ugandan schools. She was recognized with Catholic Charities' Matthew:25 Award, which is presented to students in the Diocese who demonstrate a commitment to service. Madison also founded the Mater Dei Junior Optimist Club, which helped raise \$12,000 for the John's Hopkins Childhood Cancer Research fund. She worked for 18 months at a speech pathology internship, which taught her about public speaking, articulation, annunciation and speech development. She will be attending UCSD to major in Psychology and minor in Linguistics.

“Being at Mater Dei was a great opportunity. I was really able to know my teachers and get to a place where I could ask for help. It's good to be such a safe community.”



## ZOE MANALO

Throughout her time at Mater Dei, Zoe has been involved in many organizations and activities. She was in ASB for three years, Choir, the Crusader Impact Club, the Academy of Science and participated in a four-month internship at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). At NOAA, she was able to work in labs and the field, extracting DNA from turtles to monitor their worldwide population. This experience has helped Zoe realize that she truly loves research. Zoe will be attending UC Santa Barbara this fall, majoring in Aquatic Biology with a minor in Environmental Science. She hopes to pursue a PhD in Marine Biology in the future. Through her education and research, Zoe plans to use her knowledge to explore science as a tool to help the world around her.

“Talk to your teachers because they know what's going on. If you forge a good relationship with them, they will back you and help you reach your goals.”



## EDWARD HAGERTY

Edward has left his mark on Mater Dei, especially on the Marching Band. His involvement in the Marching Band inspired others to join and helped it evolve into the group that now plays at football games. He also started a rock band with his brother that performed at basketball games. Along with his music involvement, Edward was in ASB and participated in many service projects. He interned at a recording studio and learned about the process behind recording music and meeting people who work in the field. Although, music will continue to be a big part of Edward's life, he has decided to major in Economics to make an impact on the world. He will be attending Notre Dame this fall.

“Don't be afraid to join new clubs. When you get to Mater Dei, only you get to decide what your experience is going to be.”



## SAMANTHA RUIZ

During her four years at Mater Dei, Samantha has been involved in Campus Ministry, the Academy of Science and the Crusader Impact Club, helping to build houses in Tijuana and feed the homeless. She also had a paid internship at USD in the department of Biology and Environmental Science. This experience reaffirmed her passion for environmental science and has motivated her to pursue a major in Marine Biology and a minor in Environmental Science. Samantha will be attending UCSD this fall. She plans to go to medical school and one day become a pediatric oncologist. She is grateful for the experience and overall lessons she has learned from her teachers and friends at Mater Dei.

“Do the things you love. Participate. Join a club like Crusader Impact! It was created to help people and it has been really rewarding for me.”



# Advancing the **MISSION** of our school



This past year, the Advancement Office worked toward increasing involvement in our mission to make Catholic Education accessible to everyone. Our goal was to increase the amount of non-tuition revenue, so Mater Dei can continue to provide the most affordable Catholic high school education in San Diego. Approximately 70% of our student body receives some type of financial support.

## COLOR WALK

One of our most rewarding achievements was the launch of the Color Walk on February 2, 2018, which replaced our traditional walk-a-thon. "Our prior walk-a-thon was losing its true meaning of coming together for the sake of students helping students," said Alejandra Saavedra, Director of Advancement & Marketing. "We wanted to rally the whole school this year in support of the \$3.6 million in tuition assistance and scholarships we offered and to come together as a community to raise \$30,000 while walking 36 minutes. Not only were we successful in raising more money than anticipated, but we increased the number of participants and the level of fun for everyone involved. People did not want to leave."

Through teacher participation, music, raffle prizes, pizza, games and a lot of COLOR, the Color Walk successfully raised \$41,265. Thanks to our teachers, administration, ASB and our amazing students, we anticipate an even more successful event this upcoming year. We are looking to disperse \$4.7 million in tuition assistance and scholarships, raise \$47,000 and walk 47 minutes in 2019.

## COMMEMORATIVE STAINED-GLASS WINDOW OPPORTUNITY

The Marian Chapel will feature 14 commemorative stained-glass windows that represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of the Lord. To date, generous donors have funded the first six stained glass windows. We are rolling out Phase 2 of this project, which will include the remaining eight stained glass windows. Each window costs \$5,000. A beautiful plaque is being created to thank our donors for their generous contributions and we would love your name to be on one of them.



## PLANNED GIVING

Planned Giving is a way to support charities that allow donors to make larger gifts than would be possible from their income alone. There are ways to make sure the donor, the donor's loved ones and MDCHS all benefit from a Planned Giving gift.

### THROUGH PLANNED GIVING:

- ▶ You can make a gift at no cost during your lifetime
- ▶ You can donate stocks and benefit from larger tax savings
- ▶ You can obtain a monthly paycheck for life in return for your gift
- ▶ You can donate your residence, continue to live there and even get a tax break.

Please consider **including MDCHS in your will; your gift can be unrestricted** or for a specific purpose, and you can indicate a specific amount or percentage of your estate.

Please consider including MDCHS in your will; your gift can be unrestricted or for a specific purpose, and you can indicate a specific amount or percentage of your estate. For document preparation, please use the legal title of the school: Mater Dei Catholic High School of San Diego, Inc. Please let us know if you have already included MDCHS in your will.

## THE NEW TAX LAW

Taxes are a consideration when it comes to giving. The December passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has sparked questions around how the new tax law will impact the tax status of your charitable giving. Here are a few points to keep in mind:

1. The deduction for charitable giving is unchanged. However, the clause limiting total charitable gifts to 50% of a filer's Adjusted Gross Income has been raised to 60%. The limit for gifts of appreciated securities remains 30% of AGI.
2. The Standard Deduction has nearly doubled to \$12,000 for single filers and \$24,000 for couples filing jointly. For individuals and couples over 65, the deductions are \$13,600 and \$26,600.
3. Taxpayers whose itemized deductions still exceed \$24,000 will see the deductibility of their charitable giving unaffected by these changes. But those whose deductions total below \$24,000, won't incur a specific tax benefit for giving to charity in 2018.

### FOR THOSE WHO FALL SHORT OF THE \$24,000 THRESHOLD, CONSIDER:

- ▶ Bunching donations every few years
- ▶ Opening a donor advised fund
- ▶ If you are over 70.5 years of age, make your gift to MDCHS from your IRA
- ▶ Make a gift of appreciated securities to save on long term capital gains. ★

**For more information on planned giving, contact us or your tax attorney.**



# Growing Closer to Christ Through Selfless Community Service

**M**ater Dei Catholic High School has a mission to support each student on their journey to become Christ-centered and service-oriented. Under the leadership of this year's Associated Student Body Clubs officers (junior Natalie Chavarria and senior Hanna Taglinao), we expanded the opportunities for students to grow in faith through selfless community service.

It has been exciting to watch the Crusader family put their classroom knowledge to work and team up to make a difference for the communities and causes they're passionate about. The 2017-18 school year marked the creation of several new student-led, service-focused clubs at MDCHS, including:

- ▶ The Crusader Impact Club
- ▶ DEAP (Discipleship, Evangelist, Adoration, Prayer)
- ▶ JEDI (Justice & Equality through Diversity & Inclusion)
- ▶ The Refugee Club

**Other established social justice-based clubs on campus included:**

- ▶ The Pro-Life Club
- ▶ The Association of Catholic Student Councils

- ▶ Junior Optimist
- ▶ Mary's Guest House
- ▶ The Mater Dei Book Club

## → CRUSADER IMPACT

Founded in 2017 by Dimitri Gianousopoulos, Samantha Ruiz, Manuella Sobol and Brandon Moore, and moderated by MDCHS' own Language Academy teacher, Mr. Clifford Rachlin, Crusader Impact was launched with excitement and was extremely productive in its first year. It was created with the goal of involving as many Crusaders as possible in meaningful service within their own communities to show the human impact of their work and inspire people to continue giving back.

To that end, Crusader Impact introduced 14 new service opportunities to the MDCHS campus, including two projects entirely within Baja California and two activities that took place both in the United States and Mexico. We recruited the efforts of 115 students from all grade levels along the way – that's over 1,000 service hours in total. This has become the genesis of Mater Dei's service-learning program.

Among the club's most rewarding projects was Mater Dei's first-annual

Mexico house building trip, in which 16 students raised more than \$8,000 from 138 family members, friends, and local businesses to build a home for a struggling family in Tijuana's Colonia Fuentes del Valle. With the help of five faculty members and parents and the nonprofit International Relief Teams, the team successfully completed the project on Holy Saturday 2018, giving the Garcia-Sillas family new hope for a better future. Crusader Impact would like to thank Ascension Catholic Church, Solé Leano at L&L Hawaiian Barbecue, and Afton Miller at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage who donated to make this life-changing trip possible.

## → DEAP/JEDI

After joining the Campus Ministry program in junior year and being inspired to expand his personal ministry to the MDCHS student body, senior Sebastian Romero created the DEAP club with the goal of helping students feel more connected to their faith through student-led prayer, mini-retreats and spiritual development sessions. In the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting this February, Sebastian's leadership shined as he organized MDCHS' first Steps for Solidarity event in conjunction with the JEDI club, led by Juniors Adriana Cacho and Gustavo Carranza. More than 90% of our Crusaders participated in a 17-minute prayer and remembrance service for the 17 victims of the attack on its one-month anniversary.



Combined with their weekly lunchtime discussions and prayer meetings, DEAP has exemplified "faith in action" on the MDCHS campus and will continue to serve as an important spiritual resource for the Crusader family.

### → PRO-LIFE

Led by ASB Vice President Liana Malunes and moderated by MDCHS religion teacher Ms. Ileana Salazar, the Pro-Life Club has continued to be a powerful and grounding force on campus. The group collected baby items for mothers in need, marched with a team at the San Diego March for Life and rallied students on the Mater Dei Campus for the Silent Day of Solidarity, giving a voice to the unborn and building awareness for mothers struggling with the decision to choose life.

### → REFUGEE CLUB

Seniors Bianca Villalvazo and Ricardo Chavez and moderator Domonic Cruz led the Refugee Club, which held fundraisers through the year to financially support organizations that help the refugee communities in San Diego. ★



## THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC STUDENT COUNCILS

Partnering with Los Angeles-based TACSC, a select group of Mater Dei students from all grade levels organized and ran the San Diego Diocese's third-annual leadership development seminar for parochial middle school students early this spring. The event was hosted on the MDCHS campus for the first time and was led by Theology Department Chair, Mrs. Anamaria Anthony. It focused on three core areas of leadership: Formal Leadership, Leadership in Practice and Leadership in Action. The Crusader student volunteers welcomed more than 160 middle school

students to the eight-hour conference, instructing them on leadership basics, guiding them through interactive team building exercises, and helping them perform their first service projects as true Servant Leaders. Whether incoming high school freshmen or brand-new sixth-grade students, the TACSC program helps middle school kids develop the confidence and skills they need to positively contribute to their school and community environments.



Paige Huston



Nick Dell'Acqua

## MATER DEI ATHLETES

# Reach for the Stars

**M**ater Dei had some extraordinary athletes this year and great success in sports year-round. These highlighted students are just some of the many impressive athletes at Mater Dei, ranging from graduating seniors to freshmen and will continue to grow during their time in high school. We are saying goodbye to some valuable athletes, while getting excited about the current talent to be built upon in the years to come.

We were also proud to name Jared Izidoro as the new Athletic Director at the close of this past school year, replacing Bill Gerken, the Interim Athletic Director. As a Football Coach at Mater Dei since 2011 and a member of the teaching staff since 2015, Jared Izidoro is more than prepared to take on this position. He and Bill shared the overview of the athletic year for Mater Dei as well as their expectations for this upcoming year.

"It's an exciting time to be a Crusader," Mr. Izidoro explained. "With a lot of the teams being relatively young and already having success, there is much to build off. We will continue to focus on improving our athletes' skills and school's programs in order to reach Mater Dei's full potential. There will be a focus on leadership for those students who are upperclassman to show the underclassman how to be a Crusader athlete."

Our past year was filled with success both in team and individual sports. The graduating athletes will be missed, but the future is exciting for the Mater Dei athletic department. With so much young talent already established, there's no telling how many new records will be broken.

### NICK DELL'ACQUA

After three years on Mater Dei's Varsity Football team, Nick will be attending the US Naval Academy, where he will continue to play football. Coming off an injury sophomore year when the team went to the State Championship, Nick started each game as a junior. That year, the team moved up two divisions from D4 to D2. The team won CIF and continued on to Regionals this year. As a Junior Nick earned 1st Team Defense in the Mesa League. As a Senior he earned Mesa League 1st Team Offense, 2nd team all CIF and won the Iron Hog Award from KUSI's PPR as the Best Lineman in the county. The success of Mater Dei has allowed Nick to continue to play the sport he is passionate about.

### PAIGE HUSTON

Paige was a two-year Water Polo and Volleyball player. This year, Mater Dei's Volleyball team made it to CIF playoffs for the first time in ten years, and the Water Polo team made it to the playoffs for the first time in the school's history. Paige was named the MVP for the women's Volleyball team, as well as Mater Dei's Female Student Athlete of the Year. Paige hopes to try out for SDSU's Club Volleyball Team this fall.

PHOTO OF NICK DELL'ACQUA COURTESY OF THE SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE



Rachel Penick

### BRIANNA NAVARROSA

As a sophomore, Brianna has made quite an impact on Mater Dei's Women's Golf Team. She has been on Varsity since her freshman year and was the first to win the Mesa League for Mater Dei. As a sophomore, her Golf team was the first in Mater Dei's history to win CIF and place 5th in Regional's. That year, Brianna went on to win 2nd place in the State. She has been committed to USC for golf since freshman year and is ready to improve her own skills while helping her teammates grow as well. This young talent has many more achievements ahead of her at Mater Dei.

### RACHEL PENICK

As a freshman on the Women's Soccer Team,

Rachel started her athletic career making a solid mark at Mater Dei. This year, the

team placed 2nd in league and won CIF for Division 4. As a Center Midfielder, Rachel was awarded 1st team South Bay League, 2nd Team CIF, and she also earned the Sportsmanship Award at the CIF final game. It is only the beginning for this young team, and the strong bond that the players have already formed will continue to grow in the years to come.

### TOMMY SCHMITT

Tommy transferred to Mater Dei after his freshman year. During his junior year, the Wrestling Team was able to finish in the top four in San Diego and he was the 2nd State qualifier. As a senior, Tommy went to State and went 2-2 to represent Mater Dei's Wrestling Team. He won CIF, was 2nd in San Diego, 1st in league two years in a row and was 2nd in the County. He will be attending Menlo College School of Business on an academic and athletic scholarship, majoring in Business and Entrepreneurship.

### CHLOE WEBB

Chloe is a junior at Mater Dei and has been a starter on the Varsity Basketball team since she was a freshman. She was a Shooting Guard freshman year and a Point Guard both sophomore and junior year. During Chloe's sophomore year, her team won CIF in Division 1 for the first time in Mater Dei history. In her junior year, the team went to the State playoffs. She has been named the San Diego Union Tribune Player of the Month, Player of the Week and 1st Team State for Juniors in California. Next year, she hopes to go back and win the State championship. ★



Chloe Webb



Brianna Navarrosa



Tommy Schmitt

2017/2018

# CRUSADER HIGHLIGHTS



## FALL

The Fall of 2017 was filled with success for many of the Mater Dei sports teams. The Women's Golf Team won CIF in Division 2 for the first time in Mater Dei history and came in 5th place in the Regionals. Sophomore Brianna Navarrosa represented the team and won 2nd in State. This is a young team with all players returning next fall. We should continue to see great things coming out of this program.

The Women's Tennis Team went far in CIF with doubles team Sarah Beckman and Elena Valdez, who eventually lost in the CIF Quarterfinals. The Men's Water Polo Team won League and went onto CIF. They have been moved to Division 1 for the next season. Ben Brown was voted Mesa League MVP and First Team All Mesa League, along with Dionisio Saucedo and Juan Hernandez. The Water Polo team went 24-4 and won their second consecutive Mesa League title.

The volleyball program has improved immensely and will continue to do so with returning standouts Brianna Cannon and Kailey Araki. With these two and a great group around them, the Lady Crusaders will be competing for a League title in 2018.



## WINTER

Crusaders made big strides in Winter 2017. The Women's Soccer Team won CIF for the first time at Mater Dei and placed 2nd in League. The Men's Basketball Team won League and went to State Regional's. The Women's Basketball Team made it to Regional finals in Division 1. Tommy Schmitt represented the Men's Wrestling Team in State to go 2-2.

## SPRING

The Women's Softball Team was ranked as high as 4th in the Open Division but fell short of a CIF title. Our Baseball Team made it to the Finals in the Lion's Tournament and was close to making the playoffs. With a young team, there should be great growth and achievement in the next few years. Individual Crusaders in Track & Field, Men's Tennis and Swimming competed in CIF to represent Mater Dei. Jorge Petro won the Mesa League for Men's Golf and continued to the CIF Finals. Paola Nenniger was Metro South Bay Track Athlete of the Year. Gustavo Carranza was Male Track Athlete of the Year. Lexi Sosa and Alana Burges earned All-CIF Honors in Softball. Yichen Liu was the Metro Conference Swimmer of the Year.





'79 Girls Volleyball Team



'98 & '99 Boys Baseball Teams



Dr. Leticia Aguilar Polanco



Patrick Gates



Dennis Gorsich

# Crusader Recognition Night

During Homecoming week, we honored select alumni with Distinguished Crusader and Sports Hall of Fame Awards. Our Distinguished Crusaders were recognized for their service to our community, while our Sports Hall of Famers were recognized for excelling in sports beyond high school and portraying merit and an attitude of service, on and off the field.

## DISTINGUISHED CRUSADER AWARD

### → Dr. Leticia Aguilar Polanco '89, MDCHS Parent '21

Leticia attended UC Santa Cruz and the Boston University School of Medicine. After medical school, Dr. Polanco completed her residency in Family Medicine through the Scripps Family Practice Residency Program in Chula Vista. She has held the position of Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Scripps Memorial Chula Vista Hospital. At Sharp Memorial Chula Vista Hospital, she formerly chaired the Utilization Committee and currently is the Chair for the Department of Family Medicine. Dr. Polanco has mentored many medical students as Community Faculty through UC San Diego Medical School. In addition, she is a clinical preceptor for USD, where she instructs graduating nurse practitioner students. She is an active alum at MDCHS, providing back-to-school sports physicals to students.

### → Mr. Dennis Gorsich, MDCHS Grandparent '21

Mr. Gorsich began teaching at Marian in 1965. During his 31 years, he taught various math, computer programming, speech and religion courses. He also was the sports announcer for many athletic events and moderated various clubs, including ASB, Speech, Yearbook and Pep club. He assisted with numerous drama productions and remembers with great joy acting as John the Baptist in the production of *Godspell*. Four of his six children attended high school at Marian until he retired in 1996.

## SPORTS HALL OF FAME AWARD

### → Patrick Gates '04

Patrick Gates was one of the most prolific running backs in San Diego history. While he was the "work horse" for Marian Catholic football, those teams compiled a 38-1 record in three years. Patrick earned 1st team All-State, San Diego CIF Offensive Player of the Year and was the recipient of the cherished Prep Pigskin Award in 2003. In his tenure at tailback, he gained an astonishing 5,039 yards, earning him the record for Most Yards Rushing (2000-2003). Upon graduation, Patrick attended Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, where he achieved 1st Team Junior College All-American status rushing for 1,059 yards in his sophomore year. Afterwards, he attended Grand Valley State University (NCAA Div. II) in Allendale, Michigan and earned ALL-GLIAC Honorable Mention status. Patrick received his degree in Criminal Justice from GVSU.

### → '79 Girls Volleyball Team

The 1979 Marian High School Girls Varsity Volleyball Team won the CIF San Diego 1A Championship. After their CIF victory, they won four more rounds to advance to the CA Semi-finals, taking 3rd place in the State Tournament. Julie Baker (CIF Player of the Year) and Susan Compton (First Team CIF) also earned All-State honors. Nine players continued playing intercollegiate volleyball after they graduated, with four players ultimately earning scholarships to top D1 colleges.

### → '98 & '99 Boys Baseball Teams

The MCHS 1998 Baseball team returned seven of the nine starters from 1997's CIF Division III runner-up team. The Crusaders were led by outfielder Ben Cordova, who was voted by Baseball America Magazine to be the number 11 prospect in the nation.

The 1999 Marian Catholic Varsity Baseball team, under the direction of Coach Ed Johnson, fielded a team full of veteran starters, after being named champions the prior year. The team was loaded with formidable offensive players and an experienced pitching staff. ★

## What's new with our alumni?



### Sergio Cuadra '17

I am currently studying physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. MDCHS taught me a variety of different skills, and Academy of Science exposed me to science in a real-world setting, which not only helped with my admission to MIT, but also prepared me for the type of work I will be doing.

With all the great memories I had at MDCHS, it's hard to pick just one. However, I'd have to say that giving my valedictorian speech at graduation had to be one of my favorites. It was the culmination of four long years of hard work, and it felt good to share my thoughts with and congratulate my classmates whom I had gotten to know so well. As of right now, I will be trying to get into an undergraduate research position at MIT in the physics department, or possibly an internship over summer.



### Amorette Hernandez '17

I am currently attending the University of Notre Dame as an Economics Major and a Sustainability Minor.

Mater Dei opened doors for me. It gave me the opportunity to pursue my interests while still pushing me to excel. I learned the value of challenging myself and possessing a growth mindset, and that I should never underestimate the impact I can have as an individual.

My favorite memory at Mater Dei is my final senior project for AP Environmental Science. My partner, Luis Cerna, and I chose to target the rapid consumption of plastic at Mater Dei and researched how to adopt a more sustainable approach to water intake. We chose to implement four hydration stations, and after almost a year, over 50,000 plastic bottles were kept from polluting our environment.

Next semester, I will begin my first year as a Diversity Ambassador on campus for the Multicultural Student Center at Notre Dame. I will help bring awareness to topics surrounding diversity and social justice and plan workshops for students on these topics.



### David Cooper '17

I have just finished my first year at the University of Southern California studying Environmental Engineering. My four years at Mater Dei shaped me in many ways. Being involved with many organizations at Mater Dei helped me to develop strong time-management and leadership skills. Most importantly, Mater Dei shaped me by instilling a strong sense of faith, family and community.

My favorite MDCHS memory was the Senior Luncheon right before graduation. It was amazing to look back at the slideshow and see how our class had changed and grew over the last four years together.

In the future, after I graduate from USC, I plan on attending graduate school and continuing my education.



### Mallory Huston '15

I am an incoming senior at Point Loma Nazarene University. I am majoring in Sociology and minoring in Spanish. I am working part-time on campus for the summer and next year.

MDCHS prepared me not only for the course work in college, but also how to become more independent and solve more problems. My high school also helped me become a key writer, which is important for most of my classes. My favorite memory from MDCHS was being in the plays. It was so fun and I wish I could do them all over again. Now in college I don't have as much time to participate, but I heard there was a large cast play coming up so maybe I'll go check it out.

I am enrolled in PLNU's Honors Program for my senior year and I am currently working on a research project because of it. I'm also taking Spanish classes at UCSD and I plan to receive the Professional Certificate in Spanish by October. I plan to take a gap year after I graduate college and prepare for the LSAT and take Spanish interpreting classes. I hope to go to law school in the future at my dream school, Stanford.



### Luis Cerna '17

I am currently pursuing a degree in International Accounting at Cety's Universidad and will be working in the Deloitte Summer Internship Program. My experiences at Mater Dei not only made me a better student, but a better person. I realize the impact I can have as a student and as a person if I take advantage of the opportunities I receive.

During my senior year at Mater Dei, I worked on The Hydration Station Project for my AP Environmental Science final project. The purpose of this project was to decrease Mater Dei's carbon footprint by reducing plastic water bottle consumption as well as encouraging an increase in water intake on campus to benefit student health.

Next semester I will hopefully be working with Cety's Universidad on a Zero Waste Project with the purpose of improving waste management on campus. I am also working on a multicultural project with my leadership group FORTES, which is part of the student branch of the UN Academic Impact known as ASPIRE: Action by Students to Promote Innovation and Reform through Education.



### Madeline Friedrich '16

Right now, I am finishing up my second year at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo as an Animal Science student on the Pre-Vet track. I am also working part time at a local animal hospital to gain experience for vet school, which I hope to attend within the next few years.

Mater Dei has made an everlasting impression on me by always reminding me that there are many things for which to be grateful. I am blessed to have had a Catholic education centered on morals and values, which I have been able to carry into my college career. Mater Dei is a place that I know I can come back to and always see a bright and smiling face either from faculty or students. I am so proud to have been a part of this community.

My favorite MDCHS memory is probably when Bob the security guard let my friend and I decorate his bike, and then ride it around after we finished the afternoon announcements. Being allowed to call Mr. Milke by his first name during my senior year was also pretty fun!

In the future, I am planning on going to vet school or do something related to horses or assisted animal reproduction. ★



↑ Scan photo with HP Reveal here  
to meet our MDJDA Principal!  
(Instructions on Page 1)

## MATER DEI JUAN DIEGO ACADEMY

# Offers Spanish/ English Immersion



Not all Catholic elementary schools are created the same. In 2015, Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy opened its doors serving Kindergarten through second grade. Today, under the new leadership of Leticia Oseguera, Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy will serve K-5th grade. It is the first Catholic school in San Diego to offer a 50/50 dual language, Spanish/English immersion curriculum. Students receive 50% of their instruction in Spanish and the other 50% in English.

"In each grade, we operate a two classroom, two teacher model in which students have a core Spanish language teacher and a core English language teacher," said Mrs. Oseguera. "In English, students receive instruction in Language Arts and Mathematics. In Spanish, they receive instruction in Spanish Language Arts and Social Studies. Then, both teachers share the Religion and Science curriculum." The goals of the dual language immersion program are to develop high levels of proficiency in both languages at or above grade level and to demonstrate

The goals of the dual language immersion program are to develop high levels of proficiency in both languages at or above grade level and to demonstrate cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors for all students.



cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors for all students. We hope to develop fully bilingual, bi-literate and bi-cultural global citizens.

### COLLABORATION AND INTEGRATION WITH MDCHS

As Mater Dei Catholic High School strives to build one K-12 school in the future, it is important to collaborate and bridge the gap between the elementary and the high school. This provides great opportunities for both schools to work together and build on the core values of the school. The administration team continues to create opportunities for faculty, staff and students to come together. Last year, all of Mater Dei celebrated Mass together during Catholic School's Week, and this year, Mass will be celebrated together three times throughout the school year. High school students are becoming mentors and role models for the younger students. More opportunities will be created for the high school students to provide tutoring, volunteer in the classroom or lead a club or activity at Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy.



This past year, campus ministers from the high school visited the elementary school classrooms and conducted activities with the elementary students. There are also opportunities for subject or department specific collaborations to take place. For example, math teachers across all grade levels are coming together to create a roadmap for our students to successfully transition from elementary, to middle, to high school mathematics.



Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy is committed to academic excellence and innovation. "Our rigorous curriculum helps students acquire the skills necessary to thrive in the 21st century," Mrs. Oseguera added. "We ensure our students not only grow in their faith, but also empower them to put their faith into action as they develop a social justice consciousness. In addition, instruction is student-centered, and teachers create a multilingual and multicultural learning environment that promotes equity and diversity. We invite you to come and experience it for yourself!" ★

## MATER DEI'S ROAD TO BECOMING A TK-12 SCHOOL

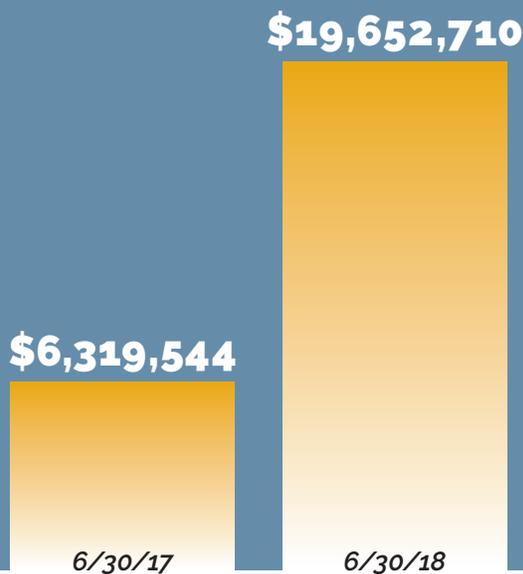




# Crusader giving

Our donors help make Catholic education possible for hundreds of students each year

## MDCHS Foundation Endowment



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# MEET BOB!

One of the fundamental tenants of Mater Dei is the safety and security of its campus. We spent some time interviewing the icon of safety for Mater Dei – Security Guard **BOB ADAMS**.

## How long have you been working at Mater Dei?

This will be my 29th year.

## Have you worked anywhere else?

I used to work at a family grocery store. I started working there in high school. When the store closed, I had already started working security at Mater Dei.

## Tell us about your family.

I have a wife, a son and a daughter. I'm blessed to have my son Robert Jr. work with me at Mater Dei. He monitors the back gate.

## What has been the most exciting thing about working at Mater Dei?

That's a tough question. I think just getting to know the kids and their families. It's not really one thing, it's the total package of the job that I love.

## What sets this campus apart from other campuses?

This is the safest campus. It's a family-oriented environment. I keep a strong pulse on each person who steps foot on our campus. I have open communication with everyone. I want the kids to succeed, be safe, graduate from college, get a good job and have a nice family.



## What improvements have been made to ensure safety?

Putting a buzzer at the front door, being able to keep the gates closed all the time and having one entrance where every guest checks in. We have also installed more cameras, so I pretty much monitor the camera system like 90% of the day. When I don't recognize someone, I call the front office and ask who the person is and where they are going.

## Do you have drills on campus?

We have the lockdown drill and fire drills. We work hard to prepare our students, faculty, and staff to handle unforeseen threats to our campus.

## How does your relationship with the students help to make the campus safer?

I stay at the front gate from 7:15 to 7:45 a.m., keeping a solid pulse on everyone entering our campus. I believe my experience knowing every facet of the campus, combined with the open communication I have with the students,

increases my ability to secure the Mater Dei campus.

## How do you build foundational relationships with the students, so they know they can trust you?

Students can expect a greeting from me every morning, knowing that they are entering a safe space. Most of the incoming freshmen go to summer school, so I get to know them before they get to campus in the fall. A lot of returning students introduce me to their friends that are starting to come here, which also helps to build the trust. I think I can identify with most people.

---

Bob goes above and beyond to make sure Mater Dei students feel safe and secure. He contributes to the family-oriented atmosphere of the school by taking the time to get to know the students and showing concern for their well-being. He sets the campus apart from other high schools by his care and commitment to the job. ★



**1960**

Founding of Marian High School

**2007**

New Mater Dei Catholic Campus Opens

**48**

Acre Campus

**22**

Sports Teams

**4**

State Titles



**31**

CIF Titles

**97**

League Titles

**40**

Clubs on Campus

**22,982**

Student Volunteer Service Hours for 2017-18

**94** 2018 SUMMER INTERNSHIPS  
(partial listing)

Alvarado Medical Center  
Aviation Careers Education Camp  
Camp Able, Coronado  
College Calculus  
Columbia College Prep Experience  
Compatamos  
Congress, Susan Davis, Washington DC  
Cornell University Catalyst, Engineering  
Exodus Sports/Health Vietnam  
Hawaii, State Government  
HOPE WorldWide, Chicago  
Loyola Marymount EnvSci Camp  
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Rolling Hills Pet Hospital  
SDSU  
Sharp Chula Vista Hospital Volunteer

Sharp Grossmont Hospital Volunteer  
Southwestern, Computer Science  
Southwestern, Film  
Special Needs Camp Texas, Counselor  
UCSD Camp Neurology  
UCSD Hospital Volunteer  
UCSD Oncofertility Academy  
UCSD Pharmacy and Botany Camp  
UCSD, Camp Cardiac  
UCSD, Camp Neuro\*  
UCSD  
US Naval Academy Summer STEM Camp  
USC Energy Engineering  
UCSD Camp Cardiac  
USD Environmental Science Camp  
USD GenCyber  
USD



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**SAVE THE DATE**

# *Blue & Gold Gala*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**  
**6:00 pm – 10:00 pm**

**Mater Dei Catholic High School**  
**1615 Mater Dei Drive, Chula Vista, CA 91913**

**Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres**  
**Silent Auction**

**Music Featuring Grammy Nominated Artist, Frankie J**