

Crusader News



February 2021

Calling all Alumni!

Please help us by joining our committee as we plan our

60-Year Legacy Alumni Zoom Reunion!

60
YEARS 
share the love

Class of:

1961-1965
1966-1970
1971-1975
1976-1980
1981-1985
1986-1990
1991-1995
1996-2000
2001-2005
2006-2010
2011-2015
2016-2020

Contact Andrew Balelo at
abalelo@mdchs.net



Dear Crusader Alumni, Donors and Friends,

I hope you and your families are safe and healthy. This week was Catholic Schools Week. We had many things planned to continue our efforts to build our culture of gratitude and giving at Mater Dei. They included celebrating Mass and praying the Rosary, kicking off a blanket drive for the homeless and coming together in spirit to celebrate what it means to be Crusaders. We also were excited to congratulate and unveil our 2021 Valedictorian and Salutatorian during our Catholic Schools Week Mass this week (see below).



This leads me to thanking you, our alumni and donor communities, for supporting our 60-Year Legacy fundraising campaign to raise money for financial aid for high school families in need and new technology (iPads) for our elementary school. We exceeded our fundraising goal of \$60,000 by December 31, 2020 and ended up with more than \$100,000 in donations. I couldn't be more proud of everyone coming together to achieve this goal.

I am grateful to be part of such a generous and amazing community for the past 19 years. As many of you know, I have announced my decision to step down as President at the end of this school year so that I could spend more time with my family. This was a difficult decision to discern, but I will continue to work at Mater Dei on a part-time basis in the Advancement and Finance Offices to ensure a successful transition. It has been an honor to work with students, alumni, donors and parents who share in our mission. I have been blessed to see the fruit from decades of planning. The growth of both our high school and elementary school is a testament to the value our community sees in Catholic education. You will all remain in my prayers.

Sincerely,

John Rey, CPA, CFP®

President

Mater Dei Catholic High School

Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy

MDCHS Announced its 2021 Valedictorian and Salutatorian



Mater Dei Catholic High School
is proud to announce the



CLASS OF 2021

Valedictorian and Salutatorian



Amalia Koch



Maria Fernanda Reyes



Hear from two current Crusaders on what Mater Dei has to offer!

Making the News...

Bridging the Gap

Mater Dei Students
Featured in
USD Magazine!

[Read the Article](#)



Congrats to Jason Myers Class of 2009

Jason Myers adds another accomplishment to his long list of successes in the NFL; a franchise record with the Seattle Seahawks for 37 perfect kicks in a row. Congratulations Jason!

Paul Arriola Class of 2009



CAMPUS MINISTRY



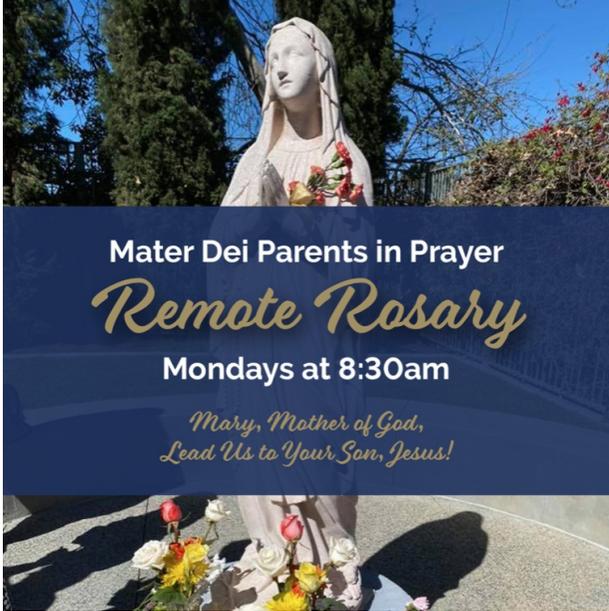
Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools week was February 1-5, 2021! Here is how we celebrated:

[Catholic Schools Week Schedule](#)

Parents in Prayer REMOTE ROSARY

Every Monday at 8:30am we pray the Rosary for our community and everyone affected by the COVID-19 virus. We invite everyone to join us virtually from their homes via Zoom. If you have a special intention, please email us at pray@materdeicatholic.org.



Here is a link to instructions for how to pray along with us through video conference:

[Video Conference Instructions](#)

ATHLETICS



MDCHS Junior Sade Jackson

Sade played a round of golf with Ricky Fowler last week at the Farmers. Way to go, Sade!

MD Athletes Sign Letters of Intent



Congrats Jesse Campbell

Jesse Campbell '21 has committed to Southern Utah University!



Liked by materdeifootball and 535 others

jcinc0.5 Been dreaming about this since I was a kid...
100% COMMITTED #FlyHigh21 #birdnation
@isaiah1xwilliams @keno_s_

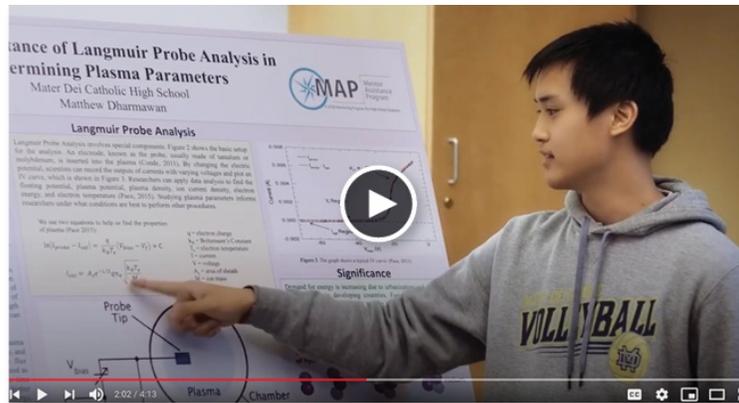
Tre Edwards

Check out this feature on our very own Tre Edwards '23.

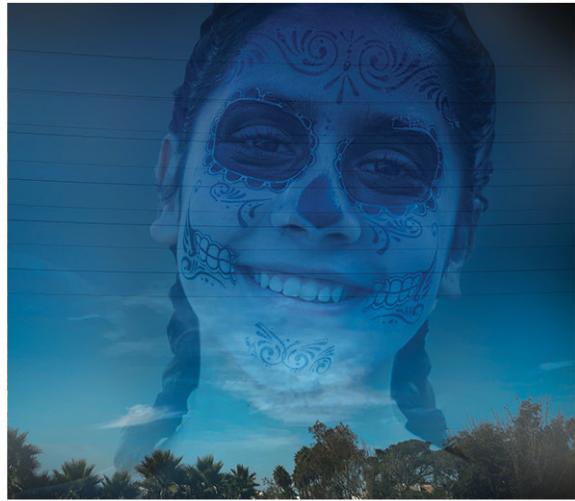


STEAM

Academy of Science STEAM Night



Studio Art Students Are Amazing!



ADVANCEMENT



We Did It! Thank You!



Dear Alumni, Donors and Friends of Mater Dei –



We hope the New Year is off to good start for you and for your family! It is for us, as we have much to be thankful for including the response of unity from the Crusader community to end 2020 strong with a very successful 60-Year Legacy Fundraising Campaign. It has been very special to see Crusaders coming together, especially during the uncertain times the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to our lives. Thank you all who donated and helped us not only achieve our \$60,000 goal, but surpassed it. Your impact has made it possible to aid our students with their technology needs at MDJDA and tuition assistance at MDCHS. Your gift of any amount makes a difference!

This Spring, we will continue to celebrate 60 years of graduating exceptional young men and women with the ability to change the world. Currently, our Advancement team is planning some exciting events for our community, such as a Crusader Mass, Alumni Zoom Reunions and a video that celebrates the last six decades. We look forward to celebrating with you, even if at a distance, because none of this 60-year legacy would be possible without you.

Please let us know if you would like to stay connected or be involved in the planning of our Alumni Reunions by filling out this [form](#). We are calling all former Crusader Class Presidents to come forward and be part of an

unforgettable event!

Crusaders affected by COVID-19 will continue to be the priority of our fundraising efforts in the second semester of 2020-21. The need is greater than ever, and the importance of an outstanding Catholic education cannot be more essential. If you have never donated to your Alma Mater, please consider making an investment on our students, now more than ever the world needs hope for a brighter future. Every dollar counts, no donation is too small.

Thank you in advance for Sharing the Love! We are one family. We are Family. We are Crusaders. We are Catholic!

60 YEAR LEGACY CAMPAIGN

December 2020 Totals

\$102,947.46

Raised

60
YEARS 

14

MDCHS
students
supported
with Tuition
Assistance

27

iPads
purchased
for MDJDA
students

167

Total
gifts

60

First
Time
Donors

100%

Crusader
Spirit



Donate to Share The
Love Campaign

If you have any questions,
please contact
Alejandra Saavedra,

60-Year Legacy - Did you know?

“Once a Crusader, always a Crusader!” is the proud motto for thousands of students who once walked the halls or competed on the grounds of their alma mater Marian High School, also known as Marian Catholic High School, and Mater Dei Catholic High School or Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy over the past 60 years.



Our school was founded by Bishop Charles F. Buddy in 1960 as Marian High School, the first co-educational Catholic high school in the Diocese of San Diego and was built on twenty acres of land just outside of Imperial Beach—generously donated by notable Catholic philanthropists, Emma and Robert Egger.



Groundbreaking in January 1960

The first school building opened with just three classrooms and expanded over the next 46 years. In 1992, Marian High changed its name to Marian Catholic High School, to more clearly identify it as a Catholic institution.



Since the opening of Marian H.S., our Blessed Mother has been the inspiration for fulfilling and educating the hearts and minds of thousands of young men and women throughout the Diocese of San Diego. Much has evolved over the past 60 years, but the spirit borne by those first Crusaders, teachers and administrators lives on today in the smiles, souls and 'spirit of giving' embodied by our current students.



In 1995, Dr. Estelle Kassebaum was appointed Principal at Marian Catholic High School. Her determination and tireless work toward a vision for a new highly functional and modern learning environment came to light with the help of key benefactors.



In 2007, the school moved to a new 48-acre state-of-the-art facility in Chula Vista and was renamed Mater Dei Catholic High School by the San Diego Diocese, but the “Crusader” spirit, and tradition, remain an integral part of the school. On the new campus, a Marian Chapel was built in honor of the school’s history and prior name, the Crusader mascot found a new home, and the school colors remained Blue & Gold.

"We were devastated with the passing of our President, Dr. Estelle Kassebaum just months prior to MCHS closing. The transition to Mater Dei Catholic helped ease some of that pain," recalls George Milke, former MDCHS Principal who spent 31 years serving on both campuses as a student, coach, faculty member and administrator.

Mr. Milke said Fr. Pedro Rivera described the name change of Marian to Mater Dei in this way: Marian Catholic is likened to when Mary was a young woman, and Mater Dei Catholic reflects Mary, the Mother of God.

To be continued...

Amazon Smile

Help us continue to build our programs at Mater Dei through your everyday purchases. Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon purchases to Mater Dei Catholic when you use the link below.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

[Shop Amazon Smile](#)

Commemorative Opportunities

Last school year, we added 48 memorial bricks to our Garden of Remembrance and 87 chair plates to the Dr. Kassebaum Theater as a tribute to our donors who believe in the mission of providing excellent Catholic education. We invite you to join our Crusade in 2020-21 and donate to Mater Dei. Now more than ever, you can make a difference in the lives of our students.

Any donation of \$500 or more will receive a memorial brick to honor a loved one in heaven and any donation of \$200 or more will receive a chair plate in our theater to honor anyone in your life. If you are interested in any of these tribute opportunities, please contact Alejandra Saavedra, Director of Advancement, at asaavedra@mdchs.net.

Thank you for partnering with us!



Honor a loved one with a chair plate



Honor a loved one with a memorial brick

Mater Dei Family-Owned Business Shout-Out

A grid of 50 logos for various family-owned businesses. The logos are arranged in five rows and ten columns. The businesses include:

- Achiote Mexican Restaurant
- SICILIAN MARBLE & GRANITE
- Haciendita Bakery
- ARELI'S INSURANCE SERVICE
- Copy 2 Copy
- GROUNDWELL BREWING COMPANY
- Funky Fries & Burgers
- Mango-Mango Fresh & Healthy
- Bridal & Tuxedo GALLERIA
- RCP
- MATCH PIZZA
- arbonne.
- ARMANDO'S Mexican Food
- ARHOUSE
- Stone Gate Realty & Mortgage
- A&M Team Sales
- METAL supermarkets
- Faith in Marketing
- MK Printshop, Inc.
- COLDWELL BANKER
- ALFONSO AGUILAR CINEMATOGRAPHER
- Bulldog Towing
- ARGUS
- FIESTA AUTO INSURANCE
- Loveza
- Kindermusik
- GARRISON INSURANCE AGENCY
- CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION GROUP, INC.
- HI-TEK MEXICO Digital Marketing Agency
- DESTER LINK
- State Farm
- TALENTUM CORPORATION
- SunWest Mortgage Company, Inc.
- RANCHO PAVING INC.
- SouthWest Equity Mortgage
- SANTANA AUTO GROUP
- Pompeyo Realty Group

Let us support you by promoting your family-owned business (restaurant, store, etc.) and sharing that you are “open for business” to our extended Mater Dei family. Please fill out this form:

Sign Up Now

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

We exist to inspire and educate the hearts, minds and souls of our students.
Please join us in supporting our mission.

Give Now



MDCHS.net