

St. John Regional Catholic School designated a Maryland Green School

Story **Comments**

Print Font Size:

Tweet 2

g+1 0

Posted: Friday, July 25, 2014 2:00 am

For The Frederick News-Post | **0 comments**

The Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education has announced that St. John Regional Catholic School has been certified as a 2014 Maryland Green School.

Over the past two years, the school has demonstrated and documented a continuous effort to integrate sustainable best management practices, environmental education curriculum, professional development opportunities and community engagement into daily operations. This certification signifies that the school has made a commitment to developing stewards of the earth and reducing the environmental impact of our school.

The Maryland Green Schools Program, a program founded in 1999, was designed to foster a student-led

http://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/education/schools/private/st_johns_regional/st-john-regional-catholic-school-designated-a-maryland-

7/28/2014

St. John Regional Catholic School designated a Maryland Green School - The Frederick N



From left, back row, are Melissa Gallagher, teacher; Ian Kadel; William Gouker; Francesca Rosone; Lexi Stewart; Thomas Frazier; Paul Fer, assistant principal; and Harper Warner; front row are Barbara Kyle, teacher; Alanna Vidal; Triston Barzey; Ethan Madraymootoo; Elizabeth Holt; Ben Elpas and Sophia Parkins.

integrated approach to learning that incorporates local environmental issue investigation and teacher professional development with environmental best management practices and community stewardship.

This year, more than 100 schools have been certified Maryland Green Schools, including 45 new schools, 43 first recertification schools, 13 second recertification schools and two sustained schools.

MDGS plays a key role in helping schools meet the Maryland State Department of Education's environmental literacy standards established through the Governor's Partnership for Children in Nature.

The program is a method of improving environmental literacy for students and a tool for catalyzing change within the community as envisioned in Maryland Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

Prep Report: Bealmear a strikeout machine for Vikings

By Joe Ferraro jferraro@newspost.com | Posted: Thursday, May 7, 2015 1:00 am

The distinct sound of a Michael Bealmear fastball popping a catcher's glove during a bullpen session gives Omar Enriquez a wealth of information.

"When the glove is making noises, I know he's going to have a good day," Enriquez said of the St. John's senior pitcher.

Enriquez has heard those noises quite often this season, and the end result — victories — came as no surprise to the Vikings baseball coach. This season, Bealmear is 5-1 with a 1.94 ERA.

However, neither he nor Bealmear could have imagined the extent of the star right-hander's success.

Bealmear has recorded 19 strikeouts in three games this season, most recently accomplishing the feat while throwing a no-hitter in a 9-0 win over Gerstell Academy last week at Nymeo Field. Bealmear has also turned in a 16-strikeout game.

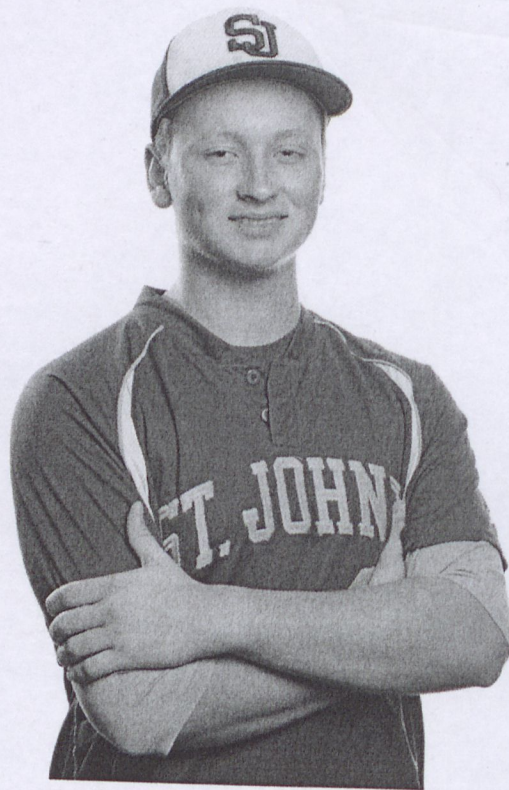
Bealmear's first 19-strikeout performance came on March 24 in a 2-0 win over Chapelgate, and looking at his statistics after the game rendered Bealmear awestruck.

"We had to fight to win, and I wasn't even thinking about it," Bealmear said. "I had to take a second glance to make sure that's what it was. I never knew I could do something like that."

And that's just one 19-strikeout game. When asked to put his season into words, Bealmear struggled, pausing for about five seconds before saying, "Amazing."

"It's fun for me to hear that," Bealmear said. "All the work I did, it's nice to know it's paying off."

Bealmear's repertoire includes a four-seam fastball, a two-seam fastball, a circle change-up and a knuckle-curve.



Michael Bealmear

Michael Bealmear

Like Enriquez, Bealmear attributed his success to his velocity, calling "a live arm" in the bullpen an indication of good things to come.

Enriquez has also coached Bealmear's summer travel league teams. The St. John's coach said Bealmear consistently throws in the mid 80s and that his fastball topped out at 87 mph last summer.

For Enriquez, Bealmear's fastball sets up the rest of his pitches. More importantly, he said, he displays good control, noting that Bealmear threw 16 first-pitch strikes while no-hitting Gerstell.

After Bealmear's first 19-strikeout game, Enriquez predicted Bealmear might consistently record anywhere between 10 and 12 strikeouts per game. While Bealmear has obviously exceeded those expectations, Enriquez wasn't too surprised by his pitching line against Gerstell. That's because he "enjoyed the game more because he was in total control" and fully realized Bealmear's talent can consistently churn out gaudy statistics.

"I think with his control and speed, he just overpowers the kids," Enriquez said. "The last (game) he threw, I was thinking, 'There's only a couple of kids in Frederick who could hit that.'"

thanks




thank you... thank you... thank you...

HSA

- Thank you so much for your generous donation.


Danielle
Lagana

Allison
Penate-Alayza 

Amber
Ennis 

Bridget 
Scherer

Emily
Goldwell


Caillin 
Wagoner

Isabella
Nartker

thank you... thank you... thank you...

Cheerfully

The Wildcat Cheerleaders

Ally Crissman

Karly Liebendorfer

Mimi
Pessagno

Katie
Bryant

Emily
MacLarty

thank you... thank you... thank you...

Best Places to Work awards presented

Story Comments

Print Font Size:

Recommend { 0 } Tweet { 1 } g+1 { 0 }



The 2014 Frederick County Best Places to Work Awards were held at the Delaplaine Visual Education Arts Center. Winners, shown from left, are Vaughn Thurman, Swift Systems; Karen Smith, St. John Regional Catholic School; Nick Damoulakis, Orases; Pat Fitch, Battelle National Biodefense Institute; Maj. Gen. Joseph Carvalho Jr., Fort Detrick; Michael Shollenberg, Regent Education; Lisa Shuster, iHire.com; and Shawn Pierce, Experient.

Posted: Wednesday, August 6, 2014 2:00 am

By Ed Waters Jr. News-Post Staff | 0 comments



Posted on Aug 6, 2014
by Ed Waters Jr.

Ten businesses were honored Tuesday night for their outstanding commitment to

employees and the community.

The 2014 Frederick County Best Places to Work Awards were held at the Delaplaine Visual Education Arts Center.

"Great employees can make or break a business," said Laurie Holden, director of Frederick County Workforce Services. The awards were sponsored by Workforce Services, the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, and the city and county economic development offices.

The U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Detrick, and Experient, which provides coordination and planning for major trade shows and other events, tied for the Major Business Category.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Carvalho Jr., commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick and deputy for medical systems to the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, accepted the award.

The post has 11,000 employees and more than 40 entities providing medical intelligence and global communications as well as other services. The general said it was wonderful to be associated with businesses and the community in Frederick County.

"I can't think of a better place to have our organization," said Shawn Pierce, division president for Experient. "We tell our employees to work hard, have fun and get the job done."

Job Openings

findtherightjob.com

Find Job Openings In Your Area.
Apply For a Position Today!

Interviewed after the awards ceremony, Pat Fitch, lab director at Battelle National Biodefense Institute, said the award to his company as the Large Business was an honor.

The award "is a great testament to our employees," Fitch said. The company, which operates the biodefense laboratory at Fort Detrick, focuses on bioterrorism prevention.

Receiving an honorable mention in the Large Business category was Regent Education, which specializes in software solutions for higher education.

Best Places to Work awards presented

Businesses honored for commitment to their employees and the community

By ED WATERS JR.

News-Post Staff
ewaters@newspost.com

Ten businesses were honored Tuesday night for their outstanding commitment to employees and the community.

The 2014 Frederick County Best Places to Work Awards were held at the Delaplaine Visual Education Arts Center.

"Great employees can make or break a business," said Laurie Holden, director of Frederick County Workforce Services. The awards were sponsored by Workforce Services, the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, and the city and county economic development offices.

The U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Detrick, and Experient, which provides coordination and planning for major trade shows and other events, tied for the Major Business Category.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Carvalho Jr., commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick and deputy for medical systems to the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, accepted the award.

The post has 11,000 employees and more than 40 entities providing medical intelligence and global com-



Staff photo by Bill Green

The 2014 Frederick County Best Places to Work Awards were held at the Delaplaine Visual Education Arts Center. Winners, shown from left, are Vaughn Thurman, Swift Systems; Karen Smith, St. John Regional Catholic School; Nick Damoulakis, Orases; Pat Fitch, Battelle National Biodefense Institute; Maj. Gen. Joseph Carvalho Jr., Fort Detrick; Michael Shollenberg, Regent Education; Lisa Shuster, iHire.com; and Shawn Pierce, Experient.

munications as well as other services. The general said it was wonderful to be associated with businesses and the community in Frederick County.

"I can't think of a better place to have our organization," said Shawn Pierce, division president for Experient. "We tell our employees to work hard, have fun and get the job done."

Interviewed after the awards ceremony, Pat Fitch, lab director at Battelle National Biodefense Institute,

said the award to his company as the Large Business was an honor.

The award "is a great testament to our employees," Fitch said. The company, which operates the biodefense laboratory at Fort Detrick, focuses on bioterrorism prevention.

Receiving an honorable mention in the Large Business category was Regent Education, which specializes in software solutions for higher education.

Others honored included Swift

Systems, an information technology company, which won the Small Business category; Jean Peterson Design received an honorable mention. In Medium Businesses, the winner was Orases, an IT firm. An honorable mention went to Canapes catering firm.

Two new categories were added this year. The People's Choice Award, in which a survey was taken of employees and former employees of businesses, St. John Regional Catholic School was the winner.

iHire.com, which helps people find jobs, was named Most Creative Workplace. The company gives unlimited paid time off; workers make their own schedule. This results-only environment allows employees to manage their own work-life balance.

Frederick Mayor Randy McClement said that as a former business owner, he knows the value of hiring and retaining good employees.

"The past four or five years have been tough for the economy, but our businesses stood up and moved forward," he said. "Employees have a lot of options, such as going to metropolitan areas to work, but Frederick is a great place to work and live."

Frederick County Commissioner Paul Smith said the Board of County Commissioners has worked to make Frederick a good place for business by reducing taxes and regulations.

"We have improved the economic environment in Frederick County," Smith said.

Past award winners served as sponsors of the event. Criteria for the awards included an enhanced workplace culture, professional development opportunities, benefits and amenities to support work-life balance, encouraging community involvement and providing tools for healthy living.

St. John's Catholic Prep honors students



Courtesy photo

St. John's Catholic Prep recently recognized 13 students with a certificate of achievement for earning consecutive honors for the past seven semesters. From left are Tim Van Schaik, faculty member; Marc Minsker, principal; students Tim Johnson, Shannon Bernier, Colleen Crowley, Gabriela Feudale, Abigail Connole, Michael Bealmear, Brennan Wight, Alexander Helms, Anthony Florimbio, Mackenzie Donaldson, Coralie Jean-Philippe, Nicholas Soares and Devin Middek; and Gordon Oliver, president. The students demonstrated stellar academic performance and have attained first honors or president's list. First honors recognizes students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 for the year and have earned no grade lower than a B in any subject. The president's list recognizes to students who have achieved all A's or a cumulative grade point average of 4.0. This is the highest academic achievement at St. John's Catholic Prep.

Cheerleading coach ends tenure with middle school squad by taking them to Nationals

Story Comments

Print Font Size:

Recommend 0 Tweet 0 g+1 0

1

Posted: Saturday, May 2, 2015 10:15 am

By Laura Dukes Special to The News-Post |
0 comments



Staff photo by Sam Yu

Mary Coajou is the outgoing cheerleading coach at St. John Regional Catholic School.

Mary Coajou did not become the cheerleading coach at St. John Regional Catholic School because she has too much time on her hands.

The 49-year-old already has a demanding job as an active-duty senior nurse consultant with the U.S. Public Health Service. She works with facilities to maintain their Medicare certifications, and frequently has to deploy in emergencies.

"You're always relieved when you don't have to go, but then you think, that could have been a really good experience," the Frederick resident said.

Coaching middle schoolers in cheerleading has become her stress release.

She's done so for the past 10 years, now coaching alongside her daughter, Celeste, and three others. She became involved because both of her children attended St. John's.

The school initially did not have its own cheerleading squad, she said. It did have cheerleaders, but they cheered for Mid-Maryland Basketball, a team made up of members of different Frederick County parishes.

When they opened the school's new location, Coajou thought it would be a good idea to start the squad in order for girls to develop the skills to be able to cheer in high school. These include hand and arm positions, jumps and some dance.

"We really started with the basics," she said. "If they didn't learn it in middle school, they most likely wouldn't make their high school team."

Initially, the squad just cheered for basketball games, but after two years, Coajou decided to get them involved in some competitions.

For the past eight years, they've gone from earning honorable mentions to first place. They were recently named the high score champions at the Maryland State Cheerstarz in Rockville.

This qualified them for the U.S. Finals competition in Providence, Rhode Island.

"Which was why my mouth was on the floor," Coajou said with a laugh.

The squad, which is currently ranked 14th in the nation for their division, competed last weekend, though their score was not immediately available. Members raised \$10,000 to attend through corporate donations and a GoFundMe website.

There are 12 girls on the competition squad, with a larger number cheering for the basketball games.

Competing at the national level will be bittersweet for Coajou since this is her last year with the squad. She and fellow coach, Michelle Enis, have decided to switch over to the high school level at St. John's Catholic Prep in Buckeystown.

Coajou expects to retire from coaching completely within the next few years.

"My role is more of an administrator to help get (Enis) going," she said.

She will, however, be greatly missed at the middle school level.

"She's really boosted my self-confidence," said Danielle Lagana, 12.

The seventh-grader said Coajou was the type of coach who would encourage the cheerleaders to put aside their own issues and bad days to come together as a team. Gossiping, whispering among each other and bullying has never been tolerated.

"You never see the cattiness you often see in middle school," Coajou said. "Cheerleading is about lifting spirits, not bringing people down."

Before competitions, she reminds the girls that the judges don't know them, don't know if they've had a bad day or are going through a personal hardship.

"You've got to go find your happy place and put your best foot forward," she said.

They doesn't turn down anyone who tries out for the squad that cheers for basketball games, though not all of the same girls compete.

Eighth-grader Mimi Pessagno is looking forward to continuing to work with Coajou next year at the high school.

"She's very fair," said Mimi, 14. "She knows a lot about cheer and helping girls have confidence."

Know of a person who would make a good Slice? If so, please send your suggestions to citydesk@newspost.com or call us at 301-662-1178 and ask for a city editor.

Modern dancer Nina Price

By Julie Smith Special to the News-Post | Posted: Thursday, May 14, 2015 2:00 am

As part of her training in modern dance, Nina Price would spend six hours each evening at the Mid-Maryland Performing Arts Center, after a full day of school at Linganore High. The studio was a second home to Nina since the age of 3, but not just because she loved to perform. The founder and director of MMPAC, Kimberly Price, is also Nina's mother.

MMPAC will perform three shows this weekend, and Nina will dance in the Saturday night show with other alumni at the Weinberg Center for the Arts.

Last Saturday, Nina, 22, graduated from Ohio's Kent State University with a bachelor of fine arts in dance performance, and she is progressing to an even bigger stage with professional dance company Garth Fagan Dance, based in Rochester, New York.

"It is extremely rare and unheard of that a dancer is asked to join such a prestigious company straight out of college," said Kimberly in a press release issued by MMPAC.

The offer came after Nina, a member of the Kent Dance Ensemble, crossed paths with Fagan, who had been invited to Kent State as a visiting artist for the ensemble's 25th anniversary. As the student artistic director of the ensemble, Nina held a leadership position with the university's pre-professional modern dance company.

On the last day of his residency at Kent State, Fagan saw Nina dancing to his choreographed piece "Two Pieces of One: Green." Associate professor and Kent Dance Ensemble artistic director Kimberly Karpanty said Fagan knew he wanted Nina to join his company "within a few minutes of watching her dance."

"I think I cried for a while," Nina said. "A few months ago, I thought I was going to be living in Chicago, working six waitressing jobs and taking classes just to keep up my technique. I didn't think it was real."

Fagan was so impressed by Nina, he asked her to be part of a fundraising gala last month celebrating his own birthday and his dance company's 45th anniversary. Nina accepted and spent



nina

Nina Price.

one grueling week with Fagan's dance company in Rochester, a brief glimpse into what her professional life will look like.

"It is crazy demanding, especially after having a taste of what I'm going to be doing. It's going to make and train me into a stronger technical dancer, so I'm looking forward to that," Nina said.

Her goal is to eventually become a dance therapist for children and adults with special needs. Nina's mom developed a program at the MMPAC that provided dance lessons to clients at the now-closed Jeanne Bussard Center in Frederick. Nina volunteered there three times a week during her senior year of high school, teaching dance and movement to people with cognitive and physical disabilities.

"I absolutely fell in love with it," Nina said. "It really inspired me when I saw the enjoyment they got out of it. It was so satisfying."

Besides taking two to three classes each day, going to evening rehearsals and keeping up with a performance schedule, Nina hopes to get an internship with an organization in Rochester that provides art therapy, including dance, to special needs adults and children.

Fagan won a Tony Award in 1998 for his choreography of the Broadway hit "The Lion King," based on the Disney movie of the same name. The musical is still running at the Minskoff Theatre in New York City, and is Broadway's fourth longest-running show in history. The show has grossed over \$1 billion.

Nina's contract with Garth Fagan Dance begins on June 1 and will last up to two years, but Nina said she hopes she is there much longer.

"I love dance, it is my passion and I am so blessed to have grown up at MMPAC, trained at Kent State and now move on to the professional dance world with Garth Fagan Dance," Nina said. "It is a dream come true."

Best Places to Work awards presented - The Frederick News-Post : En

Others honored included Swift Systems, an information technology company, which won the Small Business category; Jean Peterson Design received an honorable mention. In Medium Businesses, the winner was Orases, an IT firm. An honorable mention went to Canapes catering firm.

Two new categories were added this year. The People's Choice Award, in which a survey was taken of employees and former employees of businesses, St. John Regional Catholic School was the winner.

iHire.com, which helps people find jobs, was named Most Creative Workplace. The company gives unlimited paid time off; workers make their own schedule. This results-only environment allows employees to manage their own work-life balance.

Frederick Mayor Randy McClement said that as a former business owner, he knows the value of hiring and retaining good employees.

"The past four or five years have been tough for the economy, but our businesses stood up and moved forward," he said. "Employees have a lot of options, such as going to metropolitan areas to work, but Frederick is a great place to work and live."

Frederick County Commissioner Paul Smith said the Board of County Commissioners has worked to make Frederick a good place for business by reducing taxes and regulations.

"We have improved the economic environment in Frederick County," Smith said.

Past award winners served as sponsors of the event. Criteria for the awards included an enhanced workplace culture, professional development opportunities, benefits and amenities to support work-life balance, encouraging community involvement and providing tools for healthy living.

More about *Best Place To Work Awards*



Best Places to Work awards presented



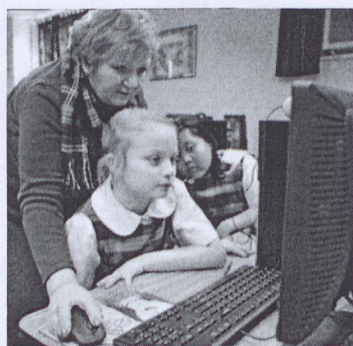
BUY PHOTOS!

Browse the Catholic Review galleries for photos that appear in print and online



Sign up Today! It's free.

Why Register? | Member Login



(CR file photo) Tom McCarthy JR. | CR Staff

HOME » NEWS » LOCAL NEWS

Footing the bill: Schools find ways to make Catholic education affordable

September 03, 2014

By Elizabeth Lowe

Catholic school fundraisers have evolved beyond shelling out a few coins to be out of uniform.

Schools keep coming up with creative and engaging ways to help reduce tuition and operational costs in an effort to keep Catholic education reasonable.

Nine schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore participate in the "Scrip" program, a fundraiser where participants earn money for their organization by using gift cards for everyday purchases.

It has been utilized at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Ellicott City for more than a decade.

"It is a win-win," said Jodi Phelan, the school's development director. "Everybody is going to shop throughout the course of the year and everyone seems to love gift cards."

Of the school's 165 families, 95 percent participate, said Phelan, who estimates that Scrip generates about \$15,000 annually for the school.

Phelan said Scrip is just one way the school raises funds to keep tuition affordable. The primary way is its annual fund drive.

Because of its fundraising efforts, the school had a nominal \$75 tuition increase from the 2013-14 to 2014-15 academic years, Phelan said. Last year tuition was \$6,625 per child; this year it is \$6,700.

Additional fundraisers include a fall festival, bull roast and breakfast with Santa.

"We try to take advantage of every opportunity to bring families together in ways that are fun and provide an income stream for the school," said Phelan, who noted Our Lady of Perpetual Help also pursues grants for special projects.

In addition to Scrip, St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick offers the Friends of Catholic Education food gift card program. Similar to Scrip, it works to help families reduce the cost of tuition at Catholic schools in Frederick County.

Karen O'Boyle, admissions director at St. John Regional, said upwards of 200 families are enrolled in Scrip; about 30 regularly use it.

St. John Regional's fundraisers include spirit nights – at which families who attend the opportunity to enter their name into a raffle to earn a \$500 tuition credit – a 5K foot race, golf tournament and an annual fund.

The school offers a multi-student discount for families with up to five children enrolled and a Catholic and non-Catholic rate.

Like St. John Regional, Sacred Heart School in Glyndon has offered Scrip for several years, said Gina Darby, its Home School Association coordinator for Scrip.

At Sacred Heart, Darby said, families who participate in Scrip receive a percentage off of their tuition, depending on how much they spend on gift cards.

She noted about 150 of Sacred Heart's 410 families participate; the average family saves about \$500 on their tuition bill.

"It's a great way to buy the things you're already purchasing," she said. "It's one extra step to easily save money. It's almost like free money. Who doesn't want that?"

St. Casimir's
Savings Bank
"...where thousands save millions"
since 1911

Go Local - Go Safe!

Mortgages
Checking Accounts

410-342-1404

St. Casimir's Bank NMLS #412347
Nelson Bayne NMLS #418534



www.stcsb.com



Locust Point parish basks in Star-Spangled glow

Retired Sisters on the move to support Marian House

Aging artfully: Three retirement community residents still testing talents

Baltimore associate superintendent makes a difference in Africa

Parish milestones: Resurrection of Our Lord, Laurel, celebrates 50 years

Three takeaways from symposium for black catechists

Out and About: Check out day trip ideas, festivals and more

Church upbringing credited for siblings' achievement, bond

Sister Marian Hagner, D.C., dies

Despite charity work, Rice no role model, Catholics say, after domestic violence confirmed in 'shocking' video



Good to be 'green'

Environmentalism earns state certification

BY MARIA WIERING

mwiering@CatholicReview.org

A school garden, blue bird houses and recycling containers are evidence of St. John Regional Catholic School's efforts to integrate environmental stewardship into its curriculum and school community.

The Frederick preschool-to-eighth-grade school was named a Maryland Green School in April, and is among 15 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore to receive the recognition since the program began in 1999.

"It's something a lot of schools are pursuing as we reduce our impact on the environment," said Paul Fer, the school's assistant principal, "but ultimately, these practices save money as well."

The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) established the Maryland Green Schools Program to foster student-led, environmentally sustainable practices that are integrated into a school's cur-



TOM MCCARTHY JR. / CR STAFF

Mother Seton School in Emmitsburg composts food scraps, uses green cleaning products and maintains a butterfly garden.

riculum and community life, said Laura Johnson Collard, its executive director.

To earn certification, schools must demonstrate two years of curriculum integration, school-wide environmental behavior changes, professional development for staff members, as well as student-driven initiatives and community partnerships.

In its application, St. John Regional highlighted the work of Cecilia Bracey, who as an eighth-grader taught a rain barrel-making workshop at the school.

"I think it's important to preserve our planet," said Bracey, a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist who's now a sophomore at St. John's Catholic Prep in Buckeystown. "I'm really into science."

Mother Seton School in Emmitsburg, first certified as a Green School in 2009

and recertified this year, integrates sustainable topics into every subject, including language arts.

"We're doing a really good job of working environmental topics into what we're teaching," said Danielle Kuykendall, the middle school science teacher.

The prekindergarten-to-eighth-grade school composts food scraps, uses green

cleaning products and maintains a butterfly garden to attract migrating Monarchs.

"We want people to understand that because we're a Catholic school, we think it's really important that part of our curriculum – what we're doing every day – is helping these kids understand that we need to take care of God's earth," Kuykendall said. •

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2014, the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education newly certified 45 schools, including St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick and Trinity School in Ellicott City. Of the 20 Catholic high schools in the archdiocese, three are Green Schools, as are 12 of the 50 Catholic elementary and middle schools. St. Casimir in Canton was the first Catholic school in the archdiocese to receive the certification.

What makes a workplace special? Seven Marylanders share their stories

September 01, 2014



By Catholic Review Staff

Labor Day is often thought of as a day of barbeques, leisure and spending time with family. Held annually on the first Monday of September, the holiday was originally founded to honor the social and economic achievements of American workers, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

"Work is fundamental to the dignity of the person," Pope Francis has said.

To commemorate Labor Day and celebrate American workers, the Catholic Review asked seven employees to share what makes their workplace special and why they enjoy where they work. Job perks were also highlighted to show the various ways employers reward and value their employees.



School Sister of Notre Dame Patricia McCarron, headmistress of **Notre Dame Preparatory School**, has worked at the Towson school for 10 years. She embraces the spirit of the SSND tradition at one of Baltimore's oldest Catholic college preparatory schools for girls.

NDP has been named a Baltimore Sun Top Workplace since the program's inception, in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Why is Notre Dame Preparatory School a great place to work?

"The people of Notre Dame Prep. Our students are wonderful and talented; our teachers, administrators and staff gifted and dedicated; our Board visionary; our alumnae faithful; our parents supportive; and our sponsoring order, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, inspiring. Notre Dame is the place it is because of how we come together as a community under one mission of academics, spirituality and service to educate young women to transform the world."

"From the moment I walked onto campus as a first-year teacher 30 years ago, I realized there was a spirit about NDP – the spirit of the SSNDs. This spirit comes to life through our fabulous students who inspire us to dream big, meet challenges and celebrate success. Rooted in tradition and contemporary in education, Notre Dame is blessed with wonderful people who embrace the SSND mission and carry it out every day and in every way. NDP is a faith-filled community where everyone is cared for, respected and most importantly, loved."

Job perks: Funding of professional development including tuition and conferences, Sister Ellis Denny Faculty Enrichment Award, 35,000 item library, liturgy celebrations on Holy Days, on-site fitness center, opportunities to volunteer and chaperone locally and internationally, daily prayer, faculty retreats, summer hours



Joan D'Loughy, a PRIDE teacher at **St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick**, received recognition for her dedication to students with a 2014 Teacher of the Year Award from the St. Katharine Drexel Knights of Columbus Council No. 14011.

Working with students with special needs, the educator of 40 years knows she can make a positive impact at work. The Catholic K-8 school was named a Washington Post 2014 Top Workplace and won The People's Choice Award for the 2014 Frederick County Best Places to Work Awards.

Why is St. John Regional Catholic School a great place to work?

"St. John Regional is a great place to work because we have a community like a family here. We have very dedicated teachers who love the children, are very enthusiastic and always looking out for the kids' best interests. We have very cooperative and supportive parents."

"There's a real sense of outreach here. We reach out to the community in a lot of different ways, which is very Christian. We are not just here for teaching or the children but here to teach the children to expand themselves in a broader sense in life."

Area theater openings

'HAIRSPRAY' AT WALKERSVILLE HIGH

The Walkersville High School theater department will present its spring musical, "Hairspray," this weekend.

This high-energy musical comedy features a cast of more than 60, bringing performances to the stage at 7 p.m. April 16, 17 and 18, with a 2 p.m. show April 19 at the school, 81 W. Frederick St., Walkersville.

Based on the classic 1988 film by Maryland native John Waters, "Hairspray" follows earnest teen Tracy Turnblad as she lands a spot on a local TV dance show in early 1960s Baltimore. When Tracy launches a plan to bring integration to the show, she ruffles the feathers of the segregated community.

"Hairspray" features music by Marc Shaiman, lyrics by Scott Wittman and Shaiman, and a book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan. The score offers a combination of '60s-style dance music and rhythm and blues. The show is brought to the WHS stage by director Heather McFadden.

Waters' film "hyperbolizes the damage caused by discrimination, whether the subject is race, class, or body-type," McFadden said. "As a high school director, I want to use this piece as an opportunity to challenge my students to break down those biases. The musical is set in 1962, but the issues addressed in the musical are still relevant in today's society. Theater should entertain, but it should also provoke thought, or better yet, change."

Music Theatre International has given "Hairspray" a recommended rating of PG.

Advanced tickets online are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. Tickets purchased at the door are \$10 for everyone. Children under the age of 3 and seniors 65 and older are admitted free at the door. Tickets are available at whstheatre.seatyourself.biz.

'SHREK THE MUSICAL' AT BARBARA INGRAM SCHOOL

Based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation



Courtesy photo

Will Bureau, of Frederick, with the mold for his Shrek mask. "Shrek the Musical" opens this week at the Barbara Ingram School in Hagerstown.

film, "Shrek The Musical," being produced by Barbara Ingram School for the Arts, is a fairy tale adventure featuring new songs from Jeanine Tesori and a book by David Lindsay-Abaire.

"Shrek" brings all the beloved characters from the film to life on stage and proves there's more to the story than meets the ears. This is a tale of an unlikely hero who finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside a wisecracking donkey and a feisty princess who resists her rescue. Throw in a short-tempered bad guy, a cookie with an attitude, many other fairy tale misfits, and you've got the kind of mess that calls for a real hero. Luckily, there's one on hand ... and his name is Shrek.

More than 75 Barbara Ingram students will bring to life this fun loving story on April 17 through 26, and two Frederick County students will lead the cast: Will Bureau as Shrek and Krista Hastings as Fiona.

Barbara Ingram School for the Arts is at 7 S. Potomac St., Hagerstown. See barbaraingramfoundation.org or call 301-766-8840 for details.

'THE CAVE DWELLERS' AT THE ARTS BARN

Spotlight Series will bring "The Cave Dwellers," by William Saroyan, on April 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road. Admission is \$10 per staged reading.

"The Cave Dwellers" explores the adventures of homeless people camping out on the stage of an abandoned theater that is about to be torn down and replaced with a housing project. One who calls herself "the Queen" is the ruin of a former actress. "The King" used to be a celebrated clown. "The Duke" was once a prize-fight champion.

Although food is scarce and the cold is congealing, the characters have glowing spirits and wonderful memories of their triumphant days. Humor, grace, innocence and improvisation distinguish this Broadway classic. The performance is appropriate for ages 16 and older.

For tickets and information, call 301-258-6394 or visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov.



Students learn Chinese

St. John Regional Catholic School chosen for federal-collegiate partnership program

By RACHEL S. KARAS

News-Post Staff
rkaras@newspost.com

St. John Regional Catholic School this year became the only middle school in the country to offer intensive Chinese language studies through a partnership with Hunter College of the City University of New York, a school official said.

The Chinese Flagship Center at Hunter is one of 11 centers nationwide that offer in-depth Chinese language and culture study through the Department of Defense. The program generally caters to undergraduate and high school students, according to St. John spokeswoman Sheila Evers.

St. John introduced Chinese language and culture studies seven years ago, but this is the school's first time running a blended learning program that includes about 60 children. Two groups of students rotate between a classroom and a computer lab, where they learn via text chat and a headset with teachers in New York.



Staff photos by Bill Green

St. John Regional Catholic School eighth-graders Mimi Pessagno, left, and Alelia Scherer speak into a microphone during a virtual Chinese learning program with Hunter College's Flagship Chinese program. The students rotate each week between their classroom and attending class from the computer lab at Hunter College.

TOP: Ling Chyi Liao teaches a Chinese language class to students.

The 24-week courses are designed to give students a superior level of proficiency in languages the Department of Defense has deemed "critical to U.S. competitiveness and

(See CHINESE A-9)

Nurturing critical thinking gets St. John teacher state honor

BY ERIK ZYGMONT

erikmont@CatholicReview.org

FREDERICK – Colleen Manchester has noticed something about her third-graders at St. John Regional Catholic School.

"I feel like they come in little kids and leave big kids," Manchester said. "From the beginning of the year to the end, their critical thinking skills kind of take off."

She was recently named the 2014 Catholic School Teacher of the Year by the Knights of Columbus Maryland State Council, and her observations beg a question: Is she simply seeing her students mature, or witnessing the fruits of her own labors?

A proponent of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) curriculum before it became a buzzword, Manchester has always encouraged her students to think critically. In one of her lessons, students design and build bridges that must meet certain criteria while conforming to specific constraints.

"The students have to be persistent, because most of them fail the first time," she said.

Working toward viable bridges, the youngsters begin to see through the eyes of the civil engineer, which is one goal of the lesson, a collaborative effort between elementary school teachers such as Manchester, the Boston Museum of Science and Towson University.

"They're trying to determine if an engineering curriculum in the early grades will give kids a positive outlook on engineering as well as more knowledge," Manchester said.

The ongoing study fits well with her objective of "getting (the students) to be really good thinkers and problem solvers," she said.

In many cases, her students take those skills beyond hypothetical. As the year progresses, Manchester said, her students help structure their own lessons.

"I might have two different ways we can approach something," she explained, "and I'll ask for their help: What are the pros of this or the cons of that?"

In a recent lesson on biographies of historical figures, Manchester and her students decided to create silhouettes (solid-colored profiles) of those figures.

"They helped me set up the light and figure out how were going to do that," Manchester said. "I think there's a lot of learning to go into that decision making."

Manchester initially studied to become a speech pathologist.

"It just wasn't for me," she said. "The next best major I could find was teaching. Once I got into it, I loved it."

She transferred to The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Later, she obtained a master's degree in special education and learning disabilities from the University of Maryland.



ERIK ZYGMONT / CR STAFF

Colleen Manchester, a third-grade teacher at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick, was named Catholic School Teacher of the Year by the Knights of Columbus Maryland State Council.

Manchester began teaching at St. John in 2008, when her daughter entered first grade there.

"I like it very much," she said. "Everyone has very high standards, academically and behaviorally."

Manchester mentors student teachers from Mount St. Mary's University in

'She's always preparing exciting hands-on lessons for our students.'

-SJRCs Principal Karen Smith

Emmitsburg. She also recruits and trains judges for St. John's annual STEM fair, facilitating interaction between the students and professionals from the Mount and engineering juggernaut Bechtel, for example.

Her colleagues are proud but not surprised by her honor.

"We're really excited that she's being recognized this way," said Karen Smith, principal of St. John. "She has a passion for teaching and especially the area of science. She's always preparing exciting hands-on lessons for our students." A biography provided by St. John notes that Manchester is also an active youth minister at St. Timothy in Walkersville.

"She is one of the reasons why middle school ministry thrives at St. Timothy," wrote Marissa Alsbaugh, director of youth ministry at St. Timothy.

The Knights of Columbus honored Manchester March 22 at their annual Founder's Day Mass and awards dinner. ●



Courtesy photo

William Cutchin (back center), Knights of Columbus St. John the Evangelist Council 1622, is pictured with the 19 St. John Regional Catholic School student winners in the 2014 Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest. In the front row, from left, are Sean Wagoner, Felician Assurian, Jordan Bonney, Reilly Biggins, Will Parsons, Kira Urban, Braeden Smith and Danika Hawryluk. Back row, left, are Amelia Scherer, Catherine Kasica, Sam Agyako-Wiredu, Brady Gerst, Alyssa Corsetty, Michael Bedard, Kate Stadter, Lillian Croghan, Shannon Sinnicki, Hank Schaefer and Emily Caldwell.

Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest winners announced

FOR THE FREDERICK
NEWS-POST

As is the tradition at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick, the winners of the 2014 Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest were announced after Mass on Dec. 8. A special thank-you to Thomas Plunkett and the St. John the Evangelist Coun-

cil Knights of Columbus Council 1622 and the St. Katharine Drexel Council 14011 for jointly sponsoring the contest this year.

The winning artists as selected by the judges are 1A, Jordan Bonney; 1B, Felicia Assurian; 1C, Reilly Biggins; 2A, Kira Urban; 2B, Danika Hawryluk; 3A, Will Parsons;

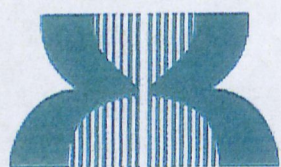
3B, Sean Wagoner; 4A, Hank Schaefer; 4B, Braeden Smith; 5A, Alyssa Corsetty; 5B, Michel Bedard; 5C, Kate Stadter; 6A, Lillian Croghan; 6B, Emily Caldwell; 7M, Sam Agyako-Wiredu; 7T, Brady Gerst; 7W, Shannon Sinnicki; 8W, Catherine Kasica; and 8F, Amelia Scherer.

The winning posters in grades one to three, Will Par-

son's was selected as the Category Winner; the winner in grades four to six, Lillian Croghan's poster was selected as the Category Winner; and from the winners in grades seven to eight, Catherine Kasica's poster was selected as the Category Winner. The three category winners have been sent on to the state level for judging.

1 The place earned by the cheerleading team from **St. John Regional School** in Frederick in the junior high division at the Maryland State Cheerstarz competition in Rockville March 21. Coached by **Mary Coajou**, the team earned a paid trip to the U.S. finals in Providence, R.I., next month. Pictured in the front row, left to right, are **Emily MacLarty**, **Cailin Wagoner**, **Bridget Scherer**, **Emily Caldwell**, **Danielle Lagana** and **Karly Liebendorfer**. In the back row are principal **Karen Smith**, **Katelyn Bryant**, **Mimi Pessagno**, **Amber Ennis**, **Bell Nartker**, **Allison Penate** and **Ally Crissman**. •





THE MARION I. & HENRY J. KNOTT FOUNDATION

[About](#)
[Grants](#)
[Programs](#)
[Knott Blog](#)
[Trustees](#)

Home > Knott Blog

Charting the Course of a One-to-one iPad Initiative

By Karen Smith and Laura Corbin Frazier
11-06-2014

A principal and university professor reflect on implementation, evaluation, expansion, and plans for the future

The following blog shares learning from a one-to-one iPad initiative from the perspective of the school principal and a university professor who engaged in a research study at the school. Together, they share the story of implementation, evaluation, expansion, and plans for the future.



Implementation

A one-to-one iPad initiative was begun at [St. John Regional Catholic School](#) (SJRCs) in the fall of 2011 with a generous grant award from the Knott

Categories

Foundation News

October 2014
Grant Awards

June 2014
Grant Awards

Congratulations
Chae

[Read All](#)

Grant Spotlight Stories

Seeds of Hope
Bear Fruits of
Success

Much More
Than a
Museum

Caring for
Nurses and
Patients

[Read All](#)

What We're Learning

Charting the
Course of a
One-to-one
iPad Initiative

The New

applications they would be using in their classes. These apps had been pre-selected by teachers for each of their respective subject areas.

Expansion

The initiative was expanded in subsequent years through the fundraising support of the school community. In its second year, the initiative expanded to include purchase of iPads for all students in the 7th grade. A fundraising effort known as the Race for Technology supported this purchase. With school support, students seek sponsors for their run/walk. These fundraising efforts continue and have been used to increase the number of iPads the school has on hand for student use.

Plans for these funds included extending iPads to the 6th grade. However, after some time had passed, it became apparent that perhaps sixth grade students would not be able to handle the additional responsibility of carrying an iPad all day. Therefore, it was decided that iPad carts would be purchased instead. Teachers in 5th and 6th grade have the ability of using the iPads with students without expecting students to be responsible for carrying the iPads around all day and the primary grades have a cart to share as well. The more proficient teachers become in implementing iPads in the classroom, the more they want to have them available for their use. Mrs. Smith has since integrated questions about one-to-one computing into her interview protocol for new hires to help sustain the vision and pedagogical innovations brought by the iPad initiative.



Evaluation

In the three years of the initiative Mrs. Smith has not observed any noticeable differences between the reliability of the iPads and existing desktop computers available in the computer lab. She has noted a cost savings as a result of reduced paper usage and in purchasing e-textbooks. Mrs. Smith also noted classroom efficiencies in materials distribution as fewer papers were being handed out during class time. Members of the technology team periodically obtain student views on the initiative through surveys and anecdotal conversations.

In the fall of 2013, led by faculty researcher, Dr. Laura Corbin Frazier, a qualitative research study was conducted at the school using focus group interviews with students, teachers, and parents. The research sought to understand how teacher technology decision-making may have been impacted by the initiative and to

in high school.

Many of the decisions that were made before the iPad program started have proven to be beneficial for the school. For example, not allowing students to take the iPads home. Due to the age of the students and the added responsibility of caring for an iPad, students are currently not allowed to "share" iPads. Though research findings suggested some student concern over this policy, SJRCS administration feels that the policy has supported that decision. Limiting the sharing of iPads among students has definitely reduced the possibility of one student damaging an iPad assigned to someone else. The school administration had to take into consideration that they were dealing with thirteen year olds who sometimes act impulsively and without thinking beyond their immediate actions. Further, teachers have found ways for students to work cooperatively while using their own iPads. SJRCS teachers and administrators continue to attend workshops focused on the successful implementation of iPads in the classroom. Like everything else involving technology, continuous professional development is essential to make implementation successful.

Teachers have also found that even our youngest students in Pre-K enjoy using the iPads. They have been able to find several apps that allow students in the primary and elementary grades to access the iPads too. Fundraising has allowed the purchase of additional iPad carts to meet these demands. When more iPads were added, however, the need to increase bandwidth for Internet use was noted and later confirmed by research findings. Currently, SJRCS is at capacity and is in the process of identifying alternate means of providing faster wireless Internet access throughout the school.

SJRCS school administrators are pleased with the overall effects of the iPad initiative. It keeps their Mission at the forefront of what they do at school each day: "to develop future leadership for the 21st century through academic excellence..." This initiative has put a device in the hands of every 7th and 8th grade student. Some of whom might not have had that opportunity. It has also allowed students to realize first-hand the power of technology and has brought them closer to being college and career ready for a future that is ever changing in the realm of technology.

Karen Smith, M.Ed, is principal at St. John Regional Catholic School.

Laura Corbin Frazier, Ed.D., is an assistant professor in the department of Education at Mount St. Mary's University.

Seeds of Hope Bear Fruits of Success

By Kelly Medinger

11-03-2014

Boys Hope Girls Hope of Baltimore uses education grant to inspire, empower, and nurture scholars to succeed in school and in life

Congratulations to the Class of 2019 **Mount Saint Joseph Scholarship Recipients**

Br. Dominic Scholarship

Anthony Bibbo (Home School)
 Michael Garvin (St. Louis School)

Br. Isidore Scholarship

Samuel Danchik (Home School)
 Pierson Polcaro (Elkridge Landing Middle School)

Br. Joseph Sullivan Scholarship

Alex Andrews (School of the Incarnation)
 Eric Batzler (School of the Incarnation)
 Martin Blurton-Jones (Resurrection-St. Paul School)
 Zachary Brotzman (St. Louis School)
 Jacob Brown (Catonsville Middle School)
 Connor Churko (Mount Airy Middle School)
 Griffin Dean (School of the Incarnation)
 Luke Glagola (Severna Park Middle School)
 Ryan Grandolfo (Burleigh Manor Middle School)
 Matthew Harris (KIPP Ujima Village Academy)
 Zachary Henstrand (Monsignor Slade Catholic School)
 Daniel Hostutler (St. Louis School)
 John Hughes (Central Middle School)

Speech & Debate Scholarship

Zachary Henstrand (Monsignor Slade Catholic School)
 Jacob Myers (Resurrection-St. Paul School)
 Thomas Scantlebury (Resurrection-St. Paul School)

Br. Placidus Merit Award

Eric Batzler (School of the Incarnation)
 James Bishop IV (Home School)
 Paul Bunting II (Arbutus Middle School)
 Ashton Carey (St. John the Evangelist School, Severna Park)
 Wesley Chairs (St. Mark School)
 Connor Churko (Mount Airy Middle School)
 Stephen Fabian (Oklahoma Road Middle School)
 Seth Fillers IV (Lamb of God School)
 Luke Glagola (Severna Park Middle School)
 Justin Henry (Ss. James & John School)
 Bradley Kenjorski (Monsignor Slade Catholic School)
 Tyler Konsowski (St. Philip Neri School)
 Raymond Kovacsics (St. John the Evangelist School, Severna Park)

Luke Isayiw (St. John Regional Catholic School)
 Jeremy Luers (Severna Park Middle School)
 Joseph Marino IV (Resurrection-St. Paul School)
 Edward Marsh (Thomas Viaduct Middle School)
 Ezra Melchor (Lamb of God School)
 Spencer Nichols (St. Augustine School)
 Jack Phelps (Roland Park Middle School)
 Matthew Ritmiller (Monsignor Slade Catholic School)
 Tate Samson (Sacred Heart School, Glyndon)
 William Sharp (Our Lady of Perpetual Help School)
 Joseph Vita, Jr. (Home School)
 Matthew Wynn (St. Mark School)
 Patrick Zaleski (Home School)

Justin Looney (Mount View Middle School)
 David Morgan (Bonnie Branch Middle School)
 Nicholas Pell (St. Mark School)
 Dominic Roberto (Meade Middle School)
 Ethan Schafer (Monsignor Slade Catholic School)
 Bryson Shaw (Boy's Latin School)
 Jayden Simms (George Fox Middle School)
 Marcus Smith (Unsel'd's School)
 Garrett Stanard (Trinity School)
 Cole Trippett (St. Mary's School, Hagerstown)
 Aidan van der Horst (St. John the Evangelist School, Severna Park)



Staff photo by Sam Yu

Colleen Manchester, a third-grade teacher, was recently named teacher of the year at St. John Regional Catholic School. Here, Manchester uses weights to test student-built bridges from an engineering lesson. The students are, from left, Emily Stadter, Lea Hou and Tori Taylor.

St. John teacher of year encourages curiosity

By PATTI BORDA MULLINS
pmullins@newspost.com

Slice of Life

A visitor to Colleen Manchester's classroom recently would have seen a batch of model bridges constructed out of wooden blocks.

"We're in the middle of our building bridges unit," Manchester said, explain-

ing the collection of structures around the room.

Manchester's project represents part of the gift she brings to St. John Regional Catholic School, where she was named teacher of the year, Principal Karen Smith said.

Not only does Manchester teach her third-graders, but she has a special gift for science, technology, engineering and math curricula that she shares with the school's 500 students, Smith said in a telephone interview.

(See SLICE A6)

(Continued from A5)

"It's exciting," Manchester said of STEM initiatives.

"She's just willing to go the extra mile to provide enrichment," Smith said.

Manchester was tidying up from the end of the week with her third grade's combined engineering and math project on bridges, and dismissed the notion that her title as teacher of the year made her in any way superior.

"It's humbling," she said. "Truly, it's embarrassing; no teacher stands alone."

She approaches her job

with enthusiasm and has for six years at St. John, Smith said.

"She's very dedicated to planning engaging lesson plans," Smith said.

"I do love designing the lesson that's going to make them think," Manchester said.

She added that she is thrilled to see the students find a way to use their school learning in the real world, building a bridge that works because the math was correct, for example.

"I want them to be problem-solvers," she said.

She is known for her classroom bulletin board

labeled "Things That Make You Say Hmmm." She uses it to remind students, and herself, to be curious everywhere in life and to share discoveries.

On that bulletin board, they pin up their curious finds: a bagworm sack, seed-pods that look like alien visitors, cicadas' molted skins.

She paused to answer a question about what makes her enthusiastic day in and day out.

"It's the teaching," she said.

Manchester said she strives to create a classroom environment where students with diverse learning

needs feel successful and valued. She does not strive to be everyone's favorite teacher, but she wants all students to feel as if they were her favorite.

"I want them to say, 'She treated everyone the same,'" she said.

"She really wants all her students to be successful," Smith said.

Follow Patti Borda Mullins on Twitter: @FNP_Patti.

Know of a person who would make a good Slice? If so, please send your suggestions to citydesk@newspost.com or call us at 301-662-1178 and ask for a city editor.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hawks meet Lancers' challenge



Staff photo by Bill Green

Urbana's Madeline Cederdahl, right, goes up for a shot as Linganore's Sarah Roerty reaches in from behind in the second quarter of the Hawks' 60-55 win over the Lancers Monday at Urbana High School. Despite Urbana beating Linganore by 21 points in the last meeting between the teams, Cederdahl said the Hawks did not take the Lancers lightly on Monday.

Mount St. Mary's education plan features real-life situations for teachers

By JEREMY BAUER-WOLF jbauerwolf@newspost.com | Posted: Wednesday, April 1, 2015 11:45 pm

Every prospective teacher in the state must undergo a stint of student teaching, in the hopes that firsthand experience in schools will cement their career choice. Education classes at Mount St. Mary's take that requirement a step further, offering their students other opportunities to learn the logistics of teaching work outside the classroom — like planning a field trip.

Through a partnership with a university alumnus, 18 interns were shuttled Wednesday to the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, an annex of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, at Washington Dulles International Airport.

The Mount students were charged with exploring how the center could serve as the site of a field trip, how its programming might be integrated into the school curriculum, but also non-academic tasks, such as piecing together a schedule and noting the safety measures offered at the center would be sufficient to accommodate the number of theoretical students attending.

"It gives them a lot of that firsthand experience," said Stacey Brown-Hobbs, accreditation coordinator and professor at Mount St. Mary's. "We want to make sure that by the time they get to this point, they're sure this is what they want to do."

Brown-Hobbs co-teaches two courses with her colleague Laura Frazier, assistant professor in the department of education: a science, technology, engineering and mathematics methods class, and a social students and assessment course. The shared teaching style is fairly unusual in a university setting, Frazier said.

Junior Karly Sites, one of the students passing through Mount St. Mary's education program, said the dual teaching method allows her to figure out how to divide a classroom with another instructor.



Mount St. Mary's education plan features real-life situations for teachers

Chris Eltringham, left, tests his propeller design with Steve Norman at the National Air and Space Museum. Hudvar-Hazy Center.

Sites is amid her 100-day internship, as required by law for certification, at Waverley Elementary School in Frederick. There, she works with students with special needs, often in small groups. She hopes to work in elementary school education and with special-needs students.

Students earning an education degree pop in and out of Frederick County Public Schools periodically, starting freshman year.

Recently, Sites attended a STEM fair at St. John Regional Catholic School, where she chatted with the point planners of the event, mostly other teachers, and learned how to pique student interest in STEM topics.

The day of the field trip, Sites and her peers were treated to a tour by another teacher, who took them through the space hangars and various airplane hangars as well.

"It was cool to see from a teacher perspective," she said.

Throughout the tour, the professors would point out safety considerations the future teachers would need to plan for — the proper ratio of children to chaperones, and the multiple exits of the building.

"We aren't even just doing the class work, we're in the field as well, to see what it means in an active way and engage students," Sites said. "It's awesome, so many great experiences, rather than just a textbook."