

Madonna *matters*



June 2019

Stories and Highlights of the 2018-2019 School Year



L to R: Richard Piwowarski, Sr. Emilie Marie Lesniak, Sr. Jeanne Marie Toriskie, Sr. Helene Galuszka, Sr. Donna Wolowicki, Betsy Garbrecht and Sarah Herbert.

Dreams to Reality Award

Resurrection College Preparatory High School honored the Madonna Foundation with their Dreams to Reality Award on February 23. The Foundation was selected in recognition of its steadfast commitment and support of the Resurrection students who are designated Madonna Scholars. Thank you Resurrection for this great honor!



The Madonna Foundation, sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, continues the tradition the Sisters began at Madonna High School in 1949. Established in 2001, the Foundation has awarded over \$3,000,000 in scholarship support to more than 1,300 Madonna Scholars while providing dynamic college readiness programming. Thank you to all of our supporters and donors who help us create the next generation of accomplished and compassionate leaders.

Our Scholars

Nineteen freshmen were selected for the 2018-2019 school year. We also welcomed back 16 sophomores, 14 juniors and nine seniors.



Franciscan Ministries sponsored by
the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

11500 Theresa Drive
Lemont, IL 60439

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Attention Former Madonnians and Teachers

The MHS Alumnae Association is in the process of updating their records, and they want to hear from you! Please email your name (include maiden), address, phone, email and graduation year to madonnaalumnae@gmail.com. Also, let us know if you're interested in joining the MHS Alumnae Board. For all the latest alumnae news and information, join their Facebook group: Madonna High School (Chicago, IL).

Learn More About the Madonna Foundation

Visit our website at www.madonnascholars.org and follow us on Facebook @Madonnianpride. For more information about charitable giving opportunities, contact Betsy Garbrecht at 331.318.5170 or egarbrecht@franciscanministries.org.

If you are a Madonna Scholar or Madonna High School alumna we would love to hear from you!



Madonna High School



Scholars experiencing arts and culture at the Chicago History Museum.

College Visits

The Madonna Scholars visited Carthage College, Loyola University, and Purdue University during the school year. In addition to learning about the admissions process, they got a sense of the unique environment on each campus through leadership workshops, presentations for first-generation and minority students, and conversations with professors and student leaders. Scholars' parents also participated in the visits, enabling them to gain new insights into college preparedness.

Scholars and their families also participated in a workshop focusing on college and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and its processes. Provided by Loyola University's Arrupe College, a new Madonna Foundation partner, the workshop was presented in both English and Spanish. It helped families of our first-generation students understand and navigate these areas more easily.



Ivelisse Rodriguez, Vice President of the Logan Square WINTRUST branch with Madonna Scholars and parents.



Scholars end their campus visit at Purdue University with a stop at the Latino Cultural Center on campus.



Loyola graduate students with Madonna scholars after the STEM workshop.

LIVING *joyfully*



Pictured above are the sophomore Madonna Scholars on a campus tour of Loyola University.



Madonna Scholars with students and staff during their campus visit at Carthage College.

Academic Enrichment

In partnership with the Student Council, the Madonna Foundation provided ACT test preparation and individualized study opportunities throughout the year for the scholars. Preparatory classes helped them increase their ACT scores, opening more doors to college acceptances.

To further scholar interests in STEM, the Madonna Foundation has partnered with the Women in Science (WINS) group of the Graduate Program of the Health Sciences Division of Loyola University in Maywood. Led by graduate students in biomedical science, STEM workshops enable scholars to conduct hands-on experiments and learn about influential women in science. A recent workshop included a health threat simulation where scholars were challenged to discover the source of an Ebola outbreak.

Wintrust Bank hosted a SMART Money Program for the scholars and their parents to learn about establishing credit, setting sound financial goals, managing a personal budget, and financing college. The Madonna Foundation is grateful for this partnership with Wintrust and pleased the program has expanded to include Madonna parents.

To provide an opportunity to appreciate arts and culture, Madonna Scholars and parents enjoyed the Chicago History Museum. For many, the visit was their first to this museum and they valued the experience and the opportunity to learn more about the history of their city.



Back Row: L to R: Katherine A., Princeanna G., Sabrina M. and Maria S.
Front Row: L to R: Sequoia C., Karime S., Sarah H., Melissa L., and Amanda D.

Our 2019 Graduates

All nine Madonna Scholar seniors graduated this spring and will attend college in the fall. Their hard work and dedication resulted in multiple acceptances and scholarship offers from colleges and universities coast to coast! The aggregate total of scholarship offers was more than \$3,000,000! Karime Sanchez received the QuestBridge scholarship to Columbia University in New York City and Princeanna Gibson received the Posse scholarship to Pomona College in Claremont, California. Congratulations to all of the graduates as they begin the next stage of their educational journey!

Madonna Scholar Programming Highlights 2018-2019

Career Day Event

To gain an understanding of potential career paths and exposure to a variety of professional environments, Madonna Scholars visited Northwestern Hospital, Nuveen Investments, and Opportunities for All. At Northwestern they were treated to a behind the scene's tour of the hospital surgical sterilization unit, the physical therapy department, and the outpatient surgery area. The scholars learned that in addition to traditional medical careers, a hospital offers careers in management, finance, and hospitality. We are grateful to Maria Guerreno at Northwestern Hospital, Tara Liceaga at Nuveen Investments and Nancy Cortés at Opportunities for All for arranging these opportunities.



Scholars get ready for the tour of the sterilization unit at Northwestern Hospital.

Madonna Scholars 2019

Karime Sanchez
Columbia University

Princeanna Gibson
Pomona College

Melissa Lara
University of Wisconsin

Sarah Herbert
Judson University

Sabrina Martinez
Loyola University

Maria Soto
Illinois Institute of Technology

Katherine Alfaro
Gettysburg College

Sequoia Cook
Northeastern Illinois University

Amanda Delgado
Carthage College



Tara Liceaga, VP of Investment Oversight at Nuveen Investments, with visiting Madonna Scholars.



Mary Slowik and Nancy Cortez, MHS Alumnae '83 with Madonna Scholars during their visit to Opportunities for All.

Supporting Madonna Foundation

Women at the Table

On January 10th, the Madonna Foundation hosted Women at the Table, a mentorship event that brought together current and former Madonna scholars with Madonna High School alumnae. The Madonna High School alumnae shared their career and life experience and provided guidance and advice to the former and current Madonna scholars.



Pictured above are MHS Alumnae, Scholar Alumnae and current Madonna scholars.



L to R: Current and former Madonna Scholars Karime Sanchez, Sarah Herbert, Rahma Almajid, and Princeanna Gibson helped represent the Madonna Foundation at First Look for Charity.

First Look for Charity Event Benefits the Madonna Foundation

On February 8 the Madonna Foundation, as part of the Franciscan Community Benefit Services Corporation, was blessed to be one of 18 charities that benefited from First Look for Charity, the premier black tie event of the Chicago Auto Show. More than 600 guests and supporters enjoyed our private hospitality suite before the event got underway. Because of the generosity of our sponsors and donors, the Madonna Foundation can now provide even more support to young women in need.

Trivia Night Event

Alumnae and friends gathered with Madonna Scholar families at Resurrection High School for a 10-round trivia competition on November 3. They enjoyed food and drinks and meeting old friends. Teams tested their trivia knowledge to benefit the Madonna Foundation. Be sure to watch for details for this fall's Trivia Night and get your team together! Thank you to Resurrection High School for hosting this event!

Madonna Foundation Advisory Council

To further the work of the Madonna Foundation, the Madonna Advisory Council was formed in Fall 2018 to bring together a group of five professional women deeply committed to our mission. Well-established in their careers and communities, they help create awareness of our mission and expand networks, guide strategies, and advocate to broaden our base of support, and provide financial support. We are grateful for their commitment to the future of the Madonna Foundation.

Madonna Foundation Partners with Mother McAuley

The Madonna Foundation is the only one in the region focusing exclusively on educating young women and preparing them for college. In August 2019 the Madonna Foundation will add a sixth partner school: Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School on Chicago's southwest side. Now the Madonna Foundation will have a presence in all remaining, all-girls Catholic high schools in the Chicago area. Our five current partner schools include: Resurrection College Preparatory High School; Josephinum Academy; Trinity High School; Our Lady of Tepeyac High School; and Regina Dominican.

Service and Spiritual Retreats

To instill and foster the spirit of giving back, scholars participated in a number of service projects including a missioning retreat and volunteer opportunity at Misericordia Home in Chicago; a Christmas party for the residents of St. Joseph Village; a Franciscan Ministries senior living community in Chicago; and a fun-filled visit discussing life after high school with residents at University Place, a Franciscan Ministries senior living community in West Lafayette, Indiana. A scholar described the impact of these service projects, "I believe these sorts of experiences help strengthen my desire to have a hand in the life and care of people."



Junior Madonna Scholars Melenie Sianez, Cristina Olmos and Daniela Olmos volunteered in the bakery at Misericordia.



MHS Alumnae and former teachers.

Reconnecting at the Alumnae Mass and Luncheon

The 2nd Annual Madonna High School Alumnae Mass and Luncheon, hosted by the Madonna Foundation and the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, was held at Our Lady of Victory in Lemont last fall. Over 50 guests gathered to reconnect with old friends, teachers and former students. Everyone delighted in sharing stories and rekindling friendships!

SAVE THE DATE Sunday, September 22, 2019

All Madonna High School alumnae and teachers are invited to the 3rd Annual Madonna High School Alumnae Mass and Luncheon on Sunday, September 22 at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory Convent in Lemont. For more details or to RSVP, please contact Betsy Garbrecht at 331.318.5170 or egarbrecht@franciscanministries.org.