Quarterly news from O'Dea High School

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O'DEA TODAY

FALL 2016

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Message from the Principal

Welcome to the 2016-2017 School Year!

I want to welcome all of you to the 2016-2017 school year! We have had an exciting summer, highlighted by the renovation of six classrooms located on the second floor of the 1923 building. Under the leadership of Facilities Director, Jason Kerr, the original classrooms were demolished and rebuilt into classrooms designed to support an enriched learning experience for both students and teachers. The integration of Surface devices into the learning process provides additional opportunities for students to collaborate and connect in dynamic ways through shared learning experiences. I encourage you to stop by and see the remarkable work that has been done!

In the broad spectrum of high schools, O'Dea remains unique and significant. Not just as the only all-male Catholic college-preparatory high school in the Pacific Northwest, but in every aspect of our students' experiences. We educate our students to be men of character and to celebrate our diversity in ways that enlighten and inform. We inspire a thirst for knowledge, a resolve to win with honor, and to cultivate and nourish a faith in God. For nearly a century Brotherhood has formed in our classrooms, on our athletic fields, and in our campus ministry. It does not start with an application, nor does it end with graduation. It is truly a Brotherhood for Life.

Thank you for your partnership in realizing O'Dea's mission. I am excited about our shared commitment to making the 2016-2017 school year remarkable as together we strive to pursue excellence in all endeavors.

Go Irish!

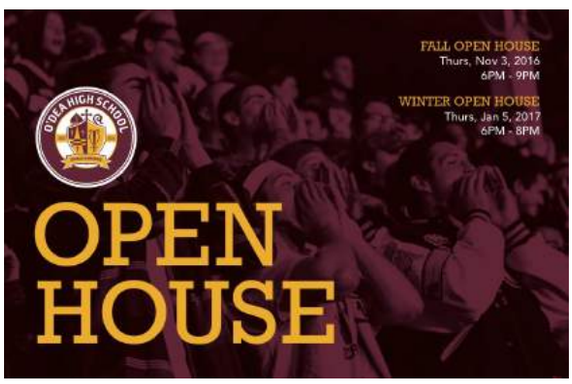
Jim Walker
Principal
Character. Faith. Service.

Events Calendar

Important Dates to Remember

November 3rd: Fall Open House
November 5th: Football District Playoffs
November 5th: Cross Country State Meet
November 12th: Alumni Memorial Mass
December 6th: O'Dea Holiday Broadcast

Click here to view the full O'Dea calendar!



Please join us for our Fall Open House!

Congrats to our Metro League Champions!

Academics

NW Catholic Magazine - Student of the Month

Congratulations to senior, Doug Russell, on being named September 2016 NW Catholic Student of the Month.

An all-state defensive tackle for O'Dea's football team, Douglas is "a true and authentic leader," said nominator John O'Neill. "He displays a genuine spirit of empowerment for his classmates and teammates." Douglas serves as a mentor group leader in O'Dea's house system and regularly volunteers at campus events. He is also a leader with Skyway Solutions, a community-building organization in the Renton area.

Click here to view the article online. Congratulations, Doug!

National Honors Recipients

O'Dea High School recognizes the academic accomplishments of students after each semester. Our Honors Assembly for the second semester of the 2015-16 school was held on Monday, October 10th. To see a list of students who received Academic Honors please click here.

Summer Leadership Camp

This past summer five O'Dea student leaders, Alan Badley, Jason Wong, Leon Jackson, Charlie Bruce, and Herman Buchanan, were fortunate enough to attend the Mt. Olympus Leadership Camp: "Carry the Torch." These young men joined with 250 other student leaders from across the state to learn more about themselves and how to become more effective leaders. Jason Wong recounted, "I learned a lot about myself as a leader and acquired new techniques that I look forward to bringing to O'Dea to improve our school for this school year."

When asked about specific leadership skills that were strengthened at the camp, Herman Buchanan explained, "We learned a lot about studying our specific audience and finding out the best way to spark their interest in any type of event. I've already had a chance to put this to work at the Freshman Picnic and other small events in the school."

The five leaders that represented O'Dea High School had a wonderful time and were fortunate to grow as leaders. We are looking forward to seeing their newly acquired skills in action during the 2016-2017 school year!

Athletics

Little Irish Program

This fall O'Dea High School began the Little Irish Program, designed to match a young student (boys and girls grades K-6) with an O'Dea football player. The purpose of the program is to encourage our young men to become positive leaders and role models in the greater O'Dea community. In addition, the program presents an opportunity for the young people of our community to have a mentor in their lives.

To date we have had terrific participation with over 50 Little Irish in just our first season! The feedback from the program participants and parents has been incredible. "My boys already loved coming to watch the big guys play, but the Little Irish program has cemented their bond with O'Dea. They love getting weekly calls from their player/mentor, and it's a real thrill for them to be on the field at games. What a great way to instill our love for O'Dea in area grade schoolers!" said alum, Tom Goedde '88.

Our hope is to continue to grow the Little Irish Program across the athletic department and to include other aspects of campus life. To learn more please contact John O'Neill, Director of Community Relations. GO IRISH!

Football

Congratulations to the 2016 Metro Champions, the O'Dea Fighting Irish! These young men came into the 2016 season with high expectations and with balance on both the offensive and defensive lines, and terrific depth in the backfield, the Irish have ended the regular season undefeated with an impressive 9-0 record. From summer camp to double sessions, it has been evident that this group has a great work ethic and a true sense of brotherhood. We are now moving on to the playoffs beginning with a District Tournament game at **5pm this Saturday, November 5th @ Memorial Stadium.** Come cheer us on in the weeks ahead as we compete for another State Championship! GO IRISH!

Golf

The O'Dea Golf team entered the season with a young squad including four Freshmen and two Sophomores. They competed in a very tough Metro League and continued to make big improvements throughout the season. JT Rimorin '20 and Alec Feldman '20 made the cut at Metro's and Alec Feldman '20 qualified for Districts. Congratulations to Sam Medeiros '20 who earned the WIAA Athlete of the Week Award for his performance vs. West Seattle. The future looks bright for this young Irish squad!

Cross Country

The young Irish Cross Country squad showed tremendous improvement and growth through their Fall season. Led by Juniors, Isaac Mohn and Andrew Hogan, the Irish recently completed their regular season and have moved into post-season competition. Both Isaac and Andrew finished in the top-12 in the Metro League Championships and have each qualified for the State Championships to be competed on Saturday, November 5th at the Sun Willows Golf Course in Pasco, Washington. GO IRISH!

Wall of Honor Inductee Celebration

On Thursday, October 20th O'Dea recognized the 2016 Wall of Honor Inductees with a daylong celebration, culminating with the first ever Wall of Honor Inductee Celebration in the evening. Those honored included David Bazzi '96, Kurth Connell '95, Chris Johnson '95, Matthew Pearson '96, and the '92-'93 state champion basketball team. Inductees flew in from Maine, Georgia, Texas, and California, and were celebrated for their great athletic ability along with their diligence, perseverance and hard work during their time at O'Dea. At an afternoon assembly these athletes spoke meaningfully to our students about the impact O'Dea and the brotherhood has had on their lives. Their happiness to be back at school and together again was visible to all. The Inductee Celebration in the evening was attended by almost 200 people and raised more than $60,000 to support the proud tradition of O'Dea athletics. Congratulations to our inductees and thank you to everyone who attended!

Student Life

Freshman Welcome BBQ

The incoming freshman class of 2020 had their new family picnic on the afternoon of September 11th, 2016. This annual event is held at upper Woodland Park and is a time for freshman from O'Dea and Holy Names to meet each other, enjoy a catered lunch, and participate in organized ice breakers and activities. It's a great opportunity to kick off the new year and begin making new friendships!

O'Dea & Holy Names Social & Puyallup Fair

On Saturday, September 17th, freshmen from O'Dea and Holy Names took a road trip to Puyallup for a day of fun at the fair. The day ended with a freshman social in the gym. The Class of 2020 has many great times ahead of them!

Homecoming Week

An eventful and spirited Homecoming Week concluded with nearly 330 O'Dea gentlemen and their guests attending a "Masquerade" themed Homecoming Dance in the O'Dea Gym. The O'Dea boys had a great time dancing the night away!

Faith & Service

Freshman Retreat

The Freshman Welcome Retreat was a very spiritual retreat! Senior leaders told stories about their experience at O'Dea and touched on the true meaning of brotherhood. The retreat was a beautiful way for freshman to get to know other people, have fun, and to engage in personal reflection.

Sophomore Retreat

For this year's Sophomore Retreat students volunteered for Catholic Community Services and did yard work for several residents on a fixed income. The work was hard, and we even had to endure terrible weather, but the boys rose to the occasion. It was just another way our O'Dea gentlemen showed their remarkable character and what sets them apart.

The Arts

Fall Concert Series

On Wednesday, October 26th, the O'Dea Choir performed a varied program of music at the Frye Art Museum. This short concert featured folk songs of the United States and South Africa as well as well-known rock and pop hits. The choir performed with energy, enthusiasm, and poise for an appreciative audience of family and peers.

Gonzaga Choir Festival

The O'Dea Choir had the distinct pleasure of performing with the Gonzaga University Concert Choir on Thursday, October 27th. This choir festival, held at St. James Cathedral, was expertly run by Dr. Tim Westerhaus, Director of Choirs at Gonzaga. To the delight of the audience, O'Dea performed admirably.

Admissions

Fall Open House

Welcome Class of 2020! This year's freshman class is a special group of 147 young men who have made the wise choice to join the O'Dea Brotherhood. I can see their gifts and talents flourishing already and have no doubt that this will continue throughout their O'Dea Experience.

This fall, O'Dea Student Ambassadors and House Leaders are hosting 8th shadow visits, visiting 32 Catholic grade schools, and have attend five Catholic High School Regional Information Nights. On November 3rd, O'Dea will host the Fall Open House. There is an exciting "buzz" and promising interest from the class of 2021 and I'm looking forward to working with these families as they navigate the admissions process.

If you, your family, or friends are interested in joining our community, I invite you to contact the Admissions Office at 206-622-1308. Additional information can be found online at odea.org. Go Irish!

Advancement

POSH Gala Auction Comes Home - March 18, 2017

We hope you'll join us for the POSH Auction this year as we come home to celebrate O'Dea's traditions and further its mission! O'Dea is a special place to all of us and we are thrilled to have you experience the auction this year right at the school. Our remodeled classrooms on the 2nd floor will be open, the tented courtyard with heaters will be a great place to gather and visit, and the live auction will be held in the gym under our illustrious banners. Save the Date cards will be in the mail soon and reservations can be made on our website in late November. We look forward to seeing you!

Donor Making a Difference

We want to extend a special thank you to longtime supporter Roy F. Simperman for pledging $750,000 to help us remodel our 3rd floor classrooms! Roy has generously supported O'Dea for many years because of his steadfast belief in the value of an O'Dea education and our commitment to the principles of character, faith and service. Roy partnered with us last year by providing funds for the technology in our new 2nd floor classrooms. In the coming year he is firmly committed to ensuring we are able to enhance our learning environment on the 3rd floor as well. We will need to raise an additional $750,000 to make this project a reality so will look to the support of others in our community as well. We are honored to have Roy's support and thankful for his generosity, which will have enormous impact on our current and future students. O'Dea is a blessed community.

Alumni

Alumni Golf Tournament

The 30th Annual O'Dea Golf Tournament, presented by Patterson Buchanan Fobes & Leitch, Inc. PS. was held at the Golf Club at Newcastle – China Creek, on Monday, June 20, 2016. For the fourth consecutive year we sold out the tournament weeks in advance. It was a gorgeous day, the course was competitive, and an incredible time was had by all!

Congrats to our winners!

Overall Champions
Class of 2002 – Jon Tran, Joe Greene, Jason Benn and Matt Brace
Overall Low Net of 50

Junior Low Gross Champions
Tony Davila ’12, Rich Moore ’12, Casey O’Connor ’08 and Michael Schaloum ’13
Score of 55

Senior Low Gross winners
Larry Jergens ’53, Danny Schuster ’12, Jeff Jergens and Tim Jergens
Score of 57

Long Drive – Joey Launceford ’11

Straight Drive – Steve Waid ’02

Closest to the Pin – Rich Moore ’12

Thank you to all our donors and volunteers who assisted with this successful event. Special thanks to our Golf Tournament co-chairs, John DeRocco ’74 and Ken Wiseman ’77 who were instrumental in the success of this event.

Don’t miss out on all the fun next year for the 31st Annual O’Dea Golf Tournament on **Monday, June 19, 2017**. Space is limited, so get your reservations in as soon as possible. To help sponsor our tournament, please contact David Mazzeo in the Development Office at 206-622-0722 or dmazzeo@odea.org.

Alumni Senior Breakfast

Our third Annual O’Dea High School Alumni - Senior Class Breakfast was held on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, at the Washington Athletic Club. The O’Dea Class of 2017 was welcomed by 27 O’Dea Alumni from various class years, professions and walks of life. The program featured guest speakers Tom Goedde ’88, Jerry Morales ’89 and Scott Laigo ’82, all focusing on the O’Dea Brotherhood, why it is important to stay connected and what makes O’Dea unique and truly a "Brotherhood for Life". This event is able to provide direct networking lines between our alumni and soon to be alumni. We look forward to celebrating this event with the O’Dea class of 2018 next year!

Where are they now?

O’Dea Alumni seem to be everywhere, making positive impacts in their communities and with their families. Here are just some of our more recent accomplishments or momentous occasions from our graduated Fighting Irish:

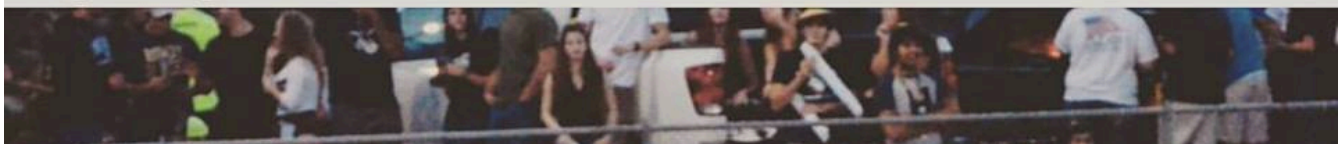
This October, **Darryl D'Ambrosio ’91**, reached his 15th year with the Seattle Police Department (18th in law enforcement). D'Ambrosio was promoted to Sergeant last March. Thank you for your service!

Congratulations **Dan Kenny ’07**, on getting married to Candice Shulte, on Saturday, October 8th in Omaha, NE.

Fortitude stands for strength, integrity and courage. A company co-founded by O'Dea alum **Jake Crocker ’13** and his business partner Ronnie Dylan. Fortitude is built on four divisions: Music, Fashion, Visual and Charity. O'Dea alum **Connor Jalbert ’13** has partnered with Fortitude as the head of their visual department. Check out their website www.FortitudeLegacy.com to see their story or visit their shop FortitudeStore.com to support the journey.

Ever since winning the starting position in week 3 of his true freshman season, **Robbie Jo Gerarden ’15** has been perfect for two seasons on PATs, with his season long this year from 47 yards!

A few Hardrocker highlights include PAT kicker Robbie Jo Gerarden who was a perfect 8-8 on extra points. Gerarden is currently tied for the lead in conference going 26-26 in PATs. South Dakota Mines’



Mothers' Club

The Bite of O'Dea

On October 1st, 2016 the Mothers' Club hosted the 26th annual "Bite of O'Dea" to help raise funds for our O'Dea gentlemen and their families when in need. This tradition was started by O'Dea parent Sandie Lell in an effort to not only raise needed funds but to also provide an opportunity for the ladies of the O'Dea community to get together and socialize. The best part of the night was having the opportunity to hear from two current O'Dea students who have been directly impacted by the support of the Mothers' Club. Their testimonials were heartfelt and provided our guests with real life examples showing just what it means to the family to have the support of the Mothers' Club when in need. When they were done speaking there wasn't a dry eye in the room. This years event was a huge success raising nearly $15,000!

Fathers' Club

Italian Dinner - Save the Date!

Mark your calendars and invite friends and classmates to the 52nd Annual Italian Dinner on **Saturday, January 28th** at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Last year we sold out quickly! Cocktails and appetizers begin after 5pm and dinner is served at 7pm. All proceeds go towards continuing the longstanding traditions of O'Dea High School, including providing these young men with a quality education and a Brotherhood that lasts a lifetime. Don't miss out on the fun!

ODEA.ORG

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