

# IRISH REVIEW



# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION



A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of O'Dea High School  
Summer 2023 | ODEA.ORG

“

“After all these years one word comes to mind. BROTHERHOOD. Anytime someone asks where I went to high school, they are impressed. No matter what year you may have graduated, every one of us is a member of a special brotherhood.” - Class of 1972 Alum

”

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**Irish Review**  
Spring/Summer 2023

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear O'Dea Community,

On behalf of O'Dea High School, it is my privilege to welcome you to the latest edition of the Irish Review, as we complete the celebration of our 100th year. Since our doors opened in 1923, O'Dea has provided generations of students with an exceptional Catholic education grounded in the core values of Character, Faith, and Service. I am genuinely grateful for the leadership of St. James Cathedral, who achieved their vision to open a Catholic high school on First Hill, and to all those in the intervening decades who endeavored to honor and realize the founding vision for O'Dea.

In my time at O'Dea, it has been clear that the goal of an O'Dea education was more than just striving to achieve academic success. Our mission-centered commitment ensures that students learn to respect themselves and others. In addition, providing opportunities for our students to mature emotionally, socially, and spiritually are actively pursued as core tenets of the O'Dea Experience.

While much has changed in the past 100 years, O'Dea's Mission, the Christian Brothers' legacy, and the meaningful contributions of over 8,000 alumni remain relevant and consequential. Whether serving 130 students in 1923 or 450 young men in 2023, O'Dea remains committed to ensuring O'Dea graduates are prepared as they enter the world.

In my tenure as principal, I have had the unique privilege of handing an O'Dea diploma to three sons. As I reflect on my 30+ years at O'Dea, sharing their high school experience as their principal and father provided me with many positive, meaningful, and entertaining memories. I am grateful for this experience.

This year, we recognized O'Dea's numerous achievements and time-honored traditions and acknowledged the contributions of our community members to advance O'Dea and our mission of Catholic education. I look forward to seeing the future of O'Dea and thank you for your continued support of our young men.

Peace & Roll Irish,

Jim Walker  
Principal

# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION



"With tradition, comes responsibility." Principal Jim Walker's words ring out to a group of students donned in collared shirts and dress pants. Seated in front of him are the 450 current students who come from 93 zip codes across the greater Seattle area. Each student is a unique individual who will be educated by dedicated faculty, staff, and coaches committed to helping him grow into a man of character, faith, and service. These students have a shared history with the 8,000 students that have come before them. A history that is enhanced by O'Dea's Catholic foundation, unparalleled bonds of brotherhood, and an education that are all distinct parts of the O'Dea experience. The following pages provide an inside look at pieces of our 100-year history and the longstanding traditions of the young men that have walked the halls of 802 Terry Avenue.



## BUILDING 802 TERRY

In 1920, Bishop Edward J. O’Dea communicated to the Superior General of the Irish Christian Brothers that there was an urgent need to establish a Cathedral High School for boys in Seattle due to overcrowding at other high schools and to encourage young men to consider the vocation of priesthood. The hope was to draw young men from the parishes of the city to a school operated by the Congregation of Christian Brothers.

The Cathedral purchased land for \$43,000 and the Christian Brothers who taught at the school moved to a residence at 1003 Marion Street. A noted Seattle architectural firm, The Beezer Brothers designed the original building at 802 Terry Ave in the striking and distinctive Gothic Revival Style. Although the 802 Terry building was not completed by the first day of school, September 4, 1923, O’Dea began the year with 166 students in grades seven through ten, and three portable buildings used as classroom space.

On March 16, 1924, O’Dea High School’s main building, now completed, was blessed by Bishop O’Dea, the first Bishop of Seattle and O’Dea’s namesake.

## EARLY YEARS OF O’DEA

In the early years at O’Dea, classes consisted of four years of Latin, English, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics. Class-size was small with roughly 13-14 students in each room. Athletics began immediately, with O’Dea’s first football squad boasting 11 members. The gym was on the top floor of the school, which was then the third floor, and the largest in the city of Seattle. The field the football team used was also used once a year for traveling circuses and was often a mix of sand, gravel, and animal droppings, providing for an uncomfortable practice environment. Student life activities began with an annual theatrical production. Students traveled to school by street and cable car.

## FROM FIRST HILL TO THE WORLD

O’Dea was not immune to the realities of the Great Depression, which affected millions of Americans in the early 1930s. In the 1931 school year, 176 of the 305 young men enrolled at O’Dea were not able to pay tuition. Expenses were cut wherever possible, and the school continued strong.

Many students and families were also affected by the war in the 1940’s, a time when O’Dea held early graduations as students left mid-year. **Al Swegle ’47** recalls the war and Japanese students being removed from O’Dea and sent to internment camps, with many students being relocated in the middle of their high school years. In 1947, twenty-four students were honored for losing their lives in the war.

**Honorable Terrence Carroll ’62** recalls that “The big election of President Kennedy really stands out as a historical event [while I was at O’Dea]. President Kennedy visited Seattle and, on his way out of town, he drove up Seneca Street. I remember standing with a group of students holding an O’Dea banner and he waved at us ... we just thought that was the coolest thing to ever happen.”

## STRONG FOUNDATION FROM A STRONG FACULTY

Through nearly the first 20 years of O’Dea’s existence, members of the Irish Christian Brothers made up the entire faculty. In 1940, the school consisted of two lay teachers, 12 Brothers, and 400 students. By the 1980’s, lay teachers out-numbered the Brothers. “I was a part of one the last classes to have active Christian Brothers in the classrooms, as we had a big transition of lay teachers coming in. It still had the old O’Dea factor, and that unique culture was really special,” said **Brian Sherman 2007**.

In 2013, after 90 years of Christian Brother leadership, Principal Jim Walker became the first lay principal of O’Dea. Currently O’Dea is staffed entirely by lay men and women.

## STUDENT LIFE & THE RISE OF THE FIGHTING IRISH

Outside of the classroom, students were able to participate in clubs and social events with other O’Dea students, and nearby high schools. The yearbook, *The Olympian*, was created in 1936 and a school newspaper (originally called *The Chimes*, and later named *The Crozier*) was made on a mimeograph machine. Popular clubs throughout the earlier years included Pep Club, Camping Club, and the Debate Team, which competed with area high schools. Female students from nearby high schools became the school’s cheerleading team. A notable social event of O’Dea’s history as recalled by numerous alumni were the dances. “My senior year the fire marshal paid us a visit as our dances were stretching the limits of our third-floor gym and balcony. A few students even met their future wives at these functions!” said **Joseph Zohn ’66**.

*Continued*





Senior Class Officers 1960's



1955 Ski Club



Senior Life 2000

With their commitment to service, students are able to actively give back to their community. "My O'Dea experience was life changing; opening my eyes to how important community service is and how imperfect the inner city of Seattle is," recalls **Zacarias Dumas '12**.

A large change came to O'Dea in 2014 with the implementation of the House System, established to develop leadership skills and further connect students with each other, their school, and the community. All students are placed into one of four houses as freshman, and they remain in that house for all their years at O'Dea. "The House System brings connectedness and unity within all grades at O'Dea," said **Gerardo Apin '16**. The House System today is an integral part of each day at school and the success of our House System has been modeled by other schools across the country.

The "big three" sports of football, basketball, and baseball began when O'Dea opened, and the athletic program grew into an integral part of the school. **Dan Brotherton '56** recalls attending O'Dea basketball games while he was in grammar school. "They were pretty exciting games, and I became very interested in O'Dea once I saw those."

## GROWTH & CHANGE

The original 802 Terry building is the heart and soul of O'Dea, but with a growing student population and ever evolving curriculum, enhancements to the building, infrastructure and technology have been necessary through the years. In the 1950's, freshman classes were moved across the street to the Cathedral School to make room for all students as enrollment grew. By 1968, enrollment was exceeding capacity, and a new wing was funded to accommodate additional classrooms, known today as "the annex". Another impactful project would come in 1976, with the building of the Bishop Thomas E. Gill Memorial Gymnasium, a \$350,000 addition allowing a new era of O'Dea athletics to take place on its own campus. From there, the gym on the third floor of the 1923 building was converted to academic space, and eventually, a fourth floor was added as well.

In the 1990's the biology lab was updated and the availability of technology became more of a norm, including the first computer lab. "I remember the generous gifting by Roy F. Simperman that brought computers into the classroom," recalls **Tami Unruh**, Faculty Member. The 2000's continued to bring major



Students 2023

enhancements to the learning environment at O'Dea with model classrooms, strong educational technology platforms, and student-centered learning spaces. "Stewarding the 1923 building and ensuring our students and faculty had the tools they needed was important as we neared a century of educating students on this historic campus. This building was the foundation of O'Dea High School in 1923 and will continue to be the foundation as we begin our next one hundred years." stated **Laura Weinand**, Chief Financial Officer.

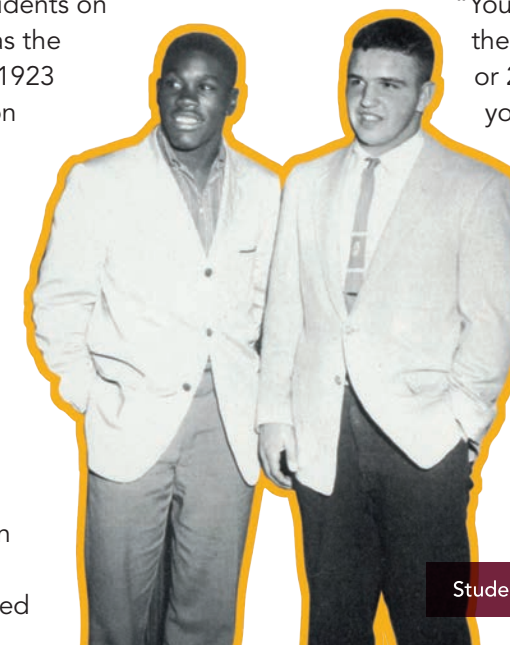
## BROTHERHOOD FOR LIFE

The bonds of brotherhood created while attending O'Dea are unique, with friendships lasting years and spanning generations. Many current students note that you cannot explain brotherhood until you experience it. "At the time [I attended], no one called it 'The Brotherhood'.... That phrase

came a bit later. But it was still there, and it was so attractive to younger students who were trying to decide where to go to high school," recalls **Chris Hendrix '87**, noting the special factor of the all-boy student body. This brotherhood extends far beyond the walls of O'Dea.

"You can still be involved and connected to the O'Dea community even if you are 15 or 20 years removed from attending...

you don't hear that about a lot of other high schools," notes **Brian Sherman 2007**, a 3rd generation O'Dea graduate who currently serves as the 2007 Class Representative. Beyond graduation, alumni are integral to the story and longevity of the relationships alive today. The Alumni Association began in 1937 and remains strong. Our alumni truly exemplify the meaning of a Brotherhood for Life.



Student Body Officers 1960

# HISTORY THROUGH THE YEARS

## OPENING - 1950's

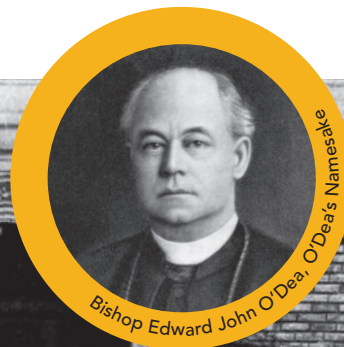
**1923**

O'DEA HIGH SCHOOL OFFICIALLY OPENS ON SEPTEMBER 4

166 students in grades 7-10.

No tuition, no electives, and textbooks are free!

Classes include four years of Latin, English, Chemistry, Physics, and Math.



Dedication of O'Dea High School, March 16, 1924

O'Dea's Earliest Faculty



**1924**

Bishop O'Dea officially dedicates the historic 1923 building on March 16, 1924. Classes in the completed 802 Terry building were held on March 17, 1924.

Football team begins with 11 players, Basketball begins with 10, and Baseball with 13.

**1926**

The first class, which includes the Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan's dad, graduates from O'Dea.

**1930's**

Student clubs include harmonica band and tap dancing.



**1936**

The first yearbook, *The Olympian*, is created.

**1940's**

An extra mid-January graduation and prom is held when students are drafted into the armed forces and Japanese students are relocated.



**1940** Boxing is introduced as a competitive sport.

**1947** Driving Course introduced as a class.



**1950's**

Tuition increases to \$100. O'Dea begins using the Knights of Columbus as a gym.

Freshman classes move across the street to the Cathedral school to make room for higher enrollment.



Students 1947

**1951 DEBATE TEAM**



# 1960's - 1990's

## 1960's

Students begin to split into A, B, and C groups based on academic performance.



1966 Band



**1974** The new gym is completed and dedicated to Bishop Thomas E. Gill.

## 1961

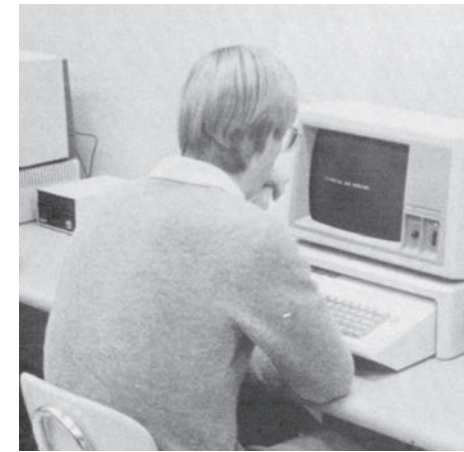
9th Annual Boosters' Club Spring Dance featuring an orchestra and cabaret style dancing takes place at Police Athletic Pavilion.

## 1964

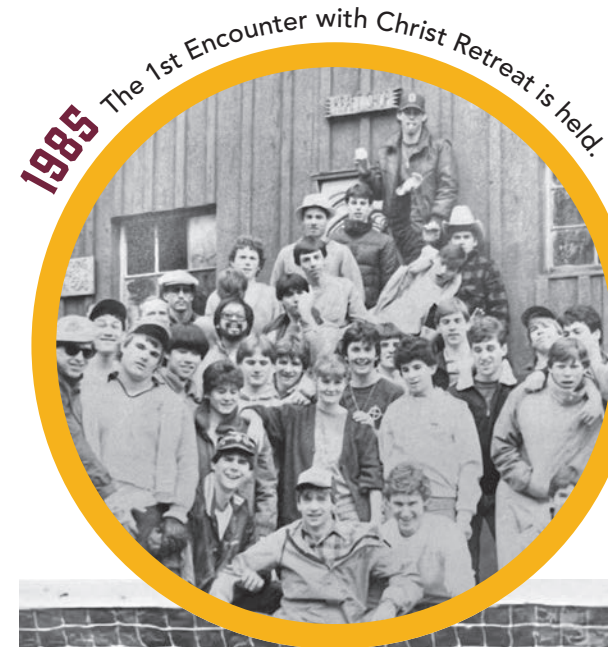
U.S. Senator, Henry M. Jackson speaks at the Baccalaureate breakfast.



1970's



1980's



**1985** The 1st Encounter with Christ Retreat is held.

## 1985

The O'Dea High School Foundation is founded to support the needs of the school.

## 1989

O'Dea and Seattle University's Matteo Ricci Institute create a partnership that lasts through today.

**1996** Tuition increases to \$3,608.

# Irish



**1990** O'Dea wins its first WIAA State Championship in Soccer.

# 2000's - PRESENT

## 2010's

Model classrooms built and library converted to Simperman Student Resource Center.



## 2014

Lacrosse is introduced as a sport.

The House System is implemented to increase interaction among all grades and further support students.



## 2017

O'Dea establishes a one-to-one Surface tablet program and becomes Seattle's first Microsoft Showcase School.



## 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic sweeps the world; state requires that classes are held remotely and all athletics are cancelled.

O'Dea High School is separately incorporated.

## 2022

Students attend Encounter Retreat #100 at Camp Don Bosco.



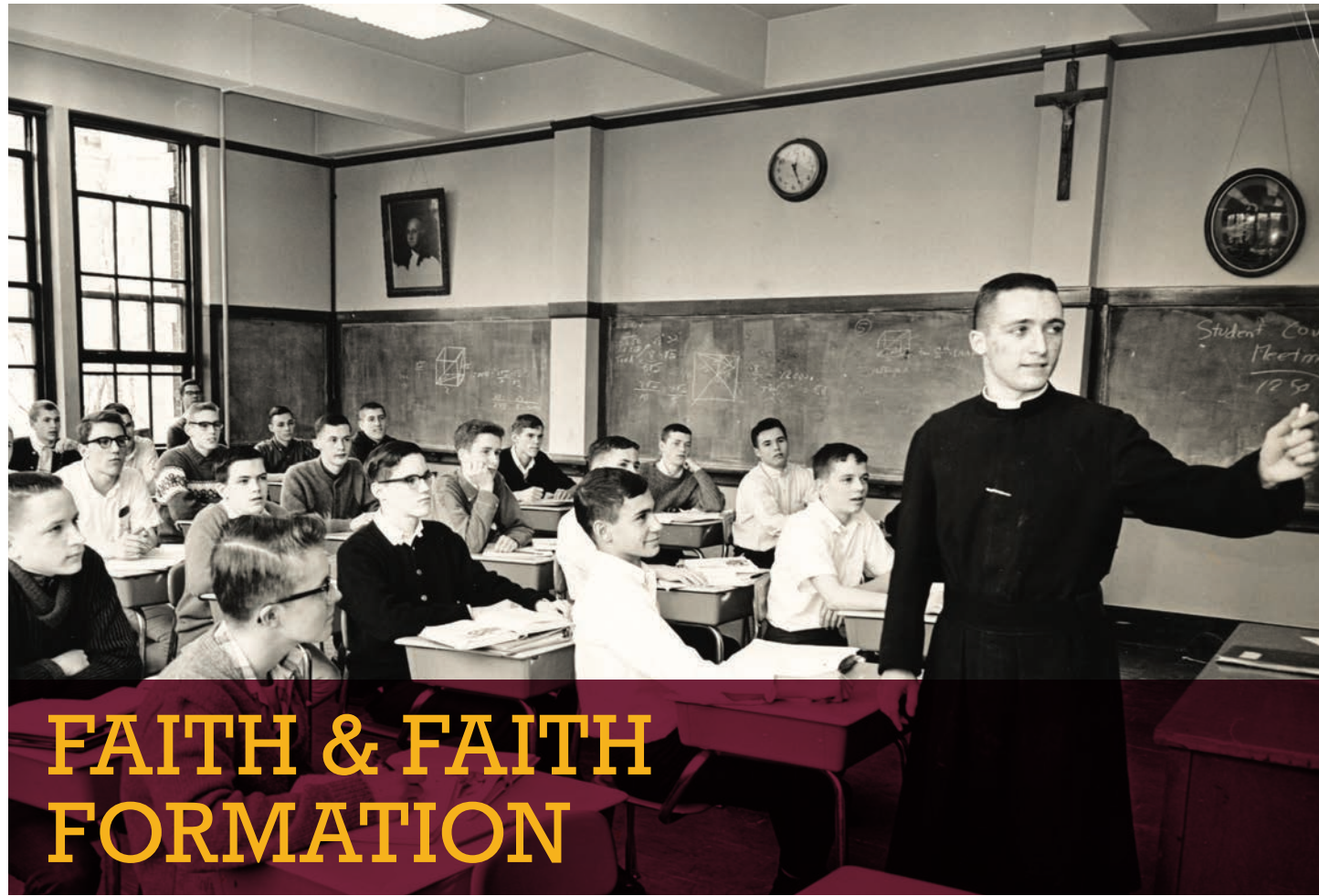
## 2023

O'Dea purchases land from St. Paul Parish to develop an athletic field on the first land it owns.

Tuition is \$18,275.







# FAITH & FAITH FORMATION

O’Dea opened as a Parish school of St James Cathedral and was operated by the Christian Brothers. In those early years, nearly every student came from a Catholic elementary school and was of the Catholic faith. Catholic traditions have always rung strong through the halls of O’Dea.

Since the beginning, St. James Cathedral has been an informal extension of our campus. In the early years, students were encouraged to go to Mass daily. Today, O’Dea students attend monthly Mass and serve as altar servers and Eucharistic Ministers. St. James has also been home to our Graduation and Baccalaureate Mass for decades. The Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan, pastor of St. James Cathedral since 1988, has been a notable presence for O’Dea students throughout the 90’s and today. In 2018 he received an honorary diploma from O’Dea in recognition of his support.

Retreats have been an important part of O’Dea’s faith tradition. In the first decades, students would participate in a spiritual retreat, with seniors going to the Palisades’ Retreat House for two days spending time in prayer and sharing hopes and dreams for the future. While the seniors

were away, juniors, sophomores, and freshmen attended the annual school retreat at St. James Cathedral.

Fr. Tim Sauer, O’Dea’s Campus Minister, began the Encounter with Christ Retreat (fondly known as “Encounter”) in fall, 1985. The purpose of Encounter was to have students encounter God, their faith, and their O’Dea brothers in a 3-day overnight trip. Through their experience in which they build brotherhood and have time for self-reflection, many students return from Encounter noting it was the highlight of their O’Dea experience. In 2023, O’Dea held the 100th Encounter Retreat.

Throughout the years, O’Dea students have found tangible ways and events to show their faith and give back to their community in stewardship. Service projects and trips have instilled the mindset that service is not just a one-time event, but a lifelong commitment to helping make the world around you a better place.





# HONORING OUR FACULTY & STAFF

O'Dea has been blessed throughout our 100-year history with faculty and staff that have enriched the lives of our young men. The school began under the direction of four Christian Brothers who traveled from Ireland to help open the school; Brothers Breen, Walsh, Lynam, and Curtis, the latter of who was the first superior and principal of O'Dea. The Brothers lived in a house across the street from the school at 1003 Marion Street and as enrollment grew, a new home was constructed for them on Columbia Street. Through the 40's and 50's, lay people began to fill faculty and staff positions. By the 1980's they began to outnumber the Brothers at O'Dea.

In 2013, Jim Walker became the first lay principal of O'Dea; a job he continues in to this day. Currently, there are 63 faculty and staff members, including ten alumni. In addition, numerous other alumni volunteer their time to coach athletic teams and other activities to support our students. We thank all faculty, staff, and coaches who have served the young men of O'Dea with their time and talents. Featured on the opposite page are a few individuals who have made long-lasting impacts on generations of O'Dea students.

## RITA McCLOY SAARI

Mrs. Saari taught numerous courses including Theology and English, and also served as Assistant Principal. Mrs. Saari was beloved by students throughout her many years at O'Dea. Especially notable, was a group of seniors who called themselves "The McCloy Boys" in the late 80's and 90's. These young men would rehearse Christmas Carols with Mrs. Saari in the beginning of the school year to sing down the halls of O'Dea. Thank you, Mrs. Saari, for serving the young men of O'Dea, for nearly two decades.



## EARL HANLEY

Twenty-nine classes of seniors graduated during Mr. Earl Hanley's (O'Dea class of 1961) tenure at O'Dea High School. Mr. Hanley taught Contemporary Problems, Spanish, World History, and Theology. He coached football, basketball, and baseball, and also served as moderator for ASB, National Honor Society, and the Junior Statesmen of America. Mr. Hanley never forgot a student. In his later years, he would volunteer at the O'Dea Golf Tournament, shaking everyone's hands and amazing them with how he still remembered their name. Mr. Hanley was a dedicated teacher to the young men of O'Dea and truly one-of a kind.



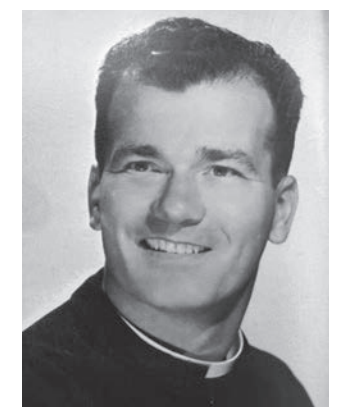
## LINDA THORNTON

Linda Thornton began her tenure at O'Dea in 1982, wearing many hats over the years. They included Executive Assistant (for 6 different principals), Director of Financial Aid, Yearbook Advisor, Graduation Coordinator, and Mothers' Club Moderator, to name a few. Her true legacy was born from the support system she created for the young men at O'Dea for nearly 40 years, as she made sure students in need had a warm and welcoming environment at O'Dea. In 2022, Linda was honored at the Celebrate O'Dea Auction with the creation of an endowed scholarship in her name to continue to serve students in need.



## BROTHER JOHN STEPHEN O'KEEFE

Brother J.S. O'Keefe, who taught at O'Dea from 1956 to 1968, was a role model who embodied many qualities O'Dea strives to develop in students. He was comfortable working with young men from all backgrounds, and he motivated students to harness their strengths to live their best lives. Brother O'Keefe felt that working with inner-city young men was the highest calling. While he worked at O'Dea, he taught various subjects, and coached football, basketball, cross country, and track, having started the latter two sports programs. To honor his legacy, an endowment scholarship was created by some of his former students and is given to current students who strive to make the world a better place, in the true tradition of Brother J.S. O'Keefe.





## STUDENT LIFE & BROTHERHOOD

The bonds of going to an all-boys school are unique. For many years, O’Dea has been and continues to be the only all-boys Catholic high school in the area. With students coming from all over to obtain an O’Dea education, the bonds developed by the students of O’Dea are unique and lifelong; from sharing morning commutes and bus rides, to participating in clubs and co-curricular activities, classes, retreats, and more.

O’Dea has had a vibrant student life since it opened, with early clubs including Harmonica Band and Tap Dancing. Popular clubs through the 50’s and 70’s included Pep Club, Debate, Chess, and Bowling. Today, clubs include Rhythm and Poetry, Digital Media Club, and eSports, which recently became a WIAA sanctioned sport. The yearbook began in 1936 and is still printed today.

While O’Dea has always been an all-boy school, there has never been a shortage of girls. Students from nearby all-girl schools, Holy Names Academy, Sacred Heart, and

Immaculate Conception, participated in O’Dea events and activities, including as cheerleaders at athletic events. It is not uncommon to meet alumni who met their spouse at an O’Dea event. Today, O’Dea and Holy Names still share a strong bond, sharing dances, social events, drama productions, and friendships.

Today, O’Dea’s calendar is filled with events and activities related to the House System, including mentorship, games, competitions, and social-emotional programming to help our young men grow in spirit and leadership.



1936

1960's

1995

1956 Cheer squad member

1980's

1989

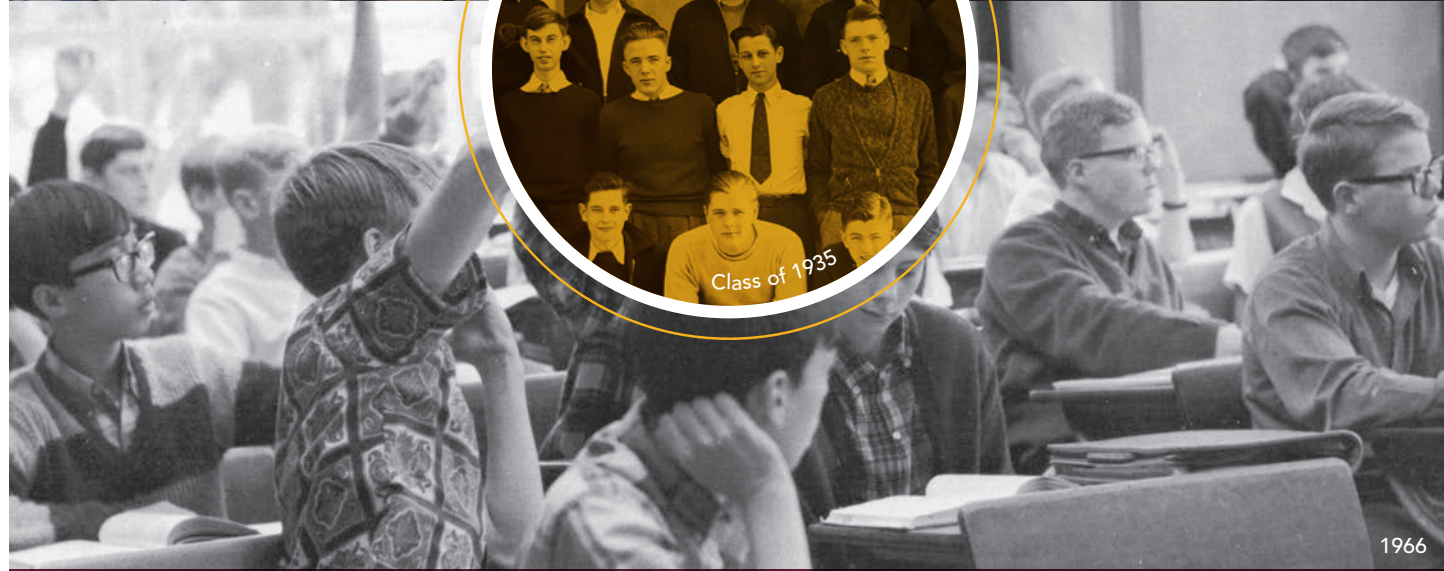
1963



1996

Junior Prom 1959

Class of 1935



1966

# STUDENT LIFE



2011



2019

1970's

# BROTHERHOOD



1970's

1941



2016

2008

## A LETTER FROM MONTE KOHLER, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



“O’Dea athletics is unique. It is an extension of the philosophy of the school. The focus is on developing men of Character, Faith, and Service, not on winning. In the Athletic Department, Character is of upmost importance, because winning without Character is doing a disservice to yourself and to O’Dea High School.

We have an expectation of excellence that requires discipline, focus and a selfless attitude. This expectation raises everyone up; win or lose we are better because of the experience. We still have a little of the “Old School” mentality - that you are entitled to nothing, and you have to work hard and earn everything.

We develop a pride and love among our athletes, coaches, and alumni that sets us apart. We build life-long relationships. We are different. The Brotherhood is real, and it plays itself out in the athletic arena. Our young men learn to sacrifice for each other, they learn to hold each other accountable, and they learn to work hard together. Through these attributes, Brotherhood develops.

**“Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination.”**

- Nelson Mandela

It is important that we never lose sight of why we are here, and that is to build men for life. Brotherhood for Life means more than friends for life; it means that we will hold others and ourselves to a higher standard and that we will always strive to be men of Faith, Character and Service.

As we move into the next 100 years our mission becomes more important. We are here to teach and demand and hold people accountable. O’Dea has a role in teaching these life skills. Athletics has the ability to teach these skills in a unique way and I believe that the role of O’Dea athletics is going to play an even more important role in the lives of our students moving forward. We look forward to the exciting times of the next 100 years.”

*Monte Kohler has been a staff member since 1985 and is the father of two O’Dea graduates.*



Success in athletics does not just equate to victories, but is achieved through hard work, discipline, and competing with honor. Playing in an O’Dea High School uniform requires a student to represent the school with pride and dignity.

**M**any alumni have great memories of their participation in the O’Dea athletic program. Football, basketball, and baseball began in 1924 and remain integral to the athletic community today. Some alumni reminisce about the 1940’s, when athletics also included handball and boxing. Along the way, many other sports were introduced including cross country, track and field, golf, swim and dive, wrestling, tennis, and lacrosse. Whichever the sport, student-athletes at O’Dea are left with lasting memories of their experiences.

O’Dea’s rich history in athletics also includes memories of where teams played, practiced, and trained. Thinking about the gym on the 3rd floor of the 1923 building, with its 4th floor bleachers surrounding it, evoke powerful memories from alumni. This is also true of the Knights of

Columbus, Judkins Field, the Broadway Fields, and West Seattle Stadium. And while small, O’Dea’s weight room is revered by those who have used it – not for what it is, but for what it represents. This is why alumni, including those who have played in college or professional athletics, continue to enjoy coming back to use it.

After a century, O’Dea has a storied list of accomplished teams, individual athletes, and coaches. In 1998, the Wall of Honor was established to recognize those who best exhibit the pursuit of excellence with integrity and have contributed to the proud athletic traditions of O’Dea High School. We are proud of all those who have been inducted into the Wall of Honor, and all our student-athletes and others who have participated in our athletic program and built it into the respected program it is today.



1928 Basketball Team



1940's Football



Greg Russell '80 shoots the ball

Eddie Henderson, 1985

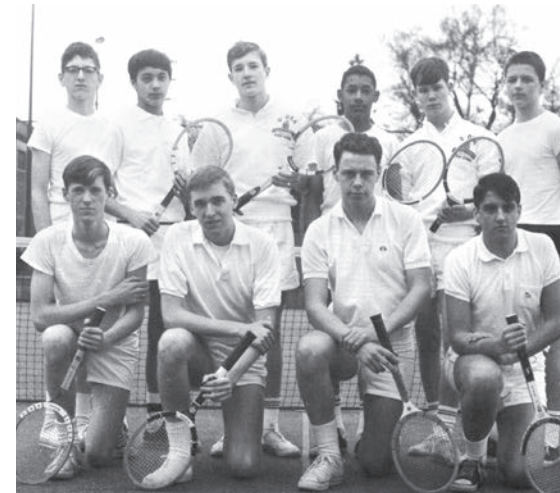
O'Dea is Number One in Football, 1995

## Irish in the Pros

The following is a list of just some of the O'Dea graduates who have gone on to play their respective sport at the professional level:

- Pat Brady '45: NFL
- Charlie Green '63: Olympic gold medalist sprinter
- Clint Richardson '75: NBA
- Fred Couples '77: PGA and Masters champion
- Demetrius DuBose '89: NFL
- Kyle Benn '97: NFL
- Kevin Bureson '98: NBA
- Nate Bureson '99: NFL
- Taylor Mays 2006: NFL
- Drew Snider 2006: PLL, MLL, US National Team
- DeAndre Yedlin 2011: MLS, English Premier League, and US National Mens Team
- Myles Gaskin 2015: NFL
- Paolo Banchemo 2021: NBA and number 1 NBA draft pick

BELOW: In 1955, the O'Dea basketball team began the legacy of great teams by coming together and competing at a level no one expected. They beat several favorite teams across the state during the season to ultimately make the State Championship game. Although they placed second, this team will forever be remembered as one of the great ones.



Tennis 1965



Cross Country 2007



Baseball 2009



Wrestling 2002



Track 2022



Golf 2006



Football 1979

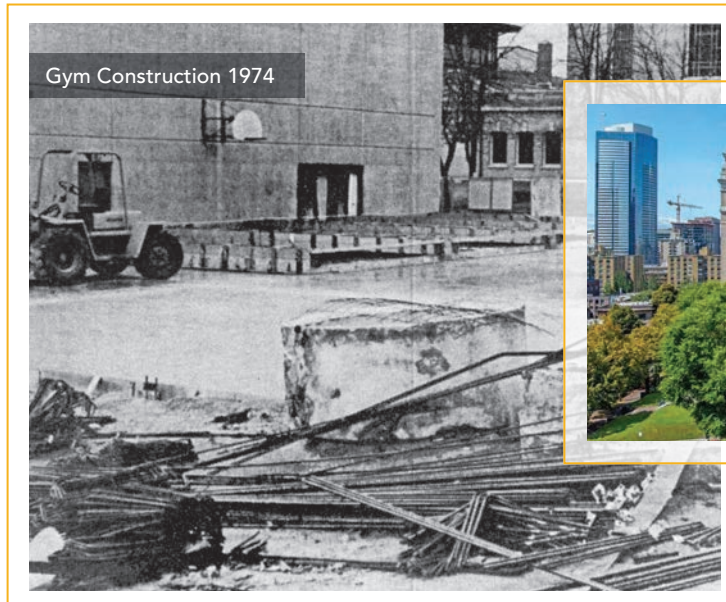


# URBAN CAMPUS & FIRST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD

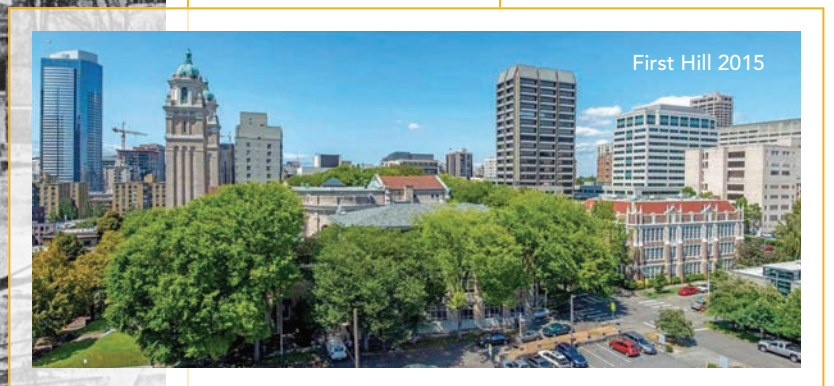
Since O'Dea High School was established in 1923, the campus and neighborhood have continued to grow and change. Where there were once single-family homes, there are now museums, medical facilities, senior living, and of course, the O'Dea gymnasium. Hundreds of students have great memories of meals at the McDonald's that came and went, and George's Deli, that still remains. Service projects were done at nearby Northwest Harvest and the Cathedral Kitchen. First Hill is currently an integral part of the continued growth in large scale residential complexes in the Seattle area with buildings of 33 stories and higher being constructed near O'Dea. As change continues into the future, our aim is to determine how we can utilize it to best serve the students at 802 Terry Avenue.



First Hill Then (1890's)



Gym Construction 1974



First Hill 2015



## The O'Dea Field

While not part of First Hill, 2023 included the historic purchase of a field for O'Dea — a permanent investment for our students. The field, located next to St. Paul Parish, will be ready for use this fall.



Italian Dinner 1967

## THE O'DEA COMMUNITY

O'Dea is strong because of the unique community of alumni, families, students, faculty, staff, and supporters who come together to support O'Dea. With the creation of parent clubs, annual events, and ongoing activities, those interested in supporting O'Dea have been able to find a spot to be involved.

The earliest supporters of O'Dea were the Mothers' Club, founded in 1936. The Mothers' Club's primary role was to financially support school co-curricular activities. In early years, members were the primary correspondents with the Archbishop regarding numerous activities around the school. The Mothers' Club supported the school library, the newspaper, and the debate club. Additionally, they helped finance the Coronation Ball and Senior Prom, and provided tuition scholarships for students, raising funds from rummage sales, luncheons, and weekly hamburger sales.

In 1965, the Fathers' Club was formed, holding social events for the community at large, including bingos and a parent dance. Most notably the Fathers' Club started the Italian Dinner, a long-standing tradition that is currently

in its 58th year. Today, the Italian Dinner is still a much anticipated event for community members to come together over fellowship, fun, and food.

The POSH (Promoting O'Dea's Scholastic Heritage) Auction began in 1972, raising \$1,500 in its first year. By 1989, \$82,000 was raised. Through the years, the Auction, now known as the Celebrate O'Dea Auction, has brought in millions of dollars, funding building enhancement projects and supporting financial aid. In 2023, the O'Dea Auction raised over \$715,000.

Today, members of the O'Dea community have a year-long calendar of different events to enjoy and stay connected. From football games to golf tournaments, the Bite of O'Dea, Mass, or the new family picnic, O'Dea continues to provide an extended community for all.



Golf Tournament 2017

Class of 1999



Class of 1946

Cheering on the Irish, 1985



POSH Auction 2008



# MULTI-GENERATIONAL FAMILIES AT O'DEA

The tradition and legacy carried on by O'Dea students and their families for 100 years is impactful. Thousands of O'Dea graduates have followed in the footsteps of their brother, father, uncle, or grandfather, or hope their son, nephew, or grandson will graduate in Maroon and Gold. We are especially grateful for all of our legacy families who have helped build our strong alumni community. Thank you to all of our multi-generational families who have attended, are attending, and will attend in the future. Below are individuals from four three-generational families, who spoke on the impact O'Dea has had on their family.

## SWEGLE FAMILY

"I was persuaded to go to O'Dea by my uncle, James A. Sullivan '29. I graduated from O'Dea in 1947, my sons graduated in the 1970's – 1980's, and my daughter was even an O'Dea cheerleader in 1971 and 1972. Ultimately, two of my grandsons also graduated from O'Dea! All of the family's O'Dea graduates were well prepared for college and had interesting careers. Over time, I came to know and admire many people from O'Dea, including parents, teachers, and coaches. Brother Lindeman, who was one of O'Dea's principals, was a good friend. I am delighted that O'Dea continues to provide excellent scholarship, uses technology in teaching and learning, and develops the brotherhood among students. I am also delighted that lay advisors are contributing their knowledge and experience, and donors are investing in improvements to the facilities. O'Dea is on a brilliant upward trend in all regards."

- Al Swegle '47

## BANCHERO FAMILY

"The Banchemo family's association with O'Dea started with my Uncle Jerry ('55) and led to over 20 family members making their way up to First Hill. I am fortunate to come from a family that has had a long history with O'Dea. This has given me the opportunity to learn through firsthand family conversations what O'Dea has meant to all of us over the decades. The one thing I find remarkable is the consistency of the mission, the O'Dea way. Despite monumental changes in society, culture, technology, and politics throughout the years, the fundamental experience of my father and uncles has mirrored the experience of my brother and myself along with my cousins, nephew, and sons. The ability to develop generations of young men with a strong foundation of character, faith, and service is a tremendous gift I experience daily through the O'Dea Brotherhood."

- Mario Banchemo '92



## DE ROCCO FAMILY

"My grandfather came over from Italy in 1920 and when it was time to send his only son Edward De Rocco to high school he opted for O'Dea. Not only was O'Dea very close to the original Italian America community living in the north end of Rainier valley, it was affordable; being the school of choice for the working class Irish and Italian Catholic immigrants. I grew up listening to my dad's stories of his years at O'Dea and getting to know his lifelong friends. Over the years O'Dea has changed and evolved, but it still strives to serve the less-privileged. I owe much of the success in my life to the fundamental values of hard work, discipline, and respect that I learned at O'Dea. I also have retained many of the friends I made during high school. My son, Daniel also has benefited from the education he received as a Fighting Irish. Daniel feels honored to have walked the same halls as his grandfather and uncles, while gaining a bunch of "brothers." It is so

important to know that there are still schools that instill Christian values, and teach young men the skills to succeed in modern society. Three generations of De Roccas thank O'Dea High School."

- John De Rocco '74

## MATSUDAIRA FAMILY

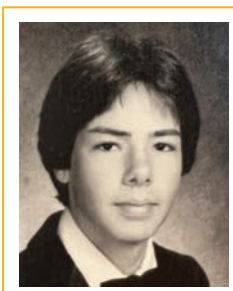
"O'Dea has educated 18 of us, over three generations, and spanning almost eighty years. Our story began with WWII when we were forced to leave Seattle. For my eldest brothers John, Mike, and Tebo (Francis), their service in the US Army left their time at O'Dea uncompleted. But O'Dea still considers them as one of theirs. For the younger Matsudaira's, this idea of family is stronger and continues today. We grew quickly with our classmates during the four years at O'Dea. Together, we helped each other prepare for the future. Here's to another 100 years!"

- Paul Matsudaira '70



## LOOKING BACK ON O'DEA

BY ANDY READ '84, O'DEA SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR AND FATHER OF TWO O'DEA GRADUATES



Looking across I-5 from my office to O'Dea High School, it is hard not to be nostalgic. Almost 40 years ago our graduating class processed from Saint James Cathedral, threw graduation caps in the air and belted out our fight song for the first time as alumni. Like so many, I was glad to be done and eager to move on to college, at the time unaware of how foundational those O'Dea years would prove to be.

**T**he Class of '84 is a wonderful group to be associated with, a motley crew. We enjoy a unique bond, a kinship reflective of a class that was free of cliques and has remained generous and supportive since that graduation night. As with any O'Dea class, ours was represented by many zip codes; our perspectives were as varied as the many neighborhoods and backgrounds we came from. The Christian Brothers, teachers, and coaches recognized the value of so many diverse experiences and fostered an environment of support that encouraged us to progress academically while meshing as a community. That connection is alive and well 40 years later.



My closest friends and influences (including groomsmen, family members and business associates) are classmates, and my day-to-day life is rife with O'Dea connections. I understand why this fellowship is frequently called "the Brotherhood" — this term captures the appreciation and accountability I feel towards this group. And while I refer to our '84 bond as unique, I know that many feel the same way about their own class, a topic of frequent debate at school and alumni events. Family gatherings with other alumni are always enriching, whether we assemble to catch up, celebrate life events, or mourn our lost classmates. These events reinforce the blessing that my family's longtime association with O'Dea represents.

We are fortunate that our sons (Logan '20 and Max '22) had the opportunity to share that blessing, flourishing at 802 Terry (a building dramatically upgraded from the '80s version) and reinforcing that our faculty, staff, and coaches continue to educate young men in a faith-filled curriculum delivered with O'Dea's exceptional mix of encouragement and accountability. Our two boys couldn't be more different, yet they each found their place at O'Dea in their smaller communities among the larger Brotherhood. We were pleased to see a continuation of our school's commitment to educate the whole student with rich and relevant experiences. Community service, a game-changer for me during my high school years, remains a core expectation, and all-school masses at the Cathedral continue to provide the opportunity to celebrate faith among their peers, their faculty, and Father Ryan. Our memorable senior year retreat with Fr. Tim lives on as Encounter, now in its 103rd edition. Academic rigor in the classrooms and excitement in the hallways still complement one another. Our sons are now entrenched in their respective studies at Marquette and Creighton, and we delight in phone calls carrying reminders of endless First Hill memories, the continued support of their O'Dea instructors, and their enduring friendships. I suspect that, like me, they left the school unaware that they were building a foundation, but I can see it.



Logan Read '20, Andy Read '84 and Max Read '22.

Andy Read '84 is currently serving as Chair of the O'Dea High School Board of Directors, leading us through the completion of our first 100 years and into the beginning of our next 100 years. In addition to having two sons who attended O'Dea, Andy also has two brothers who graduated in the 1980's.

Our family avails ourselves of many opportunities to celebrate and enhance O'Dea, including social and athletic outings, Keri's volunteer work on campus, my school board work, and community service opportunities (a recent Saturday rehabbing a patch of Genesee Park with a faculty/board/student/parent group comes to mind). O'Dea remains a focus for us.

A frequent reminder of O'Dea High School's good work comes during my morning commute down Madison as migrating students march their way up to 802 Terry from their bus, train, ferry or light rail stop. The day's agenda

is revealed by a sweatshirt/khaki pairing, mass attire, or gameday jerseys, and I am excited for all that awaits them.

Seeing these students climb First Hill leaves me considering the many young men who have made that trek over the last 100 years. What a change agent O'Dea has been for so many individuals, families, and communities. As a school community looking towards our next 100 years, we are grateful to have such a rich history and solid foundation to build upon. We won't lose sight of the great opportunity and responsibility we have to a school that has given us so much; we'll pay this forward as we embrace our second century of educating young men of character, faith and, service.





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Seattle, WA 98104

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# CENTENNIAL ENDOWMENT

The Centennial Endowment has been created in recognition of our 100-year celebration to ensure that a young man can attend O'Dea, regardless of his family's financial circumstance. Together, we can impact the future of O'Dea while celebrating our historic past!



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