# CARDINAL MOONEY NESSENGER

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS OF CARDINAL MOONEY HIGH SCHOOL



Upgraded facility ushers in new era



# Alumni

Catch up with a Spotlight, In Memoriam, and Reunion News

# The Mission

New initiatives serve Sanctity, Scholarship, and Discipline

## **Athletics**

Athletic director lays out bright future for student athletes



# Discover CARDINAL MOONEY the D I F F E R E N C E

Cardinal Mooney High School, a Roman Catholic school of the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio, is committed to providing a quality education in the supportive atmosphere of the Mooney Family. Our embrace of Gospel values, and our tradition of sanctity, scholarship, and discipline, enable our students to achieve personal excellence. We strive to develop leaders dedicated to social justice and service in the world community.

To learn more or arrange a shadow day or campus tour, please reach out to our admissions office at 330-788-5007.

# **ADMISSIONS DATES**

Class of 2029

11/3	Fall O	nan	House
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**High School Placement Test (HSPT)** 

**High School Placement Test (HSPT)** 

**Admissions Packets Available\*** 

**Winter Open House** 

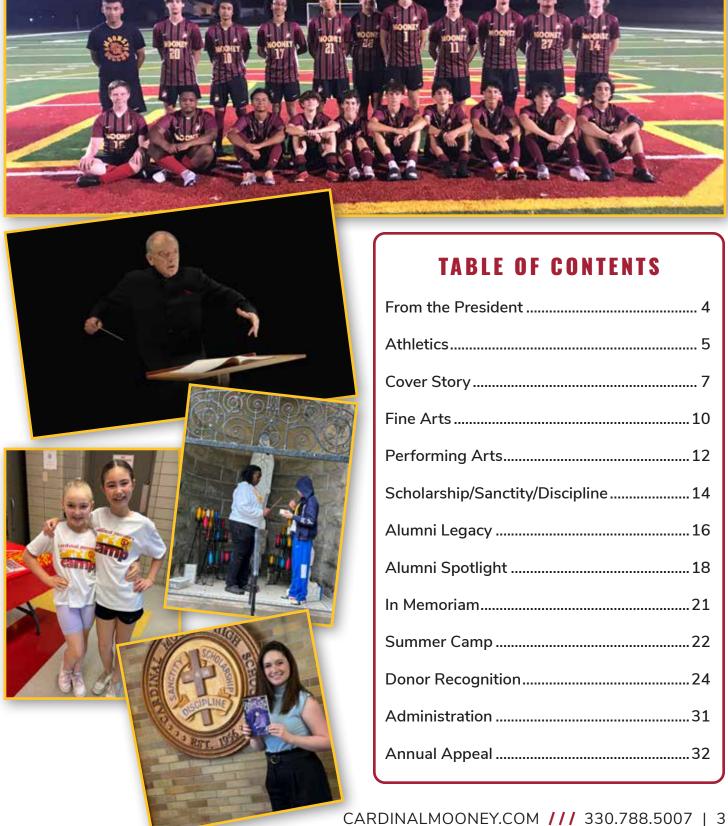
**Seventh Grade Day** 

High School Placement Test (HSPT)

Fifth and Sixth Grade Day

# Your path starts here! Apply today at CardinalMooney.com

# MESSENGER CONTENTS



# Enhancing our students' experience

Dear Mooney Family,

'm thrilled to share the exciting progress we've made at Cardinal Mooney to enrich our students' experiences during their four years with us.

First, we're proud to announce the opening of the new \$1.1 million Don Bucci Multi-Sport Field, featured on the cover of this edition of The Messenger! This stateof-the-art facility provides top-quality spaces for soccer, football, lacrosse, and other competitions, as well as practice areas for our baseball and softball teams. We can't wait to see our student-athletes excel on this incredible field. Thank you to everyone whose generosity made this project possible. You can find a complete list of benefactors on page 31.

Beyond this exciting addition, we are introducing several new programming initiatives to ensure our core values remain at the heart of all we do. With guidance from our chaplain, Father John Rovnak, and our campus ministry department, we have expanded retreat and service opportunities. A life of sanctity requires faith, prayer, sacraments, and action, and our goal is to provide experiences that foster spiritual growth and community engagement for every student.

Academically, we've focused on developing our new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) programs as we prepare for official STEAM designation from the Ohio Department of Education. These programs emphasize hands-on learning and creative problem-solving, equipping our students with critical thinking and collaboration skills essential for their futures.

We're also excited to reintroduce the Code of Conduct grade, a long-standing Mooney tradition, as part of our continuous improvement efforts. Led by our dean of students, James Jablonski, this initiative highlights responsibility and respect, fostering discipline aligned with our core values and Catholic mission.

This fall issue of The Messenger is filled with stories of our students and the wider Mooney Family, showcasing the many ways they embody the well-rounded, faithfilled values we strive to instill. Enjoy reading about their accomplishments, and please share what you've been doing and how you'd like to get involved with us here at Mooney.

Thank you for your continued support we look forward to hearing from and seeing you soon!

Warm regards,

**Nick Beyer** President/Principal **Cardinal Mooney High School** 



Nick Beyer

Cardinal Mooney President Principal



# MESSENGER **ATHLETICS**

# **Your Legacy** Our Future

he 2024-25 school year is an exciting one for the future of Cardinal Mooney athletics. FieldTurf worked throughout the summer to install our new athletic field. The AP O'Horo Company did the groundwork, drainage, and concrete work prior to the arrival of the field crew. RT Vernal Paving and Excavating ground off the old track, fixed all structural issues, and laid a new four-inch layer of asphalt over the old track to prep for the resurfacing. We are so fortunate to have had local companies pitch in to assist us with the work. Not only are they the best in the business, as evidenced by the quality of work they performed, but their contributions helped us finish the project at a reduced cost.

The FieldTurf crew arrived in July and immediately went to work laying, sewing, and filling our new athletic field with the very latest in turf technology. The striping was finally finished in mid-August with our teams returning to the field with great excitement. Not only does the turf and graphics look beautiful, but the new surface itself is very soft, and will be a great source of injury prevention for our athletes and physical education students. At the time this letter was being written, the track crew was on site to complete construction. Battling rain from Hurricane Helene, they installed a layer of cardinal red rubberized asphalt, and will complete the project with red with gold stripes. Phase Two will begin next spring with some walkways, a new convenient entrance, and a handicap entrance. Fencing and additional seating will also be part of that phase. By next year, the field will be home to all home soccer, lacrosse, and underclass football

Earlier in the fall, we also resurfaced our tennis court, which has been in dire need of work. We thank Jason Simons, Class of '94, of Sureline for working with us on the project. The last phase of this project will be the installation of Cardinal Red windscreens, complete with our logos and branding. This will make for a beautiful advertisement for visitors, parents, and students. Finally, our turf in the Ron Stoops Sr. Baseball and Softball Facility will be replaced. Thank you to Patella Carpet and Tile for assisting us with this project. And finally, the steel roof on that building will be prepped and painted.

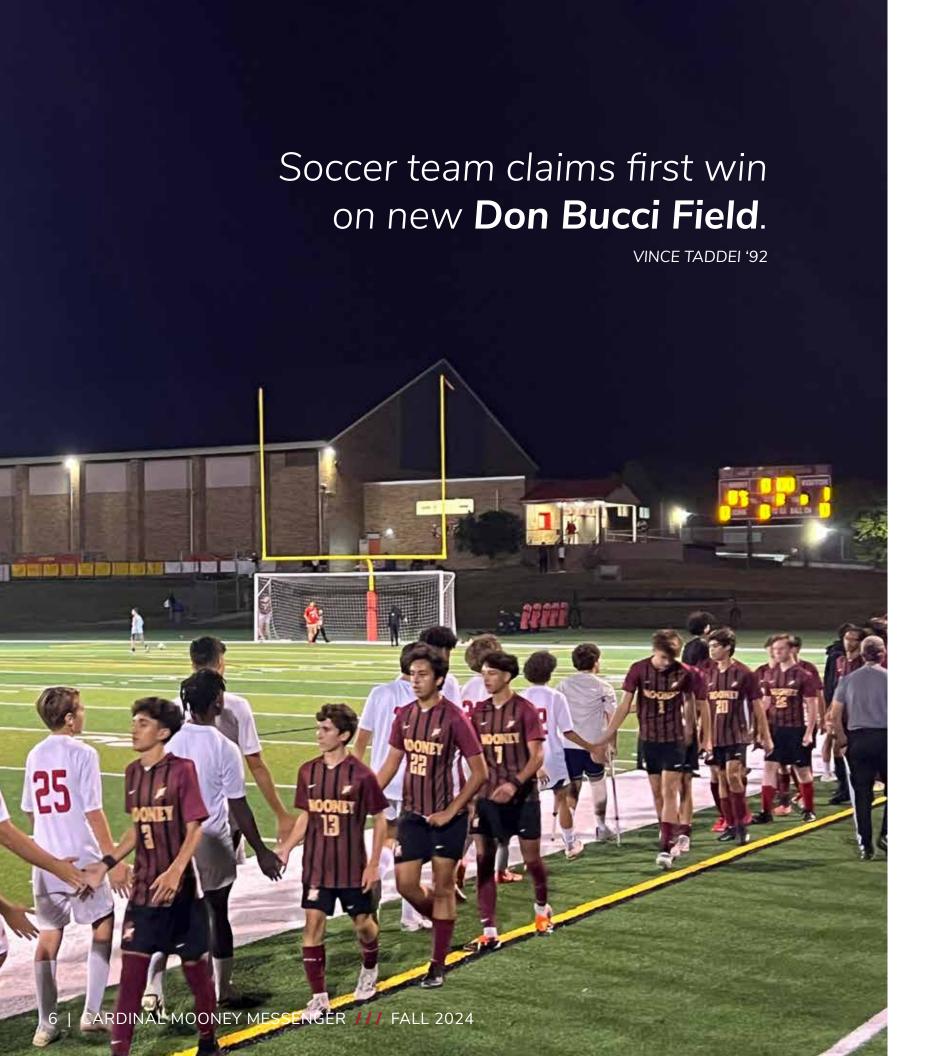
All in all, it has been a busy time, but the projects have guaranteed that the students-athletes at Cardinal Mooney will be blessed with beautiful facilities for years to come.

Carl Pelini '83 Athletic Director/Head Football Coach



Carl Pelini

Cardinal Mooney **Athletic Director** & Head Football Coach





heers rang out on a crisp fall evening as our men's soccer team claimed the first victory on our newly renovated multi-sports field.

With a convincing 8-1 win over Warren John F. Kennedy, our team not only secured a victory over a quality opponent, but also marked an important moment in the history of the school.

"Ever since we started working on the new field, we have been looking forward to having home games here at Cardinal Mooney," men's soccer head coach, Matt Britton, said. "We want all athletes to be successful at Cardinal Mooney, but we're excited to be a part of history as the first team to win a game on the new field."

The new field is the latest symbol of Cardinal Mooney High School's commitment to excellence in athletics and community building. After months of planning and construction, the facility offers Cardinal Mooney athletes a playing surface that rivals any high school.

The significance of the moment was not lost on the school's administration, students, and alumni. Nick Beyer, president and principal of Cardinal Mooney, said the field was "evidence of the might, and powerful impact, of the Mooney Family" during the groundbreaking ceremony in May.

"Because of the generous support of our Mooney Family, together, we've been able to create an incredible space for students to grow, compete and hopefully make some unforgettable memories," Beyer said. "I hope the field and track inspire us to dream big, work hard, and support one another."

The Cardinal Mooney community turned out for the inaugural game. Former athletes, alumni, and current students marveled at the pristine field, which features Cardinal Mooney red and gold branding and a large interlocking CM at midfield.

For the men's soccer team, the night was particularly

Junior Mihali Frangos, who scored five goals on the night, echoed his coach's sentiments.

"We've been looking forward to this day for months," he said. "To be able to play on a field like this and get the win in front of our home crowd is amazing. It's something we've all dreamed about."

Beyond the men's soccer team's victory, the new multisports field promises to benefit future generations of Mooney athletes.

Athletic director, Carl Pelini, emphasized the longterm impact of the renovation, noting that the field will support the growth of both boys' and girls' programs for years to come.

"It's going to be a great opportunity for years to come — not just for Cardinal Mooney —but also for the Southside of Youngstown," he said.

As the sun set on that historic evening, one thing was clear: Cardinal Mooney's newly renovated field is more than a place to play. It's a beacon of pride for the entire school community, standing as a symbol of tradition, teamwork, and triumph.



lt's going to be a great opportunity for years to come not just for Cardinal Mooney — but also for the Southside of Youngstown. Athletic Director Carl Pelini











#### November 2023

Fundraising begins for track and field replacement.

#### January 2024

The Diocese of Youngstown approves funding for new track and field.

#### May 13, 2024

Ground is broken during ceremony.



#### July 27, 2024 First pieces of the new turf are installed



#### August 12, 2024

Football team holds first practice on new field.

#### August 28, 2024

Women's soccer team holds first varsity contest on new field.

#### August 31, 2024

Junior varsity football team hosts VASJ.



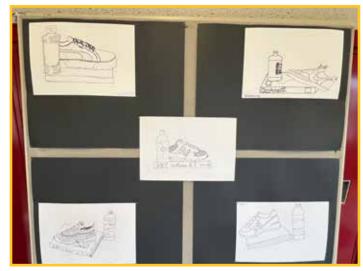
#### **September 12, 2024**

Men's soccer team earns first win on new field, 8-1 over JFK.









YOUNGSTOWN— The Fine Arts Department at Cardinal Mooney High School is growing, both in scope and in recognition, thanks to recent program developments aimed at elevating the artistic experience for students.

Under the guidance of Sean Butler, the program has introduced new honors courses and expanded creative opportunities, allowing students to fully immerse themselves in the visual arts throughout their high school journey. Two key additions have redefined the art curriculum: the creation of an Art Honors program and the elevation of Studio Art 3 and 4 to honors-level courses.

These initiatives not only recognize students' dedication but also provide greater incentive for those with a passion for art to continue their studies.

"These programs allow students that are more artinclined and those with a true passion for art to see the benefits of completing four years of visual art, Butler said. "These changes, which were discussed in collaboration with Cardinal Mooney president

# MESSENGER FINE ARTS



# The Art of Education

Cardinal Mooney Fine Arts Department elevates student achievement and creativity. Vince Taddei '92

and principal, Mr. Nick Beyer, are designed to address a concern many students had — whether continuing their art education would benefit their grade point average. With these classes now carrying honors credit, students can explore their artistic abilities without sacrificing academic standing."

Butler went on to explain that "previously, students would really question whether to take additional art classes as the work put in did not always reward their overall grade-point average."

As students navigate these new opportunities, they are encouraged to explore and develop their artistic vision. Butler acknowledges that the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic has had a lingering effect on how students engage with creativity.

"We are still feeling the aftereffects of COVID' and what that did to students," he said. "A lot of people have become too reliant on the phone and what their algorithms and AI tell them they want to know and see."

To combat this, Butler emphasizes hands-on learning and offers students a range of techniques to help them express their ideas clearly and creatively. Students' work is regularly displayed in the art and photography halls, providing the school community with a tangible record of their artistic growth.

"We are very fortunate to have many talented students that are learning a variety of art techniques to help them further express their ideas," Butler said, adding that some of the work is "truly commendable."

One of the strengths of the Fine Arts Department at Cardinal Mooney is its ability to inspire students at all levels. According to Butler, every class offers a unique challenge that engages students, often leading them to pursue additional courses.

"Each class seems to have a project that propels a student in a positive direction," he said. "Sometimes that leads to further art exploration—even to the point of taking more classes here at Mooney."

In addition to the traditional art curriculum, the Fine Arts Department is also beginning to explore its role in the school's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) initiative. While the integration of the







arts into STEAM is still evolving, Butler believes that the visual arts are essential to fostering divergent thinking.

"The arts as a whole bring a divergent thinking approach to problem-solving and how we think in general," he noted. Butler is optimistic about the role of the arts in interdisciplinary learning, hoping that it will "help open students' eyes to possibilities and connections across the curriculum."

He pointed out that the arts have the ability to bring together subjects like science, math, and history while expressing cultural and religious ideas. As Cardinal Mooney continues to grow its Fine Arts Department, students have more opportunities than ever to pursue their passion for the visual arts. With the new honors program and the evolving integration of STEAM, the department is poised to help students unlock their full creative potential while maintaining a strong academic foundation. For many, this balance will ensure that the arts remain an integral part of their high school experience.

# **Cardinal Mooney Performing Arts Department thrives under** passionate leadership Vince Taddei '92

t Cardinal Mooney High School, the performing arts are more than just extracurricular activities. Under the leadership of Stephanie Chizmar, a passionate advocate for music, drama, and the arts, the department has flourished, offering students a space to explore creativity and build lasting skills for life.

"One of the things I love about Cardinal Mooney, both as a teacher here and as a parent of a student, are the opportunities our students have to participate in a wide variety of activities, including the performing arts," Chizmar said. "I truly believe that all students should take the opportunity to participate in the performing arts at least once in their high school careers because of all the benefits it brings to their experience here at Mooney."

Chizmar, who has shaped the performing arts curriculum and program since joining the school, emphasizes the lasting impact of participating in

the arts. "Being involved in the performing arts during high school can have a profound impact on a student's personal, social, and academic development," she explained. "It fosters creativity, self-expression, and confidence, and allows students to explore who they are. They learn to communicate effectively, and teamwork, time management, and problem-

solving are a part of every type of performance opportunity."

Cardinal Mooney's performing arts department offers a variety of avenues for students to explore, including full-scale theatrical productions and a robust band program. This year's lineup includes the fall play, The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon, and the spring musical, The Sound of Music. Selecting these shows is no small task, as Chizmar carefully considers each production based on the strengths of the students and the feasibility of the production.

# MESSENGER PERFORMING ARTS



"When choosing a production, there are several factors I consider," Chizmar explained. "I think about the students that have been in previous productions, as those will most likely be students who audition in the future, and I consider their strengths as performers. I then take a lot of time watching, reading, and talking to other directors about shows that I think will fit the students I have."

Beyond the performances, Chizmar's commitment to

the students shines through in her approach to teaching. She recognizes the power of the arts in helping students navigate their teenage years and manage the stress of high school life. "The arts encourage emotional resilience, helping students manage stress and handle constructive feedback, which with today's teens is essential," she said. "And without a doubt, some of the best relationships are built here

in the performing arts world. The sense of community and accomplishment gained through performing arts is primed for building friendships that will span many

Chizmar also leads Cardinal Mooney's growing band program, which she prefers to call "The Band Program" rather than simply the marching band, to emphasize its scope beyond the football field. "While marching band is a big part of what I do, I don't want it to be viewed as just a marching band," she said. "I believe that all students are capable of learning an instrument, and that every student, regardless of experience or circumstance, should be given the opportunity to learn."

Chizmar's efforts to ensure the band program is accessible to all students go far beyond teaching music. She works closely with students to secure instruments. provide extra practice time, and help with scheduling conflicts. "I help students with their schedules and make a plan for what they want to accomplish while at Mooney," she said. "I work hard to build relationships with my students so they know without a doubt that the music department is a place where they can be themselves and find joy and positivity."

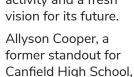
For Chizmar, building relationships with students is key to the long-term success of the program. "The music comes along in time, but this is what builds a program for long-term success," she emphasized.

As the Performing Arts Department continues to grow, Chizmar is optimistic about the future and grateful for the support of the school's administration. "When I was hired for this position, I was very upfront with my expectations for Mooney and the performing arts. I shared with Mr. Beyer then, that I desired that Mooney be the best choice for students who are looking for a place where they can grow and thrive in the performing arts." she said.

With her vision, dedication, and the support of the school. Chizmar believes the future of the performing arts at Cardinal Mooney is brighter than ever. "The future is bright at Mooney, and I can't wait to see where we are in the next several years," she said. "I guarantee that it will be something that the Mooney Family will be proud of."

# **Cooper takes reigns of** speech and debate team

he Cardinal Mooney High School Speech and Debate team is welcoming a new head coach this year with a deep passion for the activity and a fresh vision for its future.





brings years of competitive and coaching experience to the program.

"Becoming a head coach for the first time feels both exciting and humbling," Cooper said. "I've been involved with speech and debate since my freshman year of high school, and the love for the activity has never gone away. It's a unique opportunity to take the next step in my speech and debate career, to shape and grow a program while fostering the next generation of talented students."

For Cooper, the role goes beyond preparing students for competition; it's about personal growth and development.

"I'm looking forward to building relationships with the students, seeing them develop not just as competitors but as confident individuals, and contributing to the long-standing tradition of excellence that has preceded me with Cardinal Mooney Speech & Debate," she said.

At Cardinal Mooney, Cooper is focused on combining the legacy of the past with her own new vision.

"At Cardinal Mooney, I aim to blend those elements of tradition with my own vision, ensuring students not only grow competitively but also develop skills that will serve them well beyond high school."

Cooper takes over for Vince Taddei, who led the program since the 2018-19 season, and will remain on the staff as an assistant. Since its beginning, the program has continued the legacy of Hall of Fame coaches, Denny Barrett and Diane Mastro Nard, who left a lasting impact on the program.

"It's truly an honor to follow in the footsteps of Denny Barrett and Diane Mastro Nard. They've set such a strong foundation, and their legacy is something I deeply respect," Cooper said. "There's a sense of responsibility to uphold the standards they set, but also an opportunity to add my own perspective."

As the speech and debate program looks to the future, Cooper is optimistic about what lies ahead.

**SCHOLARSHIP** 

# **Cardinal Mooney on the** path to STEAM designation

Vince Taddei '92

At Cardinal Mooney High School, the push toward a more innovative and hands-on educational experience recently passed an important landmark.

This school year, we recently completed the "Intent to Apply" process for STEAM designation through the Ohio STEM Learning Network. This signals our commitment to becoming a recognized leader in STEAM education.



Several faculty members have helped push this initiative. Three teachers — Mr. Stephen Bada, Ms. Ashley Cunningham, and Ms. Samantha Rulong — are currently participating in the Fostering STEM

Institute, a statewide program designed to build strong STEM culture through advanced coaching and teaching approaches.

This year-long professional development opportunity empowers our teachers to bring cutting-edge instructional methods into their classrooms, directly benefiting Cardinal Mooney students by enhancing their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

In addition, Mrs. Janet Cadman and Mrs. Stephanie Chizmar are taking part in the Innovative Leaders Institute: Bridge to STEM Program. This initiative brings together educators and school leaders from across the state, focusing on creating a school-wide STEM culture. Their work is essential in ensuring that teachers, students, and the community are aligned in the school's vision for STEAM education.

By building partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, and higher education institutions, this program is paving the way for Cardinal Mooney students to experience real-world applications of STEAM concepts.

The effects of these efforts are already being felt in the classroom, with students enjoying more inquiry-based, hands-on learning opportunities. As we lay the foundation for a robust STEAM program, our students are gaining invaluable skills that will prepare them for future success in college and their careers. The work done this year is a critical step toward transforming Cardinal Mooney into a hub of innovation and preparing our students to excel in a rapidly changing world.

# MESSENGER A MISSION RENEWED



**SANCTITY** 

# **Retreats bolster** commitment to **Sanctity** Vince Taddei '92

The Theology Department at Cardinal Mooney High School plays an essential role in nurturing both spiritual growth and community.

During the 2023-24 school year, four class-level retreats were introduced.

For campus minister, Lori Radinsky, these have become a cornerstone of the students' experience.

"Our four class level retreats during the 23-24 school year were the perfect opportunity for our students to bond with their class," said Radinsky.

These retreats, hosted once per quarter, give students a day away from routine to build trust, share stories, and reflect on their relationship with God. This year, all retreats are held at the serene Villa Maria Retreat and Spirituality Center, a

peaceful setting where students can explore their faith amidst the beauty of nature.

"Last year, Holy Family hosted our freshman retreat. This year, our retreats will have speakers and activities that range in topics from trusting one another to God's plan in my life," Radinsky said.

In addition to these spiritual conversations, students have the opportunity to walk the

grounds, participate in Mass, and enjoy a meal provided by the Sisters of the Humility of Mary.

The retreats benefit both students and faculty by providing time for meaningful reflection and connection. "They force us to remove ourselves from the everyday routine and reflect on God's plan in our lives," Radinsky said.

These gatherings not only remind students that they are part of the Mooney Family but also encourage a sense

of unity as they navigate the challenges of high school together. By fostering a sense of belonging and spiritual growth, Cardinal Mooney continues its mission to develop faith-filled leaders.

DISCIPLINE

# **Conduct code solidifies Discipline element of** our mission

Cardinal Mooney High School has prided itself on instilling discipline in their students since its inception.

The discipline given to students prepares them for the challenges in life they will face, far beyond the walls of Cardinal Mooney. Our mission for discipline is now and has always been to create a positive and respectful culture within our building every day. In creating and fostering a positive culture, our students would develop the self-discipline and personal accountability that would help them throughout their spiritual, social, and occupational lives. Each year we as a school community strive to better ourselves toward this mission.

This year is no different. This year we brought back a conduct grade for all of our students. We believe that this practice will hold our students more accountable every day they are at school, further advancing our mission to graduate self-disciplined young men and women.

Students will have points deducted from their conduct grade each time they receive a detention. Each infraction will carry a different point value, based on the infraction that the student committed. If a student has enough points deducted, they will lose the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities for a period of two weeks to a month.

The administration and staff are confident that by taking these measures, we will further our focus on discipline and promoting a safe and positive daily school atmosphere, in which every student can reach their potential.

> Jim Jablonski. Class of '98 **Dean of Students**



### CARDINAL MOONEY **MESSENGER**

FAMILY LEGACY // CHECK -IN // SPOTLIGHT // REUNIONS // IN MEMORIAM

To celebrate our great family tradition, we are proud to present the students from the Class of 2024, who followed in their parents and/or grandparents' footsteps at Cardinal Mooney High School.













Angelee Blasko, father Brian Blasko '91, mother Laura Mitchell Kennedy '96 and grandmother Lisa Valentini '70

Geno Bova and father Frank Bova '85











Sophia Diorio, father Dominic Diorio '95, grandfather William Dioro '60

Katie Frommelt, father Scott Frommelt '86, mother Jolynne Sandine Frommelt '96













Braden Joss, mother Colleen Varley Joss '86, grandfather James Varley '63, grandmother Nancy Wolcott Farley '64



Natalie DiVencenzo, mother Patricia Johnson

DiVencenzo '81

Sydney Howard, grandfather Michael Howard '60



Matthew Kay, father Charles Kay '84, mother Molly Murphey Kay '86,



Jazmyne Lewis, mother Jennifer Mitchell-Lewis '98



Leah Luchison, grandmother Susan Ginnetti Luchison '73



Aliya Merriweather, mother Christine Heard '99



Gabe Saunders, mother Gina Marie Lucente Saunders '88, father Dave Saunders '88



Nick Pregibon, mother Kerry Manning Pregibon '91, grandfather Nick Pregibon '65



Rocco Turner, mother Rocklyn DePerro Turner '94

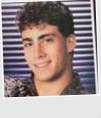


Jenna Sadosky, mother Jacquelyn Hornung Sadosky '91











Patrick Scott, father Joseph Scott '92, grandfather William Scott '64, Grandmother, Joann Russo Scott, '64













Ella Schrickel, mother Cheryl Diorio Schrickel '98, grandfather William Diorio '60

Nick Zeno, mother Mary Polofka Zeno '87, father Joseph Zeno '87



Carter Simons, mother Catherine Mandl Simons '94, father Jason Simons '94, grandmother Cynthia Shutrump Simons '65, grandfather, William Simons '65



Joey Wrenn, grandmother Sandra Pizzuto '65

#### **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**

#### John DeMain Class of '62

Cardinal Mooney High School has a proud tradition of producing influential and valuable members of society. One such example is John DeMain, whose accomplishments across the world exemplify the values instilled during his time at Cardinal Mooney. We take pride in not only John's success, but in the achievements of all of our alumni.

n his 30th season as music director of the Madison (WI) Symphony Orchestra (MSO), Grammy and Tony Awardwinning conductor John DeMain is noted for his dynamic performances on world concerts and opera stages. He is also the principal conductor of Madison Opera. Last fall, John announced his retirement from the MSO at the end 2025-2026, the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the symphony.

John, who began his career as a pianist and conductor in Youngstown, earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at The Juilliard School and made a highly acclaimed debut with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. He was the second recipient of the Julius Rudel Award at New York City Opera and one of the first six conductors to receive the Exxon/ National Endowment for the Arts Conductor Fellowship for his work with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. And in January 2023, John received the National Opera Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, NOA's highest award.



#### First memories of music:

John Lee DeMain was born January 11, 1944, to Dominic & Nancy DeMain and has a younger brother, Dom. (When baptized at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mgrs. Franco put in parentheses the original family name, Giovanni diMenna.)

In his early years, John sang with the Our Lady of Mount Carmel choir. It was quickly apparent that he had an amazing boy soprano voice. Recognizing his musical talent and love of learning, John's parents bought him a piano at age 6.

John first attended Bancroft School in Youngstown and transferred to St. Charles in Boardman by the third grade. When he was nine, John sang the title role in Amahl and the Night Visitors, a co-production of the Youngstown Playhouse and Youngstown Symphony. John began studying with Herman Gruss in 1954 and would continue studying with Herman's wife, Blanche, until his high school graduation in 1962.

Michael Ficocelli, Director of Music for the Diocese of Youngstown, also recognized John's talent very early. By the time John was in the fourth grade, Mr. Ficocelli would ask him to help conduct band rehearsals at St. Charles when he was unable to be there himself.

John would learn to play the organ, and by age 13 he was playing and singing at three Masses a day at St. Charles. By the time he was in eighth grade, he was teaching music

class for his peers and was sent to Cardinal Mooney to assist with their school shows.

#### **Mooney memories/influencers:**

John describes his time at Mooney as joyous. His class was very talented, involved in extracurriculars, and close knit. He is in regular contact with many of his classmates even today (celebrating their class 80th birthday this summer). He learned so much from the dedicated teachers who made a difference in his young life. He has fond memories of George Haring, Denny Barrett, Ron Stoops, Sr., his English teacher Bob Cavanaugh and math teacher, Frank Markovich.

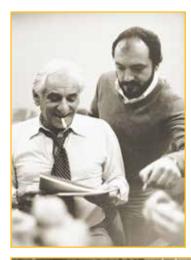
Sr. Mary Jude would collaborate with John closely on the various dramatic productions, including the first musical ever to be staged at Cardinal Mooney, Oklahoma.

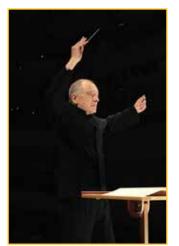
In addition to music and theater, John competed on the speech team in extemporaneous speaking, debate and dramatic declamation.

All through high school, John was the musical director at the Youngstown Playhouse.

#### On to Juilliard:

Late into his senior year, after winning the Youngstown Symphony piano competition, John decided to major in music. He wrote to Juilliard and asked for an audition. He











traveled to New York City, sat at the piano in front of a jury; they liked his musicality, and he was accepted in the fall of 1962. Over the years in NYC, John would support himself as both a piano teacher and voice coach. During his summers, while attending Juilliard, John was musical director for the Kenley Players.

#### **Professional Life:**

John's first job after graduation from Juilliard, was Assistant Conductor for the National Education Television (NET) Opera Project on PBS, where he helped in the production of filmed operas for television, which preceded the days of "Live from Lincoln Center" and "Great Performances".

In 1973 John left NY to work with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra where he made his highly acclaimed debut in the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra as a guest conductor. This led to being engaged by the Houston Grand Opera. During his distinguished 17- year tenure in Houston, John led a history making production of Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, winning a Grammy, a Tony and France's Grand Prix du Disque for his RCA recording of the opera in 1976. His recording is still considered one of the finest to this day. In addition to touring the United States, John conducted this opera in Tokyo, Paris and the famed La Scala di Milano.

In Houston, John met and married his German wife, Barbara in 1991; his daughter, Jennifer, was born there in 1992.

Realizing he wanted to transition into symphony orchestra work, John accepted a position with the Madison Symphony Orchestra in 1994. During his three decades in Madison as the music director, John has consistently raised the quality of the orchestra. He introduced blind auditions and expanded the repertoire to include ever more challenging works, including the highly acclaimed performances of the complete symphonies of Gustav Mahler. John also oversaw the move into the world-class Overture Center of the Arts and expanded the subscription season to triple performances, which was unheard of in a city the size of Madison.

In retirement, John is looking forward to spending more time with his family & traveling. He enjoys visiting his daughter, Jennifer, in Chicago and his brother Dom (CMHS class of 1967) in New Canaan, Connecticut. He just returned from Greece this month and plans for many more visits to Asia.

John will stay with the MSO for the centennial season (2025-2026), ending a spectacular 32- year career. John does plan to continue to work with the Madison Opera.

John is also working on his memoir, which will be ready in the spring of 2025.

John hopes to continue to mentor younger artists and the next generation of musicians, keeping the arts alive and flourishing!

#### Joan Reardon Class of '17

# Strike a prose

Joan Reardon, Class of 2017, publishes debut novel, reflects on school's role in her success

YOUNGSTOWN - For Cardinal Mooney High School alumna Joan Reardon Stebelton, class of 2017. her debut novel, The Grimsbane Family Witch Hunters, is more than just a thrilling Halloween adventure—it's a culmination of years of discipline, perseverance, and faith, qualities she says were nurtured during her time at Mooney.

"There are several elements of my education at Mooney that helped me become a better writer, but the most important takeaway was the development of my character," Reardon said. "The ability to discipline yourself is paramount in an industry like publishing, where

unpublished authors must set their own deadlines, research agents, and edit and re-edit their book to make sure it's in great shape to get a publisher's attention."

Reardon, who majored in history at Ohio State University, drew inspiration for her novel from her academic experiences, working with primary sources and learning about the intricacies of historical bias. In The Grimsbane Family Witch Hunters, Reardon blends this historical awareness with a fun, engaging narrative that explores the folklore of the American Midwest.

"I was inspired to write The

Grimsbane Family Witch Hunters while working with primary sources as a history major at Ohio State," she said. "I wanted to pass on the message of learning to consider bias in historical sources to a younger audience and to encourage readers to think critically, while also giving them the opportunity to read about a fun Halloween adventure."

But writing a novel is no easy task,



"Rejection is a given for every book, and it can be difficult even

receiving a kind 'no' from an agent or editor," Reardon explained. "Luckily, my time at Mooney taught me to persevere and know that God had a plan. Even if this book didn't get published, it was all a part of God's will."

Reardon's success has not only made her a published author but has also deepened her commitment to giving back to her alma mater. She remains an active part of the Mooney family, eager to help students who have similar dreams of becoming writers, lawyers, or pursuing other careers.

"I believe it is important to give back to the organizations and people that had an impact on me,"



Reardon said. "There are students at Mooney who dream of being an author or a lawyer, and as a member of the community, I feel like it's my duty to help those students, just like older members of the Mooney family helped me."

As Reardon continues to navigate her career, she remains grateful for the values instilled in her at Cardinal Mooney, from faith to hard work, which she believes have been key to her accomplishments.

"My faith in God and ability to motivate myself to take responsibility for my own goals, which are cornerstones of an education at Cardinal Mooney, were of great importance to my success in publishing," she said.

Reardon's journey, from Mooney student to published author, is an inspiring reminder of the lasting impact of a Cardinal Mooney education—one that reaches far beyond the classroom and into the world of dreams and perseverance.

Reardon's debut novel, The Grimsbane Family Witch Hunters, is available now. She continues to support Cardinal Mooney High School by mentoring students and sharing her experiences as an author.

She is an Associate in the Youngstown Office working in Brouse McDowell's Real Estate and **Business Transactions & Corporate** Counseling Practice Groups. After graduating magna cum laude from Ohio State with Honors Distinction, Joan completed her JD at Case Western Reserve University, where she graduated cum laude.

**CARDINAL MOONEY HIGH SCHOOL** extends deepest condolences to alumni, family, and friends who have passed, we pause to remember and pray for the following losses in the Mooney Family.

			1000	D :IT:	4070
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Ralph J. Sandine		Patricia O'Horo Wilson	1963	Cecilia Oliver Durrett	1974
Dorothy Baughman	1959	Sandra McCabe Creatore	1964	James Mullarkey	1974
Kathleen Mahar Conroy	1959	Al Dota	1964	Edward Rivalsky	1974
William Ferenchak	1959	Michael Drummond	1964	Gene Clayton	1975
Mary Jo Devine Grogei	1959	Mary Qualey Ebert	1964	Anthony Shramko	1975
Delphine Halaparda Kosmo	1959	Nancy Ann Zenn Dilisio	1965	Kevin Coughlin	1976
Sandra Crooks Kreidler	1959	Irene Nadolny Evans	1965	Chris Lombardo Brogley	1978
Edward Leviseur	1959	Carol Sich Velman	1965	Timothy Mazur	1978
Mary Suddes Logue	1959	Lawrence Berasi	1966	Shelly Watson	1978
Janice Manolio Berquist	1960	Dennis Kostelnik	1966	Terry Reardon	1981
Thomas Durkin	1960	Denise Krayac Anderson	1967	Esther Rossi	1981
Linda Longo	1960	Barbara Calpin Casanta	1968	Monica Bialik	1982
Karen Ann Gatze Milakovich	1960	Hel <mark>en P</mark> aes	1968	Zina Dohar Herrara	1982
Katherine D'Angelo Pope	1960	Marsha Rudnicki Schlais	1968	Robert Oliver	1985
John Scarsella	1960	Raymond Bresnahan	1969	Linda Kramer Ariza	1987
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Bernadette Starke Kovach	1961	Gerald Hamilton	1969	Daniel Diorio	1991
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Cynthia Courtney Landers	1962	Robert Salata	1970	Matthias Beil	2000
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Bruce Papalia	1962	Stephen Popovich	1972	Kyle Cunningham	2007
Genevieve Ravotti Rock	1962	Donald McCloud	1973	Kevin Shannon	2012
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#### RECENT REUNIONS













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# July 2023 — June 2024

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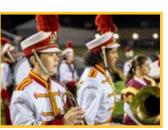
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1960

1995

Mrs. Patricia Meckes 1962

Mr. David Michael 1973

Mr. Rick Morocco 1976

Ms. Jackie Mraz 1963

Mr. Walter Muennich 1967

Mr. Anthony Mikolich 1971

Mrs. Donna Nolfi 1963

Ms. Sandra Olenick 1961 Mrs. Genevieve Parm 1960

Mrs. Bernice Pavlansky

Mr. Sam Pechkurow 1965

Mr. Paul Pesut 1978

Mrs. Shirley Priola 1983

Mrs. Joan Rafferty 1963

Mrs. Suzanne Reader 1970

Mr. Richard Reebel 1960

Mr. Tyrell Rodgers 2014

Ms. Jordann Rossi 2008

Mr. Richard Sanko 1968

Mrs. Barb Sardich 1963

Mrs. Irene Scullen 1965

Mr. Robert Sferra 1969

Mr. Tom Shuster 1964

Ms. Karen Simon 1980

Mrs. Cynthia Simons 1965

Mrs. Nancy Sinchak 1964

Mr. William Snier 1974

Mr. Thomas Supko 1985

Dr. & Mrs. Louie & Margaret

Mrs. Mary Kristen Thornton

Mrs. Kathleen Tomidajewicz

Mr. Charles Troll 1960

Mrs. Tracie Tucci 1989

Mrs. Nancy Varley 1964

Mrs. Maryellen Vazquez

Ms. Margaret Varley

Mrs. Sharon Stevens

Mrs. Beverly Susor-

Sweeney 1986, 1986

Mr. John Terlesky

1990

1977

Muntean 1965

Dr. Raymond Scheetz 1961

Mr. Bernard Shramko 1961

Mr. Markus Roeskens 1988

Mr. Rob Raseta

Mrs. Marlene Protiva 1969

Mr. James Phillips 1971

Mrs. Carrie Pitzer 1990

Ms. Joan Popio 1959

Ms. Kristin Provenzale 1998

Rev. Gary Wright 1967



#### **Tributes**

#### In Memory of 1962 **Classmates**

In Honor of My Former

**Teachers** 

Mrs. Kathy Caputo

Mr. Thomas Drummond 1975

Ms. Denise Firestone

Kiraly 1979, 1980

Ms. Betty Jo Licata

Ms. Sandra Rose

Mrs. Laura Sitarski

Dr. Daniel Very

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Mr. Bruce Walker 1962

Mrs. Kathleen Villella 1969

Mrs. Edith Wacksman 1964

Mr. Raymond Walsh 1968

Mrs. Kelly Weeks 1999

Mrs. Catherine Wigley 1969

Mr. Robert Wilkeson 1960

Mrs. Sharon Yauger 1993



Ms. Loretta Smith 1962

Ms. Caryn May 1984

### In Memory of Andrew

Caputo Mr. John Caputo

Ms. Jayne Caputo

Mr. Robert Costantini

Ms. Jennifer Kendall

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick and Gina

Mr. Gregory Kosec

Ms. Mary Jo Kovachik

Mrs. Andrea Linnelli

Mrs. Chris Lyons

Atty. Daniel Rotar

Ms. Mary Welsh



#### In Honor of Babnich and **Colaianni Families**

Mr. and Mrs. Dean and Diana Colaianni 1965

#### In Memory of Caitlin Yager

Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Carol Yager 1972

#### In Honor of the Cardinal **Mooney Stanton's**

Mr. Jeff Stanton 1985

#### In Memory of Carmela Cassese

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony and Theresa Provenzale 1976, 1976

#### In Honor of '67 and our Vietman Era Vets

Mr. Joseph Hnat 1967

#### In Memory of Cynthia Cerny

Mrs. and Mr. Stephanie and Bob Bishop 1968

#### In Memory of Cynthia **Nichols**

Mr. Dominic Demain 1967

#### In Memory of David Hart

Mr. Raymond Hart 1976

#### In Memory of the Deceased Members of the Class of '60

Mrs. Rosemary Crossen Scarfo 1960

### In Memory of Delphine

Mrs. Kathleen Beaudis

### Mrs. Jill Kasler

In Memory of Denny Barrett

#### Dr. Margaret Raub Hunt 1966

In Memory of Dick, Katy,

### and Patrick Rosen

Mr. Richard Rosen 1969

#### In Memory of Dr. and Mrs. **Andrew Detesco**

Mr. Mark Detesco 1972

#### In Memory of Frank and Celia Capuzello

Mrs. Mary Jane Madeline 1959

## In Memory of Garnals J.

Mrs. Linda Agee

### In Memory of James G.

Mr. Daniel Doran 1962

#### In Memory of James Lundeen

Ms. Kathrvn Lundeen 1978

#### In Memory of James McBride Jr.

Mrs. Karen Sekanick 1975

#### In Memory of Jeffrey **Burkhart**

Dr. James Burkhart 1985

#### In Memory of Jenny Hegedusich Zitricki

Mr. Philip Hegedusich 1974

#### In Memory of Jim Varley, **Duane Fitzpatrick, and** Micke McNally

Mr. Gary Gilboy 1963

#### In Memory of John F. Carney

Mrs. Suzanne Carney 1966

#### In Memory of Joseph and Mary Lou Kondela

Dr. Paulette Cebulski 1960

Mrs. and Mr. Maryellen and Benjamin Vazquez 1981

#### In Honor of Joseph Fortine

Mr. Donald Davis 1974

#### In Memory of L. Michael Reilley

Mrs. Kathleen Reilley 1961

#### In Memory of Laurie and Joshhine Stanovcak

Mr. Michael Stanovcak 1970

#### In Memory of Loretta Bury

Mrs. Carole Garchar 1960

#### In Memory of Lorraine **Caventer Fossaceca**

Mr. Kenneth Fossaceca 1962

#### In Memory of Marian Basista

Mr. Kenneth Basista 1970

#### In Honor of Mary and Hank Hurley

Mrs. Jane Hurley Skusa 1976

#### In Memory of Mary Jo Lovrinoff

Mr. Michael Lovrinoff 1967

#### In Memory of Mary Varley

Ms. Margaret Varley

#### In Memory of My Parents

Mr. Stephen Kiraly 1975

#### In Memory of Nancy Brunner

Mrs. Cindy Lukey 1971

#### In Memory of Ralph and **Dortha Bair**

Mr. Edward Bair 1959

#### In Honor of Rev. Steve **Popovich**

Mr. George Popovich 1972

#### In Memory of Richard Pearce

Mrs. Catherine Wigley 1969

#### In Memory of Rita Renze

Mr. Anthony Renze 1969

#### In Honor of Robert Babyak

Ms. Nancy Minghetti 1970

#### In Memory of Robert Mogulich

Mr. Joseph Mogulich 1963

#### In Memory of Ron Stoops

Mrs. Barbara Russell 1976

#### In Memory of Ronald and **Richard Karcher**

Dr. Raymond Karcher 1961

#### In Memory of Roy Nard

Mrs. Mary Lou Eicher-Palguta

Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Roni Sue Gregory 1963

Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Patty Hughes 1962, 1964

Mrs. Mary Ann Huzicka

Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Maureen

Dr. and Mrs. Anthony and Reenie Nasrallah

Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Joann Scott 1964, 1964

#### In Honor of Saint Anthony

Ms. Marcie Beil 1970

#### In Memory of Sam Romano

Mr. Samuel Romano 1969

#### In Memory of Shirley Sagula

Mr. Joseph Joseph 1968

#### In Honor of Sr. Norma Raupple

Mrs. Edith Wacksman 1964

#### In Honor of Sr. Patricia **McNicholas**

Dr. Raymond Scheetz 1961

#### In Memory of Steven Yuhas

Mrs. and Mr. Roberta and Matthew McCoy 1975

#### In Memory of Suzanne Hurska

The Daprile Family

#### In Memory of Ted Rendinell

Mr. Brian Pero 1980

#### In Memory of the Assion Family

Mrs. Mary Assion 1960

#### In Memory of Thomas J. Cox

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Kim Simons Cox 1989, 1989



#### In Memory of Thomas J. **Presby**

Mr. Norbert Presby 1964

#### In Memory of William A. Spirnock Sr.

Mrs. Sandra Spirnock 1960

#### In Memory of William Elias

Mr. Michael Elias 1961

# Dr. Robert George 1959



#### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### President/Principal

Nick Bever

#### **Assistant Principal**

Janet Cadman

#### Superintendent

Dr. Steven Jones

#### Dean of Students

James Jablonski '98

#### Director of Development and Alumni

Sue Brandenstein '78

#### **Athletic Director**

Carl Pelini '83

Lori Radinsky

#### Director of Enrollment/Campus Minister

**Director of Communication** 

# Vince Taddei '92

Director of Finance Genna Bernard '06

#### Chaplain

Fr. John Rovnak

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Andrew Moody '99, Chairman

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Frank Cassese '04 Ron Stoops '75

W. Frank Courtney '67 Myron Terlecky '77 Gregory laderosa

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Diane Mastro Nard

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Michael Schorsten '01

# Reader feedback

We'd love to hear your thoughts on the Cardinal Mooney Messenger. Send your questions, comments, or concerns to Vince Taddei at VTaddei@CardinalMooney.com

### **Get Social with** Cardinal Mooney

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**OUR MISSION** Cardinal Mooney High School, a Roman Catholic school of the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio, is committed to providing a quality education in the supportive atmosphere of the Mooney Family.

#### **Mooney Forward Field** Campaign

Dr. Andrew Bushey '98

Atty. Marty Bushey

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Mr. Emanuel Frangos Mr. Tim Fyda '75

Mr. John '66 & Mrs. Joan Gocala '66

Mrs. Gloria Golladay Ms. Patricia Guidos '59

Mr. Patrick '79 & Mrs. Gina

Kiraly '80 Dr. Stephen Komara '73

Mr. Howard Lewis '60 Mr. George Lyras

Mr. John Mahoney '84 Mr. Anthony '72 & Mrs. Marijo Martin '72

Mr. Michael '85 & Mrs. Lori McGlone

Mr. Edward Moore '67 Mr. Kevin Mulholland '83

Mr. Mark '86 & Mrs. Mary Pat Pelini '88

Mr. James Rendinell '72 Dr. Michael '79 & Mrs. Leona

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Mr. Mike Stoops '80 Dr. William '89 & Mrs.

Margaret Sweeney '86

Mr. Christopher '01 & Mrs. Erica Vass '01 Mrs. Jennifer Willis

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Ron Stoops/Anthony Pelini Foundation



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# THE ANNUAL APPEAL

The purpose of the Cardinal Mooney Annual Appeal is to fund the gap between the actual cost of educating a student and the tuition charged. Most Catholic schools have this gap as a result of efforts to keep tuition affordable for deserving students who want a Catholic education. This year the Cardinal Mooney gap per student is approximately \$4,000.

The Annual Fund provides unrestricted funding that will be used for this school year's operating costs such as:

 Faculty salaries that allow our 13:1 student-to-teacher ratio, allowing small class sizes

 Faith formation activities, include an all-school service day and class retreats

 No-fee athletics, allow students to participate in any of 19 varsity athletic teams at no charge

CardinalMooney.com/Support



# **SAVE THE DATE!**

APRIL 12, 2025 MR. ANTHONY'S BANQUET CENTER

