

BONAVIA



THE MAGAZINE FOR
ALUMNAE & FRIENDS OF
MOUNT ALVERNIA
HIGH SCHOOL

Fall 2021

Mount Alvernia High School

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Bona Nova, meaning "Good News", is the magazine of the Mount Alvernia High School Alumnae Association. Its name is derived from the motto of MAHS: Pax et Bonum - "Peace and Goodness to All."

Its purpose is to communicate to alumnae, their families and friends the good news happening at MAHS and throughout the alumnae community and to encourage alumnae to keep in touch and support Mount Alvernia High School.

Do you have something to share with your fellow alumnae? Please send all updates or questions to:
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or scan the QR Code below to access our Class Notes Page.



FALL 2021

Message from the Head of School

Dear Mount Alvernia High School Community,

As Head of School, I am thrilled and humbled to work with faculty, families, and students to support, challenge, and empower the young women of Mount Alvernia High School to be 21st century leaders, who discern the 'good' and are an effective force for it in the world. Beginning with my first interactions, what strikes me most about the Mount Alvernia High School community, is the dedication to the school's mission and the young women. The faculty and staff deeply believe and live by our Mission Statement and as a school community we embrace the gifts of every young woman, being sure to highlight those gifts, but also encourage the girls to do the same for each other.



As we start this new chapter together, I want to thank Mrs. Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien for her leadership and service over the last two years, especially during the unprecedented times in our lives. Mrs. O'Brien epitomizes a Mount Alvernia High School graduate, through her steadfast commitment to the school mission and true love of the school community and tradition. We are thrilled that she will be continuing with our school in a new role as Liaison of Mission Integration and Schools.

In planning for the school year and in examining the meaning of the Seven C's, although all 7 are powerful, one truly stands out to me at this time- community. During the pandemic, the Mount Alvernia High School community navigated remote learning, and physical separation, but remained a tight-knit community despite the distance. This culminated in an all-school prayer service and end of the year bbq celebration on campus last spring.

As we begin this new school year, we will continue to build on the Mount Alvernia traditions and community together on campus in-person. Many of our faculty are returning, we also have several new hires, and all are eager to be back in the classroom with our students. Each faculty member shows a commitment to being a part of a school community that is centered around our mission, tradition, and rigor, while helping to cultivate a culture of empowering young women to become tomorrow's leaders.

We are ready to put our mission into action this year and have several upcoming events we are looking forward to. Along with daily school life, we are excited to open our school doors for our first school liturgy in the Chapel on September 21st, returning to sports and extracurriculars, and school-wide in person events. Our fall sports are underway and our school Homecoming will occur on September 25th. Although these events may have additional cleaning protocols, and look slightly different than years past, I am confident that the community feel of Mount Alvernia High School will be steadfast.

We are also fortunate that many individuals have come together this summer to prepare our school building for the fall. Classroom updates focus on creating as much space for safe learning, collaboration, and creativity among students as possible. The redesign of a space off the library will allow students the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful grounds we have on campus, with a workspace inside along a beautiful wall of windows and an outdoor seating area. Lastly, the faculty room has been freshened up with cosmetic upgrades, such as new paint and decor, as a thank you to our faculty for all of their hard work and dedication to our school.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to the entire school community, both past and present, for making Mount Alvernia such a special place for young women. Having graduated from an all-girls high school myself, I know the value of that experience and how it has shaped who I am today, both in my faith and life journey. I began my journey as a shy incoming 7th grader, knowing very few classmates, and was unsure of what to expect. Over the years, through various opportunities within and beyond the classroom, guidance in my faith and with the support of a dedicated faculty, I graduated as a confident, outgoing young woman, who was excited about college and beyond. My high school experience helped me find my voice, inspired me to explore personal interests, and cultivated a passion for a career in school counseling at the bachelor and graduate degree levels. This is the gift of an all-girls education - to encourage each individual to pursue her dreams, try new things and let her voice be heard - a gift that we hope to continue to share with generations of young women at Mount Alvernia High School. Thank you for your support and for sharing this gift with us. I am excited for what is to come and hope to meet you at 790 Centre Street soon.

Pax et Bonum,

Ms. Jillian Boudreau
Head of School



GRADUATION 2021

For the second consecutive year, Mitchell Field, home to many Mustang soccer matches, softball games, golf practices and the annual powder puff football game was the setting for the Class of 2021's graduation. Over 175 family, faculty, staff, friends and Missionary Franciscan Sisters gathered under sun filled skies to celebrate the accomplishments of the 31 graduates.

The graduation ceremony was held on May 16th as the culmination of a week that included the presentations of the graduates' Senior Symposium and the return to the chapel for the first time in over 15 months for the Baccalaureate mass.

Salutatorian Mary Kate Carr led off the afternoon's festivity by addressing her classmates, families and well-wishers with her introspective remarks. In reflecting upon the spirit of the class she stated, "A piece of our senior year that I think encapsulates our grade as a whole was our senior retreat. It was one of the first real times we were all together and could just be with one another. One of our discussions led to us completely opening up about how we were doing individually and how that has affected us as a group. Every person in that discussion circle became a sacrament, mediating God's grace to one another. This class emulates the importance of being taught in the Franciscan tradition and this year provided us with an opportunity to truly live out that mission." She concluded with these sentiments, "As we come to a close on this chapter at Mount Alvernia, we look at the legacy we leave and the path ahead of us. Our class will be remembered for living through such a historic time and having the ability to experience it and change into something that will drive us in being forces of good. Looking ahead to what is next for us as graduates and as a school community, we can see the work that needs to be done."



Though many graduations enlist the assistance of a guest speaker, Mount Alvernia High School is special as it is completely about the graduating class. Not to disappoint, the Class of 2021 received their minute of fame as each one walked up, paused while their accomplishments were read aloud and then processed to receive their diplomas.

Upon returning to their seats the graduates and those in attendance heard the words of reflection and encouragement from Valedictorian Greta Grimmel, "For the past weeks, I have struggled to decide whether or not to talk about the events of the last year. I realize that today, we wanted to return to a sense of normalcy. However, this pandemic and this school year were not normal, and Class of 2021, neither are you. In my eyes, and the eyes of those sitting around you, you are extraordinary. We have seen you flourish in your past several years here in your motivation, work ethic, strength, intelligence, creativity, leadership, compassion, and kindness. But in this last year, the class of 2021 has seen different sides of one another. We have seen one another become considerate and aware, in the ways we have acted during this pandemic. We have seen one another working to be active, involved, and "anti-racist," in how we have responded to discrimination and brutality in this country. We have seen one another express the need for fundamental change. We have seen one another develop a sense of goodness and appreciation in our world of isolation and loss." She continued, "Class of 2021 you are going into the world educated, but more importantly, with a deep appreciation and respect for the thing in your lives that matters most: people. Moments with others make life entirely more enjoyable. These small moments are the goodness of life, and this year, you have appreciated them more than ever. Class of 2021, this year you found the good, discerned the good, appreciated the good. You are the good."

In closing the celebration, Interim Head of School and Alumna Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien '97 welcomed the Class of 2021 into the Alumnae circle. In a year in which so much was defined by masks, social distancing and hybrid learning, Mrs. O'Brien reminded the graduates of exactly who they are with these statements, "I hope you say that your time here was more than just the experience of this last year. I hope you give yourself and your class the credit due to you for making it through this year. You led co-curriculars and athletic teams, were inducted into National Honor Society, modeled in the Prom Fashion Show, beat the juniors at powderpuff, took AP exams, captained Olympic Day teams, welcomed your 7th grade sisters, shared your words of wisdom at the Senior Goodbye, applied to and made decisions about college, presented your work - perhaps the most diverse group of authors in the history of the Senior Symposium." She then closed the ceremony with these final words of reflection, "You showed up for classes, for each other and for our community. It was hard. But you did it. You are each an accomplished individual, but as a class, no other could have done what you all did this year - together. The Class of 2021 will be a tough act to follow."

END OF YEAR EVENTS

790 Centre Street....."Together Through It All"

This past spring, with both temperatures and vaccination rates climbing, the campus of Mount Alvernia High School began to buzz with traditional indoor and outdoor events. For the first time in months a small feeling of normalcy was experienced. Interim Head of School, Mrs Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien commented,

"This year's 7 C's word was Commitment. On the first days of school, I shared with our students that it would take the commitment of our whole community to make our year successful. As covid numbers decreased we were thrilled we were able to hold our beloved traditions and bring back more students to in person learning."

On April 28th, faculty, staff and students gathered collectively in the gym for the first time since the school year began to celebrate the life of Sr. Elizabeth Hayes at Foundress Day. Over \$15,000 was awarded in scholarship through the benevolence of the Missionary Franciscan Sisters and friends of Mount Alvernia High School. The day was specially blessed as multiple other "fun day" events were hosted. Immediately following the Foundress Day celebration student council hosted its annual Olympic Day, where teams of students across all grades dressed in vibrant colors and participated in various non-traditional athletic events. After lunch, all students reaped the rewards of an earlier held service project as randomly selected students got to "pie" male faculty and staff members. The day concluded on Mitchell Field with the annual Senior/Junior Class Powder Puff game. The Class of '21 once again proved, Seniors Rule!

Graduation week returned to 790 Centre Street during the second week of May. The events kicked off on that Wednesday with the presentations of Senior Symposium. Graduates confidently presented their English and History work to an audience of gushing parents and faculty. The next night graduates, parents, faculty and staff came together in the chapel to bless the Class of 2021 at the Baccalaureate Mass. It was the first gathering there in over 16 months. Pascarelli O'Brien stated, "The chapel is truly the heart of the school. It was both beautiful and amazing to have the Baccalaureate Mass back in the chapel." The week concluded on Saturday with the Class of 2021 parading down to Mitchell Field to receive their diplomas in front of 200 family members, friends, Missionary Franciscan Sisters, faculty and staff. The event was once again live streamed through the school's YouTube account.

The school year wound down with a virtual Evening of the Arts, and the in person Step-Up celebration for the 8th grade students, Junior Ring Ceremony and the Senior/Junior Prom. The Evening of the Arts was an impressive presentation of various art projects students from all grades created throughout the school year under the guidance of art director Megan Blinkhorn. For alumnae and friends this display is available for viewing through the school's website. For the first time the prom was held at an outdoor venue. Beautiful Lars Anderson Park in Brookline was the site for this year's event. Over 60 students from the classes of 2021 and 2022 and their guests, as well as some fun-loving faculty and staff members danced the evening away.

As a special thank you for everything that everyone contributed and endured throughout the year a special last day event was held. 790 Centre Street was transformed into a playland of inflatables, yard games and a petting zoo. Pascarelli O'Brien remarked, "I'll never forget how proud I was on the last day seeing everyone having fun and really celebrating how much was accomplished. The message on the faculty and staff shirts summed up the year, "Together Through It All."





In Her Own Words.....

Denise Heady '71-

As I reflect back on my first day at Mount Alvernia, I asked myself, "Has anyone attending this school ever lived closer than I do?" I walked down the street from my home to the school grounds to see classmates escaping from cars their older sisters drove to school. If you are not aware, the school on Manet Road, grades K-12 was called Mount Alvernia Academy. The 9-12 classrooms were on the top floor of the convent building. Yes, four classrooms, one for each grade, and a few smaller rooms for breakout groups. The other larger building held grades K-8. Imagine my graduating class had a handful of girls who had spent all 13 years of school together!

Academics were challenging for me and perhaps some classmates as well. Sr. Mary John Kevin started the "Biology Club" in hopes of assisting many sophomore students to up their grades, and it worked. Sr. Mary

Antonio, our French teacher, always began class by reciting the Hail Mary in French. Recalling that prayer is a loving memory for me and my mother, who had taught it to me as a child. Another great teacher was Sr. Mary Jeremiah, who taught all levels of math. She somehow managed to survive us singing the opening words to Joy To The World by Three Dog Night, a number one hit in 1971 that began with, "Jeremiah was a bullfrog!" Then there was Sr. Mary Rosina, who I remember from Glee Club, one of my favorite things at Mount Alvernia. She found out that I was a self-taught guitar player and took me under her wing to give me private lessons so I could play at our folk Masses in the school chapel. Since then, playing music and singing has always been a part of my life.

Athletics led to a lot of my Mount Alvernia memories. I remember gym class being so much fun, regardless of the old-fashioned gym uniforms we had to wear. Miss McCormack seemed to even make calisthenics fun but let's not forget basketball was the sport. My height gave no way to a career in basketball and it was the only competitive sport in school. That's right, no interschool championships or competitions. But since I had a talent for cheerleading, I joined the squad my sophomore year. I guess it's no surprise as Cheer Captain during my senior year, I was also named "most school spirit 1971."

Mount Alvernia had the largest impact on my spirituality. I worked as Director of Religious Education in the Diocese of Bridgeport and have always known that my Catholic schooling played a large part in my wanting to share my faith. Year after year of sacramental preparations kept me in tune with what God is saying to us. Although I am retired now, it was a vocation that I truly enjoyed.

So here's to the last high school class at Mount Alvernia "Academy". I want you all to break out those yearbooks, embrace your senior superlative, and celebrate what we have become in the last 50 years. My sense of pride has stayed with me and prompted me to urge fellow classmates to attend this year's Gala to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our graduation. God bless you and all the remarkable graduates of Mount Alvernia...you are unique

Sr. Jeanne Marie, mfc

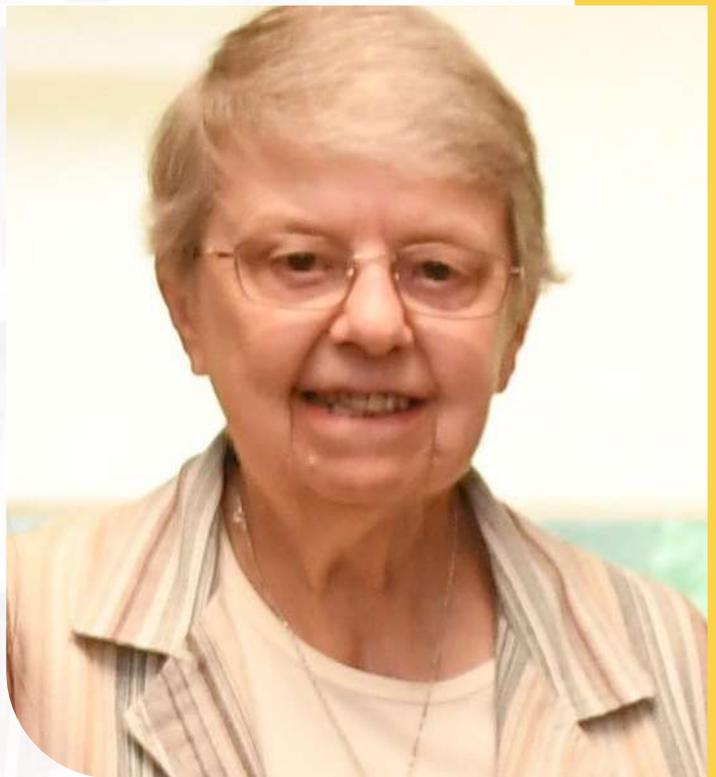
If you entered Mount Alvernia High as a 7th or 8th grader in the Fall of 1994 or sooner there is almost a 100% chance you were blessed to have been in the academic presence of Sr. Jeanne Marie, mfc. For 27 years, Sr. Jeanne Marie presided over rooms H1 and 200 as primarily a theology teacher but for many years a history teacher as well. She also served as the Theology Department Chair for several years. This past May she has decided that this past year would be her last but as she states with a head shake, "oh please do not use the word, retired".

Sr. Jeanne Marie was born in North Quincy where she spent her very young years. Her family moved to Needham in the 1950s where she began her Catholic education at Saint Bartholomew's Parish School. She remembers, "With no real idea for high school I asked my best friend where she was going". In the fall of 1960 she would enter Saint Clare High School in Roslindale, a Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception school. Having never heard of Saint Clare's, this is when Sr. Jeanne Marie would have her introduction into the Franciscan charism. By her junior year, she knew she wanted to join the Franciscan order.

In 1964, Sr. Jeanne Marie would enter the Novitiate in Chestnut Hill to begin her studies. In 1966 the Novitiate would move to 790 Centre Street where she would finish her final 2 years of studies. Over the course of the next 2 decades Sr. Jeanne Marie Hall would travel from Boston to Georgia to Syracuse to Rockford, IL where she taught elementary theology and history. About her travels, Sr. Jeanne Marie lamented, "I did travel around a bit but not as much as other Sisters...I think because my time at each location was longer than most. But I can tell you the snowy winters of Syracuse and Rockford were a welcome change over the heat of Georgia!" After the closing of the St Francis Consolidated school in Rockford in 1985, she would find herself back in Chestnut Hill teaching in the 7th and 8th grades at Mount Alvernia Academy.

Sr Jeanne Marie would continue to teach at Manet Road until her two grades were moved to 790 Centre Street in 1994. She recalls being out of a job until being called upon by Sister Suzanne Foundini, then Head of School, at the high school. The fall found Sr. Jeanne Marie in here new home of H1 in Hayes Hall teaching her staples of theology and science/history. "That room is the best room on the entire campus. The windows, overlooking the grounds, were always so beautiful, letting in all the light of the day" glows Sr. Jeanne Marie. She could not resist immediately telling the story of how within weeks of starting she put in a birdfeeder outside the windows for her own enjoyment and that of the students.

Sr Jeanne Marie would call H1 home for the next 16 and half years before taking a medical leave to deal with an ailment. Upon her return in the fall of 2013 she was greeted by the loving spirit of the entire MAHS community. She recalls, "I can not believe the number of bags of M&M's, there must have been 100's of bags... and books, and cards of well wishes that the girls sent me." The community really rallied around me and to this day I have a sparkle in my eye whenever I think of that time."



The next spring Sr. Jeanne Marie would return to the classroom except this time to room 200. "Room 200 is a great room, not because of the view but because of the learning that took place there", she continued, "It's smaller, quieter and off the beaten path, definitely a room where you can connect with the students." She speaks very highly of all the classes she held there and knows how much she is going to miss it.

As mentioned, Sr. Jeanne Marie has spent the past 27 years teaching at 790 Centre Street. She wants it known, "I have loved teaching at Mount Alvernia High School and I have looked forward to every single day there. When August 1 rolled around I was ready to start, Let's Go!" She also wants the heads of school that she worked with to know how much she appreciated them and working with them as well as the faculty and staff. She especially wants them to know of her gratitude for their help this past year. She states, "I would not have gotten through it without their help, they rescued me."

And she wants to remind all her former students of what she told them often,

“The most important class you will ever take here at Mount Alvernia is theology. Sure, you need Science and Math and History and English, and all the others but some day you will not, but your relationship with God goes with you till the end of your life.”



Sister Damon Nolan, mfc

On June 5, 2021 the Mount Alvernia Community lost one of its' most cherished members. Sister M. Damon Nolan mfc, the founding Head of School at 790 Centre Street, went on to her eternal reward for a life committed to the Franciscan charism of service to others. She leaves behind a large family of brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews but also a family of students, fellow faculty, administrators and Missionary Franciscan Sisters and friends of Mount Alvernia.

Katherine Frances Nolan entered the Franciscan Sisters novitiate in September 1959 post graduating from the MFIC lead St. Clare High School in Roslindale. The Postulant program was from September to May. It is in May when Kathy Nolan received the name Sr. Mary Damon and then started in the Novitiate program for the next 2 years.

As a novice, Sr. Damon enthusiastically wanted to get started in her calling of service to others. Sr. Damon deeply believed this was her calling from the Lord and equally believed you listened to your callings even if it isn't exactly as you may have envisioned.

Sr. Damon's time in the Novitiate program was a great time for her. She studied traditional college level courses in addition to a track of theology. She was a very good friend and loved joking around. She also had a great love for basketball. She encouraged and recruited all 12 of her classmates to play the game. Many had no idea what the game was but true to her spirit she remained positive and coached them along. Throughout her time in the program she was sincere in the pursuit of her vocation. Sr. Damon 's first profession was in 1962 and her final in 1967. She felt that we were meant to carry one another's burdens and she did just that all of her religious life.

St. Mary's grammar school in Philadelphia, Pa. would be Sr. Damon's first assignment as a teacher. It was quickly realized she had a lot to give so she was sent to the South to teach in a high school there. She immediately fell in love with teaching there and knew there was so much more to do.

Sr. Damon would return to Mt. Alvernia during the summers to study. She would eventually receive a BA in English from Mount Alvernia College, a MA in Science from Boston College and a MA in Geology from the University of Colorado. She was a born teacher, not only of academics but of the whole human experience. She brought the good out of the students she taught; she recognized their talents, their abilities and the God within them. Sr. Damon accepted people where they were. She encouraged people and often complimented them but wasn't afraid to point out their faults and failings as well as those of her own.

Upon her permanent return from Georgia, Sr. Damon found herself teaching science at her alma mater St. Clare's. She would be there just a short time when she would be asked to head the newly relocated Mount Alvernia High School at 790 Centre Street. She proved to be an inspiring, and innovative leader which motivated students. Sr. Damon would spend 8 years as the school's principal. She cared for every student she met and had a profound influence on many of them. Many of her former students maintained a lifelong relationship with her and frequently sought her out as a mentor. Mary Beth Sullivan O'Leary '75 beamed,

"Damon was the best! She had a keen sense of humor, and her laugh was contagious as it bellowed throughout the school. Sr. Damon truly believed that you "never do something to get something in return" and she practiced this everyday of her life - a truly selfless individual."



Despite the busyness and challenges of her day Sr. Damon found time to coached the basketball team. This was a great joy for her, having previously coach in Georgia and at St Clare's. One of her standout players, Judy Blinstraub Jennings '74 had this to say.

“I was fortunate to have a mentor like Sister Damon in my life. She challenged me to push myself and not to be afraid of failure. Sister Damon gave me the opportunity to Coach at Mount Alvernia right out of college. Thanks to her faith in me I was able to pursue my dreams. She will always have a special place in my heart.”

Sr Damon would reconnect with the students through her love of basketball. In recent years she was often seen in the gym watching the Mustangs take on their opponents. The 2019 team made Sr. Damon an honorary member, complete with her own warm up jacket.

In 1980 an opportunity to take over a mission in Carmen Pampa, Bolivia presented itself. Once again, service to others called. Sr. Damon would move to Bolivia and spend almost 3 decades working to improve the lives of the Campesinos. It was hard work and at times very dangerous, and she loved every minute of it. She gave up family and comforts most of us take for granted. Before returning to 790 Centre Street she would be directly responsible for the development of a university for the people of Carmen Pampa and the surrounding area.

Nothing encapsulates the life of Sr. Damon better than the words of her sister Ann Nolan Mitchell,

“I would like to think that Damon is not gone but lives on in the lives she touched. We are all better for having her in our lives. It is incumbent on all of us to continue her mission of making the world a better place, to treat every person with respect and kindness and to appreciate the differences among the people of the world.”





Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien | *"when you find a pearl of great choice"* — Matthew 13: 44-46

In the fall of 1993 a young Southie girl began her first day of school on the campus of Mount Alvernia High School. She chose MAHS because she wanted a small school, one in which she could be involved and one that was committed to community service and social justice. She chooses it because she is curious what it would be like to go to an all girls school. No one could imagine the profound impact she would have on it for decades to come.

Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien '97 came to the board in 2016 at the request of the then Head of School Ms. Eileen McLaughlin. In Pascarelli O'Brien, Ms. McLaughlin saw an energy, passion and love for the school that she knew would bring the board and school to new heights. Fellow board member and current Board Chair, Kathleen Joyce writes, "Serving as a board member with her (Pascarelli O'Brien) over the years it was clear to me --and the entire board-- that she always had the best interest of the school community in mind. She thinks creatively, approaches problems directly, finds solutions and isn't afraid to make difficult decisions."

In 2018 the board elected Pascarelli O'Brien the Board Chair, the first alumna of 790 Centre Street to hold this position. During her tenure as Board Chair, Pascarelli O'Brien created a more streamlined structure that leveraged the board's subcommittees. This included broadening the membership of the subcommittees and utilizing the talents of the larger community.

In late Spring, 2019, the Missionary Sisters asked Pascarelli O'Brien if she would take the role as the Interim Head of School as Ms. McLaughlin was stepping down. Pascarelli O'Brien assumed the role on August 1 of that summer and was to operate in that capacity for one year. A search committee convened with a plan to have a new permanent HOS in place by spring of 2020.

Pascarelli O'Brien began her tenure by being an example of Pax et Bonum to the students, always being present in their daily state and always seen at extracurricular events. Her first half of school year 2020 was one of hard work that was met with rewarding results. Spring of 2020 would prove to be different. The only certainty that she and her administration had was the constant uncertainty that was Covid-19.

With all of in person education and on campus activities being halted or restricted Pascarelli O'Brien led a faculty and staff in quickly and efficiently pivoting to remote learning. Through all the changing information that needed to be discerned daily she stayed out in front and emitted nothing but positivity and calmness. As the year closed and decisions for traditional end of year events loomed she worked hard to bring as much normalcy to the most unnormal of school years. Her crowning achievement for her tenure during that school year was her steadfastness to extend to the Class of 2020 an in person graduation ceremony that was eventually held on Mitchell Field on July 19 of that year.

In the Spring of 2020 the Board of Directors, in conjunction with the Missionary Sisters decided to halt the search for a permanent Head of School due to the uncertainty of conducting a thorough search during a pandemic. They asked Pascarelli O'Brien if she would give them one more school year as Interim Head of School. She agreed and immediately started to look ahead to how in-person learning could proceed for the 2020-2021 school year.

Over the next few months and throughout the school year, protocols were put in place, many letters, memos and updates were sent out and many meetings were held to provide a school community as typical a year as possible. Every decision made by Pascarelli O'Brien was guided foremost by knowledge that ensured the safety of the students, faculty, staff and Sisters. Assistant Head of School Mary Bridget Chick commented, "I am so grateful for Mrs. O'Brien's leadership during such a challenging year. Mrs. O'Brien demonstrated for me and for our whole community the meaning of the 2020-2021 7C: Commitment. She approached every obstacle with creativity, determination, and care for students and with the greater MAHS community always at the forefront."

Though the year would be one of compromise and pivoting, in the end all academic studies and advancements occurred, most traditional student events took place and the Class of 2021 once again processed across the stage on Mitchell Field. Joyce added, "It goes without saying that Nicole brought knowledge, expertise and many talents to her role as interim Head of School at Mount Alvernia. What I enjoyed most about working with Nicole was that through it all she was able to look at her work through the lens of a former student, an alum and also a parent of a young person exactly the same age as our own students."

Pascarelli O'Brien tenure ended on July 31. Throughout the month of July sitting opposite the new Head of School, acting as mentor and counselor with much anticipation for what lies ahead.

In Matthew's verse he equates the value of a fine pearl to that of Heaven. At 790 Centre Street it is clear the Sisters have found their pearl here on Earth. As of August 16, 2021 Mrs. Nicole Pascarelli O'Brien assumed the role of Mission Integrator working with the three schools Missionary Franciscan Sisters oversee - Mount Alvernia High School, Mount Alvernia Academy and St. Francis Academy in Union City, New Jersey, to ensure the charism and mission of the Sisters continues to thrive in their schools. Her role also includes working with the boards of the three schools. Her office is located on the campus in the Provincial House making it possible to continue to join the school for Masses and special traditions.

FROM THE ADMISSIONS DESK...

PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

As you know, Mount Alvernia High School has so much to offer young women! From its inception in 1927, MAHS has been a school where each young woman is valued for who she is and for who she has the potential to become.

This fall, we are beginning both a parent and alumnae ambassador program for our Admissions Office and would love your help! We are excited to expand our relationship and admissions outreach with our surrounding communities. As MAHS continues to grow, our focus will be on maintaining a culture that thrives on collaboration, tradition, and embodies the spirit and our mission.

If you have questions regarding our new Admissions Ambassador programs, or would like to share ideas that you have with regards to our outreach efforts, please contact

Kim Kossuth

Director of Admissions



617-969-2260, Ext. 46



admissions@mountalverniahs.org

We look forward to working with you!

Stay tuned... Coming Soon!

Alumnae Admissions Event

Have a daughter applying to middle or high school? We will be offering a specific program and tour for our very own alums and their daughters.

Realtor Tour of MAHS!

Own a real estate business or currently working as a realtor? We will be inviting real estate agents to learn more about all that we offer so that they can help educate new families moving into the area about us!

EVENTS



Upcoming Admissions Events

Admissions Virtual Q&A

Wednesday, September 29th | 6:30-7:30 pm

Fall Open House (In-person)

Sunday, November 7th | 1:30-4:00 pm

Upcoming Advancement Events

Homecoming

Saturday, September 25, 2021 | 10am – 2:00pm

Food, Fellowship, Friends and Fun. Come join us for a Back to School BBQ and cheer on the Mustangs. Once a Mustang, Forever a Mustang!

2ND ANNUAL GALA

Friday, October 1, 2021

You are cordially invited to gather with over 200 of your fellow classmates, current and past parents, current and past faculty and staff, Franciscan Sisters and friends of Mount Alvernia High School

Winter Windfall Kickoff

Friday, November 12, 2021

Get your Winter Windfall calendars through students or online. All proceeds go to the Mount Alvernia Fund

Christmas Festival

Saturday, December 4, 2021

Details to be announced

Night at the Races

Friday, March 4, 2022

Giddy-up! Join the Booster Club at Boston 10 ELKS in West Roxbury for a night of horse racing, all benefitting athletics at MAHS.

Prom Fashion Show

March, 2022

Through the hard work and dedication of the students the Prom Fashion Show Scholarship continues to award financial aid to families. To date over \$100,000 has been awarded

Fore Mount Alvernia - Golf Tournament

May 20, 2022

Sandy Burr Country Club will once again be the gathering place for 100 of Mount Alvernia's most enthused golfers and supporters. A good time is promised for all with proceeds raised going to the Mount Alvernia Fund



MEET THE MOUNT ALVE

Anne Ames P'13

Anne is head of Human Resources for Fidelity Enterprise Technology and Global Services, a division of Fidelity Investments. She has deep human resources and business experience in the Financial Services industry having worked for Bank of America and its predecessors. During this tenure, she held leadership roles in the areas of Human Resources, Retail Banking, and Regulatory and Board Governance. Anne earned a BA from Assumption College and currently serves on the board of directors for Common Impact. Anne and her husband Robert are the benefactors of the Sister Jeanne Marie Award presented each year at Foundress Day. They have 2 daughters, who are graduates of 790 Centre Street, Mary Kate '13 and Elizabeth '15.

Phionna-Cayola Claude '14

Phionna-Cayola Claude is originally from Dedham, MA. She is a member of the MAHS Class of 2014, where they were identified as the puzzle pieces. After MAHS, she attended Providence College for both her undergraduate and master's degree. She received a bachelors in Psychology and a master's in Higher Education. She spent the past six years living in Providence, RI where she was a College Advisor, Mentor to women of color, and a college Hall Director. She is now back home in MA serving as a Resident Director at Boston College. In her free time, Phionna enjoys spoken word poetry, coffee, and meaningful conversations around spirituality, self-growth, and healing.

Patricia Daley,

Former MAHS Assistant Head of School.

As Assistant Head of School for 17 years, Pat views it as a true privilege to watch the girls grow into compassionate and articulate young women. Pat received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Northeastern University, her Master of Business Administration from Suffolk University, and her Master of Education (MEd) from Curry College. Prior to arriving at MAHS, Pat was in human resources in the banking industry. Upon completion of her MEd, she joined the Katherine Gibbs School as a faculty member and department chair. She credits these past work experiences as reason she was prepared for her role as Assistant Head of School. Pat is the chair of the MAHS Finance subcommittee, an active member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish where she serves on their board, as a lector and on their finance committee, and volunteers at the Faulkner Hospital and Italian Home.

Edward Burke P'12

Ed is a graduate of Catholic University earning a BS Engr in Biomedical Engineering. He also holds a MS in Mechanical Engineering from Northeastern. Ed and his wife, Maureen are strong supporters of and volunteers at MAHS as well as proud parents of Siobhan, MAHS class of 2012 and their son Michael. Ed has experienced the impact of the mission of MAHS first-hand and views it as a privilege to help ensure that a MAHS education is available to future girls and their families. Ed and Maureen reside in Waltham.

Denise Connell '85; P'19

Denise is a 1985 graduate of MAHS. She is equally proud that her daughter, Colleen is a member of the Class of 2019. Denise and her husband John are longtime supporters and promoters of MAHS serving on many parent groups and assisting in advancement efforts. She is a Licensed Realtor and Sales Team Manager with Donahue Real Estate in Dedham, servicing the surrounding area. Beyond her work on the MAHS board, Denise holds a position on the Board of Directors for the Greater Boston Association of Realtors. Denise, John and their 3 children reside in Dedham.

Maggie Girard (DeMowra) '10

Maggie is a 2010 graduate of MAHS where she was a student athlete and senior scholar. Maggie attended Fairfield University, and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Political Science. She is currently the Marketing Director at the Boston Bar Association (BBA). Prior to joining the BBA, she served as a Field Organizer for a number of state and local campaigns and as a Legislative Intern at the U.S. Capitol. Maggie is in her fourth year as a MAHS board member, chairing the Advancement and Alumnae Relations subcommittee. Maggie is passionate about the mission of MAHS to empower young women to be a force for good in the world. She enjoys running, catching a Friday night Sox game at Fenway Park, and spending time in Wellfleet, Cape Cod.

Br. Kirk A. Phelps CFC

As a member of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers, Br. Kirk has spent the last 50 years teaching in many of their schools around the Northeast. With a bachelor's degree in Physics and a master's degree in School Administration, he has taught science and math classes at all levels of middle school and high school. Br. Kirk is a former vice principal of Bishop Hendricken High School in Rhode Island and is currently teaching at Catholic Memorial High School. He currently serves on the MAHS facilities subcommittee.

CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

Kathleen Joyce '92

Kathleen Joyce is a 1992 graduate of MAHS. She is Chairwoman of the Boston Licensing Board and the Boston Cannabis Board. In this capacity, she grants and regulates various types of food, alcohol and cannabis licenses for restaurants and other establishments in Boston. Prior to this appointment by Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Kathleen was senior counsel at the BPDA. Through her former roles, Kathleen has accumulated extensive experience cultivating relationships with and convening various stakeholders, including legal experts; city, state, and federal leaders; and members of the judiciary system to identify areas of common interest and consensus. Kathleen is a past member of the editorial board of Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, serves as a committee member of The Friends of the Mass General Cancer Center, and is a board member of the Dorchester Running Club. She graduated from the College of the Holy Cross and Suffolk University Law School and lives in Dorchester.

Sister Irene Lawrence,

ex officio

Sister Irene Lawrence is the Provincial Minister of the Missionary Franciscan Sister of the Immaculate Conception and community minister. Sister Irene has worked in education for over 40 years as a teacher and principal, including Mount Alvernia Academy, and as assistant superintendent for the dioceses of Patterson, NJ. She received her BS and MS degrees in Educational Administration from Boston College.

Maureen Simmons P'19

Maureen is the Assistant Director of the Pre-Health Program in the Academic Advising Center at Boston College (BC). She is responsible with her team for the day to day operation of the unit which serves current undergraduates as well as BC alumni interested in attending health professions graduate school. Maureen is a graduate of BC earning a BA degree, Summa Cum Laude, with a double major in English and Philosophy. Prior to working at BC, she was the Graduate Program Director at Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois. Maureen and her husband Charlie reside in Sudbury and are the proud parents of 4 daughters and 5 grandsons. Their daughter Christine is a member of the MAHS Class of 2020.

Nicole Kfowry '05

Nicole is a 2005 graduate of MAHSI. She graduated from Assumption College with a B.A. in Sociology-Criminology and from Suffolk University with a Masters in Crime and Justice Studies, Youth Justice. Nicole worked at City Year AmeriCorps and Boston Scholar Athletes, managing teams of young people focused on supporting academic achievement through athletics. Currently, she works as Partnership in Education and Resilience (PEAR), where she is a coach and a trainer for adults working with youths. Nicole values a life of service. She is involved with many service organizations including The Shattuck Shelter, American Arab Benevolence Association, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, and the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities. She has co-spearheaded the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility (DEIA) work for the MAHS community. When she is not working, she loves family time, skiing, playing flag football, cooking, traveling, and playing with her 6 nieces.

Maureen McCafferty,

Vice Principal Mount Alvernia Academy

Maureen McCafferty is the Vice Principal of Mount Alvernia Academy (MAA) since 2014. She has a BA from Boston College in English and Education and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Assessment in Literacy from Lesley College. She has served long tenures at both Blessed Sacrament Parish School in Walpole, as well as MAA where she first started as a 4th grade teacher in 2001. As the mother of two daughters, she is a strong advocate of single-gender schools. Maureen states, "it allows them to develop their leadership skills before entering college. Strong independent thinkers are critical for the future."

Jess Rivers '08

Jess is a 2008 graduate of MAHS. She attended Boston College (BC) where she earned a BA in Communications and a MA in Higher Education. Jess served as the Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at BC's Lynch School. She currently resides in the Bay Area where she serves on the Diversity, Equity, and Belonging Committee at UC Berkeley School of Optometry. She works in the Technology Industry as the University Relations Program Manager at Zoox, an autonomous vehicle company.



Sister Jeanne Marie, mfc

7 C's Woman of 2021

"I have always enjoyed watching the girls "grow up." They came as timid 7th graders and blossomed into confident young ladies. I saw a deepening of faith as I listened to their reflections and enjoyed the Masses and prayer services that they planned under the direction of the campus minister. On graduation day I watched with amazement and pride as they got their diplomas and were really ready to go out and share Franciscan Charism."

**JOIN US AS WE HONOR
SISTER JEANNE MARIE
MFC AND
MRS. KATHLEEN KENT
AS THE INDUCTEES AS
7 C'S WOMEN.**

This **October 1**, the greater community of Mount Alvernia High School will gather for its largest annual fundraiser, as we celebrate all the goodness of 790 Centre Street.

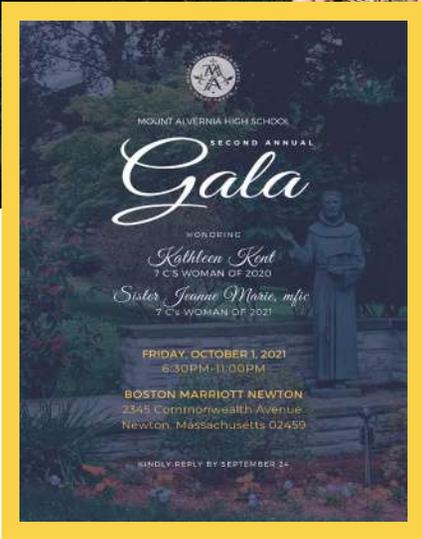
Recognized will be the alumnae reunion years of the classes of the 1's and 6's as well as the 0's and 5's. Special recognition will be made for the 50th Reunion Class of 1971 and the 25th Reunion Class of 1996.

Mrs. Kathleen Kent

7 C's Woman of 2020

"It has been one of the great joys of my life to know the women who have received the 7C's award and to watch so many young girls grow from student to alumna to women in the world, fulfilling the vision we had for them."





Second Annual Gala

📅 October 1, 2021

🕒 6:30 pm - 11:00 pm

📍 Boston Marriott, Newton

The reunion will be held at the Boston Marriott Newton
2345 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts 02459
A Special Event price of \$159.00 per room is available on a limited basis.

For more information you can visit this link:
<https://mountalverniahhs.org/event/second-annual-gala/>

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Bob Madeya,
Director of Advancement and Alumnae Relations
rmadeya@mountalverniahhs.org

Tickets are **\$125.00**
each or a table of 10 is
\$1,250.00.

THANK YOU TO OUR
**ALUMNAE, PARENTS,
FACULTY AND FRIENDS**
FOR YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT.



Mount Alvernia High School
790 Centre Street
Newton, MA 02458

www.mountalverniahhs.org

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