



JUNE NEWS

Congratulations to the Class of 2019! ... Faculty Spotlight: Our Team ... STREAMing Success ... Saint Francis Partnership Update ... Art Accolades ... and more!

CONGRATULATIONS TO '19 GRADS!

Congratulations to all of our graduates! Our PreK and Kindergartners started the celebrations with morning graduations on May 31 followed by the 8th grade graduation Mass and ceremony at St. John Gualbert Cathedral in the evening. May you always carry the love and support of your teachers with you!



Summer may be coming but we're already planning for September. If you haven't yet registered your child for the 2019-20 school year, please take a moment to do so. It's easy - just [click here!](#)



The DMCA Team

Many thanks to the families who joined us for our 'Meet the Team' update in early May. During the meeting, families learned more about the roles our administrative team members will play in the coming year. Read on for a quick overview.



Tom Smith, Principal, Bishop McCort, and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), PreK-12 (center)

Mr. Smith oversees a growing partnership between DMCA and Bishop McCort, and will continue to provide strategic counsel to the DMCA team on an ongoing basis.

Stephen Cotchen, Assistant Principal, Bishop McCort (far right)

Mr. Cotchen is involved in faculty oversight, professional development, Dean of Student activities, enrollment/admissions and facilities management at Bishop McCort. As such, he will work closely with DMCA Middle School operations.

Rose Batzel, Associate Principal, DMCA West (2nd from left)

Mrs. Batzel continues in her role as Associate Principal and will oversee daily operations at DMCA West.

Mary Jo Podratsky, Associate Principal, DMCA East (2nd from right)

Mrs. Podratsky continues in her role as Associate Principal and will oversee daily operations at DMCA East.

Matthew Ribblett, Dean of Students, DMCA (far left)

Mr. Ribblett, a certified teacher at DMCA East who will earn a Masters of Arts in Education and Principal Certification from Point Park University in August, will serve as DMCA's Dean of Students. Among other key responsibilities, he will support PreK-8 improvements and school operations, and be responsible for PreK-8 discipline and behavior matters.

Rick Huffman, Academic Advisor, PreK-12

Mr. Huffman is a long-time area educator and administrator who has worked with DMCA teams since 2017. He will continue to partner with our principals on curriculum improvements and professional development opportunities for our faculty.

Visit www.divinemeracy.academy for more information on our team members or to read our official announcement.

What a Year!

STREAMing Success at DMCA



It's been all about hands-on learning in our STREAM labs this year. From PreK to 6th grade, DMCA students immersed themselves in STREAM activities that included an array of age-appropriate coding exercises, stop motion animation, the design and construction of spaghetti skyscrapers and earthquake-resistant bridges, and LEGO MINDSTORM challenges that required critical thinking and analyses skills. Several students took these skills with them during First Lego League competitions.

At the middle school level, our students started to design, create and engineer their futures in our new \$100,000 STREAM lab. They also took their STREAM interests to the next level as members of the Technology Student Association (TSA). Eight DMCA students competed at the regional level and four at the state level. Seventh graders **Ava Mitchell** and **Charlize Amper** are joining Bishop McCort freshmen **Mary Smith** and **Paige Grove** to compete at the national level in June. What a year, indeed!



*Clockwise: Students participated in the aerospace-focused Quantum Quest featuring Johnstown native and retired NASA aerospace technologist Don Freeburn; Kindergartner **Noah Feighner** and **Noah Cotchen**, PreK, used their STREAM skills to prepare for the annual Science Fair; as part of a STREAM unit on light, 6th graders worked with Kindergartners to create tie-dyed shirts.*

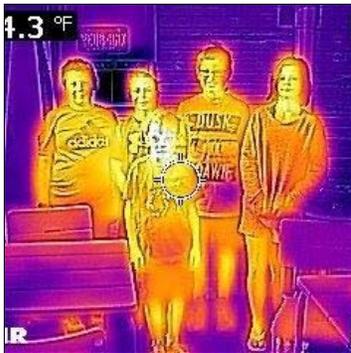
DMCA/SFU Partnership: *Nearly 1,000 hours of STEM, Math and Reading Enhancements*



This year marked the first year of our innovative partnership with the **Saint Francis University Institute for Energy**, the only curriculum partnership of its kind in the region. Here are a few highlights from this unique, hands-on initiative:

- **964 contact hours** of supplementary STEM, math and reading activities
- **3 hands-on instructional labs** at each campus focused on renewable energy, air quality and weather
- **Purchase and installation** of weather stations and air quality meters
- **Launch of Sustainability Libraries** at East and West that encourage students to read more about sustainability at home

- **Launch** of the the [St. Francis Sustainable Energy website](#) to highlight activities and provide students with real-time data for analyses
- **Professional development** for faculty, conducted at DMCA and Saint Francis University
- **Family activities** to do at home



DMCA and SFU teams are currently reviewing the year and looking at ways to build on first-year successes. Read more on Year 2 initiatives in upcoming editions of *Crusader News*.

Top: 5th grade scientists during wind energy experiments.

Middle: The labs combined literacy with hands-on activities to teach younger students about sustainability.

Bottom: Students used thermal cameras to test heat loss during visits to the SFU Tiny House.

Congratulations to East 3rd grader **Issac Gregorchik** and West 5th grader **Circe Myers** who won scholarships to attend an intensive week-long summer art camp at the Community Arts Center. These honors cap off a great year for our arts program, which included the first-ever Divinely Inspired Art Show at the Bottleworks.



Our students earned multiple artistic awards throughout the year for their creativity and skill. Most recently, West 6th grader **Ashley Gregorchik** was named the Achievement Award winner at the Greater Johnstown Young Artist show while classmate **Camden Kriak** earned the Merit Award. Bravo!

We're Growing!

Our PreK program is expanding!

- 3 yr old - 5 days/wk and 2 days/wk
- 4 yr old - 5 days/wk and 3 days/wk
- Full day and half-day options
- Certified early learning teachers
- [Click here](#) to see our video and learn more about our program!



PICTURE THIS

Capturing the everyday spirit of DMCA



Top: *It's clear from the expressions on the faces of Miss Stephens' Kindergarten class on our East campus that the students loved nurturing caterpillars through the year and releasing them once they grew into butterflies. **Bottom:** The annual Trout Release traded the classroom for the outdoors and gave our 4th, 5th and 6th graders the chance to really learn by doing.*

It's Not Too Late! Register for DMCA Summer Camps

We still have a few slots available in our summer camps, all of which are open to students in grades 1-6. Bussing and snacks are provided but students are required to pack their lunches each day. Fees range per session. Save your space today!



July 8 - 11: First Lego League (FLL), 8 am - 3 pm

Register [here](#) for an immersive experience in FLL, LEGO MINDSTORM, robotics and maker spaces

July 22 - 25: Visual Storytelling, 8 am - 3 pm

Register [here](#) to learn the basics of video production such as stop-motion, claymation and editing

July 29 - Aug 1: The 'A' in STREAM, 8 am - 3 pm

Register [here](#) and get ready to delve into sculpture, painting and other art forms



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

6/5 - 6th Grade 'Move Up Day' and Last Day

- West Awards Ceremony: 9:30 am, OMOS Church (no Mass)

- East Awards Ceremony: 9 am Mass, St. Benedict Church; 10 am Awards Ceremony

6/7 - Noon Dismissal

6/10 - Last Day of School - 10 am Dismissal

6/17-21 - Beach Trek Bible School, DMCA East

6/23 - Pasta with a Purpose, 11 am - 3 pm

DMCA East; helps support the Yost family

Summer office hours begin on 6/11. Our East and West offices will be open Monday-Friday from 9 am - noon and by appointment; the Middle School office at Bishop McCort will be open Monday-Friday from 8:30 am - 2:30 and by appointment. Be sure to check out the [DMCA Google calendar](#) for school-wide events and specific happenings at each campus. Our 7th and 8th graders should also review the [Bishop McCort calendar](#) for important dates throughout the year.



Our students and schools were featured in several media stories in May. Here are a few links in case you missed them:

- Principal announcement - [Tribune Democrat, Our Town](#), WJAC-TV
- 'Bringing Science to Life' - [Tribune Democrat](#)
- Students Dive into Trout Project - [Daily American](#)

Photo of 4th grader Patrick Sakmar reprinted from the Tribune Democrat.

The mission of Divine Mercy Catholic Academy is to empower our students through Christ-centered academic excellence within a safe and secure environment that will create a solid foundation of values, leadership, and commitment to self and community.

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Do you know someone who wants to stay updated on DMCA happenings? Tell us! We would be happy to include them!

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