madonna
Ability Alliance†

EDUCATION. LIFE SKILLS. EMPLOYMENT.

Fall 2026









Counterclockwise from top left:
Happy back to school! The 2026-2027 school year marks a milestone for Madonna, and we're grateful to Roncalli Catholic for continually welcoming our students into their school community.

Madonna Secondary student, Paul, dressed as Roncalli Catholic Principal, J.J. Stoffel, for teacher/student swap day as part of RCHS Homecoming Week.

Each day our Secondary students receive core academic instruction in our Madonna classroom before attending inclusive art, music, and P.E. classes with their Roncalli peers in the afternoon.

RONCALLI CATHOLIC

Proud to be a Part of the Pride:

MADONNA'S NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH RONCALLI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

With the start of the 2026-2027 school year, Madonna's Secondary classroom is now located at Roncalli Catholic High School (RCHS). The program continues to be operated by Madonna's administration, faculty, and staff to offer our core academic and life skills curriculum. Madonna students also now have opportunities to audit classes in music, art, and P.E. Being on campus allows our students to work and learn alongside high school peers from Roncalli Catholic. We're already seeing the fruits of this partnership and the new ways Madonna and Roncalli Catholic students are collaborating and growing in their friendships.

"We are excited to be integrated into the daily routine of passing periods, lunchroom, assemblies, and other areas that shape a well-rounded high school experience," said Sarah Struckman, Madonna's Director of Secondary and Activities.

Memorial & Honor Gifts

Memorial gifts were received for the following. Please remember them in your prayers.

Mary & John Bathen
Kathleen & Ed Connolly
Ryan Connolly
Mary Grohman
Nancy Guziec
Michaela Harper
Laura Jardine
Millie & Charles Lett
Carole Martin
Mary & The Hon. Mike McGill
Marie & Thomas McGuire
Mary Hogan McGuire
Steve Meader
Paul Melingagio
John (Jack) Minton
Louis Myers
Nancy Nahas
Lynn Noveski
Ursula Obrist
Jim Parys
Elizabeth Reilly
Alexandra Salem
Annette Schmitz
Ommund Danny Skar
Marty Stovie
Olga & Jack Trembath
Norman Tweedy
Elaine Westergard
Peggy & Bob White
Marie Yost
John Zak

Honor gifts have been received to honor the following individuals who hold Madonna close to their heart.

Dexter Anderson
Denise & Tate Fitzgerald
Sue Haddix
Kaleigh Hamrick
Jane & Mark Hasebroock
Lewis Hasebroock
Brenda & David Langenberg
Mischele Lindley
Mary Clare O'Malley
Sharon & Kevin O'Malley
Fr. John Pietramale
Sarah Placek
Kelley Prosser
Marcus Sikora
Joseph Tran
Brook Whetstone



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SR. MARY EVANGELINE RANDOLPH, RSM
Founder,
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PROGRAMS

Elementary Education
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A Letter from the President



Friends of Madonna,

As life unfolds for each of us, some truths continue to circle back to us until we finally acknowledge them, learn them, and accept them as self-evident—imprinted on the world by our Creator.

One of those universal truths is those with and without disabilities are fully connected through our common humanity and are meant to live, learn, work, and enjoy life together.

Because it is true does not mean it is easy, but just because it can be hard does not make it any less true.

Take a few minutes to enjoy this newsletter and the truth becomes self-evident – when those with and without disabilities experience life together, everyone wins!



Your support allows us to create these wins as our programs operate across Omaha in nearly 100 school, community, business, and residential settings each and every day.

We can't thank you enough and we hope you enjoy a these updates on Madonna's wonderful work

God bless,

Jon Burt

Thank You Again for Your Support!

At Madonna, we're lucky to have strong community support. We couldn't do what we do without you, and we had such a great time gathering with you at various events this spring and summer to celebrate progress and help raise funds toward our mission. Every dollar raised goes toward the programs and people that help our students and adult participants learn, grow, and maximize their autonomy and independence.



Pictured Above: *Derek Randecker, Tony D'Agosto, Andy D'Agosto, and John Molden*

MADONNA GOLF CLASSIC
On May 11, we welcomed 112 golfers to Champions Run for year twenty-FORE of the Madonna Golf Classic. The event **netted** over $125,000 which will help us drive impact in the coming year. Many thanks to all golfers. We're especially grateful for our Presenting Sponsor, Arby's/PANDA, Inc., along with our Platinum Sponsors: Rotella's Italian Bakery, CKF, and The Heider Family Foundation. We look forward to seeing you at our 25th annual golf event on May 10, 2027.

MADONNAPALOOZA
Six months later and we're still thinking about it! Madonnapalooza 2026 rocked! It was a night filled with joy, community, and celebration of the incredible adults and students we serve. Thanks to everyone who joined us in person or supported us by bidding, purchasing raffle tickets, or cheering us on from afar. This year's event welcomed hundreds of guests and raised funds to create more opportunities for inclusion, belonging, and independence.

A special thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who helped make the night possible, especially the Madonna Council and Junior Council. See you next year. Mark your calendar now for April 15, 2027.

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION GALA
Celebration 2026 was an incredible evening. Back for the second year at A View West Shores, nearly 500 guests helped us raise over $560,000 toward our mission!

WOWT Channel 6's Brian Mastre again emceed the event. One of the most exciting moments of the evening was a very lively Heads of Tails game "officiated" by John Higgins!

This year, we honored Deborah Macdonald & Sr. Maryanne Stevens, RSM. Each has shaped Madonna's mission through decades of friendship, service, and Mercy-rooted leadership. Deborah helped secure the land that made Madonna's new campus possible and first connected with the ministry as a high school volunteer at the Sisters of Mercy's summer camp for children with special needs—an experience that sparked her lifelong love for Madonna's work.



L-R: *Jon Burt, Deborah Macdonald, Sr. Maryanne Stevens, and Toody Moffatt*

Sister Maryanne's relationship began in the early 1980s, when she collaborated with Sr. Mary Evangeline to launch one of Madonna's first independent living programs for young women aging out of the school. Her later board service deepened her conviction that Madonna's work is a powerful witness to the dignity of every person. Together, Deborah and Sister Maryanne embody the faith, compassion, and commitment that have strengthened Madonna's mission for generations.

Guests also heard Madonna President Jon Burt provide updates on growth and goals moving forward.

The gala theme was "Anchored in Community," and that was indeed the theme of the night, as our community showed us big during the live auction!

Special thanks to event chairs Amy Coacher, Mischele Lindley, and Carrie Roberts, whose leadership helped make this a record-setting occasion. We are also grateful to all our generous sponsors, especially The Heider Family Foundation, for its continued commitment to Madonna Ability Alliance.



SR. EVANGELINE MEMORIAL MASS
Each September, we gather for a special Mass honoring our founder, Sr. Mary Evangeline Randolph, RSM. On September 25, what would have been her 107th birthday, more than 200 staff, students, and supporters gathered at St. John Paul II Newman Center. Archbishop Emeritus George Lucas presided over Mass, with concelebrant Fr. Don Shane. We also remembered those honored through memorials this past year. It was a beautiful tribute to Sr. Evangeline's legacy and the mission we continue to carry forward.

This is What an Inclusive Community Looks Like...



School is in session—and the Inclusive Elementary Program is growing—across all three of our Elementary Partner schools: Holy Name, St. Pius X/St. Leo, and St. Robert Bellarmine. In inclusive classrooms, every student benefits. Staff works as a collaborative team, and we see students with and without disabilities grow together.



Madonna's Secondary Classroom has a new home at Roncalli Catholic! Our students also benefit from an ongoing partnership with Mount Michael, with students competing together in many unified sports. Flag football, bowling, and cornhole are underway for the fall season, with end-of-season tournaments coming in October.



Madonna Young Adult students participated in the Vocational Rehabilitation Summer Work Program for the second year in a row. Individuals worked at Husker Hounds, Inner Rail Food Hall, and Militti Sales & Promotions throughout the summer, earning a paycheck for their work. Many thanks to the employers who were great partners in supporting our students as they completed their tasks each day. Some of the daily duties included cleaning, organizing, and inventory. Congratulations to all on a job well done across the board!



In this photo, participants from our Adult Day Services program are enjoying time together over good food and even better company.

Each participant practiced real-world independence—reading the menu, choosing what they want, ordering confidently, and paying for their meal. These everyday moments in the community strengthen social skills, decision-making, and personal autonomy.

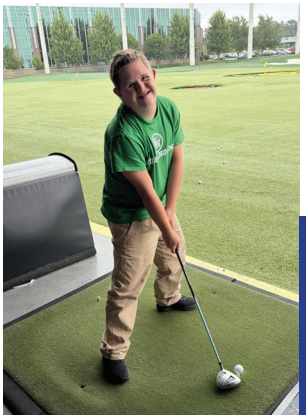
This is the heart of Adult Day Services: creating supportive, joyful experiences where adults can grow, connect, and take steps toward greater independence.





Hunter, Ty, and Tierre (right) are competitively employed at Immanuel's Newport House as Food Services Associates. We recently heard from supervisors about how dependable and responsible they are as employees. In fact, these three were trusted to train a fourth employee with Madonna ties, Chante, who is a recent graduate of our Project SEARCH! Thank you to all Madonna staff and employment partners who advocate for inclusive workplaces.

Madonna athletes completed their first season of Special Olympics Topgolf! Thanks to the coaches who stepped up to work with the 18 Madonna athletes this season. The season began in July and culminated in a tournament in August. Topgolf and Special Olympics have a national partnership to offer golf training. Topgolf is committed making the game of golf more diverse, inclusive, and fun.



...And Your Support Makes It Possible!



Anchored in Community

Thank You to everyone that made Celebration 2026 a record breaker!

1. *Honorees Sr. Maryanne Stevens, RSM and Deborah Macdonald*
2. *Paul was the big winner of Heads or Tails!*
3. *Celebration Chairs Carrie Roberts, Amy Coacher, and Mischele Lindley*
4. *Emcee Brian Mastre*
5. *A seafaring theme set the tone for the night*
6. *Volunteers from area Catholic schools*
7. *Speakers and Madonna participants Karly Schlecht and Kendall Lemkau*
8. *Mary Clare O'Malley and John Higgins lead a lively game of Heads or Tails*

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