Madonna Learning Center provides a nurturing faith-based educational and social environment that empowers young and adult students with special needs to reach their full potential while offering support to their families.
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Letter from the Director

It is hard to believe that next year Madonna will be celebrating 50 years of service for children and adults with special needs. Each day, our halls are filled with happy greetings, hugs and excitement as children see their friends and teachers. The students’ genuine smiles bring joy to everyone’s day. Many visitors leave the school saying, “this is such a happy place, can I volunteer.” Our students and trainees remind us daily how we should treat others and how we should appreciate each person for their unique gifts. The joy and excitement are contagious and that is why so many volunteers and friends love participating in our school events.

This is made possible because of a loving and generous community that believes our students and adults can achieve their goals that were merely dreams years ago. Today, many of our graduates are working or volunteering in the community through the generosity of businesses and caring people like you. Because of your support, people with disabilities are getting a chance to share their gifts and demonstrate their ability to be employed and live more independently. Our trainees work hard to gain the skills necessary in obtaining employment, so when they return and shout, “I got the job,” everyone jumps for joy and sheds a few tears.

This journey begins in our youngest class at age 4 and is reinforced through the years in preparing them academically, socially, spiritually, emotionally, and vocationally. Students are empowered to follow their dreams with the loving support from an amazing staff and many volunteers.

Lives are being transformed each day at Madonna. This is true not only for our students but also their families. We appreciate all you do to help Madonna continue to be a successful school and training center and we look forward to celebrating our 50th anniversary with you.

Thank you for making a difference!

“Together We Can” is our school motto and together you can help us keep the flame burning bright!

Warmly,

Jo Gilbert
Executive Director
Programs and Services

The PE Program - With the addition of the new gym, MLC is able to better focus on team sports, which improves overall development, balance, and eye to hand coordination. It also focuses on team building for developing communication, cooperation, and social skills. Students learn skills for a variety of physical activities and strive to meet their individual goals for achievement.

Movement Class addresses four areas of development: physiological, emotional, social, and cognitive. They explore and create their own dances, copy movement patterns, and experience the joy of self-expression while developing important neurological brain-body connections. Yoga is incorporated into our movement classes in order to improve body awareness, core strength and the body-mind connection.

Music classes at MLC are taught by a music therapist, who has been working as a music teacher for many years. Music therapy is particularly beneficial to our students as it allows the instructor to individualize lessons to each of the student’s needs. The focus of this class is not on the learning of music, but on the more generalized goals of each student and the process of making music. The children are encouraged to explore their interests in instruments and push themselves towards their goals. Music therapy allows for working through objectives with the tool of music. The students have learned to enjoy music in a more in-depth fashion using a variety of methods.

Silver Foxes
For over twelve years, a wonderful group from the Knights of Columbus at Incarnation Church have partnered with the senior high and adult trainees to create handmade wooden items. We are fortunate at MLC that the Silver Foxes volunteer their time every Wednesday morning with us. They make a variety of items including rosary beads, coffee mug holders, snowmen, reindeer, and even large items, such as Adirondack chairs and tables. Some items are auctioned at the Madonna Gala. Woodworking provides opportunities for students and trainees to improve not only wood crafting skills, but also listening comprehension, auditory processing skills, visual/spatial skills and fine motor skills.
During Speech and Language Therapy, the goal for each student at MLC is to be an effective and confident communicator. Therapy sessions target the student’s individual communication needs. Areas of focus include language comprehension and expression, production of speech sounds, fluency, use of augmentative communication devices, voice, and social communication skills. Many types of activities and materials are used in achieving the various goals ranging from simple vocabulary picture cards, apps on I-Pads, books, movement activities, computer software, picture symbol systems, signing and augmentative communication systems, such as talking devices.

At Madonna Learning Center, Occupational Therapy is individualized for each student. We work on a wide variety of skills including but not limited to: self-help skills (dressing, grooming/hygiene, feeding, etc.), fine motor skills (handwriting, manipulation, translating, manual dexterity, etc.), gross motor skills (balance, coordination, bike riding, etc.), strengthening (upper extremity, lower extremity, hand strength, and core strength), range of motion, sensory processing skills, visual and auditory attention, social skills, pre-vocational skills, and more.

Visual Arts are an important part of our programming. Visual arts encourage creative expression, allowing each student to develop increased self-esteem through participation in the art-making process. We focus on painting, collage, printmaking, pottery and sculpture.
Programs and Services

Terrific Kids
The Germantown Kiwanis Club offers the Terrific Kids Program for our students. Students are recognized each month for outstanding achievements and are awarded with gifts and certificates for their accomplishments.

Aktion Club
Is an organization that was established at MLC to empower our adults in providing services to the community and to become leaders in their school and work place. They are inducted into the club and trained to lead discussions and decisions in the group. The students meet once a month with volunteers from the Germantown Kiwanis Club. Last year, the Aktion Club received national recognition as a rapidly growing and active club and was awarded the Distinguished Youth Excellence Award for their achievements.

Celebration Troupe
MLC is to be celebrated, and that is what the Celebration Troupe does! Students from our Jr. high, Sr. high and adult program, come together to share a beautiful message and artistic movement through song and sign. The sole mission of this troupe is to spread joy, peace, and acceptance among us. They work together to collectively communicate their powerful message to our community. The Troupe has performed in places such as, The Canon Center, Hope Church, Ave Maria Home and more. If you are interested in having them perform for your group, please contact MLC.

Camp Fly High
is a summer camp offered to students with special needs throughout four weeks of the summer. During these four weeks, students participate in activities and events such as arts and crafts, movement and music, and sports and games. They also go on one field trip each week that have in the past included; the Memphis Zoo, Shelby Farms Park, a Redbirds game, bowling, swimming, and more! Camp Fly High is also very fortunate to have many volunteers that come from all over Memphis to work with our campers throughout the summer. We have been sold out most weeks for the past few years, so get your applications in early! It is four weeks full of fun and friendship that both students and campers look forward to each and every summer!
Life-Centered Education (LCE) focuses on building a foundation for life. These skills include reading, time, money, banking, job preparation, meal planning, shopping, meal preparation, self-help skills, internet and community safety, housekeeping, and self advocacy.

Work-Based Learning (WBL) includes job preparation, daily living skills, functional academics, and nonpaid internships. MLC partners with local companies to provide work experience opportunities. Madonna trainees spend time at each business to learn job skills in a variety of settings. Trainees rotate every semester, to learn more employable skills, but also to build rapport with employers and coworkers and establish letters of reference. The goal of WBL is to ease the transition between school and work while reinforcing life and job skills.

Continuing Education Classes (CEC) is a part-to-full-time program designed to accommodate adults that have graduated from MLC or other area schools and are looking to continue services. Programs include music, PE, yoga and art. Creating market products such as food, jewelry and pottery helps trainees with valuable job skills while circuit training classes help keep them healthy and active. Most adults in the CEC work part-time positions and attend classes on their days off.
Monarch/Cardinal 5k

Christmas Play

IT Makeover Winner

Monarch Market

Sheffield Antique Mall Holiday Gala

Memorial Golf Tournament

Backfield Bash
Fundraising Events

Madonna Learning Center is blessed with a supportive community. In order to keep tuition down, we rely on fundraisers to help us provide the services that our students and trainees need to empower them to become more independent and grow academically and socially.

From sponsored dining out nights at local restaurants to our 5K run, from our annual Christmas Play and Gala to the Fashion Fling, we have a fun event for everyone. The community loves our events and it is all for the best cause, MLC! The annual Christmas Play was once again a sell out for all three shows and our Gala sold more than 1200 tickets, raising more than $360,000!

Thank you to all of our donors, volunteers and participants for supporting us during our exciting fundraising events. We look forward to seeing you next time!
Community Inclusion

- Knights of Columbus Field Day
- FedEx Day of Caring
- Wilson Animal Rescue
- St. Agnes/St. Dominic Volunteers
- Incarnation BETA Club - Field Day
- ECS Carnival Day
- Boll Weevil Visit
- CBHS Football Practice
All Thanks to Your Donations!

- Scholarships and tuition assistance awarded to families in need
- Transition Coordinator hired to assist adults and their families
- Expanded reading and math programs
- Ramp extended to lower playground
- Garden boxes built for new student garden
- Web site designed to increase market sales
- Sound system improvements in gymnasium
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Mike and Liz Neel

Mark Franks
Nancy and Tony Lucchesi

Ed Garavelli
Jerri Garavelli

Jean Garbarini
Joyce Wade

Lee Gattas
Blair & Jo Gilbert
Mike and Liz Neel

Mary Ann Gilbert
Blair & Jo Gilbert

John Gilbert
Joann and Blair Gilbert

Stella Gill
Joyce Wade

Norma Hayes Gooney
Sandra and Bill Chiles

Dr. Marvin Gottlieb
Alice Gottlieb

Ralph Graf
Aima Graf

Rose Dordano Gregory
Donna Berretta Davis

The Deceased Members of the
Gresser Family
Judith and Bill Gresser

Rinaldo Grisanti
Nancy and Ron O’Neill

Cathey Groth
Sandra and Bill Chiles

Mary Gunn
Michael Gunn

With our love, sympathy and prayers, thank you to all the families for requesting memorials to be sent to Madonna Learning Center.
Carol Hammond
Germantown Garden Club

Walter Harmeier
Margaret Harmeier

Hunter Harrison
Joyce Wade

Paula Haynes
Germantown Commissary
William and Virginia Weeks

Therese Brennan Hebert
Anita G. Coughlin
Joann and Blair Gilbert
Mary Angela McCleary

Virginia Heffeman
Nancy Waggoner

Madeleine Hield
Chuck & Jenny Pinkowski

Justine Lowery Higgins
Gayle Bourland
Pam and Steve Guinn
Jessie and Donnie Harris
Diane and Kit Mays
Terece Moody
Victoria Saunders
Mary Austin and Scott Smith
Suzzy and Jimmy Young

John F. Houricon
Suzanne and Joseph Canepari

Mary Anna Jackson
Grand Valley Lakes Womens Club

Bobby Jacobs
Joyce Wade

Doris James
Mike and Liz Neel

Warren Johnson, Sr.
Michael and Aggie Fratta

Richard Kaleta
Margaret Kaleta

Libby and Clem Klank
Delia and Charles Molinski

Justin Koppeis
Cynthia B. Salem

Kay Kraus
Robert Kraus

Vivian Louise Langford
Hunter Nolen

Helen and John LaVelle
John Metz

Don Leachman
Joyce Wade

Dr. Michael Leppert
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Cheryl and Thomas Tompkins

Dr. Kim Litzow
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Eanes and Sam Lobianco
Joan and Wayne Clayborne

Ernie Lubiani
Betty Lyon and Laura Sampietro

William Luckett
John and Kathryn Haase

Walter McDaniel
Lori and James Cox

David McDonald
Mike and Liz Neel

Dick McStay
Mike and Liz Neel

Alex Montesi
Tom, Cheryl, Clark & Abby Tompkins
The McKinley Family

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Michael and Aggie Fratta
Donna and Mike Glenn
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Constance Oakes
Marianne Schadrack
Cheryl and Thomas Tompkins
Libby and Dan Wortham

Mackie Oates
Tom, Cheryl, & Clark Tompkins
Julie Ostrow
Jo & Blair Gilbert

Joseph Louis Pampuro
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Richard Goodell
Suzanne P. Goodell
Debbie Goodloe
Janet Gordon
Konrad Edmund Hayashi
Kathryn Mayeaux
Janet and David McElroy
Tammy Rawls, Weiner, Weiss & Madison
Lynn and Armand Roos
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Cindy and Bill Sacharin
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Nancy Jo Craig

Vicki Person
Joann and Blair Gilbert
Cynthia B. Salem

Sandy Phillips
Sandra and Bill Chiles
Roger Phillips

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Michael Pohlman

Tommie Jean Williams Polk
Mary Nell Guinn White

Kasha Porter
Hunter Nolen

William Posey
Clayton and Suzanne Culpepper
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Beverly Bailey

Betty Ann Rector
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Vadeen Reddin
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Donna and Mark Weber

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Anna Lee & Andy Gaia

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Regina & Fred Scruggs

Josephine Shelman
Leslie and Eileen Dunn
Mike and Liz Neel

Jim Shuford
Mike and Liz Neel

Thelma Signaigo
Frank Spinosa

Sister Mary Mark Graf
Sue E. Caradine
Cheryl & Tom Tompkins

Sister Mary Mark and Sister Ruth Ann
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Peggy Steffan
Bill & Marion Cravens

Joe Story
John Moore

Cecily W. Tipton
David A Tipton
Kay Tusa
Joyce Wade

Neil Utkov
Mike and Liz Neel

Louis Joseph Vescovo
Anita G. Coughlin

Bob Wade
Joyce Wade

Sue Wade
Joyce Wade

Diana Watkins
Mrs. J.F. Canepari

Charlie Watkins
Joyce Wade
Gifts June 2017 - October 2018

Dustin Watson
Shana and James Bowman
Madonna Learning Center Alumni
Sandra Maloney
Marilee and James McAlpine
Wayne Molnar
Mike and Liz Neel
Duard Spruce
Betty and Art Stevens
Pamela and Craig Thomas
Cheryl and Thomas Tompkins
Edward Duke Vincent
Toni Werbel
Mary Willett
Anthony Wimmer

Daniel Wheeler
Mary Angela McCleary

Paul A. Whitehurst
Gayle and
Ronnie Faulkner

Dr. Jack Wohrman
Dr. Robert Wohrman

Paul Wojcik
PDS 5K Girls

Lois Worrell
Peter and Lora Murray

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Sandra and Bill Chiles
Anita G. Coughlin
Michael and Aggie Fratta
Mary Angela McCleary

**In Honor of**
Matthew Abis
Lisa and John Barden
Michael S. Dragutsky M.D.
Michael and Sharon Goldstein
Bill Levy

Kelsey Ashe
Judy Ashe

Hannah Athow
Susan and Robert Athow

Sabrina Barek
Kim and Mark Hill

Ryan Barrow
Lawrence H. Adams Jr.
Joann and Blair Gilbert
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Mary Angela McCleary

Dr. James E. Boone
Virginia C. Hollon

Crystal Brady
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Marie and Ernest Ferrara

Andy Brister
Terri and Jim Spain

April Britt
Janice Brown

Carli Brown
Carla Brown

Susan and Tom Bryant
Karen and Mark Cooper

Sam Bryant
Ann and Joel Dickerson

Ralph Burrows
Laurah E. Beesinger

Vivian Bursi
Joyce Wade

Ben Buyer
Frances Norwood

Alisa McCleary and Jeff Byars
Michael and Aggie Fratta

Nancy and Lou Chiozza
Sandra and Bill Chiles

Evie Clark
Joyce Wade

Mary Angela McCleary

Dr. James E. Boone
Virginia C. Hollon

Crystal Brady
Richard Almonte
Marie and Ernest Ferrara

Andy Brister
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April Britt
Janice Brown

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Susan and Tom Bryant
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Frank L. Ditto
Rachel Donaldson
John and Kathy Blose
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Rosemary and Bill Batts

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Drs. Lucie and John Elfervig
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McKinnon Fratta
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Joseph and Stacy Coughlin
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Mary Angela McCleary

Barbara Gallina
Sandra and Bill Chiles
Anita G. Coughlin

Andy Gattas
Julie and Thomas Gattas

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Ellen and Stephen Atkins
Larry and Renee Karban
Jana and Doug Kearney

Donna and Mike Glenn
Martin P. Boscaccy
Susan J. Bruce
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Shawn Schaffler Demos
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Nan and William Thomas Miller, Jr.
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Deborah Dunklin Tipton
Steve and Susan Vescovo

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Steven and Claudia Hawkins
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John and Lisa Bobango

Brittany Haase
S. Dwain and Julianna Gaither
Karen and John McLaughlin

Kathy and John Haase
Virgie Crutchfield

Brittany, Kathy, and John Haase
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Karen and John McLaughlin

Susie Harlan
Gina and Joseph Chance

Evelyn Harmeier
Margaret Harmeier

Isaac Harvill
Karen M. Carl
Elaine and CC Melton
Randall and Cathy Paschall
Nicki and Martin Willoughby

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Don Russell

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Laurah E. Beesinger
Mary M Burrows
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Patricia and Van Cochran
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Sister Mary Mark, Sister Ruth and Sister Judy
Leslie and Eileen Dunn
Carolyn Baker McCord
Jane and Walker Morris

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Linsey Strawn
Scott Elliott

The Strawn Family
Phyllis McElyea

Lisa Thomas
Nancy G. Turner

Clark Tompkins
Barbara Tatge
Endowment
This fund may be used for the continued expansion and sustainment of our programs and facilities. Unless otherwise specified, gifts to this endowment fund are not permanently restricted. Please consider funding of our endowment. This will not only provide families in need with the quality education they desire, but will ensure the continued operation of this expanded facility into future decades.

Scholarship
Our scholarship program includes several options for providing assistance to those who desperately need our services, but are not able to afford them. Developmental disabilities are indiscriminate, and they affect all socio-economic levels. For that reason, the scholarship funds must continue to expand to better serve children and adults with special needs in our community. Please consider contributing to one of the following scholarship funds.

General Scholarship Fund
To provide assistance to families in need.

Sister Mary Mark Graf Scholarship
This scholarship was established in memory of Sister Mary Mark, founding sister and former Director of Madonna Learning Center. This scholarship will help provide financial assistance to a student whose family is experiencing a sudden hardship.

Sister Ruth Ann Schmitt Scholarship
This scholarship was established in memory of Sister Ruth Ann, one of the founding Sisters of Madonna Learning Center. This partial scholarship is presented annually to a student who demonstrates financial need and exhibits the true spirit of Madonna.

Mike and Donna Glenn Scholarship
This scholarship was established in honor of Mike and Donna Glenn for their many hours of volunteering and generous giving to Madonna Learning Center. This partial scholarship is presented annually to a student who demonstrates financial need.

Recommended types of giving are:
• A one-time gift or pledge to the endowment fund, payable in lump sum or on your specified schedule over the next three to five years.
• A regular monthly contribution, either on-line through our website, or by ACH transfer. Contact our financial office for assistance with either of these.
• Planned giving as a part of your estate planning. Once your time on this earth is done, your legacy can live on through a generous gift from your estate.

Payment options are available on the enclosed envelope. Please contact the office for more information.
Renea Baldwin, Class of 1979, works at LivItUp and participates in many Special Olympics events. She enjoys knitting afghans for needy children.

Reatha Smith Keith, Class of 1983, attended Mumford High School and graduated in 1988. She worked for Mumford Elementary in the Special Education Classroom for many years. Reatha married her husband Rick in 2014 and has been a teaching assistant for the Group 1 class at MLC for 11 years.

James Betts, Class of 1984, moved to Texarkana, TX after attending MLC. He received a Special Education diploma from Trinity High School and enjoyed working at Home Depot and Walmart. James currently lives in Heber Springs, AR with his sister.

Danita Anderson, Class of 1985, attended Bishop Byrne High School after leaving MLC. She has been a nursery school helper and office clerk in both her mom and dad’s offices. Danita has been active in Special Olympics, participating in tennis and bowling.

Danielle Dundas, Class of 1990, has been volunteering in the Special Education class at Ellendale Elementary School in Bartlett. She received the Spirit of Service award from Shelby County Schools for her service. Danielle loves attending Friends of Faith in Bartlett.

Ryan Barrow, Class of 1993, attended Bishop Byrne and Bartlett High Schools after graduating from Madonna. He received a standing ovation from his senior class at graduation. Ryan has enjoyed working at both McDonald’s and Mrs. Winners.

Clark Tompkins, Class of 1999, went on to Houston High School after MLC and graduated in 2005. He enjoys Special Olympics bowling, tennis and social activities with his friends. Clark is very involved in Aktion Club and the Germantown Parks and Recreation.

Matthew Abis, Class of 2001, participated in the Monarch Adult program and MLC for many years. He is a volunteer teaching assistant at Harwood Center. Matthew attends the University of Memphis Language Lab and loves his Memphis Tigers.

Walker Morris, Class of 2001, recently celebrated his 20th year working at SuperLo Foods. He enjoys attending MLC alumni events and is active in many activities in the community.

Linsey Strawn, Class of 2002, loves cooking with her Monarch CEC class and makes a batch of her famous chicken spaghetti every year to donate to the MLC auction. She enjoys watching Hallmark Christmas movies. Linsey works at Kingsway Christian Academy preparing lunches and snacks for the students.
Nicole Valentine, Class of 2002, is a member of Company D. She also enjoys participating in bowling, basketball and swimming through the Special Olympics. Nicole has attended Language Learning Lab at the University of Memphis and enjoys taking care of her nephew.

Hatley Glenn, class of 2008, graduated from the MLC Monarch WBL program in 2015. She recently moved to the Baddour Center and can be seen wearing a big smile riding around in her pink Golf Cart.

Rachel Krug, Class of 2010, participates in the Monarch CEC class and is active in the MLC Celebration Troupe. She spends her free time hanging out with friends, watching TV and playing on her IPAD. Rachel works at Great American Cookie in Germantown and is a member of the MLC cleaning crew.

Patrick Pruitt, Class of 2010, graduated from the Monarch WBL program in 2015. He is currently working for his father helping with home inspections.

Rachel Donaldson, Class of 2011, graduated from the MLC Monarch WBL program. She is currently employed by Dinstuhl's Fine Candies.

Elizabeth Ann Neel, Class of 2011, participates in the Monarch CEC class. She enjoys dancing with Company D and taking care of her dad after his recent surgery. Elizabeth Ann currently works at Saint Agnes Academy as an office assistant.

Brittany Haase, Class of 2012, loves making pottery with her CEC class. One of her favorite activities is to go to the movies with her dad. Brittany currently works for Issacman Family Dentistry putting together toothbrush kits for their patients.

Caroline Williamson, Class of 2014, dances with Company D and attends the MLC CEC program part-time. She attends Breakfast Club meetings and the University of Memphis Language Lab. Caroline works Dixie in Germantown three days a week.

Wesley Baucum, Class of 2015, graduated from the MLC WBL program in 2018. After enjoying his time working at Corky's BBQ and Embassy Suites, he is now attending the Baddour Center.

Michael Stubblefield graduated from the MLC WBL program in 2016. He participated in a Mitsubishi/Blue Star Recycling presentation this summer and disassembled a computer to be recycled. Michael currently works at the Germantown Athletic Club and frequently performs playing the bag pipe.

John Erwin, Class of 2017, is a member of the Monarch WBL class. He plays basketball and performs with the Lucy Company at Hope Church. In addition to being on the MLC cleaning crew, John works at IHOP by Wolfchase Mall and is training for work at Knowledge Tree.
Adrian Salem, Class of 2017, is currently a member of the Monarch Adult Program in the LCE class. He participates in the MLC afterschool programs, hip hop dance lessons, and plays soccer. Adrian is currently working as an assistant coach for Soccer Shots.

Nicholas Phillips attended the Monarch Adult program and graduated from WBL in 2018. He currently volunteers at the Germantown Library.

Please send us your MLC Alumni Updates! We want to hear from our former students and share their many accomplishments. Please email your updates to alumni@madonna-learning.org.

The Alumni Association has expanded activities for adults that have attended or graduated from Madonna. They host 6 events during the year and love to have all alums join in the fun! It has been a great turnout at each event. The alumni are always welcome to attend our annual gala and the many fundraisings we host throughout the year.

Please contact the school office at alumni@madonna-learning.org for further information on these upcoming Alumni events:

Christmas Dinner and Dance - December 8th
Valentine’s Dance - February 9th
Bingo and Pizza Night - March 22nd
Redbirds Game - TBD
Swim Party - TBD