



## A Letter from Mr. Roque

The Fine Arts Boosters is very excited to welcome Mr. Frank Roque as Bishop O'Connell's new Principal. We asked him to tell us a little bit about himself and the arts, and we'd like to share his reply here:



I have always had a great love for the arts and the pursuit of the beautiful. I, following Dostoevsky, am a believer that beauty will save the world. It is a window to the divine. When I studied philosophy I was fascinated with the philosophy of beauty and would spend my free time reading the great philosophers as they wrote about the philosophy of beauty. Mr. Crivella and I debate these topics over coffee on a regular basis.

I have many anecdotes regarding me and the arts. All of them surround my ineptitude. I can remember being placed in the "4th trumpet" section in my 6th grade band with my artistically

challenged friend. The 4th trumpets have yet to be reestablished since our departure. In seventh grade I gave sculpting a try. We were asked to create a bowl

that held water. My teacher asked if he could keep my clay bowl as an example for other classes as it was barely a bowl and could not hold any water. I could go on but the picture is quite clear. I have always watched artists in awe and believe with Plato, that the artist is in possession of a divine gift.

My hope is for the arts to continue to flourish at O'Connell and to further expand our outreach to young artists and their families. I participated in the art trip to New Orleans a few years ago and I knew then that the trip would have a great impact on all who attended it. I look forward to the return and expansion of such life-changing experiences in the future, and for the fine arts program to continue to grow and flourish. It is central to our mission as a Catholic School.

Thanks,  
Frank Roque

**Inside:**

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- New Choral Director
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- Student Happenings
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# CURTAIN CALL

## Carl Patton, Outgoing Principal



Wishing You the Best

Thank you for all of the support!  
- Fine Arts Boosters



I will forever cherish the memories and moments in the art classroom at O'Connell. It is such a privilege to witness you grow in your creativity, technical skill, and confidence in your voice. You all taught me in various invaluable ways. You have helped me grow as an educator and a person. - Kelsey Walsh, Head of Visual Arts

Thank you for the most wonderful three years!  
I will miss you all so much.- Kyra Stahr, Choral Director



Congrats on your retirement, Mr. Jones!

Trent Jones, Visual Arts

# Welcome Mrs. Prince!

**Mrs. Elena Prince, new Choral Director, gave permission to the FAB to repost this letter that she shared with the choir.**

For those who have not met me, my name is Mrs. Prince. I am thrilled to introduce myself as the choral director at Bishop O'Connell High School beginning this fall.

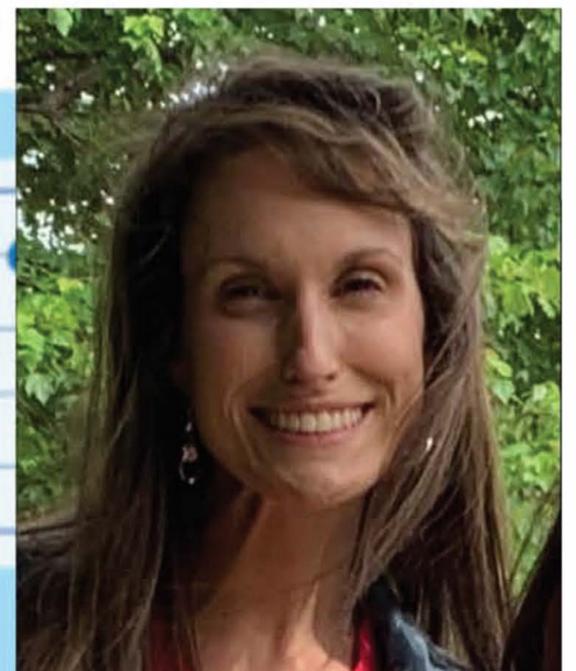
I have spent the last year teaching music at Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Georgetown. This was a fantastic experience for me as it further reinforced my want to teach music to high school students like yourselves. Human connection is at the center of choral music, and I hope to be able to further your love for music the way your current director, Mrs. Stahr, has done so beautifully.

Before I taught at Duke Ellington, I was the music teacher at St. Mark Catholic School in Vienna, VA for 7 years. During six of those years, I directed 4 choirs, 2 of which consisted of high school students like you.

Your choral director, Mrs. Stahr, and I have collaborated for several Christmas concerts over the years, and the students of St. Mark were able to see what fine musicians were at Bishop O'Connell. Some have even chosen O'Connell as their high school due to the choral program. That is the influence you all have had.

I so look forward to meeting you all in person, and making beautiful music throughout the year. God bless.

Mrs. Elena Prince



# Coming Up



June 8: Last FAB general meeting

June 9: Short Play Festival

June 10: Swing Dance Club filming Jazz Combo music video

June 11: Last day of school!

June 14: Pops Virtual Choir Concert

Aug. 2-6: DJO Band Camp for incoming freshmen

Aug. 17: DJO Jazz Band performing at Arlington Diocese  
Teachers Invocation, All Saints' Catholic Church, Manassas

BISHOP O'CONNELL HIGH SCHOOL

# DJO Band Camp

Pizza party on Friday, August 6!

Email [risaacson@bishopoconnell.org](mailto:risaacson@bishopoconnell.org)

**August 2-6 | 9:15am-12pm**  
**Location- Bishop O'Connell High School**

**No Cost!**

6600 Little Falls Rd, Arlington VA 22214

Mr. Isaacson is also offering

***free private lessons***

over the summer to current band students, incoming freshmen and transfers.

Email

[risaacson@bishopoconnell.org](mailto:risaacson@bishopoconnell.org)

**FAB Executive Board Officers, 2021-2022:**

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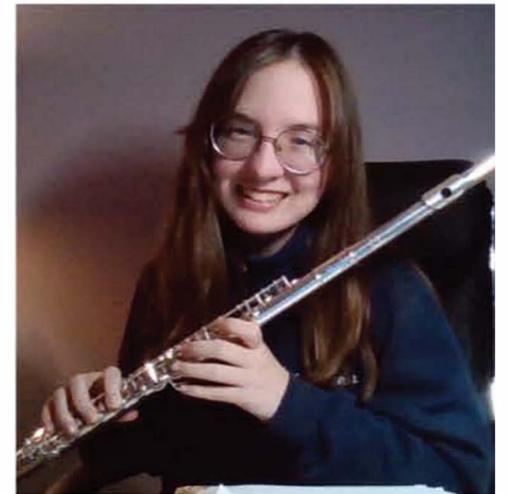
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# Checking In with

## All-Virtual Student Gemma McCreight, '22 Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Flute Choir



1. The environment and experience are completely different from a normal year. It doesn't feel like I'm playing as a member of the band; rather someone playing along to the performance as a spectator.
2. I wound up purchasing a microphone, as the quality was much better with it rather than using just my phone or laptop. It's a Blue Yeti- decently priced and works well.
3. I don't believe I was able to make much of a connection with my ensemble this year. It felt like I wasn't able to get to know the other members of the ensemble that I hadn't known prior to this year.
4. Virtual performing has had its difficulties, but there are good outcomes from it. We discovered a way to perform together even though we aren't together. Being at home has given me the opportunity to really spend time practicing by myself without any excuses.
5. Coming back to Jazz Band on Friday at the Plaza was a lot of fun. I forgot how much I loved hearing the band perform all together!
6. I have my hesitations about how full in-person learning will go next year, but overall I am excited to be back for my senior year and to be able to play with the band in-person again.
7. As a senior next year, I hope to be able to finish school feeling satisfied with what I was able to do these past few years. I hope to graduate looking back on good things, especially in the music department!

## Tommy Green, '22 O'Connell Knights



No, you're not seeing septuplets. It's all one singer-junior Tommy Green!

One day Tommy had the tune "Jesus Loves Me" stuck in his head, and to conquer the earworm, he created an exquisite acapella version of himself performing the song. It took only 30 minutes to arrange, using the Acapella app.

Tommy is currently working on several musical projects. He doesn't claim to have any "super music knowledge." He says "I've learned how to make things as satisfying as possible, but it all starts with hearing and an idea."

Listen here!

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CPzJiIQDE1G/>

Sometimes a

# DESIGN

just comes naturally



That's what Izzy Teinfalt '22 says, when it comes to her hobby. Using the graphic design platform Canva, Izzy came up with a new DJO Strings logo that incorporated suggestions

from Director of Strings Mr. LaCrosse. She especially enjoyed picking out a font that complemented the shapes in the design. Right now you can spot the fresh new logo on sweatshirts worn by the strings students. What a way to give back to the school, Izzy!



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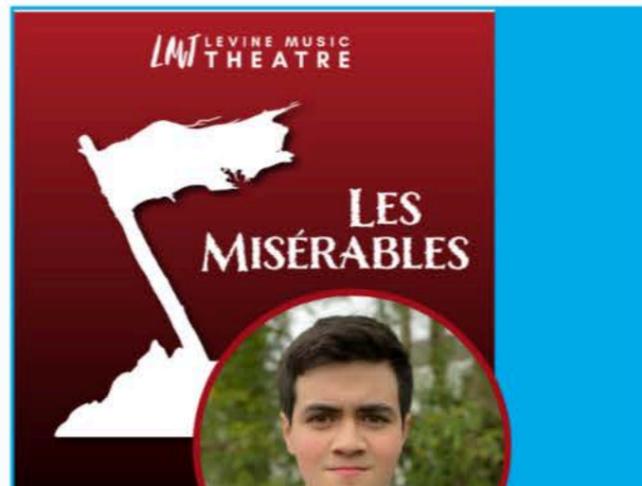
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Watch **Luke Sullivan '22** as Grantaire in

**Les Mis**

June 18 7pm FREE!

<https://tinyurl.com/xudzfnvu>

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