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**February
10th
2014**



A Record Number of Blanchet Students Involved in DECA

*Nearly 25 percent of High School Students Have
Joined the Marketing Organization*



(From Left to Right: Malvika Ramesh, Olivia Richardson, Johanna Willburn, Mason Fessler, Shea White-Toney, Marius Becker, Robert Willburn)

How do you get Blanchet Catholic High students interested in future business and marketing careers? It's all in a four-letter acronym: DECA. Distributive Education Clubs of America, or DECA for short, is helping to train high school students to become future business leaders. The national organization is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and chartered through state departments of education.

The national organization started in 1936. The Blanchet chapter started 7 years ago. Since the Blanchet inaugural year, what began as just a handful of students grew to 38 students in 2012 and now has 61 registered students. Why is it important that Blanchet offer a DECA chapter? DECA helps students achieve state-mandated learning standards; learn invaluable business skills such as how to dress, give speeches, and answer questions; build a better resume for college; and network.

"DECA helps students network with other future business leaders in Oregon," said Shea White-Toney, a senior and one of Blanchet's seven DECA officers. "DECA is

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one of the most rewarding clubs a student can be in. Not only do we learn invaluable business skills, we also make memories that will last forever." Blanchet DECA Advisor Eileen Virden is helping the students succeed. Virden says White-Toney is an example of a student who benefits from the organization. "The growth I have seen in him is amazing," Virden said. "Along with his experience in drama, DECA has helped him to become poised and confident in public speaking."

Students participate in competition events throughout the year. These competitive events test the students on speaking, interviewing, and writing, and on a variety of subjects including math, economics, and social science. Students also conduct marketing research projects and promotion plans. "DECA helps students learn valuable business skills that can translate directly to life," said Mason Fessler, a Blanchet senior. "DECA also gives students a chance to network with other students around the state and form friendships that will continue past high school. I have learned leadership skills and speaking skills that will help me in future situations."

To read the rest of the article click here: <http://www.salemcatholicschoolsfoundation.org/apps/blog/show/41277222-a-record-number-of-blanchet-students-involved-in-deca>

Artist-in-Residence Continues to Inspire

More talent showcases, voice lessons and 'exciting possibilities ahead'



Manzi speaking at the East Salem Rotary

Courtesy: East Salem Rotary

The body language of the members of the East Salem Rotary Club reflects how people usually feel when Carol Ann Manzi speaks or sings. At that Friday, January 17th, 2014, lunch meeting, Rotary members sat attentively with some members' eyes welling up with tears. They listened to Manzi tell about her passion for singing, overcoming cancer, and competing in the aggressive opera field. They were inspired with Manzi's conviction to stick to a music career, even after several setbacks, and how she has used her voice to inspire cancer patients and those who are dying.

"I have sung, by special requests, at the bedsides of those at various stages of the dying process," Manzi said. "From an opera lover who wanted to hear some of his favorite arias, to an Italian man who was comforted by his favorite Italian songs, to two friends in my breast cancer support group who lost their fight." Manzi explained how she has even harmonized with one cancer patient (whose cancer affected her memory and speech) her favorite hymn, How Great Thou Art. "She didn't remember our names, but she remembered every word and note of the beloved hymn."

Since coming on board as the Salem Catholic Schools Artist-in-Residence in September, Manzi has produced a Christmas program, "The Gifts of Our Creation," which the students of St. Vincent de Paul performed to a very receptive crowd. "I am elated that each time I enter that school I am nearly knocked over by warm hugs from the beautiful children there," Manzi said. "I stretched their creative spirits beyond what they thought was possible." Each of the 90 students who attend St.

letter.

Please email us with any question.

Thank you and God Bless!



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Vincent de Paul School wrote a personal "thank you" letter to Manzi after the performance.

Manzi is currently working with students at Queen of Peace School to produce a showcase of their many talents. She is also working with students at Blanchet Catholic School who are putting on a performance of Cinderella. Manzi will work with the cast and help them learn how to interpret a character through music. She is also working on composing a signature song she will teach to all four Salem Catholic schools. Looking even further ahead, she plans to hold intensive musical workshops in the summer and bring youth operas to the schools. "There are so many exciting possibilities ahead for us all," Manzi said.

To read the rest of the article click here: <http://www.salem Catholicschoolsfoundation.org/apps/blog/show/41277302-artist-in-residence-continues-to-inspire>

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