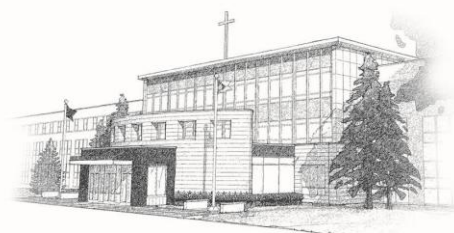


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Padua Franciscan High School

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Press Release

Padua Bruins Score Perfect (36) and Near-Perfect (35) on ACT

PARMA, Ohio – (May 5, 2026) **Padua (Pad-oo-uh) Franciscan High School junior Maria Shrefler '27 got a perfect score on the ACT standardized college admissions test – on her first try.** Less than .5% of all ACT test takers around the world receive a perfect score.

Shrefler is in Padua's MedTrack® program, which is an award-winning advanced science and healthcare program. Outside of the classroom, she is a member of Orchestra, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Jazz Ensemble, Marching Band, Pit Orchestra for theatrical productions, Key Club and Model United Nations.

"Music is a huge stress reliever for me," Shrefler said. "Most of my extracurriculars revolve around music in some form. I play a lot of instruments. It's also been a way for me to outlet stress and emotions, and that's really helped with school. Even though they seem like two different things, they're really not. They're connected in so many ways."

Shrefler is a graduate of Incarnate Word Academy. She hopes to attend either The Ohio State University or Case Western Reserve University and pursue a career in medicine.

Junior Melanie Cesa '27 scored a 35 on her ACT. (This score is an average of the four section scores for English, Math, Reading, and Science.) Less than .9% of students worldwide get a 35 or above.

Cesa is in Padua's MyTrack® Law program. She is also involved in Mock Trial, Theater, Choir (including Acapella, Bel Canto and Honors Choir) and Italian Club.

She is a graduate of St. Albert the Great. She hopes to attend the University of Notre Dame and earn a law degree.

Principal Bob DiRocco expressed that Maria and Melanie are outstanding Bruins. "Their hard work, focus, and determination are exemplary," DiRocco said. "They are also newly inducted members of the St. Bonaventure Chapter of the National Honor Society, so while their dedication to scholarship comes as no surprise to those who know them, this is a significant accomplishment which we are happy to celebrate."

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School Background: Padua Franciscan High School is located at 6740 State Road in Parma, Ohio. Padua is a Catholic, college-prep, co-educational school with 783 students. Padua was founded by Franciscans in 1961 and bases its educational philosophy on the life and spirituality of Saint Francis of Assisi. The school's mission is to develop the unique talents of each student, while giving them the skills they need to succeed in college and beyond.