

Devon Prep Honored 343 NY Firefighters With 9-11 Service

When Devon Prep Freshman Justin McNabb became a junior firefighter for the Bryn Mawr Fire Company he quickly learned what it means to give of yourself to help others. It's what they do.

He was only seven when more than 300 New York firefighters were killed trying to save others during the terrorist attack on America 7 years ago, but he wanted to do something to honor them.

So last Thursday, with his help, Devon Prep held a Remembrance Ceremony to honor those 343 first responders who "Made A Difference" - giving their lives to save others.

During the ceremony Fr. Michael Duffy, O.F.M. spoke to Devon Prep students and faculty about the tragedy of September 11, 2001. On that day his good friend FDNY Chaplain Rev. Mychal Judge died trying to help others. Fr. Duffy talked about his dear friend, the loss that he feels and the kind of life Fr. Judge led.

Each student and faculty member also read the name of one of the 343 firefighters during the service. In addition the Berwyn Fire Company presented the firefighter's Bell Ceremony to honor their fallen comrades. The ceremony includes a special signal of three rings, three times each, representing the end of the firefighter's duties and that they will be returning to quarters.

"What these people did for others is the ultimate sacrifice," Justin McNabb explained. "I hope that with this service my fellow students received a greater level of respect for the people who put their lives on the line everyday for others."

Devon Prep is an independent, Catholic, college preparatory school for young men in grades six to 12 conducted by the Piarist Fathers. The nearly 300 students who attend Devon Prep hail from Bucks, Delaware, Chester and Montgomery counties as well as parts of Philadelphia. For more information contact Devon Prep at 610-688-7337 or visit www.devonprep.com.

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Devon Prep Begins New School Year With Record Enrollment

Devon Preparatory School began the 2008-09 school year on Wednesday, September 3rd with the largest enrollment in its history. Nearly 300 young men in grades six to 12 now attend Devon Prep, nearly 30% more than a decade ago. In addition several new staff and faculty members joined Devon Prep and five new courses were added to the curriculum, including Middle School Spanish.

Although Devon Prep has grown significantly in recent years its mission and purpose remain the same. The Piarist Fathers established Devon Prep to educate young men to the full development of their spiritual, mental and physical abilities. Through a challenging college preparatory curriculum in the sciences and the humanities, the school encourages creativity and curiosity as well as academic excellence.

Among this year's new course offerings is a Spanish program in the Middle School. Students now have the option of choosing Spanish or Latin in the seventh grade. In the Upper School three new senior electives are being offered in the English Department: *Fiction and Poetry Writing*, *Screenwriting and Film Techniques*, and *Performance Arts*. The Science Department now offers a new *AP Physics C* course and the popular *Forensic Science* elective is again available for seniors.

In addition to new courses Devon Prep also welcomed seven new faculty members and a new Admissions Director this year. Devon Prep's faculty now numbers 32, with more than 60% holding advanced degrees. Several of these teachers have taught at Devon Prep for more than 35 years and others for more than 15. Seven teachers are Devon Prep graduates.

The newest members of Devon Prep's faculty and staff are:

Mr. Patrick Parsons is the new Director of Admissions. Previous to Devon Prep Mr. Parsons served as Director of Admissions for St. Anselm's Abbey School in Washington D.C. where he also taught AP US Government

and Politics. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland and a master's degree from The Catholic University of America.

As the new Admissions Director Mr. Parsons hopes to utilize Devon Prep's greatest asset, the students. "I'm hoping to make the current student body an even more integral part of the admissions process," he said. "It's evident that our students are our greatest asset, and are thus a key part of letting the outside world know about all that Devon has to offer bright, motivated young men."

Ms. Genevieve Bosma teaches Upper School Spanish and Middle School history. Ms. Bosma holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware and a master's degree from Temple University. Prior to Devon Prep she taught Spanish at Valley Forge Military Academy and College as well as Temple University. Ms. Bosma also taught English as a Second Language (ESL) at Valley Forge Military Academy.

Ms. Lauren Farrell teaches Middle School science, 10th grade Anatomy & Physiology and 12th grade Forensic Science. She also moderates the Science Olympiad Team. Ms. Farrell holds a bachelor's degree from La Salle University. Prior to Devon Prep she worked in Springfield Township High School, Cardinal Dougherty High School and Archbishop Wood High School.

Brother Nelson Henao, Sch. P. teaches Middle School religion. Brother Nelson, a native of Bogota, Colombia, holds degrees from St. John Vianney Seminary in Miami, Florida, and the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. Prior to Devon Prep, Brother Nelson taught religion in parishes in both Miami and Rome.

Mrs. Renata K. Losoncy, is the new Upper School German teacher. Mrs. Losoncy holds a bachelor's degree from Marygrove College and masters' degrees from the University of Toronto and the University of Notre Dame. Mrs. Losoncy has taught all levels of German from middle school through college. Most recently she taught at Temple University, Swarthmore College, Rosemont College, Ursinus College, Abington Junior High, and Strath Haven High School. Mrs. Losoncy is also the director and co-founder of the German language school *The Donau Schule*. She participates in several organizations including the German American Partnership Program, American Association of Teachers of German and Montgomery County Teachers of Foreign Languages. In addition she served as a reader (grader) for the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) German Exam.

Mr. R. Roger Mecouch teaches ninth grade biology and 10th grade AP biology and moderates the Science Olympiad Team. Mr. Mecouch holds a bachelor's degree from Ursinus College and a master's degree from West Chester University. He comes to Devon Prep after 35 years in the science department at Upper Darby High School. Mr. Mecouch has also served as a reader (grader) for the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Biology Exam.

Ms. Barbara Medina teaches Upper School Spanish and AP Spanish and serves as moderator of Devon Prep's section of the Spanish Honor Society. Ms. Medina holds a degree from Moravian College in Bethlehem. Prior to Devon Prep she taught Spanish at Notre Dame High School.

Mr. Matthew P. Mullen teaches Middle School and 10th grade English as well as moderates the Debate Club. Mr. Mullen holds a bachelor's degree from La Salle University. He comes to Devon Prep from Graystone Academy Charter School in Coatesville where he taught middle school and high school English.

With a qualified, dedicated faculty and challenging curriculum Devon Prep continues to provide young men with the *Foundation to Succeed* in college and beyond. Through small classes, competitive athletics, commitment to service and devotion to Christian values our students receive a well rounded education and a strong foundation for a future of excellence.

Devon Prep will hold its Fall Open House on Sunday, October 19, from 1 to 4 PM, on its 20 acre campus on North Valley Forge Road in Devon, Chester County. Scholarship/ Entrance Exams are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, October 25 and 26, beginning at 8:30 A.M. For more information call the Admissions Office at (610) 688-7337, visit WWW.DEVONPREP.COM or email pparsons@devonprep.com.

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