



# The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

November 2021

A.G.B.U. Alex & Marie Manoogian School

## Manoogian STEAM Center

August 23, 2021

Dear Friends of the Manoogian School,

The Manoogian School is pleased to announce the start of construction of the new Manoogian STEAM Center which is being funded by the Manoogian Educational Fund (administered by its President Dickran Kurjian) and the Armenian Apostolic Society.

The Manoogian STEAM Center will include renewable energy technology and other state-of-the-art facilities when completed. We believe that the addition of the STEAM Center is essential to the survival of our academic enterprise. It provides a model to be emulated by other school systems and will serve generations to come as the Manoogian School leads the way in graduating students who combine literary mastery with extraordinary high technological expertise. Our new STEAM Center will serve as the science and technology hub for our entire K-12 student body.

We recognize the cooperation and support of Lawrence Technological University and especially President Virinder Moudgil. LTU provided guidance to our High School Principal Dr. Hosep Torossian and Faculty as we implemented the following programs and also entered several competitions:

- 2013 Advanced Placement Courses
- 2014 Solar Car (first STEM hands-on project)
- 2015 PLTW (Project Lead the Way) Human Body Systems, Robotics
- 2016 Automotive Engineering and Annual Competitions
- 2017 3D Printers, CAD courses, Dual Enrollment for STEM courses at LTU
- 2018 PLTW Computer Science and PLTW Engineering Design
- 2019 First Robotics International Competitions  
First Place Rookie Award in Robotics  
Electric Car showcased at Detroit Auto Show  
Request for STEAM Building
- 2020 Continued all of the above programs despite the COVID Pandemic
- 2021 Groundbreaking of Manoogian STEAM Building

We wish to acknowledge the leadership of Dickran Kurjian, Dr. Hosep Torossian, Consulting Executive Mark Perry, and the Apostolic Society for the heroic number of hours of devoted attention they provided in bringing about this unparalleled academic triumph. More details of the Manoogian STEAM Center will be forthcoming soon.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Marburger, Ph.D.,  
President, AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School Board of Education





# Our Outstanding Class of 2021

Across the country, predictions for the Class of 2021 were dire. With hybrid and online learning, plus all the uncertainty of dealing with Covid, plus teens being unable to have a normal social life, we were told not to expect much from the year's seniors. Very fortunately, our seniors did not read the predictions!

The remarkable students of the Class of 2021 surpassed all our previous records. Half the class made the Administrator's List, with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. We had four valedictorians with perfect GPAs of 4.0 and a salutatorian whose GPA was only 0.01 point lower. Our 35 seniors received 85 college acceptances. Eight of those acceptances came from the University of Michigan- Ann Arbor, a highly selective university. The members of this senior class were offered \$4.64

million in four-year scholarships, surpassing all previous school records by \$2 million. This class gave us the first student ever to be accepted directly from our high school into an Ivy League school. We now have a student at Brown University, a Brown University Presidential Scholar, with all expenses paid and a paid summer research position for two years.

We now eagerly await reports from these much-missed alumni as they enter a new stage of their lives.

# The Toumajans Retire After Four Decades of Service

Together, Dickran Toumajan and Anahit Toumajan have devoted a combined total of 80 years to the A.G.B.U. Manoogian School; Dickran for 41 years, and Anahit for 39. During those years they both worked tirelessly to ensure that everyone who entered this building learned about and valued the Armenian language, history, and culture. Mrs. Toumajan's deli lunches were a highlight of the Manoogian year. Every student knew how all the profits from the deli lunch went to support an orphanage in Armenia. The older students knew how many hours both Mr. and Mrs. Toumajan put in gathering the supplies for the lunch. High school students looked forward to peeling potatoes and assembling the lunches. Hundreds of students over the years have hungered for that potato salad.

For many years, Baron Toumajan taught here and at Wayne State University. He used his connection with the university to introduce students to the excellent academic opportunities available right in downtown, taking students on field trips, visits to Hillberry Theater, and bringing speakers here. Deegeen wrote plays for all the Armenian feast days.



Both knew every child by name, and both cared for every student.

In 2019, Baron decided that the time for retirement had arrived. Deegeen stayed with us through the worst of the Covid year, retiring at the end of 2021. We feel their absence, but the memories and the traditions are always with us.

Thank you, Dickran and Anahit Toumajan; you have been involved in every stage of the growth of the school. We miss you.

## Ms. Audrey Armoudlian



Looking forward to the opening of our new STEAM Center, we welcome Ms. Audrey

Armoudlian, who will fill the newly created position of Director of STEM Education, K-12. Ms. Armoudlian comes with some very impressive credentials, including her attendance as a student here from kindergarten through 3rd grade.

Ms. Armoudlian's qualifications include a B.S. in Biology and Environmental Science and a M.S. in Biology from Tufts University. She then studied at Michigan State University, achieving the level of ABD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. She joined us after teaching science and math for 19 years at Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School.

We feel very fortunate to have found someone with so much to offer our school. Ms. Armoudlian reports that she is very happy to be back at the Manoogian School, and she loves how everyone has been so kind and welcoming to her.

## Mr. Razmig Boghikian



The A.G.B.U. Manoogian School's new physical education

teacher has been associated with our school since his graduation here in 1986. Mr. Boghikian returns to us with impressive academic and sports-related accomplishments. For his undergraduate work, Mr. Boghikian attended UM-Dearborn and University of Detroit. He competed in the National Fencing Championships, serving as interim coach in 1992. After graduation, Mr. Boghikian began a 30-year teaching career, retiring from the Southfield Public Schools. During these years, he earned a master's degree from Wayne State University and was the Michigan Publinx State Match Play Champion in 2014 and 2020. We welcome Mr. Boghikian and hope he can spread his enthusiasm for fitness and sports throughout the school.

## Ms. Ani Kasparian



Our new teacher of Armenian, Ani Kasparian attended our school from 4th through 12th grade and was a

Manoogian School Board member for five years. In addition, both of Mrs. Kasparian's children are Manoogian graduates and her oldest granddaughter is the third generation from her family to be educated at Manoogian.

Mrs. Kasparian received a B.A. from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, an M.A. from Oakland University, and a second M.A. in Teaching from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She has been an adjunct professor for Western Armenian language at UM-Dearborn since 2004. In addition, Mrs. Kasparian taught social studies and English in the Farmington schools from 2004 – 2014. She has served as a member of the Armenian Genocide Education Committee and of the Society for Armenian Studies, and as president of Houshamadyan Educational Association. We welcome Mrs. Kasparian and look forward to all she can add to our Armenian Studies program.

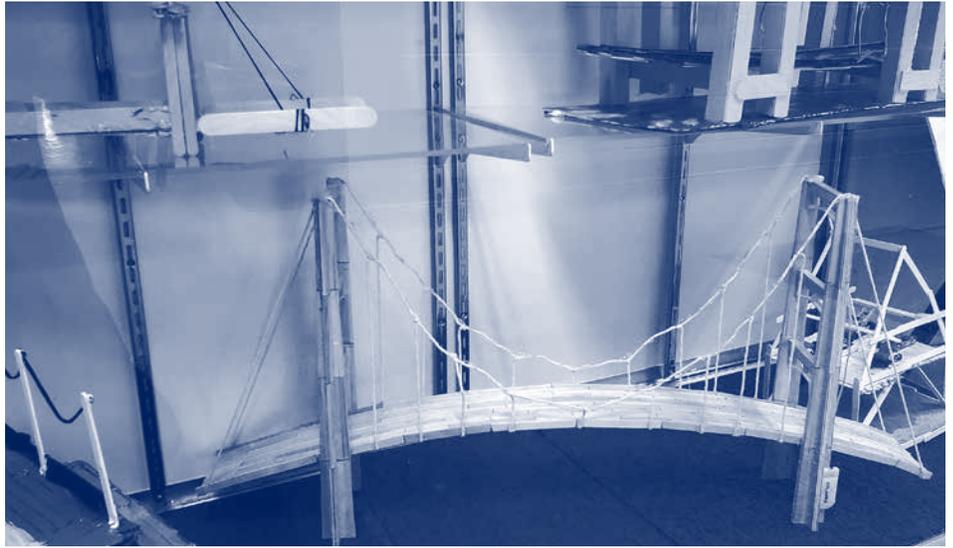
## Bishop Daniel Findikyan's Visit to the School

On Oct. 1, 2021, Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, visited the A.G.B.U. Alex & Marie Manoogian School. He visited many of the classrooms and enjoyed talking with the children. Students from third through fifth grade gathered together and sang three songs written and composed by Gomidas, with Mrs. Gharibian leading the students on piano. The fourth grade students recited a poem dedicated to the Armenian Church, written by Vahan Tekeyan and the eighth grade students recited a poem by Yeghishe Charentz, called Yes Im Anoush Hayastani. The primate then visited the high school and spoke with the senior class followed by a Question-and-Answer session. Accompanying the Primate were Very Reverend Father Aren Jebejian, and Father Armash Bagdasarian from St. John Armenian Church and Ms. Alice Nigoghosian, Manoogian school Board Vice Chair. We thank our honored guests for their visit as it was a most memorable day for the Manoogian students.



# Mackinac Bridge Contest

Why is Michigan proud of the Mackinac Bridge? That is the question the Middle School had to answer. Students were broken into small groups and given the opportunity to create a presentation. Each group did something different: models of the Bridge, PowerPoints, posters, and scripted dialogue to answer the question. Students were given the opportunity to present their work to other students and teachers. Winners and Honorable Mentions were given free dress!



**2021 WINNER**



**A.G.B.U. Alex & Marie Manoogian High School**  
Southfield, Michigan

Great!  
SCHOOLS.org

**A.G.B.U. ALEX & MARIE MANOOGIAN SCHOOL**



Recognized as one of the  
“Best Middle Schools”  
by *U.S. News & World Report*



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