



CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*Newsletter
August 2010*

From the Principal's Desk:

Dear Parents, Alumni, and friends,

More than 100 years ago Bishop Henry Joseph Richter understood the importance of providing a Catholic education for the young men and women of Grand Rapids when he opened Catholic Central High School. Despite the challenges of opening a new school, the "mission" was too important not to break ground. Over the years, Catholic Central faced many challenges, endured changes brought on by those challenges, adapted to those changes to become stronger while continuing to provide the education Bishop Richter envisioned.

The challenges of this past school year are neither unique to Catholic Central nor education. The Thomas B. Fordham report: "Who Will Save America's Urban Catholic Schools?" found over 1,300 Catholic schools have closed since 1990, displacing some 300,000 students. The financial crisis of the State of Michigan has been deep and pervasive, affecting enrollment at both private and public schools. Many districts have responded with a no risk strategy or one of hanging on and surviving rather than growing and thriving.

I acknowledge that the cumulative effects of the changes that have taken place this past school year have been painful for families, faculty and staff, and the community at large. I admit that the decisions made could have been made with greater sensitivity. The point I want to make is the need to see the pieces as part of the whole. While I recognize that so much change is difficult, it was necessary. To reap the rewards, it was essential that the transformation be carried out.

There is evidence, however, that these changes have not overwhelmed us. That evidence comes in the form of the superb performance by our faculty, staff and students:

*In May, the Catholic Central Class of 2010 was awarded over \$7 million dollars in scholarships and awards.

*Catholic Central was reported as having one of the Top Five highest ACT averages in the area.

*247 AP exams were taken with 81% of receiving scores of 3 or higher; 54% with scores of 4 or 5.

*Catholic Central Choir made its bi-annual pilgrimage to Vatican City.

*For over 100 years Catholic Central has contributed a richness of intellectual life and partnerships of service to our city as it has grown, developed and progressed.

*Today Catholic Central High School is recognized for its innovative classes, partnerships with institutions of higher education, research and for Christian leadership.

It is impossible, given the breadth of our presence, to calculate the aggregate value of CC on the lives of our students, families, and community. Yet talk to any of our students and you'll begin to understand the unmatched opportunities Catholic Central is providing them. These are all signs of a healthy, vibrant and mature Catholic high school.

To be clear, Catholic Central has been blessed with the strong support of our leaders, community and alumni. We have also been blessed by a group of benefactors that continue to support not only Catholic Central but the community of families that are a part of it. Their beneficence is also evidence of Catholic Central's good health.

Important Phone Numbers

Main Office: 233-5899
Attendance: 233-5812
Guidance Office: 233-5810
Athletic Office: 233-5898
Business Office: 233-5976



Tom Maj, **Principal**

Greg Deja, **Associate Principal**

Heidi Clark-Smitley, **Director of Guidance**

Todd Kolster, **Athletic Director**

Kathryn Walsh, **Campus Minister**

Mary Ottenwess, **Technology Director**

From the Principal ~ cont.

In an address last fall, Fr. Mark-David Janus reminded me that Catholic education is not a spectator sport and with that in mind, I hope to reestablish the role of our schools in leading civil discourse in the city. The need for this discourse has never been greater. Whether we're talking about fractious talk radio, instant everything over the internet, or how we communicate with each other, I hope to lead the way toward better and more civil communications. We cannot allow the diatribe and anger to inhibit our progress.

Catholic Central was founded to enlarge individual opportunity to the newly arrived immigrant and continues to expand those same opportunities; it was founded to improve our community and does so through numerous partnerships; it was founded to serve our Church and faith and does so through service. Given our starting point and where we are over 100 years later, I am optimistic that with your support Catholic Central will continue to serve our students, families, and community.

As we move forward, we must maintain our strong sense of purpose and our momentum toward the institution's larger purpose. At the end of the day we must ask ourselves what we have done to advance Bishop Richter's vision for and the great possibilities of Catholic education.

Thank you for your prayers and support. It is my good fortune to know many of you. For those of you new to Catholic Central and whom I have not met, welcome. I look forward to getting to know you.

Tom Maj

From the Associate Principal

Campus Safety:

The learning environment may be subject to disruptions, as the state has mandated schools to practice a series of emergency drills. Catholic Central will continue to review and assess our emergency plans, which are coordinated with local police and fire protection. The goal of emergency exercises is to test and enhance the overall capability of our school's plans, policies, and procedures. These are designed to focus on the safety and protection of students, staff, and visitors during emergencies. **All schools are required to hold two critical incident drills, in addition to their fire and tornado drills.**

Uniforms:

All students are to be in uniform attire, purchased from Sunshine, on the first day of school and throughout the school year. Sunshine Uniform shorts may be worn during the months of August, September, May, and June. A traditional black or brown belt must be worn with pants and shorts. Socks or nylons are to be worn at all times, and be of a solid navy, black, grey, or white color. **All specifics of the dress code are detailed in the Student Handbook and will be enforced. Sunshine Uniform Sale:** CC Music Room

8/24 12:00-5:30pm.

8/25-27 12:00-6:00pm.

There are several practices I would ask of parents:

1. When visiting the school, please check in at the Main Office.
2. Do not send deliveries to school (lunch, flowers, balloons, etc.).
3. Cell phones are to be kept off during school hours and are encouraged to be left in the car.
4. Please notify the school by 10am if your child is absent at 233-5812.
5. Discuss emergency procedures and the school's guest policy with your child.

Cell phones:

Catholic Central shares your belief that cell phones can and do serve as a means of staying in touch with your children, that they provide a level of security, and are helpful in an emergency. However, they are also becoming more disruptive to the learning environment. Our policy is that students are allowed to be in possession of their phones, but they must be turned off. If confiscated, a detention will be issued and the phone will be **returned to the parent only**. If you need to get in touch with your son/daughter, please call the Main Office and we will deliver the message promptly.

Associate Principal ~ cont.

Student Parking Tags:

Student parking is available in two different lots: the top level of the Diocesan parking ramp and the “Junior Lot” located on Maple and LeGrave. Students are prohibited from parking in the row closest to the Diocesan building. I will identify these spots the first few weeks of school if there is any confusion. **Please note: Every student vehicle is required to have a school issued parking tag on the back of the rearview mirror.** These tags are free of charge and can be picked up in the Main Office – remember to bring your license plate number! Students who fail to obtain a parking pass by September 6th will receive detentions and/or lose driving privileges.

All the best for the new academic year,

Greg Deja

Returning Faculty:

English Department:

Linda Olejnik (Department Chair), Mary Burns, Faith Marko, Tiffany Marrinan, Mike Nelson, Kate Schaefer

Social Studies Department:

Mary VanHeest (Department Chair), Kris DeYoung, Tom Gallagher, Marc Olejniczak, Tim Schrems

Math Department:

Sr. Robert Ann Erno (Department Chair), Ryan Gorski, Bob Koch, Colette Wermuth

Science Department:

Julia Schnapp (Department Chair), Leigh Eriks, Mary Hanks, Cheryl Lambert, Richard Truskoski

Religion Department:

Robert Kennedy (Department Chair), David Koss, Mike Martin, Dennis Rybicki

World Language:

Sandy Vesbit (Department Chair), Tom Gallagher, Roxanne Hoese, Chris Jones, Cheryl Roede, Kai-Ling Wu

Technology Department:

Mary Ottenwess (Department Chair) , Nancy Crame

Fine Arts Department:

Sara Olson, Ann Reinhard, Dennis Rybicki

Athletic Department:

Todd Kolster (Department Chair), Judy Hall, John Vandenberg

Orientation Day ~ August 31, 2010

Each class will arrive at a specific time to hear an information session, and to get their locker assignments, parking passes, and school picture. Attendance is mandatory. Students must be in dress code including hair length, shaves, and full uniform.

Seniors	8-9:15 am
Juniors	9-10:15 am
Sophomores	10-11:15 am
Freshmen	11-12:15 pm

A Message From the Guidance Office

A message from the CC Guidance Office-

Student schedules for returning upperclassmen will be posted to the Infinite Campus Portal by the fourth week of August. Individual schedules will not be mailed through the postal service unless specifically requested. **Freshmen and new students** will receive a hard copy at Orientation. NOTE: CCHS is not able to accommodate requests for schedule changes- please invite your student to email his/her counselor if a required course (such as Religion, English, Math, Science, and/or Social Stds) is missing. We thank you in advance for your cooperation during this very busy season.

Official transcripts for college admissions can now be requested through *Docufide's e-Transcript*. Catholic Central students can send their official transcript electronically and securely to hundreds of colleges and universities for little or no cost. **Seniors** who are working on admission applications should access Docufide at www.grcatholiccentral.com/academics (see Website Links).

Please review the school calendar for **parent programs** hosted during first semester. Parent programs offer wonderful opportunities to connect with your student's guidance counselor as well as learn resources and tips for your student's academic success. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend. Topics and guest speakers will cover college planning, academic strategies, career exploration, and last but not least, financial aid for higher education. As a quick reminder, all parent workshops will be advertised in the **school announcements** at www.grcatholiccentral.com in advance to the date.

Questions? Please call Mrs. Sue Waldron, Guidance Secretary at 233-5810 OR email your student's counselor:

Tom Shangraw (A-G, S-Z grades 9-11 only) tomshangraw@grcss.org

Joel Passinault (H-O, P-R grades 9-11 only) joelpassinault@grcss.org

Heidi Clark-Smitley (P-Z, grade 12 only) heidismitley@grcss.org

New Student/Parent Orientation ~ August 24, 2010

5:30-5:50 p.m. All new students and parents pick up schedules and check-in in the gym lobby

5:50-7:00 p.m. Information Session in the gym

Welcome	Tom Maj, Principal
Policies/Procedures	Greg Deja, Associate Principal
Campus Ministry	Bob Kennedy, Religion Department Head
Athletics	Todd Kolster, Athletic Director
Student Activities	Christine O'Driscoll, Advancement Director

7:00-7:10 p.m. Parents and students separate.

Students walk-through a shortened version of their daily schedule (8 minute classes) to learn the location of each class and meet their teachers. Peer Ministers will help navigate campus.

1 st hr	7:10-7:18
2 nd hr	7:22-7:30
3 rd hr	7:34-7:42
4 th hr	7:46-7:54
5 th hr	7:58-8:06
6 th hr	8:10-8:18
7 th hr	8:22-8:30

Parents will have a quick stretch and hear procedural information on the following areas: Guidance department, Technology usage, and several others. Then, parents will be broken up into three groups to learn about our parent networking organization, WE CARE. These sessions will also conclude at 8:30 p.m.

Athletics

ATHLETICS AUGUST 2010

Welcome to Catholic Central Athletics! The athletic programs play a critical role in the educational process at Catholic Central. The impact of school sports on our community is significant to a very large percentage of our families. As we improve our facilities and expand our sports programs we need parental help to coordinate the multitude of required tasks associated with each sport. We're looking for an **adult for each team** (Varsity, JV, Freshmen) who can help the coach and the Athletic Director establish a system of team volunteers (students and adults) to make each team a positive addition to our community. These volunteers will meet with the coach and Chairperson of our Concessions, Spirit Shop, Texas Hold'em and Grounds Committee to establish community service efforts directed at our athletic facilities and local community needs.

It is our collective responsibility to be good stewards of the facilities we enjoy.

Your students will be issued the **2010-2011 Handbook** when school starts. Please review the Athletic Code and the "Policy on Student Dignity". The choices your student makes must reflect the spirit and intent of these policies. A behavior of *absolute respect for each other* will serve them well regardless of what they see in the media. Hazing or the appearance of hazing will not be tolerated. Performance enhancing substances, such as steroids, are absolutely inappropriate and a violation of the athletic code. Please make sure that the Academic Eligibility Criteria is reviewed. All of our students are pulled in many directions with athletics, activities, clubs and service groups and that is what makes Catholic Central special. Our students can do everything they want to. It just takes communication and focus.

Athletic Boosters:

Our Athletic Booster Club will continue to meet on the first Monday of every month. Please join us and take part in this exciting group! We will have a calendar of events and scheduled meetings. We are entering a new phase in Cougar Athletics and everyone can show their support by taking part in this community organization.

The **Cougar Golf Open**, a Booster Club fundraiser, is Monday, September 13 at Egypt Valley with a steak dinner included at the CAT immediately following the golf. Go to the school website to link to the Booster Golf website, or email Mike Braun at mbraun@rwbaird.com if you would like to participate in any way at this annual Cougar community day of fun.

The **2nd Annual Cougar Fest**, a Booster Club fundraiser, is Saturday, September 25th, at the CAT. This great event hosts GRACEAC games, CougarGear, food, drinks and fun for the entire family. It is an all day event that is a great time to see old Catholic Central families and welcome all the newcomers. Please check out the information as it becomes available in the middle of August.

100th Year of Catholic Central Football:

This year marks the 100th year of Catholic Central Football. We are excited to celebrate all season long. We will be celebrating at the Saturday, September 11th game where Catholic Central will take on old City League rival Ottawa Hills. The game will be played at Grand Rapids Christian High School at 7pm. Please refer to our website for further celebration information.



Sport Tickets/Passes:

Catholic Central will offer a COUGAR ALL SPORT PASS for the school year 2010-2011.

This pass will admit you to ALL REGULAR SEASON **HOME** ATHLETIC CONTESTS during the 2010-11 school year. This pass will NOT be accepted at AWAY contests, **the Varsity Football Catholic Bowl Football Game on 8/27 @ West Catholic**, or at any MHSAA sponsored tournament playoff games, etc.

The cost of the COUGAR ALL SPORT PASS for the 2010-11 school year will be \$100 per adult and \$250 for a family pass. **Catholic Central High School Students** will be able to purchase a Football Season Pass for \$15. All other **HOME** CC sporting events are FREE with a valid High School ID.

Individual tickets to athletic contests will be \$5.00 each, for both adults and students. We will not offer pre-game sales of tickets for regular season contests, but we will offer them for special event games (Varsity Football @ West Catholic for the Catholic Bowl Game vs. Traverse City St. Francis) and playoff games.

_____ STUDENT (Football Season Pass) - \$15.00 = \$_____

Pass list name: _____

_____ ADULT - \$100.00 = \$_____

Pass list name: _____

FAMILY PASS - \$250.00 = \$_____

Adult Pass list name: _____

Student Pass list name: _____

***** PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CATHOLIC CENTRAL ATHLETICS**

First Practice For Fall 2010 Sports

Physical Exam Forms must be on file in the Athletic Office to begin practice for all teams, including Club sports.

Please call the coach if you have a particular question regarding that sport.

Boys Cross-Country: August 11, Wednesday, 9am, at The CAT, 2770 Knapp NE, wear running gear. Coach Jackson Fox, 328-2875.

Girls Cross-Country: August 11, Wednesday, 9am, at the CAT, 2770 Knapp NE, wear running gear. Coach Kelly Schipper, 890-9401.

Football: August 9, Monday, 1st session, Grade 9-12. 7:00am - 10:00am. 2nd session, Grade 9-12. 1:30-4:30pm. CAT, 2770 Knapp. Coach Todd Kolster, 490-0700.

Girls Golf: JV and Varsity--August 12, Thursday, The Mines, 7:30am, Coach: Melanie Loughin, 780-3185.

Boys Soccer: First tryout--August 11, Wednesday, 6:00-8:30pm, The CAT, 2770 Knapp. Bring own ball, shin guards, water, shoes. Coach John Matlak, 364-1128.

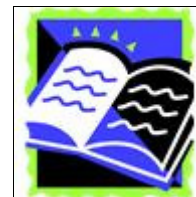
Girls Swimming: August 11, Wednesday, 3:20-5:30pm, Hunting YMCA Swimming Pool, 475 Lake Michigan Dr. NW, Coach Adam Vera, 460-7302.

Boys Tennis: August 11, Wednesday, 8am-1:00pm, The CAT, 2770 Knapp. Bring own racquet, jump rope, water bottle, and a light snack. Wear appropriate tennis clothing, including pockets. Coach Pat Williams, 456-9059. Inclement weather report to fieldhouse lobby at 8:00am

Volleyball: Tryouts--August 11, Wednesday, CAT Gym, Freshmen 4:30-8pm, CAT Gym, JV/Varsity 3-5pm, Coach Michelle Morrow, 481-0365.

Summer Reading ~

Please check the school website grcatholiccentral.com and click on "Announcements— Summer Reading for English Department for reading and writing assignments due at the beginning of the school year for all freshmen, sophomore, and junior English courses and AP Literature and Composition.



Please mark your calendars for all parent programs hosted at Cathedral Square

- ◆ **11th & 12 grade parent meeting Monday, September 20 at 6:30 p.m.**
- ◆ **9th & 10 grade parent meeting will be Monday, October 25 at 6:30 p.m.**
- ◆ **Financial Aid (FAFSA) info meeting will be Monday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m.**

COREX—The Food & Cooking Committee would like to thank all who donated food, supplies and time to this years' COREX weekend. The response was truly amazing! We feel wonderfully blessed to be part of the Catholic Central community. Thank you!

CC Choir News

Attention Parents of All Choir Members!

The Catholic Central Choir Boosters group is made up of parents who have students in any of the choirs at CC. We work together to organize fundraisers that help our kids raise funds for...



- Choir Trips
- Choir Uniforms
- Voice Lessons
- Music Camps

and other choir or music-related expenses.

Please join us for our kick-off meeting on Thursday, September 16th at 7 p.m. in the CC Music Room. If you cannot make this meeting but would like to get involved, please contact Jean Talaga at talaga-mail@comcast.net.

Hope to see you there!

Dennis Rybicki
Director of Choirs

Academic Boosters



ACADEMIC BOOSTERS is an informal group of parents who meet monthly with Principal - Tom Maj and Head of Guidance - Heidi Smitley to support the academic environment for all students at Catholic Central High School through the exchange of information. As your schedule allows, please feel free to attend meetings which begin at 8:15 in the conference room outside the main office. Dates for the 2010-1011 school year are: September 22, October 20, November 17, December 15, January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 25. For more information, contact Nancy Moran.

WE CARE News

It's not always easy to be a parent of a teenager. All of the sudden they have cars and friends that live across town and a lot more freedom. How do we keep them safe? WE CARE (**With Education Chemical Abuse Really Ends**) is here to help.

WE CARE is an organization that every parent at Catholic Central is an automatic member of. Our goal is to provide safe experiences for the students of CC and to encourage networking between parents. Experience has taught us that when parents know each other, our kids are safer. Plus, the parents have fun, too.

WE CARE, with the dedicated parents of the football team, host the after game junior/senior events at the CAT. There will also be some events for freshman/sophomore in the CC cafeteria. Additional student socials will be scheduled throughout the year.

WE CARE is hosting parties for the parents of each grade level. We encourage all parents to attend. It is so nice to be able to put names and faces together so that when your child says he is going to someone's house, you can make a connection to that family. Many times parents of seniors have lamented that they didn't get to know each other sooner. These parties are the perfect remedy. It is a nice adult evening. Our kids bring us together, they are not the focus of our evening. The additional bonus is that, although they are not fund-raisers, any money raised is saved for that class's Senior All-Night Party. (Watch for "save the dates", or contact We Care if you would like to help).

Educational speakers are another outreach that is offered to parents throughout the year. We have surveyed to choose topics that you want information on and in a forum that you would enjoy. Please make it a priority to attend. We are especially reaching out to more experienced parents. Your attendance at these meeting offers a wealth of first-hand knowledge and support to newer parents at Catholic. It is one more way to make high school a positive experience for both you and your child.

Please return the volunteer form you received with this newsletter. If you would like to be involved with the social events, or WE CARE please let me know.

Russ Armock
WE CARE President

All A's Walk

As school kicks off again and the students and staff get back into the routine for the year, we are planning for the All A's Walk scheduled for October 6th. This year's walk will be my first with Catholic Central. Being so, I wanted to know the history of the walk and what started it all. Everyone I asked about the walk replied with enthusiasm "I am not sure how long they have been doing the walk, but they did it when I attended!" I also wanted to know what the premise was behind the walk. I was amazed to find that the All A's walk helped 1 out of 4 students with tuition assistance and was designed as a way for students to help one another. The original intent was to create a sense of stewardship at the high school level. Armed with the knowledge that many have taken part of and benefitted from the All A's walk, I am excited to kick off our event. Please encourage your students to begin asking for donations, or doing some extra work for neighbors, or any other creative ideas to raise funds for our very important and meaningful event.

Christine O'Driscoll
Advancement Director

Fall Play—Dead Man Walking

Catholic Secondary Schools and the Drama Departments of CCHS and WCHS are pleased to announce a special collaboration for Fall 2010 of



by **Tim Robbins**

based on the novel by **Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ**

“A caring nun receives a desperate letter from a death row inmate trying to find help to avoid execution for murder. Over the course of the time to the convict's death, the nun begins to show empathy, not only with the pathetic man, but also with the victims and their families. In the end, that nun must decide how she will deal with the paradox of caring for that condemned man while understanding the heinousness of his crimes.”

Kenneth Chisholm

October 14, 15, 16, & 21

7:00pm (Talkback to follow)

October 17 and 24

3:00pm

Adults: \$ 8

Students: \$ 6

Tickets available through the Aquinas Performing Arts Center beginning October 4.