



CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

School Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 5
April, May, June 2008

From the Principal's Desk:

Greetings:

The change in weather from winter to spring gives us a visual reminder of our faith and religious experience as Catholics. It is a reminder of our Lenten journey or "dying to self" only to then join in the celebration of the resurrection and "new life" of Jesus in the glorious day of Easter.

The students of Catholic Central have participated in a Lenten journey together as they collected funds for the Operation Rice Bowl Project. In addition they have prayed and reflected together daily and have prayed the Stations of the Cross together during Holy Week. On Thursday we will celebrate an Easter Liturgy together. I had the opportunity to read through some of the students personalized reflections of the Stations of the Cross from an assignment in Mrs. Koss's New Testament class. In reading these I realized the depth of understanding that our students have for their faith and the personal relationships that many of them have developed with Jesus Christ. It makes me feel very confident in the future of our Church and the society in which we live.

As we close out the third quarter of the school year and move into the fourth it is important that you help your students remain focused on their studies. The springtime and nicer weather bring more distractions to the students. The disciplined student will continue to work hard and stay true to the priorities in their lives despite the added challenges. A consistent study time at home will help students achieve in the classroom.

Congratulations to our winter sports teams, academic teams, and performing arts groups that competed this winter. There were many outstanding achievements and performances during the season and post-season tournaments and competitions. We appreciate having had the opportunity to see so many talented individuals work together to achieve as teams representing Catholic Central High School. More importantly you represented our school as students of character and class.

I want to thank you for making the first Catholic Central Auction Event a huge success. Nearly 500 staff, parents, alumni, and friends gathered to celebrate the opening of the new C.A.T. Fieldhouse and enjoyed great food, fellowship, and entertainment. We are blessed to have such a wonderful new facility for our students and hope that it will continue to enhance the extra-curricular experiences of all of our students. The money raised from the event will go to enhance a wide-range of spiritual, academic, and extra-curricular programs that will benefit all of the students at Catholic Central. Again, your generosity and commitment to our students is greatly appreciated.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank the parents of our seniors who have been with us for four years. Your involvement, leadership, and support have been instrumental in the many accomplishments and successes of this class of 2008. This class will be remembered fondly for their accomplishments and contributions to the history and tradition of Catholic Central High School! I look forward to celebrating their successes with you in the upcoming months. As we close out this school year I ask for your continued support and prayers as we strive to educate all of our students in spirit, mind, and body.

Yours in Christ,

Steve Passinault

Parent Survey Coming—At the end of April you will receive a satisfaction survey to give you the opportunity to evaluate every aspect of your experience at Catholic Central High School. A letter will be mailed or emailed to you with a link to the survey. Your feedback is very important to us, so please take the time to complete the survey when it arrives.

Important Phone Numbers

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



Steve Passinault, **Principal**
Tom Maj, **Assistant Principal**
Heidi Clark-Smitley, **Director of Guidance**
Mike Neuman, **Athletic Director**
Kathryn Walsh, **Campus Minister**
David Sankovich, **Technology Coordinator**

From the Assistant Principal

Prom: May 10, 2008. Doors open at 6 p.m. *All students attending Prom must arrive by 6:45 p.m.* Accommodations will be made for athletic conflicts. Students should see me if there is some extenuating circumstance that might prevent them from arriving on time.

This is a formal dance with specific expectations regarding attire and conduct. To that end please take a moment to read through the following guidelines. To be admitted to the dance, those students attending and guests must adhere to these guidelines.

Gentlemen's attire: This is a black tie affair.

**Gentlemen are to arrive in either a white or black tuxedo. Grey, black, or navy suits may be substituted.

**Hard soled dress shoes are required.

**Shirts are to remain on and tucked at all times.

**Hair must be neatly groomed, in dress code. No unnatural color, spiked, dreadlocks, or Mohawk styles are permitted.

Ladies attire:

**Ladies are to arrive in an elegant one piece, long (past the knees) formal evening gown.

**Gowns with slits may be worn, however the slit may only reach finger tip length and not extend higher.

**The evening gown neckline must be modest in cut. If the gown has an open back the opening may not extend lower than the hips.

**Bare or sheer midriffs are not permitted.

Dancing is to be in good taste. Students may be asked to leave if inappropriate dancing continues.

Guest passes will be issued to guests who are in good standing with their home school and Catholic Central High School. Anyone expelled from Catholic Central High School will not be permitted to attend. Guest passes will be made available two weeks prior to the Prom. The home school of guests will be required to sign off on this guest pass. All guests must follow the above guidelines.

School visitors: Guest passes are generally issued to families with an eighth grader attending a non-partner elementary school and to families relocating to the Grand Rapids area. Guests to school are asked to be in close attire to our uniform. We ask that jeans and t-shirts not be worn.

Partner school students have an opportunity to visit early in the school year.

We ask that anyone still undecided about attending Catholic Central High School to contact Nancy Beadling at 233.5814 to schedule an appointment.

Sunshine Uniform Co. will be on campus May 29th. & 30th. from 3 p.m. until 8 p.m. Representatives will be on hand to assist you with any clothing needs or questions.

We would like to offer a uniform resale the week prior to Sunshine's visit. Anyone wishing to coordinate this uniform resale, please contact me.

Uniform—Shorts: Beginning May 1st, students may start wearing uniform shorts to school. Capri's are also available through Sunshine Uniforms.

Parking Garage is expected to be available April 14th. Work on the bus drive will begin the week of Spring Break.

Vision Screening—9th Grade: Kent County Health Department will provide vision testing for all 9th graders on Wednesday, May 14th. If you wish to opt-out of this test please send a letter stating that you do not want your student to participate to the Main Office.

Attendance: Remaining informed of absent students' whereabouts is of importance in our commitment to students' safety and well being. **Therefore, on the day of absence we ask that a parent/guardian call the attendance office (233-5812) by 10:00 a.m. If a call has not been received by that time, student's will receive an unexcused absence and grades may be affected.** Messages may be left on the school's voice messaging system, which is checked frequently.

When a student becomes ill at school we ask that they come to the office to call home so that we know they are ill and can tend to their needs. Students **are not** to use their cell phones at any time while in school, including when they become ill.

Facilities Usage: CCHS hosts and/or houses many events, meetings, clubs and organizations. Because of the high volume of use Facilities Use Request forms must be filled out and approved by Ed Willcome, Facilities Manager. Request forms can be obtained in the Main Office. We hope this will reduce double bookings.

Sincerely,
Tom Maj

From the Guidance Office

As the school year moves into the fourth quarter, the guidance counselors are eager to help students at every grade level finalize plans for the next academic year. Students returning to Catholic Central have had the opportunity to meet with their counselor regarding course selection for the next year. The deadline for returning the registration forms was March 12. Please check with your student to be certain that this process has been completed.

In most instances, **Seniors** are required to confirm their enrollment at the college of their choice by May 1. It is extremely important to send the enrollment deposit by this date, as some schools will move immediately to their waiting lists on May 2, and space will no longer be available. The Guidance Office will send final transcripts and proof of graduation to the students' colleges. Seniors are cautioned to continue to meet their academic responsibilities; colleges have been known to rescind offers of admission and/or scholarship when a student drops an academic course or the academic performance shows a lack of effort during the final term of high school.

Many **Seniors** have already been offered **college scholarships**, and in the next few months, colleges and organizations will be naming scholarship winners. As you receive this good news, please ask your student to bring their award letter into the Guidance Office. We tabulate the scholarship dollars for the class as a whole, and publish the names of scholarship recipients in the graduation program. **Seniors** who meet the criteria for the MEAP scholarship money will receive a confirmation letter from the State later this spring, and at this time you will indicate the school your student plans to attend.

Recently, all **Juniors** at CCHS completed the Michigan Merit Exam and the ACT with Writing. These students can expect to receive their scores later this spring. Research shows students who take the ACT more than once are more than 50% likely to increase their composite score. **Juniors** are advised to register for the June 14th ACT no later than May 9. This test will be given at Catholic Central, but the registration form must be mailed into the testing company. Registration packets for this test are available online at www.actstudent.org. We are recommending that students opt for the ACT Assessment With Writing. Students are also encouraged to register for the SAT Reasoning Test, and some students may wish to consider taking SAT Subject Tests this Spring. Juniors should talk with their counselors about which tests are appropriate for them. Again, registration is available online at www.collegeboard.com

Families are encouraged to visit college campuses with their CC student. Most colleges are happy to accommodate weekend visits for prospective students throughout the spring. Call the admissions offices of respective colleges and universities for times of campus tours and information sessions.

Summer Opportunities (such as camps, workshops, conferences) for all CC students and their parents will be presented at an **informational meeting, Tuesday, April 29** at 7:00 p.m. in the CC Cafeteria.

Campus Ministry

Greetings from the Office of the Campus Minister –

This year, our Lenten project was raising money for Catholic Relief Services. CRS is the official international relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community. They serve the poor in over 100 countries overseas through programs in emergency relief, HIV and AIDS, health, agriculture, education, microfinance and peace building. Most of us are familiar with their Operation Rice Bowl Program. Operation Rice Bowl is the official Lenten Program of Catholic Relief Services. For 33 years, Operation Rice Bowl has called participants to pray with their families and faith communities; fast in solidarity with those who hunger; learn about our global community and the challenges of poverty overseas, and give sacrificial contributions to those in need. These goals will be our community's goals for the Lenten season. In various ways we will Pray, Fast, Learn and Give in community with those in need around the world. We prayed the Stations of the Cross on Wednesday, March 19, with pictures and text from CRS that related to the suffering of others. Our Easter Liturgy is Thursday, March 27. Bishop Walter Hurley will be our Presider.

Peer Ministry Applications became available to sophomores and juniors on March 19. All applications and recommendations must be in by Friday, April 18. I am very strict about getting these applications in on time. So many sophomores and juniors apply for the 46 available positions that I feel I must insist on students being able to take care of their responsibilities on time. If you have a student applying for this group, please mark that deadline on your calendar. Also important for prospective Peer Ministers is Sunday, May 4 when all candidates will need to participate in a 45 minute interview which will be scheduled between 12 noon and 5 p.m. Any student who is chosen for Peer Ministry MUST be able to attend the training retreat, which will be held on June 11, 12, 13 (W, Th, F).

We will take Core Team applications between Easter and Spring Break. Core Team is a representative group of future seniors who will help plan the senior retreat, COREX 2009. We hope to announce the Core Team right after Spring Break. And so will begin the planning for COREX 2009.

COREX 2009 BEGINS ON SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 16
AND ENDS ON MONDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 18

We hope to be sending Parent Applications to work COREX in the beginning of May. We hope it will give parents sufficient time to reserve these three days and share them with the Class of 2009.

StarSearch '08, our all-school talent show, held auditions on Tuesday, March 25, Wednesday, March 26, and Thursday, March 27. Over 50 potential acts signed up to audition. This is always a wonderful showcase for our talented students. StarSearch '08 is sponsored by Peer Ministry and the proceeds help fund their training. StarSearch will be Friday, May 9.

The Peer Ministers are working hard to plan for Very Special Arts day on May 2. The Peer Ministers spend some of the 3rd quarter and most of the 4th quarter planning and executing what is called "arcades," a huge tent set up at Lincoln School which is an integral part of VSA. During the 6 hours of the day, over 1500 special needs children receive varied experiences planned and worked by the Peer Ministers, Art III and IV and some HOPE volunteers. Before attending this activity, our students receive important information about special needs and special education and also meet some of God's most special people by helping with PPI (pre-primary impaired) Nights at local special needs schools. We thank Kris DeYoung for her connection with Very Special Arts and her sharing with all of us.

May is such a month of mixed feelings – it is always difficult to say goodbye to the graduates, but exciting to work with the upcoming seniors and meet the future freshmen. Our final All School Liturgy will be on Thursday, May 16 at 10:15.

I would like to commend all the students for the amount of Christian Service they have given this year. I would also like to encourage parents and their students to look for opportunities over the summer – certainly for their students, but even better, family opportunities to give together. We hope, in our focus on service, to teach the lesson of continuous, constant service through a lifetime. How better to model for your children than to serve with them.

God bless you – thank you for all you do and all you give to Catholic Central and your students.

Kathie Walsh

Athletics

As with most things in our busy lives, communication is the key to success. Encourage your child to talk with the coach to be aware of their role on the team, skills to work on, and schedule requirements. Coach-student communication is an important part of the educational process. If you have a concern about your child's status, please contact the coach directly, although not immediately after a contest.

What a **GREAT** day to be a Cougar! Congratulations to our Winter season athletes, coaches, and parents.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Cougar's season ended at the State Quarterfinal game vs Holland Christian. CC tied for the City League Championship, won the District and Regional Championship, and finished 21-5 for the season. Congratulations to Coach Colleen Lamoreaux-Tate and the players.

HOCKEY: Cougar's season ended at the State Quarterfinal game vs Flint Powers in a very close 1-0 game. CC won the City League Championship and their 3rd straight Regional Championship, finishing 22-3-2 for the year. The Hockey team had four players earn First Team All State honors: Kevin Boman, Clayton Brackett, John Dery and Adam Janecyk. Congratulations to Coach Alan Kranzo and the players.

BOYS BASKETBALL: Cougar's season ended in the Regional Championship game vs Forest Hills Northern. CC finished 2nd in the City League, won the District Championship, and finished 18-6. Congratulations to Coach TJ Carnegie and the players.

WRESTLING: Erin Hillary from the Wrestling Team also earned First Team All State honors.

Thank you to all that came out to celebrate the grand opening of the **new CAT Fieldhouse** and attended the first Big Blue Auction. Thanks to all who supported the Colonel!! It was a great success!

Operating the CAT is a challenging task. The maintenance and upkeep is a shared responsibility by all who use the site. Coaches are responsible for working with maintenance staff to keep the playing surfaces safe and clean. Self-help projects are encouraged to improve each venue. Parents, contact the coach to see how you can assist in this task.

One of the foundations of our school is our policy on Student Dignity, described in the parent-Student Handbook. Please review this subject with your child. Any **harassment or hazing** incident, regardless of "tradition", or prior practices, will be dealt with as a violation of the Athletic Code. The standards we sometimes see or hear about in the media are not the standards we expect of Catholic Central students.

GET IT OVER WITH!! State and local regulation requires an annual physical exam to participate in school sports activity. For the 2008-2009 school year, we cannot allow your student to try-out or practice with a team unless we have a **Physical Exam** on file which is dated April 15, 2008 or later. Using the Catholic Central physical exam form eases the paperwork for you on this eligibility requirement. Athletic health/physical examinations for the 2008-2009 school year will be held **Wednesday, May 28** at school, 5:30-7:00pm. Forms are available on the school website in the Sports section, or in the school office. The form must be completed and signed by parents and brought to the exam by the student. Cost is \$15 check or cash. We are grateful to the medical staff, parents and friends of CC, who donate their time for this important event. Proceeds from the will be used to help pay for medical supplies for next year.

A **standard well-balanced diet**, with careful attention to non-caffeine beverage intake, is sufficient for CC athletes to maintain good health and competitive endurance. Food supplements, magic powders and pills, and steroids, are unnecessary, may be hazardous, and perhaps illegal.

Spring is here!!! Come out and watch the Cougars in action. The Spring Sports schedule is available at www.grcatholiccentral.com.

Summer Sports Camps for young athletes have been scheduled by several of our coaches. An application form is on our website, www.grcatholiccentral.com. "Sports", then "Summer Camps".

Fall Season official practices begin August 11th. Some sports conduct pre-season conditioning the week prior to this. Details will be mailed to all families in July and posted on the website.

PARISH SUPPORT FORM

Enclosed with this newsletter, you will find a Parish Support Form. Our parishes require a new Parish Support Form to be completed for each school year, for families that will be receiving parish support. This form is also available online at www.gcatholiccentral.org (under Admissions, then Tuition Assistance/Scholarships). Please return the Parish Support form to the business office by May 2, 2008.

Please join us for the May 8th Inspiration Series Dinner

Keynote speaker Bill Barkeley will share his personal story of inspiration with attendees

Mountains are beautiful and majestic, but they can also present real obstacles and challenges to climbers. This was truly the case for Bill Barkeley, a Catholic Central alumnus who is both visually and hearing impaired. His deafness combined with his greatly diminished eyesight made his journey up Mount Kilimanjaro a difficult exploit. Yet, these obstacles did not stop him.

Bill will share the inspirational lessons he learned from his divine adventure, as well as his thoughts on how to handle the "mountains" that are a part of each of our lives at the first annual Catholic Secondary Schools' *Inspiration Series Dinner*. The Dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. on **Thursday, May 8th** at Steelcase Town Hall, 901 44th St.

Like you and your family, the Catholic Secondary Schools face "mountains" every day. Our greatest challenge is maintaining an affordable tuition rate so that a high-quality faith-based education at Catholic Central and West Catholic is available to anyone who desires it. That is why we provide more than a million dollars in aid each year, which meets a higher percentage of a family's need than most colleges are able to do.

This *Inspiration Series* gives us the opportunity to highlight the important role our Catholic schools play in students' lives on an academic, spiritual and physical dimension. This night also allows us to share our many successes in shaping the lives of so many young men and women in spirit, mind and body. Many of these success stories are directly tied to the tuition assistance program.

YES! We/Our Company will be sponsors of the Inspiration Series Dinner

[] **Summit Level Sponsor** (\$7,000) [] **Plateau Level Sponsor** (\$3,500) [] **Base Level Sponsor** (\$1,750)
Individual tickets for the event are \$100 per person. A portion of your donation is tax deductible.

You can mail a check, charge a credit card or we can bill you in 3 installments in April, May and June.

Your name (as it will appear in the program)

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Credit Card Name _____ Card # _____

Cardholder's Name _____ Exp. Date: _____

FAX RESPONSE TO:

Inspiration Series Sponsor
(616) 458-7740

MAIL RESPONSE TO:

Inspiration Series Sponsor
P.O. Box 327, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0327

Questions? Contact Arnette Kraus at (616) 233-5985 or arnettekraus@gccss.org

Attention Parents/Guardians of Seniors
Senior All-Night Party Info

A **Senior All Night Party Invitations** will be given to each senior soon after Spring break through the student's religion class. Letters with **some** details of the Graduation All Night Party will be mailed out to each senior and their parents/guardians the last part of April. Please watch for both and discuss with your senior the "rules" and "what to bring" for the evening.

Volunteers are still needed for many of the committees at the All Night Party. We need people to fill shifts from 10:30PM- 2:30 AM and from 2:00AM-5:30AM. For those of you that cannot make one of the night shifts we also need volunteers on dates prior to graduation to help make decorations. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information please contact one of the co-chairs, Colleen Boland (942-9465) or Bryan & Mary Richards (363-5206) or email cc2008@comcast.net.

Financial assistance is still needed to offset some of the cost for the evening. If you or your company would like to donate please contact one of the co-chairs as soon as possible.

The Entertainment committee is organizing a photo slideshow of the Class of 2008 students for the senior all night party. No, we are not giving any further information than that, but we would like you to submit whatever photos or other electronic media (CD or DVD's) you may have for this presentation. **We are only looking for photos of the student's high school years.** We'd like pictures of any and all activities -Corex, sporting events, musicals, proms, friends spending time together. They can be submitted by the parents, students, family, friends, etc. All photos will be reviewed for content and may or may not be included in the final presentation. **Any media sent to us will not be returned.**

We must have all photos submitted by April 30th. Photos will be reviewed for appropriate content before use.

There are 3-ways you can get the files to us. Option 3 is the best method.

1. Believe it or not, US mail still works. Send it to:
Joe Melton
3303 Pinoak Ct. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
2. Kid-Mail - Give Sarah Miles your CD of photos
3. A convenient website to upload your photos.

Just send a blank email to CCHSclassOf2008@comcast.net A few moments later you will receive a reply with the link to the website CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2008 photo upload

Once you receive the email, just click on the link provided. This will take you to a secure website to upload the files. NOTE: This site does require Adobe Flash Player to work correctly. If it is not already installed on your computer, it will prompt you to download and install. There is a link to Joe Melton's address (Dropbox Owner Email) on the web page if you have any questions.

If the link does not work, try copying and pasting it into the address window of Internet Explorer.

<https://backup.filesanywhere.com/dropbox/d.asp?v=%8Aoe%89ag%A4%AF%A2%A5>

NOTE: The website is only a few Gigabyte in size. If for some reason it tells you the mailbox is full, then just try again later.

THE GRADUATION COUNTDOWN BEGINS!!