

CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

## School Newsletter

February/March 2011

### From the Associate Principal's Desk:

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Catholic Central High School has combined this year's national theme for **Catholic Schools Week**, "Catholic Schools: A+ for America," with the various components of our school's Mission Statement. This combination suggests it is not only important for our students to deepen their faith, broaden their knowledge, cultivate discipline, and develop their moral conscience here at Catholic Central, but it is equally important for them to transfer these virtues to a broader social context. Our students and alumni have a rich history of contributing to the greater good all over the world, and CSW is an appropriate time for us to celebrate. Details of Catholic Central's celebration of Catholic Schools Week are outlined later in the newsletter.

Please **mark your calendars** for the upcoming events:

February 12 <sup>th</sup>	Sno-Shuffle Dance 8-11pm
February 16-17 <sup>th</sup>	Parent/Teacher Conferences 6-8:30pm in the gym
February 18-21 <sup>st</sup>	Mid-Winter Break
	* 2/21 is the "All As" day off – school resumes Tuesday 2/22/11
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	No School – Professional Development
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter

I would also like to note the **improvements around campus**. Earlier this year, our campus along Division Street was beautified by **columns and landscaping** that complement the façade of Cathedral Square. We were also fortunate to receive **new parking lots** for faculty and students to ensure safety, organization, and convenience. More recently, we have created a **computer lab at the CAT** to guarantee our student-athletes have the resources available to help them manage their busy schedules. Most recently, a **new cross and commemorative plaque** have been hung in the gym, reinforcing God's presence and our Catholic identity. I'd like to thank the diocese and the many supporters of Catholic Central for their generous donations to improve our campus. We hope to continue to improve our campus's infrastructure and facilities after we receive the results of a facilities study, which is expected to take place in the coming months. A special thank you goes to the Catholic Central Advisory committee for its initiative in this pursuit, as well as its assistance in developing an enrollment plan for our future sustainability.

To date, 168 eighth graders from the greater Grand Rapids area took the High School Placement Test for Catholic Central. The admissions committee is processing applications, and we anticipate a solid incoming freshmen class in 2011. As we look to next year it is important that all families of new and returning students follow the timelines for enrollment (Business Office), registration (Guidance Office), and tuition assistance (Business Office). Information on enrollment and tuition grants have been mailed out. Please visit the following link if you did not receive these documents: <http://www.grcatholiccentral.com/GRCS/CCHS/Admissions/Enrollment+Forms.htm>

On behalf of his current and former students, I'd like to thank **Mike Martin** for his years of service with the Catholic Secondary Schools. We wish him the very best in retirement. We are pleased to announce **Jennifer Quiroz** as his replacement in the Religion Department and the newest member of the faculty. Ms. Quiroz graduated with a B.A. in Theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH. Please welcome Ms. Quiroz to our community.

I look forward to a great second semester, and thank you for your continuous support and prayers.

In Christ,

Greg Deja

#### 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**

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## From the Guidance Office

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Please mark your calendar with the following Guidance Department events:

### **COURSE REGISTRATION**

Week of February 28- Course Registration Packet distribution for 2011-12 10<sup>th</sup> / 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup>

Week of March 7- Begin registration meetings w/ counselors; completed packets due

Week of June 13- Final course placement reviewed

### **2011-12 Curriculum Guide – [www.grcatholiccentral.com](http://www.grcatholiccentral.com)**

We ask that you review this on-line guide for Academic Policies and course descriptions. Please discuss with your student the choices for elective courses, taking into account your student's past academic achievements, goals for post-secondary education, and areas of interest. Our master schedule and staffing needs are based upon student course placements and electives. We cannot stress enough the importance of making these choices wisely, including alternate choices. Catholic Central is rightfully proud of its academic reputation, and we intend to challenge our students in order to insure their solid preparation for college.

- For most courses, teacher or departmental approval is required (w/ signature).
- Parent signature is required on the course registration form and enrollment fee must be paid to GRCSS Business Office to process individual course registrations.
- Your student will meet with his or her counselor to finalize choices.
- Students interested in enrolling in the KCTC programs must contact the Guidance Office to schedule a visit. (1<sup>st</sup> session programs only will be available to CC/WC.)
- Students need to be aware of the demands of Honors/AP courses and be willing to make a year-long commitment to these classes.
- We are not able to accommodate requests for schedule changes in the fall or spring semesters unless there is a conflict.

Students are not permitted to drop a course once the semester has begun unless there is an extenuating circumstance and departmental approval is given.

If you have questions regarding course selections, please do not hesitate to email your student's guidance counselor.

[tomshangraw@grcss.org](mailto:tomshangraw@grcss.org) – students A-G, S-Z

[joelpassinault@grcss.org](mailto:joelpassinault@grcss.org) – students H-R

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# Guidance Office Cont.

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## **SENIORS**

Please note two important steps to take in the next month:

Seniors must communicate all admissions decisions & scholarship offers to the Guidance Dept prior to Graduation. PLEASE email [suewaldron@grcss.org](mailto:suewaldron@grcss.org) OR call 233-5810 OR stop by the office with updates as this information is received. THANK YOU!!

Financial Aid for Higher Ed can be explained via these websites:

<http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid> ; [www.micollegegoal.org](http://www.micollegegoal.org) ; [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Also, the following sites are hosting the free College Goal Sunday event (2/13/11) to help families complete the FAFSA by March 1.

*Grand Valley State University, 401 Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49504*

*Davenport University-Holland, 643 S Waverly Road, Holland, MI 49423*

## **JUNIORS**

Don't forget to register to take the ACT or SAT more than once.

*Note: Students that currently use an extended-time test accommodation may want to ask their counselor about submitting this request with proper documentation to ACT in advance to the regular deadline.*

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) - ACT Test Dates:

Feb 12 – Standby registration only (see Guidance Office for details)

April 9 – regular deadline Mar 4

June 11 – regular deadline May 6

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) – SAT Test Dates:

Mar 12 – regular deadline Feb 11

\*May 7 – regular deadline Apr 8

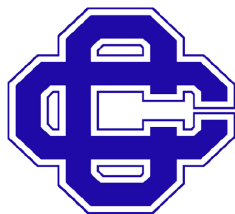
\*June 4 - regular deadline May 6

\* Subject Tests offered on these dates

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# Athletics

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## ATHLETICS February 2011

As we begin to wrap-up the regular season contests, and enter the MHSAA Winter Tournament season, check the schedules and go to a contest to support our Cougars. We have great kids and coaches working hard together to meet their goals.

Think **Spring!** Sign-up for Spring sports will be February 17<sup>th</sup> during lunch periods at school. Announcements will be made. Practices begin on March 14<sup>th</sup>. **Your student must have a physical exam, dated since April 15, 2010, on file in the athletic office before they can participate in tryouts or practice.**

**Summer Planning:** Catholic Central coaches will not schedule any athletic activity from **July 2 to July 10, 2011**. No conditioning drills, no camps, no open gym—nothing! Facilities are closed.

**Summer All-Sport Conditioning** will begin on Monday June 13<sup>th</sup>. It will take place on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. There will be two separate times per day. The time for all three days will be 7-8:30am and 6-7:30pm. This hopefully accommodates all schedules.

**Summer Camp Schedule:** Will be posted on the website and is available now for summer planning. Please check it out for camps of interest.

**Athletic schedules** are available at [www.grcatholiccentral.com](http://www.grcatholiccentral.com). Go to "Sports", then "schedule". Information regarding MHSAA state tournaments is available at [www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com). Take advantage of these information sources.

**The CAT Field house** has been up and running for 3 years now. All of our athletic teams are taking full advantage of this superb facility. We are hoping to continue to provide our students with the premier athletic facilities in the state of Michigan as well as the country. In order to make our facility better we have to be good stewards of what we have and all work together to keep and clean and secure.

**Thank you** to all the students and parents who have contributed to an atmosphere of "*Good Sportsmanship*" at our contests. As Cougars, we understand that the value of interscholastic athletics lies in preparing our students for a positive role in their Faith and their Community. Good Sportsmanship includes loud and boisterous cheering for **our team**. Banners, posters, etc., in good taste, are welcome at our events. Sportsmanship does not include disrespect toward officials or opponents.

Thank you for your continued support. Help us challenge and expand the Spirit, Mind, and Body of our youth.

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## Campus Ministry

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We will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week beginning January 31 through February 4. During this week we have many activities at school to rejoice in who we are and what we stand for. The national theme for the week is "Catholic Schools: A+ for America". On Monday we will be having a Day of Prayer. We will be praying together every hour for others in our community, nation and world. On Tuesday we will be honoring our Teachers with a special breakfast from We Care and recognitions from students. On Wednesday we honor our students and the gifts they bring to our school. On Thursday we honor the Arts on our school and will gather for our annual Fine Arts Assembly. Over 400 of our students participate in the arts and it is wonderful to experience their gifts. On Friday we live our faith by celebrating Eucharist together. At this special Mass we will commission our liturgical ministers. Our Pastor-President, Fr. Lou Stasker, and Fr. Tom Tavella, CSP, from the Cathedral, will concelebrate.

I have an update on Service Hours. Hopefully you are aware that we are now asking students to input their service hours on a Google Doc as well as turning in their service forms. This is what allows us to put your student's service hours on his/her permanent record. Here are the instructions if you are unsure what to do:

Go to <http://grcatholiccentral.com>

Student Life link across the top of page

Service Program on the left side of page

Click on the Service Hours Form link then just complete the form and submit

I am entering the hours that were turned in earlier this year and hope to have some totals for people soon. Sorry for all the changes, but we do want to have a system for you that will give you a way to have these totals on your student's permanent record, so bear with us. If you have any questions, I am now the person to talk to and I will do my best to track down the answer to where your student's form is or how many hours he/she has in to date.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of February the Peer Ministers will have the audition sheets for StarSearch 2011 out! Auditions will be the end of March, but it's time for students to begin thinking about what they might do for the annual talent show.

We are very excited about "A Night to Float On," an evening being organized by the seniors to come together in renewal on February 26. They are half way through their year and hope that they will be able to find the time to spend an evening of some prayer and talk, some pictures and gifting – just some moments together before the end of the year is upon them. Many of the teachers who worked on COREX as well as the COREX parents have agreed to spend this time with them as well. We wish them success with this wonderful idea.

Lent is very late this year. Ash Wednesday is March 9.  
Our Lenten Reconciliation is Tuesday, March 22, and we will have Stations of the Cross on April 20, the Wednesday of Holy Week.



For our Lenten project we will be doing a variety of fund raisers to benefit Haiti. We have some students who are participating in an alternate Spring break trip to Haiti and we want to support them and be aware of their trip and the continuing suffering of the people of Haiti. We are looking into ways to help and we will keep you informed as we get closer to March.

I hope you will find time to observe the season of Lent with your families – I will pray for the grace of God to enrich the lives of everyone in the Catholic Central community.

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## From the Social Studies Department

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As Chair of the Social Studies Department I am joining colleagues who have written before me in defense of a liberal arts education and in support of Catholic Central. The following ideas are not only my own, but are a compilation of observations and contributions of others I've studied in my pursuit of understanding not only the past; but also in order to gain a better understanding of the importance in studying the humanities and pursuing a liberal arts education.

Why study history? The pat answer is, "so we don't repeat our mistakes", but is that true? We only have to look at our own lives to know that even when we understand our behavior we often repeat actions we know to be inconsistent with our values. It's our nature as humans. So, while we can learn and grow from mistakes we've made, it alone is not reason enough to study history.

With the emphasis placed in US education on studying science and math we've gotten farther away from a focus on the humanities. So what do the humanities have to offer this generation of young people vying for jobs in engineering, computer programming and bio-medical science? I would argue that humanities, and history in particular offers the following:

- History helps us to understand our humanity. History contributes to our moral understanding by allowing us to see choices and lives past so we can test our own moral sense. Studying past achievement and failures provides a deeply beautiful foundation for understanding the human condition as we struggle with moral questions and problems.
- History provides us with inspiration. By studying those heroes who fought for the freedoms we now too often take for granted, we are inspired to continue to carry the torch of freedom into the future. We are reminded that failure isn't permanent, that perseverance is key to success, and that freedom and justice are worth sacrifice.
- In a culture that promotes tolerance and diversity we sometimes forget the common good, or the necessity of having a sense of pride in our identity as Americans. History provides us with an identity. It provides us with a basis for understanding not only our own past, but our nations past. In providing that identity we are better able to forge ahead with clear direction of where we are going; and this, is essential for good citizenship.
- As we study historical causality, the how and why change occurs, we begin to gain a sense of endurance and of tradition. By demanding we view the world through the broad perspective of the eyes of the past, we develop a context for evaluating our own times, our own governments, our own culture from which we can then evaluate ourselves and our nation.
- Studying history helps us develop skills to assess evidence, analyze conflicting interpretations, and evaluate continuity and change. It also encourages critical thinking and problem solving. These skills alone are essential in the marketplace.
- And lastly, history helps us to understand good and evil and to discern truth. It is in studying the past that we find goodness, and justice, thankfulness and mercy, honor and faithfulness, beauty and truth.

Mary VanHeest  
Social Studies Department Head



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# We Care News

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In keeping with the tradition of WE CARE (your parent organization), we would like to remind parents and students of a few things before Sno-Shuffle on Sat., Feb. 12th.

WE CARE supports safe social situations for CC students. We encourage students to demonstrate respect for each other by reminding their peers of appropriate behavior, including avoiding illegal substances such as alcohol and returning dates to their homes at respectful times. All of us want our students to have a great time. Let us pray for a safe and fun-filled evening.

Attention Sophomore Parents! Come meet other sophomore parents for a night of socialization in the St. Thomas basement on Sat., Feb. 5th at 7:00pm. The cost is \$20 per person or \$30 per couple (this includes food and drink). You can pay at the door. Hope to see you there. Any proceeds will go toward your child's Class of 2013's Senior All Night Party.

Attention Junior Parents! If you would like to be involved in the planning process for your child's 2012 Senior All Night Party, there will be an Organizational Meeting on April 27 at 7:00 PM in the Cafeteria. This may be your only chance to be on the steering committee. Co-chairs and committee chairs will be determined. Watch for a postcard in the coming months.

Also.... Watch for more information about the Junior Parent Social.

Attention Senior parents! Sick of Winter? Want to warm up? Join other senior parents for a night of fun, food and drink. The Hawaiian theme party is February 26th, 7:30 at IHM. The cost is a minimal \$25 per couple and includes beer, wine, and snacks. Chase those winter blues away while saying goodbye to fellow senior parents. Please RSVP to SANPsocial@gmail.com.

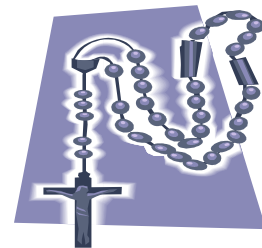
Thank you to the parents who have donated money, food, and time to the many ministries WE CARE sponsors. With your help, we have been able to make life at CC better for students and teachers. God bless you for your generosity!

If you would like to help with WE CARE, meetings are held the second Monday of the month in the school Main Conference Room at 7:00pm. We would love to hear your new ideas and welcome your participation.

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## [CC Community Rosary—Open Invitation:](#)

Please join us as we pray the Rosary with devotional prayers for the spiritual and academic growth of all students, teachers, administrators, staff, coaches, alumni and CC families. We meet in the CC Chapel from 2:20 pm—3:00 pm on the first Wednesday of the month.



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# Performing Arts Department News



The students and teachers of Band, Choirs and Art classes would like to invite all family and friends to our annual "Fine Arts Concert" on **Wednesday, February 2 at 7:00pm** in the CC Gym. This very popular concert showcases the talents of students in Band, Choral, Writer's Group and art classes. It is a light, joyous concert that is sure to lift your spirits during the beginning of February. The concert will also be presented again on Thursday, February 4 at 10:15am for the entire school. You are welcome to attend either performance. Thank you for your support of excellent Fine Arts departments at Catholic Central High School.

Good Luck to over 30 CC Band students who will be participating on Saturday, February 5 at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival held at East Kentwood High School. These students will be performing solos and ensembles for a judge to receive comments and a rating. What a great representation to see over half of the students in the band participating and representing Catholic Central!



Late February/early March is Festival season for a number of performing groups here at Catholic Central. The Concert Band and Capella Choir will be competing in the Regional Choral and Band Festivals during this time. These competitions give us an opportunity to strive for excellence in our music education programs. Wish our students well as we continue to hone our performance and sight reading skills in anticipation of these festivals. Updates on how our ensembles performed will be shared in the next newsletter!!



Guys & Dolls is coming to Catholic Central!!!! Mark your calendars now for March 23-26 at Circle Theater!! This is sure to be one of the best musicals being performed in West Michigan this spring!! Plan on being there!!! More information will be coming in the announcements.

Congratulations to Theresa Valente and Lauren Talaga who just recently were honored by singing in one of the State Honors Choir at the annual Michigan Music Conference. This is the highest recognition of individual choir singers in the state of Michigan. Both students had the opportunity to perform with other excellent high school singers chosen from throughout the state under the direction highly acclaimed university choral conductors. Kudos to these students for completing the audition process and representing our school so well!!!



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# **Catholic Education Tuition Assistance Program Timeline 2011/2012**

## **February 1, 2011**

Distribution of PSAS forms begins at schools and parishes in the Diocese. The PSAS forms will be available in English and Spanish.

## **March 1, 2011**

Completed PSAS forms with appropriate documentation from families must be post-marked no later than this date and sent to the PSAS offices.

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## **Brian Bush Award**

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Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find a nomination form for the Brian Bush Award.

Every year, Catholic Central, with the support of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bush, offers The Brian Bush Award to a member of the Freshman Class. This award is given annually to a freshman that exemplifies high Christian ideals, has experienced positive academic growth, sees Christ in others and appreciates family. This award was instituted for the 1989-90 school year in memory of Brian Bush, who passed away in 1989 during his freshman year.

This award is considered an honor to those who receive it because it recognizes those characteristics that Brian lived by during his time here at Catholic Central.

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# CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

## Brian Bush Life Award Nomination Form

### **Criteria:**

1. The student must be in ninth grade and registered for the tenth grade.
2. The student is to have given service to the Catholic Central community, the Grand Rapids community or both.
3. It is expected that this student would exemplify the highest of Christian ideals. A gentleness of spirit, an understanding that all people are children of God will be evident in this student's approach to other people.
4. The student will show positive academic growth in his/her freshman year. The student does not have to maintain a high grade point average but rather shows continued improvements in his/her work throughout the school year.
5. An enthusiasm for life should be evident in this student's attitude and manner. An understanding of Christ's existence in each of us influences this person's approach to others. A genuine appreciation for family should come through in this student's life. Knowing and understanding the necessity of family support is essential here. The student should evidence this in his/her activities and priorities.

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the **BRIAN BUSH LIFE AWARD**.

My reasons for this nomination are:

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In my opinion \_\_\_\_\_ is a worthy candidate for consideration.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

\_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT \_\_\_\_ TEACHER \_\_\_\_ PARENT \_\_\_\_ PRIEST/MINISTER \_\_\_\_ FAMILY FRIEND

**Please return to the Catholic Central MAIN OFFICE by Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**



**RESERVE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!**

**THIS EVENT, UNIQUE FROM ANY OTHER CC AUCTION, IS SURE TO BE AN EVENING TO REMEMBER!**

**Unite. Inspire. Succeed**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS AND RESERVATIONS**

**[www.WeAreCC.org](http://www.WeAreCC.org)**

**ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT WILL GO TO FUND DEPARTMENT NEEDS AND TUITION ASSISTANCE**

**We have partnered with community businesses and members to create a matching gifts pot. This will allow us to double your donation and double the fun!**

**We are in need of auction items! We have several ideas we are willing to share!**

\*logo artwork provided by Scarlet Wardrop~ CC 2012

**Questions: [christineodriscoll@grcss.org](mailto:christineodriscoll@grcss.org)**