

CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

School Newsletter

April, May, June 2011

From the Principal's Desk:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As I write this last newsletter article of the year I want to thank you for your support and prayers throughout this school year. With your support the students of Catholic Central High School have already accomplished great things and we have a few more months to build on our successes.

As we move into the fourth quarter it is important that you help your students remain focused on their studies. The nicer weather brings 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. Providing a consistent study time at home will help students achieve in the classroom.

Congratulations to our students and their many achievements this winter in academics, athletics, and the performing arts. We appreciate having the opportunity to see so many talented individuals work together, always representing Catholic Central High School with dignity and class. Be sure to visit our website to see the calendar of all the busy events taking place to conclude the academic year.

I want to thank you for making the *Heart of the City* event such a success. A nice crowd of staff, parents, alumni, and friends gathered to celebrate the many positive things that are happening in our school community. 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. Your generosity and commitment to our students is greatly appreciated, and also helps to provide for future Cougars. Prior to Spring Break we have accepted 154 incoming freshmen for the fall. Of that total, 124 registration appointments have been made and 95 students have registered for the class of 2015. We anticipate each of these categories to rise before July as we coordinate needs for the 2011-2012 school year.

In closing, I want to thank the parents of our seniors who have been with us for four years. Your involvement, leadership, and support have been instrumental in the accomplishments and character of the class of 2011. This class has added its unique contributions to the history and tradition of Catholic Central High School that will not soon be forgotten! 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 prayers as we strive to continue to build God's kingdom on earth. Have a safe, relaxing, and blessed summer.

Sincerely,

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 Coordinator**

From the Associate Principal

NEWS:

Prom: New Location: Grand Rapids Public Museum – April 30, 2011. Doors open at 7pm. Dinner is served at 7:30pm. Doors close at 8pm. The cost is \$100 per couple, and \$60 for a student attending stag.

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 his/her guest 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. 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.

Sunshine Uniform Co. will be on campus May 25th & 26th from 3-8 p.m. in the Music Room. Representatives will be on hand to assist you with any clothing needs or questions.

Uniform Shorts: Seniors may begin wearing shorts to school on April 11. **Underclassmen** may begin wearing shorts on May 2nd. Capri's are also available through Sunshine Uniforms and can be worn in place of skirts. Socks are required with all footwear.

From the Associate Principal Cont.

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.

Foreseeable Absence Policy – Please refer to the Foreseeable Absence policy on page 17 of Student Handbook. The school will not make arrangements around Final Exams (June 7-10) to accommodate summer plans. Students who fail to sit for their scheduled Final Exams without receiving permission from the administration will receive a zero on the exam.

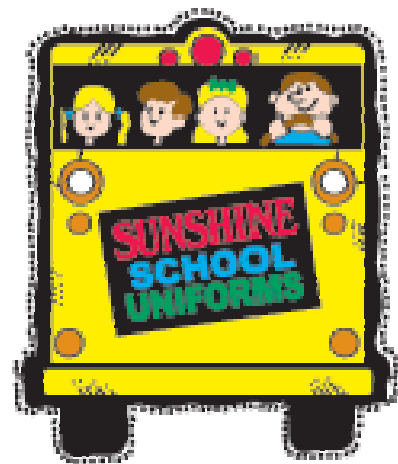
Group Work Camp – Catholic Central High School will be hosting a short-term Youth Mission this July through Group Workcamps. Group Workcamps is an international, [volunteer, Christian youth mission trip](#) organization that brings together youth and adults for a week-long summer work camp in which participants repair or renovate homes in various communities throughout the world. As many as 80 local homeowners, who have already been chosen, will benefit from the work of approximately 450 teenagers from July 10-16, 2011. The Workcamp will provide free home repairs through the Group Workcamps Foundation program, sponsored locally by Catholic Charities West Michigan (CCWM). An emphasis is placed on the spiritual life of the participants and of those homeowners served. For more information, visit their website at www.groupworkcamps.com.

SUNSHINE UNIFORMS

Sunshine Uniforms is coming to Catholic Central High School Wednesday, May 25 and Thursday, May 26 from 3:00-8:00 pm. The sale is in the Music Room in the Gymnasium building.

Bring your student, try on your uniforms, and take them home! Please allow them to serve you by fitting your child within school guidelines and in a cut and size that is best for fit and growth. There will be a supervisor on location should you have any questions or require any personal assistance. This will be a combination of ordering and take home: If they run out of your size, you can order them during our visit and Sunshine will pay for the shipping. (800) 354-7724
www.sunshineuniforms.com

Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, Cash, and personal checks with a valid driver's license & check signer's name imprinted on check. (Sorry, no company checks).



Campus Ministry

Greetings from the Office of the Campus Minister –

Our students are still spending time this Lent in PRAYER, ALMSGIVING, and FASTING. When we return from Spring Break we will be focusing more on our Haiti project with Rays of Hope for Haiti. We will be sending more information home with your student when we return. We will have Stations of the Cross on April 20 and our Easter Mass is on April 28 and our celebrant will be Fr. Dave Gross.

Peer Ministry Applications became available to sophomores and juniors on March 14. All applications and recommendations must be in by Friday, April 1. 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. Also important for prospective Peer Ministers is Sunday, May 1 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 on June 16, 17, 18.

We took Core Team applications on March 24. Core Team is a representative group of future seniors who will help plan the senior retreat, COREX 2012. We hope to announce the Core Team right after Spring Break. And so will begin the planning for COREX 2012.

COREX 2012 BEGINS ON SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 13
AND ENDS ON MONDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 15

We hope to be sending Parent Applications to work COREX in the middle of May. We hope it will give parents sufficient time to reserve these three days and share them with the Class of 2012.

StarSearch '11, our all-school talent show, held auditions on Tuesday, March 29 and Thursday, March 31. Over 25 potential acts signed up to audition. This is always a wonderful showcase for our talented students. StarSearch '11 is sponsored by Peer Ministry and the proceeds help fund their training. StarSearch will be Friday, April 29.

The Peer Ministers are working hard to plan for Very Special Arts Day which is on May 6! 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.

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

Guidance Office

9th/10th/11th grades- 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 21. Please check with your student to be certain that this step in the enrollment 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.

In February, over half of the **Juniors** at CCHS took the ACT. Research shows students who take the ACT more than once are more than 50% likely to increase their composite score. **Juniors** are advised to re-register for the June 11th ACT no later than May 6. This test will be given at Catholic Central, but registration must be done through the testing company. Registration can be completed online at www.actstudent.org. We are recommending that students opt for the ACT Assessment With Writing. Some students may want to register for the SAT Reasoning Test, and/or the 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.

Juniors and Seniors- Advanced Placement exams will be administered during the weeks of May 2nd and May 9th. All students who are in AP courses are expected to take the exam(s). The cost per exam is \$86 and should have been billed through tuition contracts.

Families of **Juniors** 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.

Used Uniform Sale

Tuesday, May 24th 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Catholic Central Cafeteria

Drop off your gently used uniforms in the cafeteria starting Monday, May 16th. Bins will be provided. You may donate the proceeds to WE CARE or we will sell them for you for \$2.00 per item. Attach an envelope to each individual item with your name, phone number, and price (only dollar amounts please - no coins!). You can pick up your cash in the office on Tuesday, May 31st. Questions? Call Betsy Pangle at 957-2579 (leave a message)



WE CARE

We Care would like to thank Celeste Dyehouse for her years of service as the chair for the Education Ministry on the We Care steering committee. Through Celeste's guidance and leadership, we have been able to bring some wonderful speakers to talk to our parents about keeping our kids safe. We wish Celeste much success as she and her son move on to their next stage in life.

Get Rid of Those Old Meds, its spring-cleaning time. As long as you are cleaning windows and putting away some of the winter clothes, take a few minutes to clean out the old meds that you do not use any longer. Go through the medicine cabinet of meds you no longer need, and return them to your local pharmacy.

We Care is sad to announce that the after game parties have been suspended due to behavior problems. We will be working with administration and student groups to hopefully restore them in the fall. Look for more details in the future.

The Junior Parent Social that was scheduled for April has been postponed due to the events surrounding the accident of Mary Lefere. We continue to pray for her recovery and asked that you do as well.

Thank you to the VanDiepenbos', Bandlows', and Serbas' for their hard work in chairing the Senior, Sophomore, and Freshman parent socials, and also to those who helped on the events.

Upcoming dates to watch for:

Junior Parents-The organizational meeting for the Class of **2012 Senior All Night Party** will be on **April 27, 7:00 PM** in the Catholic Central cafeteria. This may be your only chance to be on the steering committee of this project. If you can not make the meeting, please let us know and we can pass on your name to the committee chairs. You will also receive a post card reminder in the mail.

Our fall speaker presentation for parents will be on Internet Safety. We are looking at a program called "Pause before Posting". It will be after one of the early football games while the students are at the peer ministry dance. Watch for more information on this very important subject.

Used Uniform Sale will be on Tuesday, May 24 in the Cafeteria from 2:30—5:00pm. Last year's sale was a big success. Gather unused or outgrown CC uniforms and those from graduating seniors. If you would like to help, please contact someone from We Care. (Names and numbers listed below).

Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Parents-Please consider being a part of the steering committee of We Care in the upcoming school year. All it takes is a little bit of your time once a month. We need your ideas and involvement. Please contact someone from the We Care steering committee for more information. They are Russ Armock 531-2595, Laurie Vicari 949-8296, Betsy Pangle 957-2579, Michelle Brady 791-4905, Karen O'Rourke 949-8356, Kathy Barth 742-0173, Betty Ortega-Furgeson 719-1008, and Cathy Lesko 240-2780.

Have a safe and peaceful summer.

God Bless. Russ Armock-President, We Care

The Heart of the City Celebration & Auction



Artwork by Scarlet Wardrop

Thank you!

From the Heart of the City Committee

Christine O'Driscoll

Marie Shea

Patrice Lankfer

Gwen Brennan

The Heart of the City Celebration and Auction was a highly successful event! The gym was transformed, the seats were filled, the goals were met, and a wonderful time was had by all! The new format this year proved successful by meeting all the Heart of the School table needs by the generosity of all those in attendance and the donors to the matching pot. The Heart of the School funds will go directly to the department needs that encompassed everything from music stands, books, document cameras, digital scales, software and more! The live auction was fast paced and energetic and continued the success of the evening. Coach T brought the house down with his "give me a 'C'" cheer and made the transition to the 10 at 10 Party seamless. The event raised over \$90,000 that will directly impact Catholic Central students now and in the future. A special thank you to our students, teachers and volunteers that made this event run so well! It takes many to put together an event. The support and love of this Catholic Central community was felt by all who attended and helped plan the Heart of the City. Next year's event will be held March 10, 2012. If you're feeling the call to help or volunteer, we would love to know and include you in the planning! christineodriscoll@grcss.org

An Evening of Excellence

A Catholic Central Evening of Excellence will be held October 10th, 2011. Please join us for a very special evening to celebrate the inspiring legacy of Sr. Robert Ann Erno as we establish a scholarship in her honor. In addition, a distinguished Catholic Central alumnus or alumnae will be recognized as well as the gifts of a very special friend of Catholic Central via the Murphy's Distinguished Service award. Look for more information to come!

CC BAND



Congratulations to the following High School Students who participated in the State Solo and Ensemble Festival in Holland on Saturday, March 26. Sarah Brasseur, Maggie Weighner, Aaron Schwallier, YooRi Kim, Rosie Cusack, Tim Priest, Ben Miron, Jessica Leon, Andrew Ayers, John Mirandette, Katie Cordes, Michelle Valente, Javier Rodriguez and Kirsten Leon. It takes a lot of hard work to get to the state level – Great work!

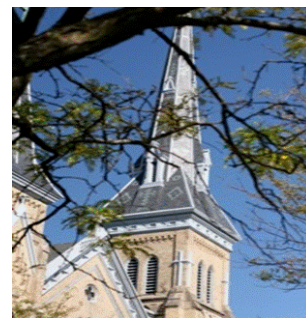


The CC band will be having their final concert of the year on Thursday, April 28th, 7:00pm at St. Cecelia Music Society's Royce Auditorium. We will be honoring our seniors and playing a variety of great music. The concert is free and it is a beautiful space to play and listen, so please join

CC MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

Congratulations to the Capella Choir for their Excellent Rating at the District Choral Festival. The choir will be participating in the State Choral Festival in May. In addition, the Capella Choir will be touring various elementary schools and singing for Confirmation liturgies for the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

Come and hear all our fantastic choirs at the Spring Choral Concert on May 5 at 7:00pm in the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. This is a great concert to attend as we honor and celebrate the Junior and Senior members of our choral ensembles.



The Choral Department is proud to announce the release of a new cd of CC choral music. Our new cd will be available for purchase in early May. Information will be made available through announcements and the CC Facebook page.

Thanks!!