



# School Newsletter

*School Newsletter*  
*August 2011*

## From the Principal's Desk

Dear parents,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family enjoying the pace and the warmth of summer. In the near future we will begin another school year and experience all the excitement it brings. I would like to extend a warm welcome to those of you who are new to the Catholic Central High School community and a "welcome back" to those returning. As much as I've enjoyed having some time away, I am eager to reunite with our students and staff to build upon our success in my new role as Principal.

As an organization, our collective efforts for the 2011-2012 school year will be vast and various, but I'm fully confident we will be pulling in the same direction and focusing on our students' experience. We have broadened and organized positions to lead respective departments in innovation, accountability, and best practices. We have formidable tasks for this year, including implementing our strategic plan, completing our debt management plan, and responding to our school improvement plan. These are, however, opportunities for growth, which elicits both excitement for and pride in our daily work. I know I speak for all the staff when I say we are unified and motivated to begin this year.

I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the changes within the school other than Tom Maj's role as President, who will now oversee external affairs. Brian Flynn is the full-time Dean of Students responsible for student conduct and safe environment. We have two new employees; Jackie Stetson will serve as the full-time Admissions Director, and Sue Passero, who is part-time will provide academic support to our teachers and counselors. Department Heads will remain as immediate supervisors for teachers in their respective departments.

While there is ample information within this newsletter (including important dates), do not hesitate to contact the appropriate person if you have any questions. We thank you for your confidence and support in making a Christ-centered education for your children a priority. I encourage you to join us in continuing to make Catholic Central a vibrant, healthy Catholic school. I wish you many blessings in the upcoming academic year.

Sincerely,

Greg Deja  
Principal

### **Important Phone Numbers**

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



Greg Deja, **Principal**  
Heidi Clark-Smitley, **Director of Guidance**  
Todd Kolster, **Athletic Director**  
Brian Flynn, **Dean of Students**  
Dennis Rybicki, **Campus Minister**  
Mary Ottenwess, **Technology Director**

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# From the Dean of Students

## 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 will be at West Catholic this year for both Catholic Central and West Catholic.**

8/23 - 8/26 noon—6 p.m.

8/27 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

## 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. Students are encouraged to leave phones in the car.
4. Please notify the school by 10 a.m. if your child is absent at 233-5812.
5. Discuss emergency procedures and the school's guest policy with your child.

## Cell phones:

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.

## Student Parking Tags:

**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 9<sup>th</sup> will receive detentions and/or lose driving privileges.

All the best for the new academic year,

Brian Flynn  
Dean of Students

# Returning Faculty

## English Department:

Linda Olejnik (Department Chair), Mary Burns, Faith Marko, Tiffany Marrinan, Mike Nelson, Heather Parr, 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, Robin Plouff, Colette Wermuth

## Science Department:

Julia Schnapp (Department Chair), Leigh Eriks, Brian Farlow, Mary Hanks, Jessica Karl, Cheryl Lambert

## Religion Department:

Robert Kennedy (Department Chair), Robert Hanson, David Koss, Jennifer Quiroz

## World Language:

Sandy Vesbit (Department Chair), Tom Gallagher, Roxanne Hoese, Chris Jones, Cheryl Roede

## Fine Arts Department:

Sara Olson, Ann Reinhard, Dennis Rybicki

## Athletic Department:

Todd Kolster (Department Chair) John Vandenberg

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## Evening of Excellence



Save the Date: Monday, October 10

Please save the date for Catholic Centrals' first ever Evening of Excellence Awards Dinner! This event will celebrate excellence associated with Catholic Central High School. An endowed fund in honor of Sister Robert Ann's commitment to excellence will be established at this event. A limited number of tickets will be available. For more information contact Christine O'Driscoll @ 233-5816 or [christineodriscoll@grcss.org](mailto:christineodriscoll@grcss.org).

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## Suggested School Supplies

- ◆ Binders: 1inch for most subjects, 1/2in for smaller subjects, 1 1/2in for subjects that have a lot of papers (no pockets necessary)
- ◆ Set of five tab dividers: one set for each binder- to be used for notes, homework, handouts, tests/quizzes, and blank paper
- ◆ Reinforcements for binder paper or reinforced binder paper
- ◆ Three-hole punch: desk-size for home and a portable one for student backpack - to be used for handouts, tests/quizzes, review sheets
- ◆ Pencil pouch: made from canvas (plastic break/crack under pressure)
- ◆ Calculator: check w/ Math instructor on first day of classes (most likely scientific or graphing)
- ◆ Stapler, tape, scissors: for study space at home
- ◆ Markers or colored pencils, highlighters, pencils (#2 lead), pens, Big erasers
- ◆ Manila folders: for post-semester storage (consider a file box for storage of folders)



Some teachers may request more specific supplies for their classes. All students will receive a school planner for the 2011-12 year.

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## Orientation Day ~ August 30, 2011

Each class will arrive at a specific time to hear an informational session and to get their locker assignments, parking passes, and school picture. Attendance is mandatory. Students must be in dress code, including hair styles, cleanly shaven, and full uniform. Students not in proper dress will be prohibited from having their school picture taken. Don't forget your class schedule!

<b>Seniors</b>	<b>8 - 9:15 a.m.</b>
<b>Juniors</b>	<b>9 - 10:15 a.m.</b>
<b>Sophomores</b>	<b>10 - 11:15 a.m.</b>
<b>Freshmen*</b>	<b>11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.</b>

\*Following the information session and pictures, Freshmen students will walk through a shortened version of their schedule (8 minute classes) to learn the locations of each class and meet their teachers. Peer ministers will help navigate campus. Lunch will not be provided. **Busses will not run on this day.**

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## A Message From the Guidance Office

**Student schedules for returning upperclassmen** will be posted to the Infinite Campus Portal by the fourth week of August. **Freshmen and new students ONLY** will receive a hard copy by mail. No other schedules will be mailed unless specifically requested. NOTE: *CCHS is not able to accommodate requests for schedule changes*. Students must 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** should begin working on admission applications now and can access Docufide at [www.grwestcatholic.org/academics](http://www.grwestcatholic.org/academics) (see Website Links).

Watch [grcatholiccentral.com](http://grcatholiccentral.com) for information about **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. All parent workshops will be advertised in the **school announcements** online in advance to the date.

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

Tom Shangraw (last names A-G, S-Z) [tomshangraw@grcss.org](mailto:tomshangraw@grcss.org)

Joel Passinault (H-R) [joelpassinault@grcss.org](mailto:joelpassinault@grcss.org)

Heidi Clark-Smitley, Director of Guidance [heidismitley@grcss.org](mailto:heidismitley@grcss.org)

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## New Parent Orientation ~ August 23, 2011

7- 8:30p.m.

Information Session in the gym

Welcome	Greg Deja, Principal
Policies/Procedures	Brian Flynn, Dean of Students
Campus Ministry	Dennis Rybicki
Guidance Department	Heidi Clark-Smitley
Athletics	Todd Kolster, Athletic Director
Student Activities	Mary Hanks
We Care	Russ Armock
Advancement	Christine O'Driscoll

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

- ◆ **9th & 10 grade parent meeting will be Monday, October 24 at 6:30 p.m.**
- ◆ **Financial Aid (FAFSA) info meeting will be Monday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m.**

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# Athletics

## ATHLETICS AUGUST 2011

**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, 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 **2011-2012 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 **25<sup>th</sup> Cougar Golf Open**, a Booster Club fundraiser, is Monday, September 12 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](mailto:mbraun@rwbaird.com) if you would like to participate in any way at this annual Cougar community day of fun.

The **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cougar Fest**, a Booster Club fundraiser, is Saturday, September 24, 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.



### Sport Tickets/Passes:

Catholic Central will offer a COUGAR ALL SPORT PASS for the school year 2011-2012.

This pass will admit you to ALL REGULAR SEASON **HOME** ATHLETIC CONTESTS during the 2011-12 school year. This pass will NOT be accepted at AWAY contests, **the Varsity Football Kick-Off Classic on 8/26 @ East Grand Rapids**, or at any MHSAA sponsored tournament playoff games, etc.

The cost of the COUGAR ALL SPORT PASS for the 2011-12 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 and playoff games.

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\_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT (Football Season Pass) - \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pass list name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ADULT - \$100 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pass list name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY PASS - \$250 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Pass list name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Pass list name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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



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# First Practice For Fall 2011 Sports

**Physical Exam Forms must be on file in the Athletic Office to begin practice for all teams, including Club sports. Students must be registered for classes to participate in pre-season practices.**

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

*Boys Cross-Country:* August 10, Wednesday, 8:30a.m., at The CAT, 2770 Knapp NE, wear running gear. Coach Jackson Fox, 328-2875.

*Girls Cross-Country:* August 10, Wednesday, 8:30a.m., at the CAT, 2770 Knapp NE, wear running gear. Coach Kelly Schipper, 890-9401.

*Football:* August 8, Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> session, Grade 9-12. 7 - 10 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> session, Grade 9-12. 1:30-4:30p.m. CAT, 2770 Knapp. Coach Todd Kolster, 490-0700.

*Girls Golf:* JV and Varsity--August 10, Wednesday, The Mines, 7:30 a.m., Coach: Melanie Loughin, 780-3185.

*Boys Soccer:* First tryout--August 10, Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> session, Grade 9-12. 8 -10 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> session, Grade 9-12. 6 -8 p.m. The CAT, 2770 Knapp. Bring own ball, shin guards, water, shoes. Coach Brian Hughes, 301-5249.

*Girls Swimming:* August 15, Wednesday, 3:20-5:30 p.m, Hunting YMCA Swimming Pool, 475 Lake Michigan Dr. NW, Coach Mio Vasic, 885-6619.

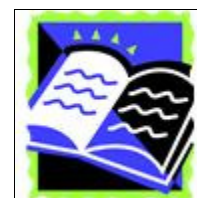
*Boys Tennis:* August 10, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., The CAT, 2770 Knapp. Bring own racquet, jump rope, water bottle, and a light snack. Wear appropriate tennis clothing, including pockets. Coach Pat Williams, 456-9059. Inclement weather report to CAT Concession Bldg. at 8:30 a.m.

*Volleyball:* Tryouts--August 10, Wednesday, CAT Gym, JV/Varsity 1 -3 .pm., Freshmen 4 -6 p.m., Coach Kellee Koncki, 862-0077.

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## Summer Reading ~

Please check the school website [grcatholiccentral.com](http://grcatholiccentral.com) and click on "Announcements/ English Department Summer Reading 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.



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## SUNSHINE UNIFORMS



The Sunshine Uniform Company will be at West Catholic, 1801 Bristol NW in August. They will have uniforms for both **Catholic Central** and **West Catholic** to try on and take home.

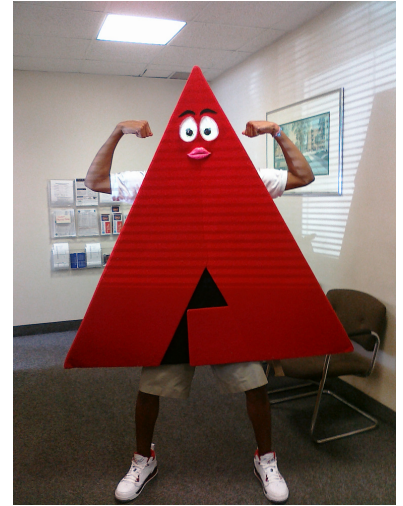
August 23 – 26 from 12 noon – 6 p.m.

August 27 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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## All A's Walk

**The All A's Walk** will kick off on September 9. The All A's Walk raises money for tuition assistance. Each year one out of every four students receives financial aid at Catholic Central. The All A's walk celebrates the Academics, Acceptance, Achievement, Apostles, Arts, Athletics and Attitude at Catholic Central High School that is a part of every student's experience here. The All A's walk is a call to family, community and participation. Each student is asked to practice stewardship by raising \$75 each. Ask your neighbor's or family to sponsor you. Don't forget to ask any Alum you may know to sponsor your efforts. Collecting pop cans in your neighborhood is another great way to raise a quick \$75. When the school reaches its goal the entire student body gets a DAY OFF! In addition, if a student raises \$125, they receive a jeans day. There will be prizes for the team rooms (5<sup>th</sup> hour class room) who raises the most funds, reaches their goal first, and for the most raised per student. The All A's Walk is a HUGE part of our annual fundraising efforts for tuition assistance. THANK YOU for your efforts and for participating in this great tradition! The walk will take place October 5, 2011, starting at Catholic Central and concluding at John Ball Park. Questions or want to volunteer? Contact Christine O'Driscoll at 233-5816 or [christineodriscoll@grcss.org](mailto:christineodriscoll@grcss.org).



Catholic Central High School is moving to a new learning management system called Moodle this fall. In the past teachers and students at CCHS used the Blackboard management system available to us through the Kent Intermediate School District. Due to various reasons such as increased per student cost and some uncertainty of where Blackboard as a whole was headed in the future, the decision was made to install our own Moodle server. Because the server is housed locally we will have much greater control over the setup and access of our Moodle courses. There are many advantages to the Moodle system and we believe this will be the best move for our students and staff. You'll hear more about Moodle soon.

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## Academic Boosters



ACADEMIC BOOSTERS is an informal group of parents who meet monthly with Principal Greg Deja 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 2011-2012 school year are: September 21, October 19, November 16, December 14, January 19, February 15, March 14, April 18. For more information, contact Nancy Moran.

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## WE CARE News

It's not always easy to be a parent of a teenager. All of a 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 educate and 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, and student involvement, host some after game junior/senior events at the CAT. We will try to schedule additional student socials 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, but 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 meetings offers a wealth of first-hand knowledge and support to newer parents at Catholic Central. It is one more way to make high school a positive experience for both you and your child. Our first speaker presentation will be on Sept 9 after the football game. It will be held in the Music Room, while the peer ministry dance is going on in the Cafeteria. The topic will be on internet safety. Michigan State Police is providing a speaker from the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force to instruct parents on how to keep your kids safe on the internet. With a couple of pieces of information, an internet predator can get so much more information on your child. Come and learn ways to prevent it.

We need your help! In the next couple of years most of the officers of We Care will be departing due to graduation. Please join us on the steering committee so this valuable ministry can continue. Also, 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

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## CC Choral Department proudly presents our new CD: Voice of Angels

Featuring music from our 2010-11 choral season, this beautiful new CD features the angelic voices of the Catholic Central Choirs. The CDs will be available from the CC Main Office beginning August 15 for only \$10. All proceeds go to the Catholic Central Choral Department.



## 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.

**Next June (2012), the C.C. Choral Department will be returning to New York City for an exciting concert tour. Choir members and their families are all invited to join us. This will be a busy year for fundraising!!**

Please join us for our kick-off meeting on Thursday, September 15 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 [talagamail@comcast.net](mailto:talagamail@comcast.net).

Hope to see you there!

Dennis Rybicki, Director of Choirs

## Student Congress

Student Congress is looking forward to an exciting year. Each class council will become more active in the school wide service projects in addition to the formal dances. To kick it off, the senior council will be heading off the All A's walk working with Advancement Director Christine O'Driscoll.

Freshmen council will be voted upon in mid-October. Since all of you will be coming from a variety of schools, we like to give you a chance to get to know each other a little bit before you elect class representatives. Because of the various schools coming together as one, Freshmen do not have officer positions, rather, six students are elected as representatives to begin to learn the ropes of student congress and continue to grow as a class. More information will follow as the election date comes closer.

The following students were elected for the 2011-2012 school year:

Position	Senior	Junior	Sophomore
President	Will Barkeley	Steve Jakubowski	Alyzia Dilworth
Vice-President	Mike Church	Sean Mooney	Chiara Licari
Secretary	Alexis Hartman	Stephanie Daum	Angela Rysdyk
Treasurer	Lauren Dewitt	Tori Nienhaus	Monica Blanco
Representatives:	Lindsay Gutting Jorgie Watson	Haley Rosenbach Meghan Wilson	Mwenda Righa Jacob Rizik
Teacher Advisor	Sister Robert Ann Kris DeYoung	Robert Koch	Mary Hanks Cheryl Roede

The above students are a voice for your class. If you have concerns or ideas, please seek them out so they can relay the information at our meetings.

Upcoming events: September 9- All A's Kickoff, October 8- Homecoming Dance. We will be accepting original designs for this year's spirit shirt. Start creating and stay tuned for further information and due dates!

Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary Schools presents

# Our Town

a play in three acts by Thornton Wilder

**October 27, 29 and November 3, 5 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**October 30 and November 6 @ 3 p.m.**

**Aquinas College Performing Arts Center • 616.456.6656**

Box office opens October 17 at noon!

Purchase online at [www.circletheatre.org](http://www.circletheatre.org)

