

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents,

As I write this last newsletter article of the year I want to thank you for the support and prayers that you have given to us throughout the year. Without you Catholic Central High School would not be able to excel in the many areas that we do.

In the national education circles there always seems to be a new idea on how we can better educate our students. Classrooms without walls, Montessori schools, Block scheduling and many other educational ideas that seem to have some merit but do not last as the latest educational fad. Though we do need to be constantly looking for better ways to deliver instruction to our students, what has been at the heart of the academic success at Catholic Central High School has been staying true to the traditional values of education. A challenging and innovative curriculum, hard-working teachers that truly care about kids and high student expectations are all integral parts of the successful academic program at Catholic Central. Add to that a structured school environment that teaches students to be knowledgeable and active members of the Catholic community and we have something in education that is truly special and certainly is not a fad.

Though we can be very proud of the success that we have enjoyed we never want to get complacent and are always looking for ways to tweak the current programs to give our students the absolute best.

In the area of Faith Formation we will be adopting a new Religion curriculum that was developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The change in curriculum will place a greater emphasis on the life of Christ, sacraments, scripture and vocations. All textbooks used in the Religion department will come from an approved list of the U.S. Bishops. We believe that these curriculum changes will help cultivate a strong formation of faith for all of our students as they face the many challenges of our secular world.

In the area of academics the graduation requirements for incoming freshman will increase to include four years of math, three years of science and one year of a Foreign Language. These higher standards reflect the new Michigan state requirements as well as our commitment to prepare our students for college and beyond. In addition to these changes Catholic Central has added some unique and innovative curriculum offerings for the students. After only one year the Science Research class has been a huge success. Students have been involved in research projects ranging from the study of Alzheimer's disease to the study of cosmochemistry. Individuals have been placed with mentors in institutions such as the University of Chicago, the University of Michigan and M.I.T. New elective offerings for the 2007-08 schoolyear include a Pre-Engineering class, a course in Bio-ethics, and A.P. Environmental Science. We also have a committee exploring the possibility of introducing Chinese as a new offering through the Foreign Language department.

In the area of extra-curricular programming the Arts continue to grow as more and more students involve themselves in performing and/or visual art programs. We continue to explore ways to generate funds to support and enhance these programs. In athletics, you will soon see the signs of construction as they begin building the new practice gymnasium out at the CAT. This new indoor facility will benefit all sports teams as a practice facility for indoor sports as well as giving outdoor teams a place to workout during inclement weather. Joining the O.K. Conference beginning the fall of 2008 will enhance the levels of competition for our athletic teams as well as providing some other opportunities to compete in academic areas such as debate and quiz bowl.

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 2007. 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.

Sincerely,

Steve Passinault

PARISH SUPPORT FORM

Below you will find a link to the 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. Please return the Parish Support form to the business office by May 4, 2007.

http://www.grcss.org/business_office/enrollment_forms/ParishSupport.doc

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Prom: May 12, 2007. 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.

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.

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.

Gambling has made an appearance on campus, with "shooting dice" being the preferred game. Participation in any form of gambling on school ground is prohibited. In response to the presence of gambling on campus and the increasing amount of money/property being wagered, school has adjusted the consequences for participation. Students caught participating (playing and/or betting) will face suspension.

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 (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

JETS PROGRAM

The JETS Program is a national organization that encourages high school students to look at different aspects of engineering. Each year NISH, an organization that focuses on helping people with disabilities in the workplace,

teams up with JETS in a national engineering competition. Future engineers from high schools across the nation go through a three tier process to get to the finals in Washington D.C. Around 80 teams began in October of 2006, among them was the Catholic Central Engineering team headed by Phil Le who found the competition on line. By February the team of nine CC students (Phil Le, Becky Malinowski, Greg Mancewicz, Chang Lee, Kurt O'Hearn, Liz Palmer, Elena Buhay, Alan Novak, and Jeff Powers) headed to D.C. to compete in the finals along with four other teams from around the nation. The team presented their AutoGrip and Assisted Motion Booster seat to a panel of judges made up of engineers and people with disabilities. They were awarded 3rd place which includes a \$1500 check for Catholic Central. Hopefully this money will help continue the path already paved by these nine future engineers.



JETS Members (L to R) Greg Mancewicz, Alan Novak, Becky Malinowski, Elena Buhay, Philip Le, Jeff Powers, Kurt O'Hearn, Liz Palmer, Chang Lee

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.

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's performance shows a lack of effort in the last semester 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 new 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 9 ACT no later than May 4. 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 in the Guidance Office, or 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, the forms are available in the Guidance Office, or online at www.collegeboard.com

Families are encouraged to visit college campuses with their junior. Most colleges are happy to accommodate weekend visits for prospective students throughout the spring. Call Admission Offices for times of campus tours and information sessions.

Catholic Central is very pleased to offer our students a new Internet-based college planning program called PrepHQ. During registration, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students were encouraged to create their individual accounts where they can begin to research colleges, scholarships and summer programs. Students also have the ability to track their extracurricular activities and service hours while building their student resume. Beginning with the graduating seniors of 2008, all college applications will be tracked by the Guidance Office through PrepHQ. Parents are encouraged to visit the PrepHQ site (accessible from the home page at www.grcatholiccentral.com) with their student.

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.

ATHLETIC NEWS

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. 2006-2007 Winter season highlights are available on the Sports Hotsheet at www.grcatholiccentral.com.

Coach Alan Kranzo's hockey team had another outstanding year as they won the City League Championship, the Mayor's Cup, the McMichigan Cup, the Regional Championship, and battled hockey power Cranbrook Academy before losing 2-1 in the State Championship game.

Chance Coda (Wrestling) and Adam Janecyk (Hockey) earned **1st Team All-State** honors. Additional hockey honors included Lucas McShosh, Warren Webster, and Kevin Boman earning **2nd Team All-State**, and John Dery received Honorable Mention. **All-City** honors are listed on the Sports Hotsheet.

News from The CAT: Construction will begin this month on the new gym at the CAT. This project, the final phase of the 1997 development plan, will provide a superb practice facility for our students. We are grateful to the members of our community who made this financially possible. While at The CAT during construction, please use caution and follow posted parking and walking signs.

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 2007-2008 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, 2007 or later. Using the Catholic Central physical exam form eases the paperwork for you on this eligibility requirement. Athletic health/physical examinations for the 2007-2008 school year will be held **Wednesday, May 30** 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 13th, (August 6th for football) 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.

CONGRATULATIONS! CATHOLIC CENTRAL HOCKEY TEAM



Back Row : Manager: Andrew Crittenden, Jamie Winn, Lucas McShosh, Jacob Jeffers, Paul Ziemke, Brian Gorski, Chase Banaszak, Tim Kane

Middle Row: Coach Alan Kranzo, Dave Polanic, Dominic Lefere, Mark Koenigs knecht, Kevin Boman, John Dery, Clayton Brackett, Tyler Godfrey, Coach Kurt Romero, Coach Matt Milanowski

Front Row: Chris Foody, Quinn Edwards, Warren Webster, Adam Janecyk, Matt Kane, Adam Schmeider, Brennan Cavanagh

FROM THE CAMPUS MINISTER

Greetings from the Office of the Campus Minister –

His year, our Lenten project was raising money for the Dominicans working in Baghdad . A speaker met with our students on March 21 and explained the work being done . Our Easter Liturgy is April 12.

Peer Ministry Applications became available to sophomores and juniors on March 23. All applications and recommendations must be in by Friday, April 13. 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 6 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 18, 19 , 20 (M, T, W).

We will begin planning for COREX 2007 after Spring break. This includes the choosing of the CORE Team, a representative group of future seniors who will help plan the retreat..

COREX 2008 BEGINS ON SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 11

AND ENDS ON MONDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 13

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 2008.

StarSearch '07, our all-school talent show, held auditions on Thursday, March 22. This is always a wonderful showcase for our talented students. StarSearch '07 is sponsored by Peer Ministry and the proceeds help fund their training. StarSearch will be Friday, May 11.

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 Friday, May 18 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

Do you know where your money goes when you see that movie? Or, buy that medicine? Or, eat at that restaurant? Or, support that non-profit organization? Some of it may go to Planned Parenthood—the nation’s leading abortion provider and the world’s chief abortion advocacy group.

Now there is an organization that tracks corporate donations to Planned Parenthood. It’s called “**Life Decisions International**” and for a small fee you can receive a list of all corporations who have contributed money to Planned Parenthood. Check out their website: www.fightpp.org.

Be informed. Make a difference. If you want more information or have any questions, call Lois Marie Ens 957-9617.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF THE CLASS OF 2009—SAVE THE DATE

Sophomore Parent Party on Friday, May 4—Catholic Central Cafeteria, 7:30-11:00 p.m. Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo and start raising funds for the Class of 2009 graduation party. Any questions or you would like to help, please contact Randi Wilson at 682-9218.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF THE CLASS OF 2008—SAVE THE DATE

It is time to start planning graduation festivities for our kids. The organizational meeting is scheduled for 7:00pm on April 12 at Catholic Central. At that time, the various planning committees will be formed. If you would like to be involved in planning for the all night graduation party of the class of 2008, please plan to attend this meeting or contact Laurie Vicari at 949-8296 **before** April 12 to let her know your interest area.

Look in your mailbox for a reminder postcard of this planning meeting on April 12.
