



CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

School Newsletter

April, May, June 2009

From the Principal's Desk:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

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 and prayers the students of Catholic Central High School have been able to accomplish great things and we still have a quarter to go!

The students of Catholic Central have participated in a Lenten journey together as they have sacrificed together and collected funds for the H2O Project. In addition they have prayed and reflected together daily and will pray the Stations of the Cross together next week. When we return from Spring Break we will celebrate an Easter Liturgy together.

As we move into the fourth quarter it is important that you help your students to 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. A consistent study time at home will help students achieve in the classroom.

Congratulations to our winter sports teams, academic teams, and performing arts groups that competed and performed this winter. There were many outstanding achievements highlighted by the Girl's basketball team bringing us to the state finals for the first time in school history. We appreciate having had the opportunity to see so many talented individuals work together to achieve as teams representing Catholic Central High School. More importantly you represented our school with dignity and class.

I want to thank you for making the Big Blue Auction Event 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. Again, your generosity and commitment to our students is greatly appreciated.

Included in this newsletter is a letter that many of you have already received electronically regarding our CSS grading scale. We are always open to discussion of what is best for our students and will continue to work toward giving them the best education possible but we will not compromise our standards.

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 2009. This class will be remembered fondly for their accomplishments and contributions to the history and tradition of Catholic Central High School! I look forward to celebrating their successes with you in the upcoming months.

As we close out this school year I ask for your continued support and prayers as we strive to educate all of our students in spirit, mind, and body.

Yours in Christ,

Steve Passinault

Important Phone Numbers

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



Steve Passinault, **Principal**
Tom Maj, **Assistant Principal**
Heidi Clark-Smitley, **Director of Guidance**
Todd Kolster, **Athletic Director**
Kathryn Walsh, **Campus Minister**
Mary Ottenwess, **Technology Coordinator**

From the Assistant Principal

Prom: May 9, 2009. Doors open at 6 p.m. All students attending Prom must arrive by 6:45 p.m. Accommodations will be made for athletic conflicts. Students should see me if there is some extenuating circumstance that might prevent them from arriving on time.

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

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

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

**Hard soled dress shoes are required.

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

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

Ladies attire:

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

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

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

**Bare or sheer midriffs are not permitted.

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

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

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

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

We ask that anyone still undecided about attending Catholic Central High School to contact Jack Young at 233.5816 to schedule an appointment.

Sunshine Uniform Co. will be on campus May 26th. & 27th. from 3 p.m. until 8 p.m. Representatives will be on hand to assist you with any clothing needs or questions.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Tom Maj

From the Guidance Office

As the school year moves into the fourth quarter, the guidance counselors are eager to help students at every grade level finalize plans for the next academic year. Students returning to Catholic Central have had the opportunity to meet with their counselor regarding course selection for the next year. The deadline for returning the registration forms was February 27. Please check with your student to be certain that this process has been completed.

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

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

Recently, all **Juniors** at CCHS completed the Michigan Merit Exam and the ACT with Writing. These students can expect to receive their scores later this spring. Research shows students who take the ACT more than once are more than 50% likely to increase their composite score. **Juniors** are advised to register for the June 13th ACT (by early May.) This test will be given at Catholic Central, but the registration form must be completed online at www.actstudent.org. Registration packets for this test are available online at www.actstudent.org. We are recommending that students opt for the ACT Assessment With Writing. Students who are interested in registering for the SAT Reasoning Test can visit www.collegeboard.com. Also, some students may wish to consider taking SAT Subject Tests this Spring. Juniors should talk with their counselors about which tests are appropriate for them. Again, registration is available online at www.collegeboard.com.

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

Campus Ministry

Greetings from the Office of the Campus Minister –

We continue to raise money for our H2O Project which will dig wells to provide clean water for a village in Ethiopia. Students began by drinking water as their primary beverage for two weeks and saving the money they would have spent on other drinks. After that they embarked on a “Penny Wars” competition. The total amount raised will be compiled after Lent. We prayed the Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 3. Our Easter Liturgy is Thursday, April 16.

Peer Ministry Applications became available to sophomores and juniors on March 30. All applications and recommendations must be in by Monday, April 20. 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 3 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 (dates to announced later).

We took Core Team applications on March 27. Core Team is a representative group of future seniors who will help plan the senior retreat, COREX 2010. We hope to announce the Core Team right after Spring Break. And so will begin the planning for COREX 2010.

COREX 2010 BEGINS ON SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 15
AND ENDS ON MONDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 17

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 2010.

StarSearch '09, our all-school talent show, held auditions on Wednesday, March 25 and Thursday, March 26. Over 35 potential acts signed up to audition. This is always a wonderful showcase for our talented students. StarSearch '09 is sponsored by Peer Ministry and the proceeds help fund their training. StarSearch will be Friday, May 8.

The Peer Ministers are working hard to plan for Very Special Arts day on May 1. 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

Athletics

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

What a **GREAT** day to be a Cougar! Congratulations to our Winter season student-athletes, coaches, and parents. We had our first two OK-Conference Championships in school history! Girls Basketball won the OK-Gold outright and the Boys Basketball Team had a great late season run to share the OK-Gold Conference Title. Some of the winter sport season highlights:

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Cougar's season ended at the State Championship. CC won our first ever OK-Gold Conference Championship, won the District and Regional Championship, and finished 27-1 for the season. CC had its first ever undefeated regular season in school history finishing 20-0. Congratulations to Coach Colleen Lamoreaux-Tate and the players.

COMPETITIVE CHEER: The CC Cheer Team had a great year making it all the way to the State Finals. Under the leadership of Coach Tara Hickey, the team battled all the way through Districts and Regionals to become one of only eight teams in the state to make it.

BOWLING: The Boys and Girls Bowling team finished strong this season. The Boys Team placed second in the region, which earned them their first ever trip to the Team State Finals! Henry Huvaere had a great showing in the Individual State Tournament as well. Congratulations to Coach Bob Lomonaco and Coach Kathy Barth.

WRESTLING: CC had a great season under the great senior leadership and new Head Coach Nick Lewin. The Cougars won the Team Wrestling District Championship and had five wrestlers go to individual Regional championships. Jordan Milanowski qualified for the state individual tournament and paved the way for many more to come.

Thank you to all that came out to celebrate the Big Blue Auction. It was a great success and we look forward to making this an even bigger and better event next year.

NEW!! - ATHLETE TRAINING: In the always changing world of competitive sports, we are constantly looking at ways to better our student-athletes experience here at Catholic Central. Trying to keep busy schedules, health and safety concerns, emotional development and school spirit in mind we are going to develop an all sports training program. The program will consist of In-season and Off-season training for all of our student-athletes **Together**. I will be sending out more information on this as we look to start this program later this spring.

PHYSICALS!! State and local regulation requires an annual physical exam to participate in school sports activity. For the 2009-2010 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, 2009 or later. Using the Catholic Central physical exam form eases the paperwork for you on this eligibility requirement. Athletic health/physical examinations for the 2009-2010 school year will be held **Wednesday, May 27** at school, 5:30-7:00pm. Forms are available in the school athletic office or under the student life section of our web-site. 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. Remember, that getting a physical at CC gets it over with and the proceeds from it will be used to help pay for medical supplies for the next year.

Spring is here!!! Come out and watch the Cougars in action. The Spring Sports schedule is available at www.greatholicecentral.com. **AND YOU CAN PURCHASE YOUR SPRING SPORTS PASSES IN THE ATHLETIC OFFICE** (Forms attached).

Summer Sports Camps for young athletes are being scheduled by several of our coaches and will be on our web-site soon!

PARISH SUPPORT FORM

Our parishes require a new Parish Support Form to be completed for each school year, for families that will be receiving parish support. This form is also available online at www.gcatholiccentral.org (under Central Office, Business Office, Forms). Please return the Parish Support form to the business office by May 1, 2009.

WE CARE

We Care would like to thank **Dr. Kathy Lewis Ginebaugh** for her time and expertise she shared with us on the topic of **Bullying and Cyber-Bullying on March 25th**. The information she gave to our parents should help them recognize and act on this very important problem our teens face today.

This is the last in our speaker series for this year. If any parents have ideas on topics for next year, please let someone on the We Care steering committee know. For those of you that could not attend the meeting on bullying, there are handouts in the main office, as well as a CD PowerPoint presentation from that night. Also, there is still a DVD available for check out in the office on the speaker from last fall on Teen Depression and Suicide.

Along that line...the We Care steering committee is losing 3 members to graduation and is in need of replacements. Everyone is welcome. This does not require a whole lot of your time. We need someone with ideas and a willingness to help keep our kids safe and make their time at CC better. This is YOUR parent organization. If you have a child enrolled here, YOU are a member of this organization. So often, senior parents tell us that when they look back on their son's or daughter's time at Catholic, they wish they had gotten involved more. Well, here is your chance. Without some parents willing to step up and help, this much-needed ministry can not continue. Please join! Contact the officers listed below for more information.

Upcoming dates to watch for:

Junior Parents-The organizational meeting for the **2010 Senior All Night Party** will be on **April 22, 7:00 PM** in the Catholic Central cafeteria. This will 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.

Freshman Parents- Please plan on attending the **Freshman Parent Happy Hour!**

Friday April 17, 5:00-8:00 PM in the CC Café. Wine Sampling Provided by The Crushed Grape. Appetizers, Cash Bar, and Music. Cost is \$15/person or \$25/couple in advance, \$20/\$30 at the door. RSVP and Send payment by March 27 to: Patty Hudson – 1550 Pinnacle East, SW – Wyoming MI, 49509, 257-8665. Checks payable to: CC Class of 2012.

Used Uniform Sale- A **Used Uniform Sale** will take place at CC in the Gym Lobby on **May 21st** from 2:00—7:00 pm. This will be a great way to exchange or sell uniforms that no longer fit, or pick up clothes for next year. Bobbi Stevens is heading up the sale, and if you would be interested in helping her please contact her at 957-3355. Look for more details to follow.

Once again, please consider being a part of the steering committee of We Care. We need your ideas and involvement. Contact the We Care officers for more information. They are Russ Armock 531-2595, Laurie Vicari 949-8296, Wendy Wooden 454-2142 and Kim Cook 897-9913.

Sincerely,

Russ Armock-We Care Chair

SENIOR ALL NIGHT PARTY

Dear CC Senior Parents,

Graduation Day on May 19 is fast approaching, and so is the Senior All-Night Party! Thank you for attending the parent meeting on Jan. 21. If you were unable to attend and still need to return the required forms and check for \$75, please do so as soon as possible.

Forms and payment - Send completed forms and check for \$75 made out to "CC Senior All-Night Party" to Susan Rysdyk, 1921 Chateau Drive, Wyoming, MI 49519. Extra forms are available at the CC main office. If you have any questions, please contact Amy or Bill DeWitt at 616.534.8398 or by email at bakldewitt@hotmail.com.

If cost is an issue, please know that we have funds set aside to help students attend the party! Contact Amy or Bill for more information. These are tough economic times - it is OK to ask - and your request will be kept absolutely confidential.

Spring Garage Sale April 24-25 to raise money for the party! - The sale will be at the home of the Berlin Family, and we have several other families whose garages will serve as "drop-off" sites.

IMPORTANT: Contact Mary Beth Underhill at 616.538.2068 or via email at underhill5726@sbcglobal.net for drop-off information and times. We start collecting items on April 13 and would like all items to be donated by April 22. Sale prep takes place April 23. Many volunteers will be needed on April 23 and on the actual days of the sale, April 24-25. We'll also need tables, tents, and tarps to display and cover items for the sale. Anyone is welcome to donate and/or help out - not just senior parents. Spread the word!

Donations - Thank you to those who have already donated to our party! We are still seeking donations. Could you - or your company - send a cash donation to help us meet our budget and also to help out students who will need financial assistance with attending the party? Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to Matt & Mary Beth Underhill, 5726 Bethanne Dr SW, Grandville, MI 49418. Please make checks payable to "CCHS Class of 2009."

Gift cards - We're seeking \$5 gift cards (Starbucks, Target, Schuler Books, gas cards, etc.) for one of the All-Night Party activities. Send your gift card donations to Mary Beth Underhill (see above address) or drop them off at the school office.

Do you know any junior parents who want to help? - Each year, the senior parents "train" some junior parents for next year's party. We also are seeking junior parents to assist with bag check-in before the students board the buses. If you know a junior parent who would like to be involved, contact Bill or Amy DeWitt at 616.534.8398.

Food, pop, water, juice - If you can donate food or beverages for the party, please contact Lisa or Tim Kernosky at dearmrsk@yahoo.com or 616.534.0799.

Photos of your student by April 15 for the class video! - We need your favorite photos of your son's or daughter's years at Catholic Central for a DVD we're creating, to be shown at the All-Night Party. We're looking for about 10 photos per student. Digital photos on CD preferred. Mail to: Gretchen Tierney, 2910 Alger SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Or, email your photos to Paul Soltysiak at psoltysiak@gilsongraphics.com. Max of 5MB per email.

Thanks for all of your help!

The Senior All-Night Party Planning Committee

PARISH SUPPORT FORM

Our parishes require a new Parish Support Form to be completed for each school year, for families that will be receiving parish support. This form is available online at www.grcatholiccentral.org (under Central Office, Business Office, Forms). Please return the Parish Support form to the business office by May 1, 2009.

World Record Breaking Carwash

The plan is to have students, staff and parents from Catholic Central and West Catholic participate in this FREE carwash. We will attempt to break the current Guinness World Record of 3,844 cars washed in an 8-hour time period. Our goal is to wash 4,000 cars, or realistically 3,845! Only 300 people may participate in the actual event. Those people will be the world record holders. Prior to the carwash, students are asked to solicit pledges and/or donations to raise money for tuition assistance and local building needs. Each student is asked to raise \$80 or comparably 2 cents per car. The actual car wash is free, there is potential for donations from those attending on April 25th.

The kickoff for the fundraising will be held on April 1, with packets distributed to students on that day. The first turn-in date is April 14.

When: April 25, 2009 from 8 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Where: The Deltaplex (2500 Turner NW)

Who: 300 students, staff and parents on the day of the event. ALL students and staff will be involved in raising money for the fundraiser. All who bring in money will receive a commemorative t-shirt. Our official website and the location that will allow outside donations is:

worldrecordcarwash.com

Please encourage all of your friends and family to bring their cars to be washed on the 25th.

We will, also, need old towels for rags, as well as buckets. If you can help, please bring to the school office.

Save the Date ~ Freshman Parent Party

Freshman Parent Happy Hour!

Friday night April 17 from 5:00—8:00 pm in the CC Café

Wine Sampling Provided by **The Crushed Grape**

Appetizers, Cash Bar, and Music \$15/person or \$25/couple in advance, \$20/\$30 at the door

RSVP and Send Payment by March 27 to:

Patty Hudson – 1550 Pinnacle East, SW

Wyoming Mi, 49509, 257-8665

Checks payable to: CC Class of 2012





CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

319 Sheldon SE Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Ph. 616-233-5898

Fax 616-459-0257

Dear Catholic Central Supporters,

We would like to offer you the opportunity to come out and support all the Catholic Central Athletic Programs. With the tough economic times and the rising costs of ticket prices for events, we want to provide you with a cost saving Sports Pass for the 2009 Spring Season . We have broken our sports passes down by: Adult or Student All Sports Passes, Family Passes - with several combinations accommodating different family sizes and Individual Sports Passes. Cougar athletics have a long and proud tradition and we hope you choose to take part in this opportunity to save some money and get out and enjoy the games.

Cost Breakdown: Passes exclude All MHSAA events and All away events

All Sports Adult Pass - \$35

All Sports Student Pass - \$30

All Sports Family Pass - \$100 (2 Adults/2 Children), \$115 (2 Adults/3 Children), \$125 (2 Adults/4 Children)

Baseball Season Pass - \$24

Girls Lacrosse Season Pass - \$24

Boys Lacrosse Season Pass - \$24

Girls Soccer Season Pass - \$30

Softball Season Pass - \$15

Tennis Season Pass - \$21

We hope this will be a cost effective way to provide the support that all of our teams greatly deserve. All of the passes take into account the amount of home contests for Fr/JV/Varsity for each sport. If you purchase a pass they are good for all levels of the specific sport (ex. Baseball Season Pass - is good for all home FR, JV and Varsity games). Please support us by completing the form below and sending it with the type of pass you would like to purchase and how many you would like. Please include the name you want on each pass. Thank You and GO COUGARS!!

DETACH AND RETURN

Please make checks payable to "Catholic Central Athletic Dept." Send to:

Athletic Office, CCHS, 319 Sheldon SE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49503.

Person(s) name on the pass: _____

Type of Spring Pass:_____ How Many:_____

Type of Spring Pass:_____ How Many:_____