

News Briefs

Catholic Central High School

2010 Calendar year

Catholic Central Students Deliver Gifts to Area Families in Need - 1/7/2010

The halls were alive with Christmas Carolers, laughter, smiles and giving hearts on Friday, December 18, 2009. Each year at Christmas time, students, staff and faculty along with their families gather many, many gifts to deliver to area families in need.

The joy this creates for these young givers is evident on their faces. Toys, clothing, household items and more are brought to the school, wrapped and loaded into cars of the parents of these students who volunteer their time to deliver the gifts. But don't be fooled. Those receiving the gifts are most certainly gracious and happy to receive, especially in these hard times, however, I wonder if the students and staff at Catholic Central are the ones receiving the best gift of all.

After all, it was Jesus himself that taught us that giving is better than receiving. May we all take a moment to appreciate all the times we have been given the opportunity to give as it creates a sense of joy that one cannot find anywhere else.



[Pictures of Students Wrapping and Delivering Gifts](#)

Catholic Central Fall Sports Highlights - 1/11/2010

Boys/Girls Cross Country: The Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams had great seasons. They were both in the OK-Gold Conference race for most of the year. The Boys Cross

Country team qualified for the Division 2 State Finals and the girls came up just short of qualifying. The teams were coached by Mrs. Kelly Schipper and Mr. Jackson Fox.

Girls Golf: The Girls Golf team finished a great first season under new leadership. The team really improved over the course of the season with several new faces leading the way. The team was coached by Mrs. Melanie Loughin.

Boys Soccer: The Boys Soccer team completed a tough regular season schedule on their way to a District Tournament run that ended in the Finals to Grand Rapids Christian. The team had many different line ups battling injury and illness, but finished the season strong. The team was coached by Mr. John Matlak.

Football: The Football team made the playoffs for the second straight year. The team finished the regular season with a 5-4 record, qualifying for the Division 4 playoffs. The team was coached by Mr. Tim Rogers.

Volleyball: The Volleyball Team had a great first year under new leadership. The program started to gel towards the end of the season only to come up short in the District Tournament. The program took a lot of steps forward for the future. The team was coached by Mrs. Michelle Morrow.

Girls Swimming: The Girls Swimming team had a strong season under a new coach. The team took 2nd place in the OK-Rainbow Conference. Many of the girls had strong finishes and we had 10 swimmers qualify for the State Meet. The team was coached by Mr. Adam Vera.

Boys Tennis: The Boys Tennis team had a great season ending in the state finals. The boys finished second place in the OK-Gold Conference and qualified for the State Tournament as a Team. The team was coached by Mrs. Pat Williams.

Fall 2009 1st Team All OK-Gold Team:

Dominic Ens – Football

Nathan Lowe – Football

Dan Quinn – Football

Maggy Lawrence – Volleyball

Jorgie Watson – Swimming

Kristine Craven – Swimming

Nick Ellis – Tennis

Andrew Jakubowski – Tennis

Andrew Mooney – Tennis

Drew Morley – Tennis

J.P. Rizik – Soccer

Ben Ertl – Soccer

Allison Danhoff – Girls Cross Country

Geoff Albaugh – Boys Cross Country

Congratulations to all our student-athletes on a fine, fall season!

Catholic Central Debate Team Wins Class B State Tournament - 1/13/2010

The Catholic Central Debate Team won the Class B state tournament. After finishing as semi-finalists last year, the team was exhilarated to find themselves hoisting the championship trophy this year.

After going 2-1 in the preliminary rounds, the stage was set for Catholic Central to argue in support of changing the federal poverty line to more accurately measure poverty in the United States against Hamilton High School who had prepared a barrage of disadvantages and solvency attacks. The one and a half hour debate came down to the wire with a fifteen minute judges' deliberation before the decision. In the end, careful analysis of topicality arguments coupled with the strength of the advantages of the plan, helped ensure the victory for Catholic Central.

This year, the team welcomed back returning Varsity debaters: **John Capodilupo** (Captain), **Kathryn Luczek** (Captain), **Luke Lowing** and **Matt Ellis**. Returning and new Novice debaters are **Andrew Chiari**, **Francis Mboko**, **Kevin Zoellner**, **Kaleigh Fields**, **Rachel Najjar**, **Tim Kane**, **Quinn Edwards**, **Amelia Kimbro** and **Caroline Liske**. The team that represented Catholic Central at the state finals included John Capodilupo, Kathryn Luczek, Luke Lowing, and Kevin Zoellner. The debate team is coached by Mikki Soltis, English teacher. Congratulations to the team for their hard work and Victory!



Catholic Central Students Participate in the March for Life - 2/8/2010

In late January, Catholic Central students, parents and teachers traveled by bus to Washington, DC for the 37th annual March for Life.

This group was a part of a record crowd. Unofficial estimates ranged from 250,000 to 400,000 people who came out to support our right to life. Patrick Kniebel, a senior at Catholic Central said, "Seeing all of D.C. and the monuments was neat, but seeing how many people turned out to support our right to life and protest abortion was really cool." The rally and march attracted people of all races and ages. As they marched along the streets, many on-lookers and supporters

lined the sidewalks. The march ran north on 7th Street to Constitution Avenue, then east along Constitution Avenue to 1st Street NE, then south on 1st Street NE to the Supreme Court. Patrick noted how impressive it was to walk along the important buildings and historic locations which making his and Catholic Central's voice heard. This event provided a great example of what our students at Catholic Central are all about.



[CC Students March for Life 2010](#)

Catholic Central Students Named Gerald R. Ford Museum Essay Contest Finalists - 2/15/2010

CC freshmen, **Sara DenBraber** and **Caroline Poole**, and CC sophomores, **Lindsay Gutting** and **Will Barkeley**, have been named finalists in this year's President Gerald R. Ford Student Essay Challenge. They are four of only eighteen finalists chosen from hundreds of essays submitted from high school students from throughout West Michigan, and will be recognized at a ceremony at the museum on February 15th. This year's topic was "The Meaning of Courage Today" Their essays will be published on-line on the *Grand Rapids Press Newspapers in Education* and the *Gerald R. Ford Museum* websites.

Catholic Central Senior Named Finalist of the 69th annual Intel Science Talent Search - 2/26/2010

Catholic Central High School senior **John Capodilupo** has been named one of 40 finalists to compete at the Intel Science Talent Search 2010, America's oldest and most prestigious pre-college science competition.

"I am very excited that I was selected as a finalist," John stated. "It certainly is a great honor and I was quite shocked when I received the phone call letting me know that I was a finalist!"

However, for me and, I am positive, for the rest of the applicants, our primary concern is not the contest. Instead, what motivates us is the science we are doing. While it is nice to be recognized,

I thoroughly enjoy doing my research, and the drive to discover is a direct result from the awesome, and often times, surprising things I learn!”

A member of Catholic Central’s innovative Science Research Seminar, John computed detailed statistics on the clustering of galaxies. His study anticipates a time when cosmologists will use 21 cm electromagnetic waves, emitted by hydrogen when the universe was young (less than a billion years old), to learn more about the structure and evolution of the early universe. John conducted a cluster analysis of objects observed in a very large-array sky survey that will be useful in removing extragalactic foreground “noise” that would otherwise obscure the signal. His clustering analysis is the first such study conducted in a frequency relevant to the detection of the 21cm signal, and his findings are reported in a paper he co-authored, “Clustering at 74MHz,” which has been submitted to *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*. John hopes to continue his studies at MIT or Princeton.

Finalists will gather in Washington, D.C. from March 11-16 to compete for \$630,000 in awards. The top winner will receive \$100,000 from the Intel Foundation. “This year’s finalists are truly inspiring and they reaffirm our belief that programs like the Intel Science Talent Search foster a passion for math and science, subjects that are the foundation of the innovation that is the key to America’s future success,” said Shelly Esque, V.P. of Intel’s Corporate Affairs Group.

Steve Passinault, Principal of Catholic Central High School, stated “John Capodilupo is a wonderful example of a student who has taken the God-given intellectual gifts that he has been blessed with, and has developed them to their fullest. His work and achievement in the science research program has helped put Catholic Central on the map nationally and is helping CC students get recognized at some very prestigious universities across the country including the Ivy League schools. It is a tribute to Andy Moore who started the program and to Leigh Eriks who is continuing to help students achieve great things within the program.”

Society for Science & the Public (SSP), a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to public engagement in scientific research and education, has owned and administered the Science Talent Search since its inception in 1942. This year marks Intel’s 12th year sponsoring the program.

“Through their independent research that tackles some of the most challenging scientific issues of our time, these 40 finalists are preparing themselves to be the leaders of tomorrow,” said Elizabeth Marincola, president of SSP. “We congratulate these young innovators on their extraordinary achievements and welcome them into the prestigious fold of the Science Talent Search, now in its 69th year.”

Catholic Central High School, established in 1906, has an enrollment of 782 students and is located at 319 Sheldon SE, in Grand Rapids.



Catholic Central Freshman Coordinating Blood Drive - 3/29/2010

Catholic Central students not only receive an excellent academic education, but they also receive an education in generosity, kindness and service from both the CC staff and their CC classmates.

Catholic Central High School freshman **Sara Den Braber** has been featured in a *Grand Rapids Press* article about how she is helping others while battling a chronic bleeding condition. Sara is coordinating a blood drive at St. Thomas the Apostle parish and elementary school.

Sara has Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP). It's a bleeding condition that affects about 3000 children younger than 16 annually. Its victims' immune systems destroy platelets required for normal blood clotting. Presently, Sara cannot participate in sports. So far, medical treatments have only offered temporary relief. However, Sara is not immersing herself in self-pity. She's getting Straight As, taking honors classes and mentoring fifth-graders who belong to her "Challenge" group. She's an inspiration to her classmates!

Sara has taken a challenge in her life and made it a blessing for others. The blood drive that Sara is coordinating will be held on April 24 from 9:00am until 2:00pm. If you would like to set up an appointment to donate blood, send your name, phone number, email address and preferred time to donate to: sdenb18@yahoo.com.

To get the whole story, please see the wonderful article by Tom Rademacher of the *Grand Rapids Press*, by clicking the following link:

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/03/you_would_never_know_grand_rap.html.



Sara and her classmates

Catholic Central Choir News - 4/26/2010

Congratulations to the Concert Choir and Capella Choir for receiving excellent ratings at the District Choral Festival on February 26. The Capella Choir is participating in the State Choral Festival competition in Hudsonville, April 27-29.

We hope to carry on the tradition of fine choral performances again this spring.

The Choral Department proudly returns to Italy and Vatican City this summer for the third time. Over 140 students, parents and other pilgrims will be joining this musical pilgrimage to the center of our Catholic faith in late June. The CC Choir has the distinct honor of singing in a Papal Mass with His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, on June 29 as well as being an official ambassador to our sister city of Perugia. The choir will be presenting concerts in historic churches in Assisi, Perugia and Rome. We will be offering masses and prayers for the Catholic Central community while we are in Italy. There will be a Farewell Concert on **June 6** at 2:00pm in the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. All are welcome to this free concert to send off our fine choir.

The Choral Department proudly presents our Spring Concert on Thursday, **May 6** at 7:00pm in the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. All are welcome to attend this free concert. This last concert of the academic year is a favorite for many as it highlights the beautiful choral music prepared for the Easter season.

Come out for a fun evening of music and fellowship in support of choir members attending our choir pilgrimage to Italy. The Catholic Central Cabaret will be held on **May 22-23** at Fenian's Pub in Conklin, MI. Tickets are \$10.00 at the door. The performances begin at 7:00pm. Come out and support our wonderful choir members!

Catholic Central Seniors Present Papers at the Junior Science and Humanities Symposia (JSHS) Regional Competition - 4/26/2010

The Junior Science and Humanities Symposia (JSHS) Program invites high school students

to submit a paper on an original research investigation in the sciences, engineering or mathematics.

By connecting talented students, their teachers and research professionals at affiliated symposia and by rewarding research excellence, JSHS aims to widen the pool of trained talent prepared to conduct research and development vital to our nation.

JSHS is sponsored by the research arm of the Department of Defense and administered in cooperation with nationwide colleges and universities. JSHS aims to prepare and support students to contribute as future scientists and engineers -- conducting STEM research on behalf of or directly for the Department of Defense, the Federal research laboratories, or for the greater good in advancing the nation's scientific and technological progress.

Seniors **John Capodilupo, Andrew Jakubowski, Thomas Kennedy, Kathryn Luczek, Louie Moran** and **Kristyna Nunzio** submitted papers to the regional competition and all were invited to present their papers in the regional competition March 25 – 26. John Capodilupo was awarded first place and invited to present his paper at the National Symposium in Bethesda Maryland April 28 – May 2. He was also awarded a \$2,000 scholarship.

Catholic Central Juniors Write Award-Winning Essays in an Annual Contest Sponsored by the Economics Club of Grand Rapids - 4/29/2010

Four Catholic Central juniors were among the 14 area students who wrote award-winning essays for an annual contest hosted by the Economics Club of Grand Rapids. **Ellie DenBraber, Megan Jones, Margaret Miles** and **Matthew Wallick** all wrote the essays as an assignment for their Advanced Placement Language and Composition course, taught by Mary Burns.

This year's topic asked students to consider the "Advantages and Disadvantages of Public Funded Healthcare." During the April 19 luncheon, DenBraber was named the second place winner, which earned her \$750. Jones, Miles and Wallick all placed third, with each taking home \$200. Due to the club's awards match program, Catholic Central received \$1350 to support economics instruction within the school.

CC Senior Wins Prestigious Roger B. Chaffee Memorial Scholarship - 4/29/2010

Kathryn Luczek, class of 2010, is the winner of the 2010 Roger B. Chaffee Memorial Scholarship.

The \$2,500 Chaffee award goes annually to a top graduating senior in West Michigan planning on a career in engineering, math or the sciences relating to space technology. Kathryn is headed to the University of Michigan, where she plans to major in aeronautical and astronautical engineering, and then consider a space research career.

"I want to set up a lunar colony and do research that could send more people into space, because one day there's not going to be enough room for all the people on Earth," Luczek said. Kathryn has also been accepted at Carnegie Mellon and Rose Hullman. When asked about her award, Kathryn comments "It's a prestigious award, it's very exciting." Her chemistry teacher, Leigh Eriks, says "We have had many students apply for this award. Kathryn is our first one to win." In her letter of recommendation, Leigh Eriks also notes "Kathryn is a creative problem solver, tenacious learner and a courageous young woman." Kathryn's Physics teacher, Jeanine Gasper, comments that "She is comfortable in her love of math and science and it is rare to see students who love these two areas of academia and share that passion with everyone around them." Congratulations Kathryn. We are very proud of you!

Rick Wilson of the *Grand Rapids Press* wrote a great article about Kathryn winning this award.

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/04/roger_b_chaffee_memorial_schol.html

A Polite Young Lady and Tough as Nails on the Ice! - 5/19/2010

Olivia Brackett, senior at Catholic Central High School, is a polite young lady who's outgoing and has a great sense of humor. Olivia is also tough as nails on the ice. Olivia has been playing in a woman's hockey league for over 4 years. Her love for hockey inspired her to look to the leagues in the Detroit area, and her loving parents have been transporting Olivia back and forth for four years. The commitment to hockey has paid off. Olivia was part of the team, Forward Left Wing to be precise, that won the State Championship this year and went on to the National Competition where they lost only by 1 point. Olivia's talent has allowed her to work her way through the ranks as well. She started out playing 14U, then 16U and now on the 19U team, which means Olivia is playing at college level, while attending Catholic Central High School. Olivia has been accepted to Quinnipiac University in New Haven, Connecticut. Congratulations Olivia!

Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary Schools Announces New Administrative Structure/Principal for West Catholic and Catholic Central High Schools - 5/20/2010

Grand Rapids, Mich, May 20, 2010 - Rev. R. Louis Stasker, Pastor/President of the Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary Schools announced the realignment of the administrative structure for West Catholic and Catholic Central High Schools which will take place at the conclusion of this school year.

The new structure calls for one principal for both West Catholic and Catholic Central High Schools. In addition, each school will maintain an assistant principal who will have redefined and enhanced responsibilities. Individual department heads will assume appropriate responsibilities for the faculty in their departments.

"We continually seek ways to strengthen our Catholic high schools so we can provide our young people with a vital and viable education in the context of our Catholic faith," said Father Stasker. "These changes will streamline our administrative structure providing for more effective implementation of programs and policies across the two schools."

Father Stasker appointed Mr. Tom Maj to assume the role of principal of the two schools. Mr. Maj is the current principal of West Catholic and served as assistant principal for Catholic Central for 10 years.

"It is an honor to be appointed to this new position as principal of both of our Catholic high schools. I look forward to building upon the faith foundation and academic success which are an inherent part of Catholic Central and West Catholic High Schools," said Maj.

Maj earned his master's of education from Grand Valley State University; his teacher's certification from Central Michigan University; and his bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati. Maj, his wife and daughter reside in Rockford and are members of the parish at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew.

Mr. Steve Passinault, who has served Catholic Central for 17 years, 12 of those years as principal of the school, was offered a position in the organization.

"Steve has a strong commitment to Catholic school education," said Father Stasker. "We are grateful to Mr. Passinault for his leadership."

For more than a century, Catholic Central and West Catholic High Schools have provided academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment. Catholic Central, located at 319 Sheldon Blvd. SE, and West Catholic, located at 1801 Bristol Ave. NW, have current enrollments of 782 and 582 students respectively.

[To view the complete Press Release, please click here.](#)

Good Times at CC's Annual Heartside Neighborhood Hot Dog Cookout - 5/28/2010

On May 25th, The Principal's Advisory Council hosted Catholic Central's annual Heartside Neighborhood Hot Dog Cookout.

Everyone was invited to join in for a hot dog and fellowship with our Heartside neighbors. A group of welcoming students help pass out hot dogs, chips, cookies and more with smiling faces. Heartside neighbors, faculty and some parents stopped by for a quick lunch and a chat with those that share our community. The Catholic Central band, directed by Ann Reinhard, added flavor to the afternoon by providing fun music enjoyed by all.





CC Language Students Attain State and National Recognition - 5/11/2010

Congratulations to several world language students from Catholic Central High School who attained state and national recognition for excellent performance on their language examinations.

To see a complete listing of students who achieved honors and awards, please click on the following link.

[Listing of World Language Students' Honors](#)

Congratulations to all of our world language students!

Todd Kolster is Named the New Catholic Central Football Coach - 5/28/2010

Catholic Central High School has named Todd Kolster to lead the Cougar Football program. Coach Kolster is the current Director of Athletics at Catholic Central. He has a solid history of coaching experience. Kolster was a member of the Grand Valley State University football coaching staff for seven years (2001-2008), including three years tutoring the running backs and four years as the offensive coordinator / quarterbacks coach. During his tenure as offensive coordinator, GVSU ranked among the GLIAC leaders in every offensive category and his offense featured the ability to “grind it out” or score via the big play.

He states, “I am very excited to take over a program with the history and tradition of Catholic Central. I look forward to expanding my role even further within our great school and community.”

Prior to joining the GVSU staff, Kolster was the defensive coordinator at East Grand Rapids for one year. Todd was the defensive line coach at his alma mater, Hope College, for three years. He played four years of football on the defensive line for Hope.

Kolster graduated from Hope College with a degree in Physical Education / Kinesiology-Communications and received his Master's degree in Adult and Higher Education from Grand Valley State University. Todd, his wife, Kim, and their one-year-old son, Kane, reside in Allendale.

Catholic Central Welcomes the Class of 2014 - 5/4/2010

The Catholic Central Community Welcomes the Freshman Class of 2014. To view the list of our newest Cougars to date, please click here.

We continue to accept Applications for Admission. For more information, please contact our Advancement Director, Christine O'Driscoll at 616-233-5816 or christineodriscoll@grcss.org.

Come join our Cougar family!

Catholic Central Seniors Graduate, Receive Honors - 5/28/2010

On Wednesday, May 19, 2010, the 169 seniors of the Class of 2010 received diplomas in the graduation ceremonies held at Catholic Central High School.

The ceremonies began with a Baccalaureate Mass at the Cathedral of St. Andrew. The principal celebrant and homilist was Bishop Walter Hurley, with Pastor/President Fr. R. Louis Stasker and local pastors and assistant pastors as concelebrants.

The Commencement and conferral of diplomas took place in the Catholic Central Gymnasium. Both Pastor/President Fr. R. Louis Stasker and Principal Steve Passinault addressed the graduates. Valedictorian **John Capodilupo** and Salutatorian **Andrew Mooney** also gave speeches. Diplomas were then awarded by Bishop Hurley and the graduates' pastors. Congratulations Graduates!

The senior class received a total of **\$6,064,496** in scholarship offers this year and will be attending 39 different colleges and universities.

Please click on the following link for the complete list of graduates and their scholarships and awards.

[Catholic Central Graduates 2010 Scholarships and Awards](#)

Albion College

Joseph Howard Barcheski

Aquinas College

Aleksander Jozef Serba

Charles Philip Routzahn
Erin Elizabeth Murphy
Fungai Mboko
Geoffrey V Albaugh
Jade Alexandra Chavez
Kelli Jo Burns
Leah Kathryn Nawrocki
Logan Andrew Bandlow
Matthew Ellis

Benedictine University

Matthew Dennis Drummond

California State University, Monterey Bay

Grant Hagene

Central Michigan University

Andrew Joseph Morley
Catherine Jane Nixon
Collin Noble Ricketts
Courtney Briana Bond
Daniel James Dool
Danielle Conklin
James Christian Berlin
Jonathan David Sremba
Megan E Rohen
Nicholas Ryan Olmetti
Reilly Anne Yondo
Tyler Brant Regan-Young
Zachary Michael Putkovich

College of Mount Saint Joseph

Maureen Mahoney Rabaut

Columbia College Chicago

Haley Elizabeth Callaway

DePaul University

Grace Vachon
Dominick James Ens

Ferris State University

Anne Elizabeth Murphy
Ashlee Marie Kersjes
Corey Nelson Donders
Joseph White
Loren Maria Irving

Grand Rapids Community College

Aaron William Burress
Adam James Vandekerkhoff
Adilenne Bedolla
Andrew John Libriani
Andrew Michael Belsito

Chase Michael Rabideau
Chelsea Ann Bailey
Clark Albert Mahlebashian
Dakota Lynn Streling
Elizabeth Ann Coderre
Elizabeth Anne Mauren
Emelia Anne Clark
Emily R Lowing
Erik John Patterson
Federico Jesus Valdez
Jason Andrew Zakrajsek
Jeremiah Vanhorne Sluggett
Karen Elaine Malone
Katherine Annette Vandenbrook
Kelly Elizabeth Ball
Kelly Erin Wheeler
Kevin Christopher Carmody
Kyle Scott Phillips
Lily Victoria Wardrop
Lindy Marie Nawrocki
Mariah Selena Salazar
Mark Ryan Iacopelli
Matthew Ellis
Michael Steven Jacobs
Patrick Oliver Saunders
Phillip Alexander Russell
Shelby Lynn Tompkins
Steven John Berninger
Timothy Patrick Kane
Tyler Lucas Caro
Yakem Weldegabr Kurban
Yohana Yohannes
Grand Valley State University
Alysa Gregory
Christopher D Smyka
Daniel Christian Winther
Daniel Joseph Quinn
Kelsey Marie Obiden
Lindsay Frances Mccarty
Luke Reilly Lowing
Michael Gerard Robach
Natalie Marie Abdou
Rachel Maria Najar
Rachel Marie Baldwin
Samantha Marie Cuncannan
Sharon Angelica Downer

Simonne Nadine Mitchelson

Harvard University

Andrew Robert Mooney

John Capodilupo

Hope College

Brittany Katherine Berry

MacKenzie Marie Brady

Indiana University Bloomington

Benjamin Ertl

Gabrielle Anne Thomas

Hannah Marie Gallagher

Kendall College of Art and Design

Karla Argueta

Lake Superior State University

Kevin James Danhof

Loyola University Chicago

Alex Thomas Poole

Benjamin Thomas Rosenbach

David W Ziemke

Madelyn Anne VanderVeen

Sarah Jordan Campeau

Madonna University

Jessica Corine Klapko

Austin Anthony John Webster

Christopher Nienhaus

Clare Flynn Sarnacki

III Moran

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Andrew Joseph Peterson

Michigan State University

Allyson Marie Flak

Annalise Marie Pickrel

Anne Marie Degraw

Austin Joseph Mead

Benjamin Bowen

Chelsea Elisabeth Mervenne

Danielle Marie LaVille

Gerald Christopher Saumier

Kevin Barry DeWildt

Kristyna Nicole Nunzio

Lauren Ophelia Rockwell

Maria Murphy Bunchman

Michael Jigo

Robert Perry Reed

Michigan Technological University

Justin Michael Kelly

Quinn Michael Treece

Northern Michigan University

Betsy Rose Grant

Erik Michael McGraw

Jeremy Lipzinski

Matthew Ellis

Stratton Jennings Zervoudakis

Purdue University

Yoo Jung Heo

Saint Louis University

Iii Kopfensteiner

Saint Mary's College

Bryanna Leigh Hillary

Jennifer Marie Bandeen

Kaliegh Fields

Trine University

Aaryn L Guy

University at Albany, State University of New York

YouJeong Yun

University of Chicago

Nathan Holmes Lowe

University of Dayton

Brian Michael Gorski

Jonathan Louis Pangle

Julie Rachelle Scott

Kevin Joseph Berry

Mara Catherine Heitz

Victoria Wise

Zoe Elizabeth VanHeest

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Jeong Chul Park

University of Miami

Andrew Michael Jakubowski

University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Emily Elizabeth Mancewicz

Emily Ngoc Thao Tran

Jeffrey David Burgess

Julian Joseph Benzer

Kathryn Ann Luczek

Kevin Thomas Zoellner

Patrick Leo Firlik

Sarah Ann Koehn

Sunghun Lee

Thomas Francis Kennedy

University of Notre Dame

Kelly Harmon

University of Saint Francis

Elizabeth Anne Faber

University of Saint Francis

Kieran Christian Barth

Han Ju Lee

Valparaiso University

Sidney Ellen Yondo

Western Michigan University

Andrew August Chiari

Brittany Danielle Gervais

Caitlyn Andrews

David Loren Vincent Ginebaugh

John W Ehlich

Megan Marie Milito

Patrick Joseph Kneibel

Ronald Andrew Kaminski

Roosevelt Jalen Ferrell-Tillman

Sarah Sue Saints

Open Letter to all CC and WC Stakeholders from Board President - 6/11/2010

Please click on the following link [Board Address re: Restructuring and Strategic Planning](#) to view an open letter from our Secondary Schools Board Chairman, Mr. Mark Scott, addressing the Board's view of recent events occurring within the Catholic Secondary Schools, including strategic planning and organizational restructuring.

This information is posted on the GRCSS School Board Page in the About Catholic Central section of the website.

Catholic Central High School Choirs Travel to the Heart of Italy - 6/15/2010

140 people (including 90 choir students) from Catholic Central High School will depart on their "Heart of Italy" tour on June 23. This is the high school choirs' third tour to Italy and Vatican City.

The Vatican has invited the choirs to sing for the Papal Mass for the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul in the Basilica of Saint Peter. Pope Benedict XVI is the main celebrant for this Mass. Furthermore, the choirs will be singing a formal concert for the city of Rome in the beautiful church of St. Ignatius in Rome, an additional Sunday Liturgy at the Chair of St. Peter in the Basilica of St. Peter, and will be singing a formal concert and making a formal presentation/visit with our sister city, Perugia.

Other tour highlights include a visit to Assisi to visit the sites of St. Francis and St. Clare (including praying and singing at the Basilica of St. Francis), and a visit to the Renaissance city of Florence. The choirs will return on July 1.

The "Heart of Italy" tour will be led by Dennis Rybicki, Director of Music, and Fr. David Gross (CC-1993), Spiritual Director.

Emergency Tuition Assistance - 7/13/2010

Dear Friends of Catholic Central High School,

Catholic Central High School has always prided itself on being a community of faith with a commitment to excellence. As we finish the school year with many successes to celebrate, we look forward to the future and the great need that exists for tuition assistance. Many families want to continue to choose catholic education for their kids, but they need our help. The life of a school is full of milestones, turning points and defining moments that shape the very character and essence of its mission. Our hopes and needs rest very much in the reality of the present. As you can imagine, this year's reality has been and remains a challenge.

Your support of the school has been an integral part of our success. It is through the generosity of alumni, parents and friends that Catholic Central can continue to nurture the intellectual, creative and physical abilities of its students in order for them to meet the challenges that face them today and in the future. Our families need your support now. We have a large need, approximately \$500,000, for tuition assistance this year that we currently cannot provide. *Funds have been donated* to substantially assist our families in the Catholic Education Opportunity Fund at Catholic Central. Seeded with \$200,000 from generous donors, we are hoping to raise \$500,000 in total for this fund. This fund will benefit students that have come to our school from our partner K-8 schools. ***In order to receive these funds, the student must be registered with the business office and have a PSAS form submitted.***

"... I am grateful that my parents sacrifice so much for me to attend Catholic Central. I have benefited by receiving a top-notch education, meeting friends and teachers strong in their faith, and becoming stronger in my own faith and deeper in my relationship with God. In order for me to experience all of these gifts, I realize that my parents must give up so much..."

Would you consider a donation for emergency tuition assistance? Regardless of the amount, your gift can help significantly impact the students of Catholic Central. ***If you, or someone you know is in need of additional or any financial assistance, please have them register with the business office and fill out a PSAS form as soon as possible. You may request any registration form by email to: christineodriscoll@gcss.org*** Thank you for your continued support for our fine school! Your support, whether financial or through prayer, is greatly appreciated.

Please send donations to:
Catholic Central High School
Catholic Education Opportunity Fund
Cathedral Square Center
360 Division Ave. S
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-4539

Sincerely,

Christine O'Driscoll
Advancement Director
Catholic Central High School

Response to Recent Community Questions - 8/5/2010

As we move forward into a new school year with many changes in place, there are still questions in the community that remain. Many questions have been answered by previous communications, however, this is an effort to give clarity and ease to obtaining your answers. We have made efforts to improve our communication plan and you will be hearing from us more often in a timely manner.

In our town hall meeting, members of our community posed questions that we want to address again. As explained in Father Stasker's letter on May 19th, the reason for going to a one principal model for both high schools was due to a governance issue. Realigning our administrative structure strengthens our ability to be flexible in adapting to constantly changing conditions such as enrollment numbers and school funding. In addition, a statement was made at the open school board meeting that only 38% of our students are college ready. This statement needs clarification. This statement was made in the context of the ACT Board report sent to us (and all Michigan high schools). This report states that 38% of our students exceeded the minimum standards needed for college readiness in ALL four core curriculum areas: Math, Science, History and English. It is an ACT College Board measurement intended as a tool for high schools to improve the structure of their academic programs. The state average is around 30%, with the highest score in the state at 44%. The report reminds us (as well as all Michigan high schools) that we have work to do in improving our core curriculum. A big benefit to our Catholic high schools is that we go beyond the core curriculum by positively developing our students' physical and socio-emotional abilities, in service to others, faith and many other areas.

The role of the Board of Education as an advisory board was clearly addressed by GRCSS Board Chairman, Mark Scott, at the May board meeting and in his letter to the community dated June 11th, 2010.

Other issues for clarification:

- As Fr. Stasker stated in his May 19th letter to the community, there was \$912,722 in total unpaid tuition (\$512,564 at CC; \$400,157 at WC). Though there were exceptions, for the most part, the unpaid tuition referenced was for the 2009-2010 only. To date, the unpaid balance is down to apr. \$515,000.
- The business office is working daily, on a case-by-case basis, with the families who have communicated their needs with them.
- The financial audit during the summer of 2009 uncovered many issues that needed to be investigated. The investigation has been ongoing with guidance from the auditors. It should be noted that the auditors did not find any wrong doing. As part of the corrective actions this spring, GRCSS started using a new financial package that allows for a clearer real-time picture of our finances and can adapt to fast changing economic and enrollment numbers both positive and negative.
- This is a challenge; not a crisis. The schools are on course to eliminate the deficit (that has been compounding over the past years) and collect the 2009-2010 past due tuition. Generous donors are stepping forward to help with the tuition assistance need.
- The GRCSS or the Diocese has not rejected an offer from donors to pay off debt.

- This is both a financial issue and an HR issue as experienced by many schools across the country in the current economy. Due to declining enrollment, it was a financial decision to right-size the staff at our schools.
- The Bishop Fund for Catholic Education provides tuition assistance and the parishes provide tuition assistance as well. It is the schools' relationship with the diocese that guarantees their continuing operation through difficult financial times.
- There has not been a change to the admissions process that was set up 2 years ago. The HSPT will continue to be used and if the student scores 20% or below, the application will be reviewed; If you are a partner school student scoring below 20%, you will be admitted, but on academic probation.

In closing, we want to communicate that making changes are difficult, however necessary, to position our schools for an ever-changing environment. We intend to continue our tradition established over the last 100 years by providing our children and their families with an opportunity to receive an outstanding Catholic education at the secondary level.

We appreciate your continued prayers. We look forward to this fall and kicking off another successful school year.

Inaugural Cross State Catholic Football Shootout FAQ - 8/9/2010

What is the game schedule for the weekend?

Thursday, August 26, 2010:

West Catholic vs. Orchard Lake St. Mary's at West Catholic High school.

Freshman game at 4:30pm ~ JV game at 7:00pm

Friday, August 27, 2010:

Catholic Central JV vs. Traverse City St. Francis JV at the CAT at 12:00pm

Varsity Games at West Catholic High School.

Catholic Central vs. Traverse City St. Francis at 4:00pm

West Catholic vs. Orchard Lake St. Mary's at 7:30pm

How much are tickets?

Freshman and JV games: regular season, admission pricing and passes will apply - \$5.00. All tickets for Friday night games are \$7.00. You can buy one ticket and that will be good for both games. No sports passes will be allowed for the Varsity games. Ticket gate will open at 3:00 pm on Friday.

Where can I purchase tickets?

Advance tickets can be purchased at CC and WC athletic offices until 4 pm on Thursday, August 26th.

Where is the best place to park?

Parking will be available in the West Catholic lots and Betz Industries, south parking lot (2121 Bristol Ave NW). There will be busing from the Betz lot starting at 2:30 pm. A \$1.00 donation is suggested for all parking.

Can I tailgate before the game?

Tailgating is allowed on West Catholic property only – please only use Betz Industries for parking. We will have security policing all parking lots and any tailgaters in undesignated areas will be asked to leave. Alcohol is prohibited on school property.

Can I reserve seating or a tailgate area?

There will be no reserve seating or tailgating. Everything is first come, first serve. After the game, please take all of your belongings with you as other fans may need a seat for their game. We will be bringing in additional bleacher seating for these games.

Will I be able to purchase this year's spirit shirt?

There will be no merchandise sold at this game other than the "event" t-shirt.

Can I bring food into the game?

There will be no outside food allowed into the stadium. The concession stand will be open and there will be a steak dinner available from 5:00 – 8:00 pm in the West Catholic Cafeteria. The steak dinner consists of steak/chicken, homemade coleslaw, bread, dessert and drink. Tickets are \$10/adult and \$5/kids meal (cheese pizza, dessert and drink).

Supporting Catholic Central/West Catholic High Schools

The proceeds from this event will be split between both schools evenly. The 50/50 raffle will go to the sports boosters at both high schools as well.

Catholic Central Celebrates 100 Years of Football - 9/7/2010

Catholic Central High School is celebrating 100 years of outstanding football competition this fall.

On September 11, 2010, we honored all our former football players, coaches and cheerleaders on a special night of football and cheer as our Catholic Central Cougars defeated Ottawa Hills 41-27.

The text of the halftime ceremonies, written by Mike Neuman:

On a cold and windy November night in 1959, an early winter storm dumped 8 inches of snow on the frozen tundra of venerable Houseman Field. Two undefeated Michigan high school teams, ranked #1 and #2 in the State by the sports writers, were scheduled to play each other that

afternoon in the last game of the season. There were no playoffs in 1959, so the game would determine the State Championship. But the storm had left Houseman Field buried in snow. Phone calls went out to the school community for assistance and many people arrived with shovels to clear the field for the kick-off. With snow piled high along the sidelines, the teams battled back and forth until the Grand Rapids Catholic Central Cougars prevailed over their worthy opponents, the Muskegon Catholic Crusaders. A community and a team had earned a State Championship.

This game, played a half-century ago, epitomizes the spirit and dedication of players, coaches, student supporters, families, and alumni creating the tradition driving Catholic Central football to excellence for 100 years. The places and faces change over time, but each provides memories of anticipation and preparation; two-a-day practices in the August heat; and finally the joy of victory or the agony of defeat. The sound and feel of colliding helmets and pads filled the air at football locations old and new: Buckley Field by the railroad tracks, Rumsey Park by the factory, South Field on Madison Ave., and St. Joseph's Seminary on Burton St. are distant memories. The CAT, Houseman Field, Eagle Stadium, and other venues now create new excitement as the Cougars begin another 100 years of football.

But Catholic Central football exists because good people work hard to create better people. Tonight we want to recognize some of the many people who have contributed to the great tradition of Cougar Football.

At this time we ask all former Catholic Central cheerleaders and band members to stand up and be recognized for your outstanding support to Cougar football. (Applause) Thank you. At this time we ask all former Catholic Central football players and team managers to stand up and be recognized for your participation and contribution to 100 years of Cougar football. (Applause) Thank you.

Whether participating on the field or in the stands, whether young or old, you learn about yourself and others from absorbing the efforts of dedicated coaches who spend hundreds of hours each year giving leadership and instruction to the football team. We direct your attention to the 50-yard line where current and former Cougar football coaches are gathered. These men, and those who they represent, made this proud football program possible. Their selfless determination pushed their players to their physical and mental limits, and made them better people. Among those with us tonight are: George Barcheski, Gary Dickerson, Dale Hollern, Mike Neuman, Dick Ott, and Larry Ward. Let's acknowledge these (and all) Cougar coaches. (Applause) Each coach will receive a commemorative CC coin from the Cougar Booster Club. Coaches, we thank you for 100 years of Catholic Central football! (Applause)



Catholic Central Class of 1960 Celebrates 50 Years and Gives Back to the School - 9/9/2010

The fact that Catholic Central Cougar pride continues for years after graduation was made evident by the class of 1960 when they celebrated their 50th reunion this summer.

Walking into the reunion, everyone was warmly welcomed by former classmates, checked-in and given a name tag. From there, it was easy to find friendly faces and begin to catch up and reminisce. A few weeks before the reunion, Catholic Central was contacted to help determine where a financial gift from the class would best be suited. The school's technology needs seemed to be a good fit for the class of 1960. The class had a wonderful time dancing, chatting, enjoying dinner and raising \$300 to give back to their alma mater. The \$300 gift will be used in the technology upgrade going on at the school, which includes creating a wireless campus and purchasing and installing smart boards and projectors. This technology upgrade gives some ease to the teachers in their duties and allows students to learn in state-of-the-art ways. Many of the alumni present had children of their own attending Catholic Central, and a few noted that they were looking forward to having their grandchildren attend their school! On behalf of the school teachers, staff, administration and students, we want to thank the Class of 1960 for their generous gift and congratulate them on their 50 years of Cougar Pride!

Catholic Central Seniors Named National Merit Semifinalists - 9/22/2010

Catholic Central High School seniors **Maureen Daum, Maggie Lawrence, Keegan McCorry, Grace Tomaszewski** and **Matthew Wallick** have been named as semifinalists in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program.

This scholarship program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. Daum, Lawrence, McCorry, Tomaszewski and Wallick, along with 16,000 other academically talented high school seniors, will have an

opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,400 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$36 million, that will be offered next spring.

About 1.5 million juniors in some 22,000 high schools entered the 2011 National Merit Program by taking the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, which represents less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state.

To become a finalist, a semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

Approximately 15,000 semifinalists are expected to advance to the Finalist level. 2011 National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in the spring.

Catholic Central Seniors Named National Merit Commended Students - 9/28/2010

Catholic Central High School seniors **Mitchell Cavanaugh, Scott Dripchak, Matthew Fallon, Ann Marie Jakubowski** and **Tricia Williams** have been named Commended Students in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2011 competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top 5 percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2011 competition by taking the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

“Recognition of high-achieving students is essential to advancing excellence in our nation,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “As demonstrated by their outstanding performance in our highly competitive program, the young men and women named Commended Students represent some of the most academically talented students in our country. We sincerely hope this recognition will enhance their educational opportunities and encourage them in their pursuit of academic success.”

Catholic Central Senior Named Semifinalist in the 2011 National Achievement Scholarship Program - 9/29/2010

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced that **Nnenna Ezeh** has been designated a Semifinalist in the 47th annual National Achievement Scholarship Program.

Nnenna is one of more than 1,600 Black American high school seniors who now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 800 Achievement Scholarship awards, worth some \$2.6 million, to be offered next spring.

More than 160,000 high school juniors from all parts of the United States requested consideration in the 2011 National Achievement Scholarship Program when they took the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Semifinalists were designated within geographic regions and are the highest-scoring program entrants in the

states that make up each region. To advance to the Finalist level in the competition, Semifinalists must present a record of high academic performance throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal, write an essay, and earn SAT scores that confirm the PSAT/NMSQT performance. Also, the Semifinalist and a high school official must complete a detailed scholarship application in which they provide information about the student's participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, and educational goals.

Students Walk to Raise Tuition Assistance Funds - 10/8/2010

Over 1200 students from both Catholic Central and West Catholic high schools walked with their classmates to John Ball Park in the annual All A's Walk.

Students from each school took their own route from the schools to the park. The walkers from both schools converged at the water station on the corner of Seward and Fulton and completed the walk together. This year, students from both schools raised \$102,835 for tuition assistance for their classmates! Each year, approximately 1 out of every 4 students receives tuition assistance aid. This was the 19th year of the All A's Walk.

Heartfelt thanks to all our many sponsors!

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TOM KUBIAK



An additional Legacy of Faith member is Patty Summers.

CC Football Coach Has Players Respect - 10/11/2010

At 6-1, the Catholic Central football team is off to a great start this season, under the new leadership of Todd Kolster.

As early as the first football game victory against Traverse City St. Mary in late August, comments of a great defense and aggressive offense could be heard in the stands. Since then, Catholic Central has defeated Coopersville, Ottawa Hills, Hastings, Wayland and Caledonia. Miles Morrissey, junior at Catholic Central and quarterback for the team, says "I love Coach Kolster! He is awesome. He knows how to coach because he's coached at the college level. Kolster knows how to beat teams based on their defense." Miles has played football since he was a young age of 4 and played at Immaculate Heart of Mary at the elementary level. Miles' dad also attended Catholic Central along with his two brothers and sister. When asked about the team Miles comments, "We have a lot of team chemistry. Everyone gets along." As he looked forward to the September 11th game celebrating 100 years of football for the high school, Miles said with a smile "It's an honor to play in the 100 year game." Joe Bowen, senior at Catholic Central High School, plays strong safety on defense and occasional wide receiver on offense. Joe said "I was kind of nervous going into the season with new coaches, but it's been great. There are a couple of coaches that played on the college level and they can relate to us." When Joe was asked about the new head coach, Todd Kolster, he commented, "The start of the season was tough. The 2-a-day practices were really, really hard. I think it's the hardest we ever worked. It made us better, though." Joe has been playing football since 3rd grade when his dad coached him and then played throughout his elementary years, also at Immaculate Heart of Mary. "I look forward to making the most of my senior year. We will take one game at a time, but I hope to make a deep run at the playoffs. The team gets along great; we are all friends." Joe's mom and dad attended Catholic Central along with both sets of grandparents. Good luck, Cougars! We will cheer you on to victory.

Letter to Parents from Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary Schools - 10/15/2010

Since before the establishment of our diocese in 1882, the religious education and formation of children has been a priority. Each passing era has presented its challenges and obstacles much like we have today. Our two Grand Rapids Catholic high schools have benefited from the commitment and dedication of parents, religious and clergy who have worked to bring young people into the knowledge and practice of our faith.

The entire letter can be found here: [GRCSS Parent Update Letter](#)

If you have questions concerning the content of this letter or any other matters, our school encourages you to submit your questions in advance by clicking on the following link [Questions to the Board](#). Questions submitted prior to November 5 will be reviewed and appropriately addressed at our next school board meeting scheduled for November 18 at 7:00 p.m. held at Cathedral Square Center.

Catholic Central and West Catholic Teachers Gather Together for Faculty Faith Day - 10/15/2010

On Wednesday, October 13, the teachers, staff and administration of Catholic Central and West Catholic high schools, along with Bishop Hurley and Father Stasker, gathered together at the Basilica of St. Adalbert for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship, reflection and prayer.

Following a Polish lunch (west-side style), Bishop Hurley discussed the changes to the Roman Missal and how it will affect the Mass, and how it is an opportunity to strengthen our prayer life and our relationship with the Lord. Then, Father Stasker discussed the role of Catholic culture in our two schools. The afternoon concluded with Mass at the Basilica.

Letter to All Community Members from GRCSS Board - 10/18/2010

Thank you for your feedback and input in shaping the Mission and Vision for the Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary Schools ("CSS") – Grand Rapids Catholic Central and West Catholic High Schools. The Strategic Planning Vision Committee (the "Committee") would like to thank the more than 1,000 teachers, parents, and community members that contributed to the process through the town hall meetings and on-line survey.

All input was considered, and your feedback was invaluable in finalizing a shared Mission and Vision. You may [click here](#) to view a complete report of the survey responses.

As you can see from the survey results, respondents overwhelmingly supported the Mission and Vision language as communicating the right direction for the schools, with 10 of the 12 sections receiving over 90% approval. Additionally, 6 of 12 sections received over 90% support for the overall language. The remaining 6 sections all received over 80% support for the overall language. In spite of the strong support received from you, the Committee took time over the summer to review the feedback and address the common themes in the comments received.

Most notable was the misperception that there was an attempt to move in the direction of limiting admission to our schools to those academically gifted or coming from families with significant financial means. That was never intended by the Committee or the administration of our schools, so certain language was revised in an attempt to allay such concerns. As you can see from the final Mission and Vision documents, your feedback played an integral role in shaping the final document, and for that, the Committee is grateful. You can [click here](#) to view a copy of the documents allowing you to see the original draft marked with subsequent changes stemming from the feedback received.

In August, the CSS Board and Bishop Hurley approved the Mission and Vision documents as presented in the above links. These documents will now provide the basis for setting annual goals necessary to achieve the tenets of the Vision. Our Principal, Mr. Tom Maj, is currently working with the faculty and staff of each high school to develop annual goals to support our Vision thereby ensuring the long-term viability and success of Catholic Central and West Catholic. Although the goals for each school may differ, the Mission and Vision are common and will remain as a shared vision for the organization. We will continue to update you on the goal setting process.

We wish to thank the following individuals who served with us on the Committee for their dedication and commitment to developing the Mission and Vision of our high schools:

- Tom Maj, Principal
- Steve Passinault, Former Principal-Catholic Central High School
- Greg Deja, Associate Principal-Catholic Central High School
- Jack Young, Assistant Principal of Student Affairs-West Catholic High School

- Allison Camp, Former Assistant Principal-West Catholic High School
- Linda Olejnik, English Department Chair-Catholic Central High School
- Sharon Piers, Science Teacher-West Catholic High School
- Sue Swanson, Director of Information Technology-Diocese of Grand Rapids
- Cindy Sielawa, Former Vice President of Advancement-Catholic Secondary Schools
- Jennifer Lahey, Business Manager-Catholic Secondary Schools
- John Lowery, Community member-Catholic Central High School
- MaryBeth Barkeley, Member-CSS Board
- Mike McCarthy, Community member-West Catholic High School
- Tim Hile, Member-CSS Board
- Steve Abid, Vice Chairman-CSS Board

If you have any questions regarding the Mission or Vision documents or any other issues, you are invited to attend our next regularly scheduled CSS Board meeting on November 18 at 7 p.m. at Cathedral Square. Please feel free to submit your questions in advance by clicking on [this link](#). We will make every effort to respond to your questions at the beginning of our meeting.

Thank you for your input into the strategic planning process, which is critical to the future success of our high schools, and for your continued support of Catholic education.

Sincerely,

Rev. R. Louis Stasker, Pastor/President

Mark R. Scott, CSS Board Chairman

David A. Veneklase, Strategic Planning Vision Committee Chairman

Catholic Central Students Named to 2010-2011 Mayor Youth Council - 10/21/2010

Catholic Central students, **Hannah Cluley** and **Kathryn Mirandette**, have been selected for the 2010-2011 Mayor's Youth Council for the city of Grand Rapids.

The Mayor's Youth Council is comprised of 15 high school students who are city residents. The council members serve a one-year term from October to May. Council members broaden the scope of youth leadership in city government by discussing policy issues that affect them with the Mayor, City Commission, and staff, gathering input from area youth, promoting awareness of the strengths and abilities of youth, and coordinating with other local and national organizations. Council members meet once a month with the Mayor to discuss policy issues and current events. During each meeting, members update the Mayor on their activities on the Council and inform the Mayor of youth issues and concerns. [2010-2011 Mayor's Youth Council Members](#)

Cougar Marching Band Receives Division I Rating - 10/28/2010

Earlier this month, the Catholic Central Cougar Marching Band received a Division I (Superior) rating at the District Marching Festival held at East Kentwood High School. This is the first Division I rating in three years and the band members are very proud and excited to continue with the tradition of excellence at Catholic Central. Congratulations on a great performance!



Girls Swim Teams Raise Awareness about Breast Cancer at Special Benefit Meet - 10/29/2010

In observance of "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" our Cougar Girls Swim Team and the Thornapple-Kellogg/Hastings Girls Swim Team held a special benefit swimming and diving meet in Hastings.

As part of their regularly scheduled OK Rainbow contest, the swimmers, divers, and coaches of both teams decided to work together to raise awareness about breast cancer and to raise funds to donate to the American Cancer Society (to fight all forms of cancer). In addition to the exciting competition, the "Swimming For Our Loved Ones" meet featured the girls from both teams wearing pink swimming caps and pink ribbons tied to their suits, having the names of family members and friends who have struggled with breast cancer written in pink on their arms and legs, and having the names of those who have battled breast cancer announced at the meet prior to each event.

CC Varsity Girls Coach, Adam Vera (CC '91), stated that "Last night was a special event for our two schools. Our goal is to teach our girls how to make a positive impact in our communities, work as a team, dedication, always give your best effort, display good sportsmanship, and share our values that have been taught to us by our great Catholic upbringing. This was a perfect opportunity for our girls to do something great and an opportunity to be proactive with a disease that has affected many of us."

The girls on both teams have been collecting donations and had collected \$1500 so far. People can still purchase the pink meet shirts and make donations at the CC Athletics office. Shots Casual Eatery and Pub (4259 Lake Michigan Drive) is selling pink ribbons through Saturday. They will match their patrons' donations and also donate a portion of the dinner bill.

Fox 17 Video: [Pink in the Pool](#)

Congratulations to Catholic Central and West Catholic High Schools as they both compete for State Football Championships - 11/22/2010

Catholic Central and West Catholic High Schools are both in the race for the Football State Championship. This weekend both high schools compete for the Championship title in their respective divisions. This is the first time both Catholic Central and West Catholic are in the hunt for the State Title and both could come home champions.

**West Catholic High School (12-1)
Plays Olivet High School
Saturday, November 27, at 4:30 pm
Ford Field House
Catholic Central High School (11-2)
Plays Williamston High School
Friday, November 26, at 7:30 pm
Ford Field House**

Fast Facts:

- Bronson Hill has the all time record at Catholic Central for rushing touchdowns in a season (over Perry Foster-1987 state champs).
- John Haley has the Catholic Central career receiving touchdown record and is 10th all time in MHSAA.
- Jalin Faison, West Catholic, leads the team in rushing with 1025 yards.
- Lance Buitendyk, holds the passing record at West Catholic and is 154 of 238 passing for 2,331 yards this year.
- Zack Smith, holds the record at West Catholic for receiving yards and touchdowns and leads the team in receiving yards with 1,361 on 67 receptions for 17 touchdowns.
- Mitch Bredberg, West Catholic, tied a State Record with 9 consecutive field goals, is 15/18 and 60 for 61 on extra points and has made 53 in a row.
- Three teams that participated in our first, Cross State Catholic Shoot Out on August 27th are now playing for a state title – Catholic Central, West Catholic and Orchard Lake St. Mary's
- In addition to a great athletic program both Catholic Central and West Catholic High School have 7 National Merit Scholarship Finalists this year. We encourage the community to come and support their local Catholic high schools at their games this weekend.

Thanksgiving Holiday Extended - 11/23/2010

In appreciation for the community support of Catholic Central, Father Stasker has extended the high school's Thanksgiving Holiday. Catholic Central will be closed on Monday, November 29.

Happy Thanksgiving! Go Cougars!

Catholic Central High School won State Championship Title - 11/28/2010

The Catholic Central Cougars came to win on Friday night at the MHSAA championship game at Ford Field in Detroit.

The game came down to the final minutes and final yards for exciting last minute plays to clench the win. Coach Kolster and staff had confidence in their team, and the Cougars earned it by winning the game 27-23.

The Cougars played with heart and soul last night. Their hard work, discipline, and hunger for a State Championship paid off in spades....and with a State Championship Trophy. Well done!

Congratulations Cougars!

Art at Catholic Central...our students have many gifts! - 12/2/2010

As one wanders down the hallway of the first floor at Catholic Central one can't help but notice the wonderful art on our walls. Sara Olson, art teacher at Catholic Central, has been teaching at the school for 13 years. The talent that she draws out of her students is quite remarkable. Many mediums are used in the classroom; pencil, chalk, paint, tile, and more. The class is full of exuberant students who enjoy their class work very much. Some students are even surprised at how their pieces turn out. Others have been working for years to perfect their skill. Mrs. Olson teaches Art 1-4 and Art Palette. God gives us many talents. Mrs. Olson has a way of building confidence in each of her students to stretch and take risks so to see what their ability is. Mrs. Olson is a great asset to our school. Next time you are in the building, take a stroll down to the art room.



Work completed by Shaelyn Evers, junior at CC

Alumni Show Their Support for Their Beloved Catholic Central - 12/8/2010

The State Championship game was certainly an exciting time for the Catholic Central students, faculty and staff. Quite often, one can hear the quote "That was the most exciting football game I have ever seen!" Equally as exciting was the large amount of Alum who came out to support their Alma Mater. Graduates from every decade back to the 1950's attended the football game.

The love for the blue and white Cougars is evident in their apparel, the “We are CC” chants, and high fives throughout the Ford Field stadium. Reunions that took place over the weekend reported streaming in the game via internet and television so to be a part of their schools success. Catholic Central has 20,000 alumni that have walked through our hallways. Each story is unique with the one common factor; they love Catholic Central High School. The Alumni and Friends Association brought football shaped donuts to the school for each student and staff member in celebration of the schools accomplishment. The school continues to see increased attendance of alumni at events, involvement in fundraising, and a desire for communications on what is happening with our students. Catholic Central loves their Alum and we are grateful for their support.



Catholic Central and West Catholic High Schools Recognized for their State Championships by the City Council - 12/8/2010



On Tuesday, December 7th, both Catholic Central and West Catholic High Schools were recognized for their Football State Championship titles. This is the first time in history that both schools competed for the State Championship *at the same time* and brought home the State Championship trophies in the same weekend. In recognition of this achievement, both schools were honored with a Proclamation of Achievement during the City Commissioner meeting by Mayor Heartwell. During the presentation, Principal of both high schools, Tom Maj briefly spoke about how proud he was of the two schools. He was quoted as saying, "I couldn't have written a better ending to the football season." He also pointed out that the football teams started on the same field in August in the INAUGURAL CATHOLIC BOWL and finished their seasons with victories on Ford Field. Congratulations again to our football teams - Two Schools. One Goal. Catholic Education Wins!

CC students bring Christmas joy to area families - 12/22/2010

Thirty-four Grand Rapids area families enjoyed a brighter Christmas this year thanks to students, teachers and staff at Catholic Central. An annual tradition since the '70s, the high school's Christmas Families program supplies local families in need with clothing, toys, household items and food during the holiday season.

Each homeroom class adopted a family and collected/purchased items from the family's wish list. Students were busy wrapping presents and organizing gifts all last week. The project culminated (today), when volunteer students and their parents loaded cheerfully wrapped packages into cars for delivery to the families just in time for Christmas. Each family also received a holiday meal.

Many in the area are still feeling the effects of the recession and the holidays can be a difficult time. We are proud of our students and staff who have given so generously so that others may share in the joy of the Christmas season.



