

Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary Schools News Briefs 2010

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](#)

West Catholic Fall Sports Honors - 1/11/2010

Many of West Catholic's fall athletes have earned individual honors this year at the conference, area, and state levels. Congratulations for their achievement!

Boys Cross Country

All-Conference: Blake Bitner, Caleb Teachout, Zeke Timmer

All-State: Blake Bitner, Zeke Timmer

Girls Cross Country

All-Conference: Kelsey Carpenter, Megan Debri

Football

All-Conference: Nick Ford, Travis Mikita, Dan Pittman, Charlie Roberts, Gabe Sochanek, Loren Suggs, Alex Trudell

G.R. Press All-Area Dream Team: Gabe Sochanek (First Team), Alex Trudell (First Team), Dan Pittman (Second Team), Loren Suggs (Second Team), Nick Ford (Honorable Mention), Charlie Roberts (Honorable Mention)

All-State: Gabe Sochanek (Special Mention), Loren Suggs (Special Mention)

Academic All-State: The team received Honorable Mention honors for ranking 12th in Division 4 based on team grade point average. Individually, Gabe Audu also earned Honorable Mention Academic All-State.

Detroit Lions High School Coach of the Week: Coach Dan Rohn was one of ten Michigan coaches honored at the Detroit Lions football game on December 20.

Girls Golf

All-Conference: Madelyn Drumm, Kayla Feutz

Boys Soccer

All-Conference: David Golembiewski, Matt Karas, Steven Kelly

All-State: Matt Karas (First Team), David Golembiewski (Second Team), Steven Kelly (Honorable Mention), Tim McGough (Honorable Mention)

Girls Swimming

All-Conference: Meghan Arbanas

Volleyball

All-Conference: Rachel Sprenger, Elle Sturgell, Abby Ziegler

Congratulations West Catholic athletes!

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!

West Catholic Students Share the Christmas Spirit - 1/7/2010

Every year, West Catholic students and staff generously give in many different ways to share the Christmas spirit with the surrounding communities. This year, a number of service projects have been undertaken throughout the school to continue this giving tradition.

For the second year, the entire school participated in a fundraising program to help homeless teens in Grand Rapids. Led by the Student Government and its adviser Mrs. Cindy Kneibel, the school held a Red and Green Day to raise over \$1100 to purchase hoodies and pajamas for local teens. These items were distributed in partnership with Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Throughout the year, West Catholic students respond daily by donating to an HTN (Help the Needy) fund. This fund generates thousands of dollars annually. This month, \$500 of HTN money was spent to purchase sleeping bags, blankets, nonperishable food items, coats, and other outdoor gear for the local homeless. In addition, students also generously brought in food, clothing, and personal hygiene items. Two carloads of goods were delivered to local missions.

Sophomore and Junior students in Mr. Patrick Nugent's religion classes have been collecting money this month for the Catholic Church Extension Society. They have chosen worthy causes from Extension's annual Christmas Wish List. Over \$1000 will be sent to support the Church across the United States; helping to sponsor a seminarian for the armed forces, supporting prison ministry in Texas, building a school roof on a New Mexico Indian reservation, and supporting hospital ministry in Puerto Rico.

Art students made over 100 cards for the residents of St. Ann's home. Student used silkscreen and linoleum block printing to create the hand-made cards. They then addressed them with simple holiday greetings and well wishes for Christmas. "I have two students, Andrea Powers and Megan Rogalski who work at St. Ann's Home. They are going to bring the cards in for us and they are sure that the residents will really appreciate receiving our Christmas cards," said art teacher Mrs. Lisa Nawrocki.



[WC Arts Students Making Cards for St. Ann's Home](#)

WC Blood Donations Highest in the Area - 2/4/2010

Each year, the West Catholic Student Government sponsors three blood drives at the school.

The December blood drive was very successful. Ninety Two (92) people came to the blood drive to donate, and 73 pints of blood were collected. These totals include 35 new donors who were registered on that day. According to *Michigan Blood*, West Catholic's per-student donation levels are the highest in our area. Student volunteers, advised by Mrs. Cynthia Kneibel, staff the event in conjunction with *Michigan Blood*. **The next blood drive at West Catholic is scheduled for Friday, March 5, 2010.**

Dan Rohn Named Regional Coach of the Year - 1/13/2010

West Catholic High School Football Coach, **Dan Rohn**, was selected by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association (MHSFCA) as a Regional Coach of the Year.

He will be honored January 21st at the MHSFCA banquet in Battle Creek. Congratulations Coach Rohn!

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!



WC Religious Vocations Wall of Fame - 2/5/2010

On Wednesday, February 3, West Catholic High School inducted three new members into its Religious Vocations Wall of Fame. The induction ceremony was held during an all-school Mass in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week. The new members are Rev. Fr. Khanh Hoang (Class of 1986), Rev. Mr. Edward Harwood (Class of 1972), and Rev. Mr. Gerald Roersma (Class of 1976).

The Religious Vocations Wall of Fame was inaugurated in 2004, and the display was blessed by Bishop Kevin Britt at an all-school Mass concelebrated by the Wall's first inductees. Since 2004, more honorees have been added to the Wall, and including this year's three new members, the Wall now displays plaques honoring 18 priests, sisters, brothers and permanent deacons. These honorees are all alumni of West Catholic or its predecessor West Catholic Central. The Religious Vocations Wall of Fame is located outside of the St. Maria Goretti Chapel, adjacent to the school cafeteria.

Fr. Khanh Hoang is a native of Vietnam. He came to the United States at the age of ten as a refugee. He graduated from West Catholic in 1986 and entered Aquinas College. After further study at Seton Hall University and St. Thomas Seminary, he was ordained to the priesthood on

June 4, 1994 for the Diocese of Colorado Springs. Due to allergies, he moved to Hawaii in 2003. He is currently serving as Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Honolulu.

Permanent Deacon Ed Harwood attended Sacred Heart School and graduated from West Catholic in 1972. He studied theology and Scripture at Aquinas College, and he was ordained to the permanent diaconate on February 10, 2006. Since ordination, he has been assigned to pastoral work at St. Mary's Parish in Grand Rapids. Ed and his wife Joanne (WC '71) are the parents of six children, including four WC graduates and one current WC student.

Permanent Deacon Jerry Roersma attended Holy Trinity School and graduated from West Catholic in 1976. He graduated from Aquinas College. He was ordained to the permanent diaconate on February 10, 2006. Since ordination, he has been assigned to pastoral work at Holy Trinity Parish. Jerry and his wife Susan (WC '75) are the parents of three children, all of whom are WC graduates.



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.

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

On Thursday, January 21, 32 students, 2 teachers, and 3 parents left West Catholic to travel by bus to Washington, DC for the annual March for Life.

While there, the students attended Mass at the *National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception*, toured the monuments, visited the *Holocaust Memorial Museum*, and participated with approximately 300,000 people in the March for Life. They returned to West Catholic very tired but inspired by the trip to continue their pro-life activities.



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](#)

WC Band Students Have Success at MSBOA - 3/1/2010

On Saturday, February 6, West Catholic Band members competed in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) District Solo and Ensemble Festival. Students received nineteen First Division "Excellent" medals and eight Second Division "Good" medals. All students earning First Division "Excellent" ratings will be going on to further competition at the State Festival next month.

West Catholic Band Director Darren LaPrise summed up the students' achievements with the following statement: "To walk into a room and make a presentation to complete strangers is extremely difficult, particularly if it took you months to prepare it. To walk away and call that presentation successful is one of the best feelings our students can have. That feeling was achieved by many of our Band students at the MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festival."

The following students earned First or Second Division ratings at the Festival:

FIRST DIVISION RATED (Excellent)

Brass Quintet Eamon Carmody, Mike Sacha, Ashley Savage, Andrew Bearinger, and Ray Kalinowski

Percussion Sextet (Mallets) Zach Hartman, Patty Pierzchala, Katrina Marks, Jordan Alber, Katie Hartman, and John Paul

Flute Duet: Anna Brechting and Theresa Brechting

Flute Solo: Anna Brechting

Flute Solo: Theresa Brechting

Trumpet Solo: Eamon Carmody

Piano solos: John Paul, Francis Burns, Katie Hartman

SECOND DIVISION RATED (Good)

Trumpet Solo: Jeff Ford

Trombone Solo: Joel Gravelyn

Bass Clarinet Solo: Dominic Frazine

Saxophone Quartet: Josh Laske, Jacob Dean, Stacey Sienkewicz, John Gravelyn

Piano Solo: Mary Francis Eshleman

Congratulations West Catholic Band Students!

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

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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 - 3/1/2010

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.



West Catholic Celebrates Fine Arts Week - 3/16/2010

During the week of March 1-5, West Catholic High School celebrated the Fine Arts with a whole week of various events and performances. Students' accomplishments in the band, choir, art, and theater programs were recognized.

On Monday, all Fine Arts students wore their Fine Arts Week T-shirts, and the Jazz Band performed at lunch for all students.

Festival of Arts Night was held Tuesday evening and included performances by the WC Jazz Band, Concert Band, Brass Quintet, Concert Choir, and Percussion Ensemble, as well as a video presentation of student art work and an excerpt from the upcoming school musical "Grease" performed by the cast.

On Wednesday, Art students spent the day visiting the Art Institute of Chicago.

The Concert Choir performed and a video of student artwork was shown at an assembly for all students on Thursday.

On Friday, the cast of the upcoming school musical performed "Grease Lightning" at lunch on stage for the student body. That afternoon, the Concert Band concluded the week in competition at the MSBOA State Concert Festival at West Ottawa Harbor Lights Middle School.

The events of the week were coordinated by the teachers in the Fine Arts Department, including Lisa Nawrocki (chair), Darren LaPrise, Josh Doe, Mary Harwood, and Cathy Pearce.

West Catholic Winter Season Highlights - 3/10/2010

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Girls Basketball Teams completed a sweep of the OK Blue Conference Championships at all three levels of competition, Freshman, JV, and Varsity, for the 2009-2010 season.

The Freshman team, coached by West Catholic Alumnus Kristen McDonald, completed their season 15-5 and won its second straight OK Blue Conference Championship. The Junior Varsity, coached by Mark Yondo and Nancy Wagner (1979 State Championship Team Member and West Catholic Alumnus), also won its second straight OK Blue Conference Championship and finished with an awesome 18-2 record.

The Varsity team, coached by Mike Glass, John Beadling, Brenda Sack and Carrie Roys Polega (1997 State Runner-up Team Member and West Catholic Alumnus), won the first Varsity Conference Championship since 2000 and first OK Blue Conference Championship. The team finished the regular season with a 13-1 conference record and a 15-5 overall record and will have all team members returning next season.

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Varsity Boys Basketball team ended its regular season with the team performing at a high level. Though not winning every game, the guys have competed hard in practice and in competition. The team finished in 3rd place in the OK Blue with a league record of 8-6 and an overall record of 9-11. West Catholic will be the host for the district tournament, where the Falcon seniors will look to leave their mark on the program with a District championship.

GIRLS BOWLING

The Girls Bowling team completed conference play in second place with a 10-2 record. They finished second in the post-season tournament to a very strong Sparta team. The team had a strong season, with a winning record and several new school record games. The O.K. Blue All-Conference team includes senior **Olivia Steil**, junior **Kayla Feutz**, and junior **Marissa Steffens**.

In the Regional, Marissa Steffens finished 11th, Kayla Feutz finished 12th, and Olivia Steil finished 18th. Unfortunately, only the top 10 move on to the State Tournament.

In the Regional team competition, where the top 3 teams move on to the State Tournament, the team ended its season very close to qualifying in the 4th spot.

BOYS BOWLING

The Boys Bowling team ended conference play with a record of 10 wins and 2 losses. They ended the regular season with a second place finish in the post-season tournament, just 24 pins out of first. The boys had a very strong season. They worked hard for their second place conference finish. The All-Conference team includes seniors **Zack Kasperlik**, **Steve Kuzma**, **Nick Byrne**, and sophomore **Caleb Steil**.

Zack Kasperlik qualified for the State Tournament by finishing 3rd in the Regional competition on Saturday. Zack knocked down 1177 pins in the six games. Other WC bowlers who did not qualify for State competition but had good games included Trent Clark finishing 17th and Nick Byrne finishing 19th.

In the Regional team competition, where the top 3 teams move on to the State Tournament, the team finished in 5th position 79 pins behind the 3rd place team.

SKI

The Boys Ski team finished 3rd among Division II teams in the conference. The Girls Ski team also finished 3rd among Division II conference teams.

In the Regional, the boys finished 11th out of 16 teams while the girls finished 12th out of 15 teams. **Steven Kelly** earned a 9th place finish in Giant Slalom, and qualified for the MHSAA State Meet.

At State, Steven placed 32nd of 70 in the first run of GS. Deciding to "go for it," he bobbed slightly on the second run, finishing with a "no regrets" 59th place. Steven's participation in the State Meet marks the 10th time in the last 11 years that WC has participated in the MHSAA State Ski Meet.

SWIMMING and DIVING

The West Catholic Boys Varsity Swimming and Diving team took fourth place over all, missing third place by five points to rival TK-Hastings, at the OK Rainbow Swimming and Diving Championships. The Falcons were led by **Nick Burciaga**, who took first place in diving, setting a new conference record in the process. Nick was also part of the 200 yard and 400 yard freestyle relays that took third place in the Championship finals. **Danny Selgo**, took second place in diving. On the swimming side, **Forrest West** took second place in the backstroke and fifth in the 200 yard freestyle; he was also part of the 200 yard and 400 yard freestyle relays. Forrest qualified for the State Meet in the back stroke. **Hunter Nemmers** took third place in the 50 yard freestyle and sixth in the 100 yard freestyle, qualifying for the State Meet in the 50 yard freestyle. Hunter was also part of the 200 and 400 yard relays.

Because of these efforts, Nick, Danny, Forrest and Hunter all earned All-Conference honors.

The Falcons did a tremendous job to take an overall fourth place finish in the OK Rainbow Conference meet. Congratulations to all the swimmers and divers on a great season. The Falcons finished 3-3 in the league duals and 4-5 overall in duals.

WRESTLING

The Wrestling team's season came to an end at the Conference Meet where **Zac Nowicki** took 2nd, **Mitch Norder** placed 4th, **Tom Doyle** placed 3rd, and **Tony Brechting** took 2nd place.

Zac Nowicki was also District champ in his weight class of 103 lbs. Taylor Nowicki finished 3rd in District competition, in the 130 lb. weight class. This qualified both wrestlers to Regional Competition on February 20. Although both wrestlers gave it their all, they did not advance to State competition this season.

West Catholic Skier Competes at State - 3/1/2010

West Catholic senior, **Steven Kelly**, competed at the MHSAA State Skiing Finals on February 22 at Nub's Nob in Harbor Springs. By finishing in 9th place at the Regional

Tournament, Kelly became one of only nine Grand Rapids-area skiers to qualify to compete at the Division 2 State Finals.

Kelly competed in the giant slalom and finished 59th overall at State. Kelly said, "I was pumped when I found out I made it to state." Coach Scott Inman added, "He has led his team by example, demonstrating the rewards of hard work and hard training. It has been a very enjoyable four years working with Steven." Congratulations Steven!

West Catholic Diver Wins Back-to-Back State Championships - 3/18/2010

West Catholic junior **Nick Burciaga**, won his second-straight Division III State Diving Championship on March 12 and 13 at Eastern Michigan University. Nick posted a Division III Championship record score of 490.25, surpassing the previous record he set in winning last year's championship. In addition to his championship, Nick was named Division III Diver of the Year.

Junior diver **Danny Selgo** also competed in the State finals, finishing 13th. The team's diving coach, **Steve Burciaga**, was also honored as the Division III Diving Coach of the Year.

Two West Catholic swimmers, senior **Forrest West** and sophomore **Hunter Nemmers**, also qualified for the State Meet. Forrest finished 29th in the 100 yard backstroke, and Hunter finished 26th in the 50 yard freestyle. Congratulations West Catholic Swimmers and Divers!

The West Catholic Swimming and Diving team is coached by Mr. Murray MacGready, assisted by Steve Burciaga (Diving), Steve Kosten, and Dan Lenkiewicz.



Nick Burciaga, Division III Diver of the Year, and his father, Steve Burciaga, Division III Diving Coach of the Year

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.



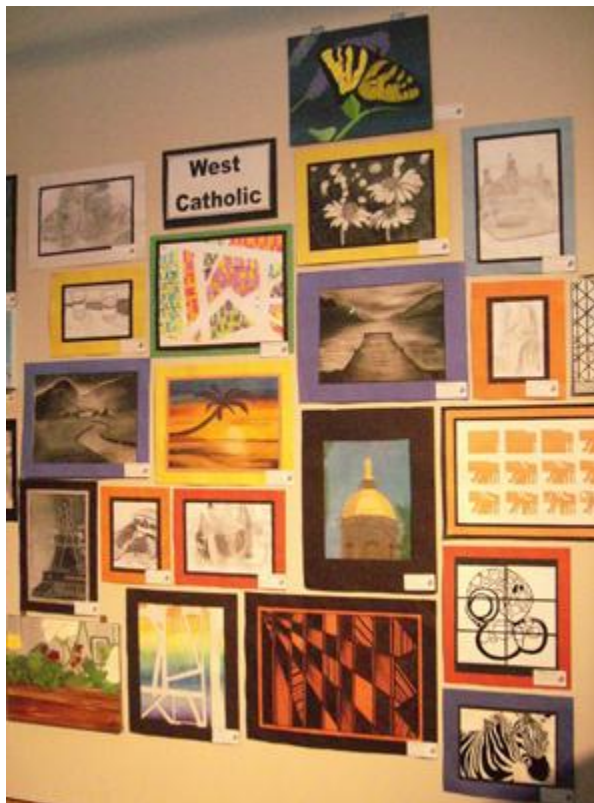
Sara and her classmates

Citywide Student Art Show - 4/23/2010

Works of art created by 21 West Catholic students have been chosen to be part of the Citywide Student Art Show at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts (UICA) March 16-22, 2010.

This is one of the most vibrant and eclectic exhibitions in Grand Rapids. The Citywide Student Art Show celebrates the creativity of over 1,200 students from 73 public and shared-time schools within the Grand Rapids Public Schools. UICA's gallery walls are covered with artwork from Grand Rapids area K-12 students. An opening reception was held for the student artists on March 16.

The following West Catholic students have pieces in the exhibition: **Steven Ayers, Andrew Beringer, Anna Bergquist, Erika Buczkowski, Madelyn Drumm, Kaitlyn Karsten, Katie Klein, Margaret Kline, Andrea Powers, Jenna Rood, Lisa Schumaker, Chelsea Sedlecky, Jacquie Sochacki, Monica Solarewicz, Brandi Stein, Kristi Sterkenburg, Stacy Tapia, Sarah Thimmesh, Jessica Visser, Shaina Wood, and Andrew Wysocki.** Their teacher is Mrs. Lisa Nawrocki.



Student Athlete Honored by Farmers Insurance - 4/23/2010

West Catholic senior **Billy Nowak** has been named the first recipient of the Farmers Student Athlete Citizens Award. This award recognizes outstanding high school student athletes that are making a difference on the athletic field, in the classroom, and in the communities they represent.

Administrators and coaches from 768 high schools statewide have been invited to nominate student-athletes who carry a grade point average of 2.5 or greater (on a 4.0 scale) and are involved in extracurricular activities (including community service). Athletic achievements in

both individual and team sports will be considered. The monthly winner is determined by a selection committee comprised of personnel from Farmers Insurance and FSN Detroit. The honorees receive a plaque presented by a local Farmers Insurance agent and are featured in a 30-second vignette ran throughout the following month during FSN Detroit programming.

Nowak is a member of the National Honor Society and he holds a grade point average of 3.6. The nomination submitted by West Catholic football coach Dan Rohn indicated Nowak has never missed a team function in three years and during this previous season he played multiple roles on the team, including center, quarterback and tight end. A dedicated multiple-sport student-athlete, he was noted for his willingness to do whatever it takes for the team.

In addition to excelling as a student-athlete, Nowak volunteers at St. Alphonsus Church, works as a youth camp director for baseball and football, and participated in a summer retreat at St. Michael's Church painting and repairing church buildings.

Congratulations Billy!

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.

WC Senior Wins Scholarship Essay Contest - 4/30/2010

West Catholic senior, Abby Ziegler, is one of eight winners of the 2010 Lloyd F. Hutt Scholarship presented by Lake Michigan Credit Union.

This scholarship program was established by LMCU in 1991 to honor and recognize the contributions of its founder, Lloyd F. Hutt. Entrants were asked to write a 750 to 1,500 word essay on the topic "Describe Your Best Day Ever: Past, Present or Future." An independent panel of judges selected the winners after reading each essay, focusing on content and passion for the topic. Of 312 essays submitted, eight students were chosen to receive \$2,000 each for their continued education.

Zeigler wrote her essay about her experiences on the West Catholic volleyball team. The essay can be read at https://www.lmcu.org/docs/hutt_booklet_web.pdf . She plans to

attend Central Michigan University to study Speech Pathology. She is the daughter of Michael and Lori Ziegler, and she is a graduate of Holy Spirit School. Congratulations Abby!

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.

WC Student Success at Science Olympiad - 4/30/2010

On Saturday, March 27, the Science Olympiad team participated in the Regional Competition at Grand Valley State University.

The team consisted of fourteen students and was coached by science teacher Mrs. Diane Ysasi. They have been practicing and preparing for the 23 different events since the beginning of the school year.

Among very tough competition, the students' preparation and skill were rewarded with medals in three events. Caitlin Morrow and Rachel Szczytko were 2nd place in Ecology. Kathryn Bishop and Rachel Szczytko earned 2nd place in Write It Do It. Katie Kosnik and Nick Dyga were 5th place in Environmental Chem. Overall, the team placed 12th out of 24 teams in competition. Congratulations to the whole team!

WC Quiz Bowl Team Competes at State - 4/30/2010

The West Catholic Quiz Bowl Team competed in the Michigan High School Quiz Bowl State Championship at Michigan State University on April 23 and 24. West Catholic finished the tournament among the top 20 teams in the state in Class B.

West Catholic posted a dominant victory over Allegan before being eliminated from the tournament by eventual state champion Detroit Country Day. Team members competing at State were seniors Zach Hartman, Miles Johnson, Alex Herrington, and Devon Hagen; and freshmen Jack Brooks and Brendan Kosnik. The team is coached by Mr. Patrick Nugent. West Catholic has qualified for the State Tournament each year since 1999. Congratulations!

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!

West Catholic Fine Arts Camp - 4/23/2010

West Catholic High School will host a Fine Arts Camp this summer for students entering grades 4 – 8. The camp will be held from June 14 – 18, 2010.

Students can take classes in art, band, cartooning, choir, creative writing, drama, dance, and graphic design. On Friday, June 18, there will be an art show and a performance showcasing the talents of all of the students.

The cost is \$35.00 per student, and registration is due May 31. Brochures are available in the West Catholic main office and the main offices of many local Catholic grade schools. Further details and registration information is available on line at:

<http://enigma2075.com/Fine%5FArts%5FWebsite/>.

You may also contact Lisa Nawrocki, Chairperson of the West Catholic Fine Arts Department, at (616) 233-5939 if you have questions about the camp.

WC Junior Receives Kettering University Technology Award - 4/30/2010

West Catholic junior, **Anna Brechting**, was awarded the Kettering University Technology Award. The award is given to an outstanding junior who excels in the sciences, technology or mathematics.

The award is sponsored by Kettering/GMI alumni and is intended to give students well-deserved recognition, as well as attract qualified students to careers in engineering, mathematics, technology and the sciences. Awardees receive a bronze medallion with the Kettering seal and a portfolio personalized with their name. These students may qualify for Kettering's Merit Scholarship and are encouraged to apply for admission to the university. Brechting's scientific endeavors at West Catholic include the FIRST Robotics program and AP Chemistry. She is the daughter of Martin and Jill Brechting, and she is a graduate of Holy Trinity School. Congratulations Anna!



*Bob Mock, Kettering Representative; Sharon Piers, Chemistry Teacher; Anna Brechting;
and Tim Nawrocki, Physics Teacher*

***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.

Gabriel Audu Wins National Achievement Scholarship - 5/19/2010

West Catholic senior, Gabriel Audu, has been selected as the winner of a National Achievement \$2500 Scholarship. Audu is one of only 700 recipients of National Achievement \$2500 Scholarships.

All students who advanced to the Finalist level in the 2010 competition were considered for these single-payment scholarships, which were awarded on a regional representation basis, in proportion to the population of Black Americans in each geographic region.

The National Achievement Scholarship Program is a privately financed academic competition established in 1964 specifically to honor scholastically talented Black American youth, and to provide scholarships to a substantial number of the most outstanding participants in each annual competition. The program is conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance.

More than 160,000 students entered the 2010 National Achievement Scholarship Program by requesting consideration when they took the 2008 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) as high school juniors. In September 2009, approximately 1,600 of the highest scorers were named Semifinalists on a regional representation basis. To continue in the competition, Semifinalists had to fulfill requirements for Finalist standing, which included having a record of consistently high academic performance; being endorsed and recommended by an official of their high school; earning SAT scores that confirm their PSAT/NMSQT performance; and writing an essay.

Some 1,300 Semifinalists advanced to the Finalist level, and all National Achievement Scholarship winners were selected from this group of outstanding students. Achievement Scholar awardees are the Finalist candidates judged to have the strongest record of accomplishments and greatest potential for academic success in college.

Gabriel will be attending Yale University this fall.

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!

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!

West Catholic to Stream Games and other Events - 5/20/2010

Alumni and the West Catholic community will now be able to watch events over the Internet. West Catholic is the first school in Grand Rapids to join the MHSAA Digital Broadcasting Program.

This program provides us with the ability to video events and stream them Live and On-Demand over the internet at our dedicated website www.mhsaa.tv/westcatholic

Go to this link to see baseball, soccer and even graduation this year! In the future, you will find principal and coaches' interviews, fine arts-and this fall-football and other sporting events.

We're excited to provide another way for you to stay connected with West Catholic. In addition to keeping the West Catholic community linked together, this program provides real-life experience for our students. Through an internship, graciously sponsored by Meijer, students will learn how to film, direct and produce events; exactly the skills needed to get a job at CNN or WOOD TV.

Students will learn how to produce events using multiple cameras (we need a TriCaster or video switcher if anyone has one), audio inputs, play-by-play announcing, scoring graphics, and a variety of commercial elements.

"This brings together everything that we have been looking for in a program," said Dan Rohn. "It is a great educational tool, keeps our community connected and can even generate additional funding for the school. West Catholic sponsors will have the opportunity to get exposure on the internet and be recognized as major West Catholic supporters."

Live in another state or country?

Now you can see it all at www.mhsaa.tv/westcatholic

Please contact Dan Rohn (danrohn@grcss.org or 616-233-5903) if you are interested in learning more or wish to get involved.

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

West Catholic Football Team Honored as a Sports Faith International "Team of the Year" - 5/13/2010

On Wednesday, May 19, Patrick McCaskey, co-owner of the Chicago Bears and Chairman of Sports Faith International, presented The Sports Faith International Hometown Heroes Award to the West Catholic football team under the category "Team of the Year" for their excellence and exemplary achievements in sports, education and faith example.

The purpose of the Sports Faith International annual contest is to encourage athletes to “let their light shine before men, so that they may see their good works, and give thanks to the Father in Heaven.” Without in any way diminishing the importance of this award, the first place award for the “Team of the Year” was actually given out in February in Chicago. But the West Catholic Varsity Football team was so close to being selected first that SFI wanted to recognize them because of their extraordinary accomplishments and faith example.

On May 19, Patrick McCaskey addressed the West Catholic football players on the topic of sports and faith; touching upon his growing up in sports, his family, his involvement with the Bears, and the impact and importance of faith in life and work.

West Catholic’s football team was specifically noted for its academic and service achievements this year, in addition to its second straight OK Blue Conference Championship. The team received Academic All State Honorable Mention honors for ranking 12th in Division 4 based on team grade point average. The team also logged over 3000 service hours last summer, before the football season even began, working for the school and at youth camps.

One highlight for the team prior to the season was a two-day work retreat in July for team members, their fathers, and the coaches. They traveled to St. Michaels’ Parish in Brunswick. The participants scraped and painted the entire parish hall and also spruced up the parish grounds and play structures. The students reflected on the value of teamwork and commitment to others. The retreat concluded on Sunday with a Mass celebrated by the parish priest.

According to Coach Dan Rohn, “The 2009 WC Football program made a commitment to giving back to our community by providing opportunities for our players, coaches, and parents to get involved with a number of service projects throughout the year. We want our players to understand that being a student athlete at West Catholic goes beyond what we do on the game field. We want to develop and enrich our players completely, in their faith, commitment, and dedication.”

Sports Faith International is a Chicago-based initiative dedicated to inspiring and transforming our culture through the world of sports. It utilizes the best of new and traditional media to feature and encourage the powerful personal testimonies of outstanding athletes at all levels, who are living out their faith on and off the field. The vision of Sports Faith International is inspired by Pope John Paul II, who was known as “the athlete’s Pope,” called for the aggressive use of the media to promote the faith, and encouraged the utilization of sports as a powerful instrument to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



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.





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.

WC Students Raise Pro-Life Funds - 5/28/2010

In partnership with Grand Rapids Right to Life, West Catholic students raised \$1000 in the month of April to support Right to Life programming and local crisis pregnancy centers. The West Catholic Students for Life club works to promote pro-life issues and causes in the school and community throughout the year. In the month of April, the club sponsored a Baby Bottle Drive in the school. Each religion class was given a baby bottle to fill with money for the

cause. Each day for three weeks, a spare change collection was taken up in each class to fill the bottles. In some classrooms, individual Students for Life club members made cookies and cupcakes to sell to raise even more funds. At the end of three weeks, the total collected was \$1000.

The money raised was sent to Grand Rapids Right to Life. 50% of the proceeds will be used for Right to Life programming, and the other 50% will be given to five different pregnancy centers in the Grand rapids area that offer material support to women facing an unplanned pregnancy. The five centers are Mel Trotter Women and Children Center, Pregnancy Resource Center, HELP Crisis Pregnancy Aid, Alpha Women's Center and St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis Center. Amanda Blok of GR Right to Life complimented the students' efforts, noting that the money raised "will be a huge help to continuing the life-saving work in Grand Rapids. Thanks so much for doing the drive!"

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.

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 GRCSS section of the website.

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

On Tuesday, May 18, 2010, the 133 seniors of the Class of 2010 received diplomas in the graduation ceremonies held at West Catholic High School.

The ceremonies began with a Baccalaureate Mass at the Basilica of St. Adalbert. 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 West Catholic Gymnasium. Both Pastor/President Fr. R. Louis Stasker and Principal Thomas Maj addressed the graduates. Valedictorian **Lisa Schumaker** and Salutatorian **Caitlin Morrow** also gave speeches. Diplomas were then awarded by Bishop Hurley and the graduates' pastors. Congratulations Graduates!

The senior class received a total of **\$5,883,586** in scholarship offers this year and will be attending 37 different colleges, universities and military academies.

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

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

Alma College

Emily Falicki
Kaitlyn Mays
Claire Swift
Helen Swift

Aquinas College

Fernando Anleu
Kelsey Carpenter
Amanda Cecil
Elizabeth Decot
John Guild
Raymond Kalinowski
Matthew Karas
Emily Kline
Aaron Langlois
Jessica McCormick
Lauren McFall
Chelsea Sedlecky
Joseph Slomski

Auburn University

Alexander Preston

Bowling Green

Makenzie Deering

Central Michigan University

Danielle Beatty
Alexander Biller
Simon Buzalski
Megan Debri
Madelyn Drumm

Rebecca Hansen
Courtney Heeren
Miles Johnson
Kelly Morrissey
Jillian Pindar
Michelle Rathbun
Ryan Rooney
Abby Ziegler

Columbia College

Sam Jones

Davenport University

Steven Ayers
Reece Czarnecki
Gabe Sochanek

Douglas J. Aveda Institute

Kyla Gregory

Elmhurst College

Charles Roberts

Ferris State University

Collette Gravelyn

Emily Huber

Andrew Koeller

Grand Rapids Community College

Scott Aardema

Whitney Alexander

Tyler Booth

Elizabeth Brunette

Nicholas Byrne

Xochitl Campuzano-Sanchez

Michael Davey

Erika Duggan

Nicholas Ford

Claire Gimborys

Caitlin Golembiewski

Richard Grice

Jordyn Hershey

Stephen Host

Zachary Kasperlik

Steven Kelly

Matthew Korzeniauskas

Rodney Kusters

Steven Kuzma

Joseph Kwiatkowski

David LaPonsie

Jon Lovell

James McCarthy

Travis Mikita
Kyle Morrison
Tabetha Mucinski
William Nowak
Taylor Nowicki
Gregory Platte
Kelli Pospiech
Katie Russo
Kellen Samuelson
Matthew Schichtel
Joshua Sheeran
Jacob Simons
Dan Sipka
Amanda St. Martin
Sarah Thimmesch
Katherine Townsend
Alexander Trudell
Alexis
Ryan VanSpriell
Alexa Wasielewski
Forrest West

Grand Rapids Community College and Univ. Of Adv. Tech.

Harrison Frede

Grand Valley State University

Maria Dunneback

Devon Hagen

John Kinney

Heather Piotrowski

Keith Welsh

Holy Cross College

Anthony Oleck

Hope College

Anna Leikert

Illinois Institute of Art

Colleen Kohane

Lake Superior State

Alexander Ostrowski

Miami University

Susan Sabaitis

Michigan State University

Matthew Alt

Nicholas DeRyke

David Golembiewski

Alex Herrington

Riley McCartney

Jacob McDonough

Stephanie Preston

Adam Stowe

Devon Velding

William Wisz

Montcalm Community College

Kylie Tomasik

Northern Michigan University

Shelby Jacobson

Olivia Steil

Northwood University

Sarah Mooney

Ohio State University

Zachary Hartman

Purdue University

Brittney Pasikowski

Thomas Aquinas College, CA

Anna Bergquist

Undecided

Andrew Bearinger

Blake Lamoreaux

Shelby Leighton

David Miklosi

United States Marine Corps

Christian Barrera

University of Chicago

Francis Burns

University of Dayton

Matthew Coulson

Olivia Quam

University of Detroit Mercy

Johnathan Faski

University of Michigan

Scott Christopher

Maura McCarthy

Taylor Sielawa

University of Notre Dame

Lisa Schumaker

University of Texas-Dallas

Caitlin Morrow

US Marine Corps

Andrew Wysocki

West Point

Katherine Sochacki

Western Michigan University

Allison Grifka

Xavier University

Nicholas Putz
Yale
Gabriel Audu

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 Najjar
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

Cross State Catholic Football Shootout is August 27th - 7/21/2010

Save the Date! Please join us on Friday, August 27, 2010 at West Catholic Falcon Stadium for the inaugural Cross State Catholic Football Shootout. Come and cheer our teams on to victory!

Catholic Central will take on Traverse City St. Francis at 4:00 pm.

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

There will be a steak dinner from 5:00 to 8:00.

More information to come in the next few weeks...

Kendra Meyers Wins State Discus Championship - 6/15/2010

West Catholic sophomore, **Kendra Meyers**, won the MHSAA Division 2 State Championship in Discus on Saturday, June 5 at Zeeland.

Meyers won the meet with a toss of 132-5 feet. She had also won the Discus event in the preceding week's MITCA championships. She said, "This is amazing. I still can't believe it." Meyers also placed 8th in the Shot Put to help lead the team to a 9th place finish overall in the State.



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.

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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.

24th Annual Cougar Open Golf Tournament on September 13th - 8/6/2010

Come join us for the 24th Annual Cougar Open Golf Tournament. This year's event will be hosted at the Egypt Valley Country Club on September 13th.

Friends, Family and Supporters of Catholic Central are invited to enjoy a great outing for a wonderful cause. This event is a "5-person scramble." Proceeds will go to continue the academic and athletic excellence at Catholic Central. Find more details and register at:

www.CougarOpen.com

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.

Falcon Pride Day 2010 on August 14th - 8/11/2010

Bring your Garden Equipment [rakes, shovels, brooms, trimmers, edgers, power washers and work gloves] as the West Catholic athletes, coaches and parents work with the facilities department and administrators to put the final sparkle on West Catholic before the start of the 2009 school year.

Join us on Saturday, August 14th from 8-10 AM for our 3rd Annual Falcon Pride Day. Let's “Raise the Bar!”

Invite friends, family and alumni of West Catholic. We have built our school with hard work, dedication, and with many hands for over 48 years. Now we need to continue to improve our facility with hard work, dedication, and we need to do it the true West Catholic way.

Many hands make light work. If you have any questions email, danrohn@grcss.org, or call the facilities/athletics department at 616-233-5903.

Facility Clean-Up List

Painting

Paint will be here and we will have some rollers and supplies, but could use additional rollers, brushes and paint trays.

Coat of paint on the goal posts

Paint the Press box. A lot of graffiti as been covered and it looks bad.

Paint Garbage Cans - all one color

Trailer in stadium – Fresh coat of paint (Current paint ran and looks bad)

Weeds

Gloves-Rakes-Shovels

Weed the sidewalks and curbs around the school

Weed Whip along fences and around sheds on practice fields

Weed and pull dead grass around the edge of the track

Pull weeds and weed whip around visitors bleachers

Weed whip the hill on the visitors side

Weed whip around bleachers and press box at baseball field

Home Bleachers - pull weeds by base of fence under bleachers

Pull weeds in pole vault and handicap areas

Rake and weed the long jump pit

Weed along softball and baseball fences

Edging

Equipment - Edgers

Edging all Sidewalks around the front and back of school

Edging around the stadium sidewalks

Leaf Blowers and Power Washers

Blow the areas under the bleachers and around the back of the school. Especially maintenance area. Power wash around the dumpsters

Power wash the base of the shed on the practice field (holds football equipment)

Power wash the entrances and sidewalks to the stadium

Power wash entrances to the school, especially the gym area

Power wash all dugouts

Bleachers and area in front of bleachers

Blow off all sidewalks curbs and parking areas.

Cleaning

Windex, Paper Towels

Clean the press box, windows, and vacuum

Clean ticket booth windows and floor

Clean out concessions

Clean and power wash all dugouts

Clean the windows and doors - gym area

Clean the backboards

Clean drains on football field

Clean tables and mirrors in team room and vacuum

Vacuum all entrances

Wipe down all baseboards around the gym

Mop all steps and wipe down all baseboards leading up to the weight room and team room

North and South side of the gym

Clean the glass in front of the trophy cases

Clean indoor concession and move pop to outside concessions

Clean out and blow out the visitor's locker room and garage on practice field

Mop the indoor bleachers

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 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.

Catholic Central and West Catholic 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**; and West Catholic High School seniors **Nicholas Dyga** and **Jake Kneibel** 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 and West Catholic Seniors Named National Merit Semifinalists - 9/22/2010

Catholic Central High School seniors **Maureen Daum, Maggie Lawrence, Keegan McCorry, Grace Tomaszewski** and **Matthew Wallick**; and West Catholic Seniors **Eamon Carmody** and **Jared Heys** 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. Carmody, Daum, Heys, 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.

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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& WEST CATHOLIC
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2010 Legacy of Faith

BRAD LITTELL
ANNETTE GUILD
BOB LENNON
COACH LEONARD J. SKRYCKI
CRAIG STEIL
DAN BOWEN
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KRISTYNA NUNZIO
LEAH STOFFER
MATTHEW EARDLEY
MAXINE (WIERENGA) ARSULOWICZ
NORMAN FRANK PELAK III
PHYLLIS ROSENBACH
SHERRY BOWEN
THE MCGOVERN FAMILY
THE PRICE FAMILY
THE RUSCHMANN FAMILY
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.

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 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](#)

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

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

West Catholic students, **Katie Kosnik**, **Alec McGuire**, and **Hayden Pomper**; and 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!



West Catholic Band Success - 10/28/2010

Earlier this month, the West Catholic Band received a B+ grade and a Division II rating from MSBOA, the state's governing music body.

The band also earned a large trophy for third place in Class C at the Grandville Marching Competition, while receiving an Excellence Award for Marching and Percussion. Furthermore, the band received a trophy for being the "Top Band" at the Pulaski Days Parade.

Congratulations!



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 Champion 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 the 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.

Catholic Central High School, established in 1906, is the oldest co-ed Catholic High School in the nation. West Catholic High School, established in 1962, will be celebrating its 50 year anniversary Fall 2011.

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!

Thanksgiving Holiday Extended - 11/23/2010

In appreciation for the community support of Catholic Central and West Catholic High Schools, Father Stasker has extended the Thanksgiving Holiday through Monday, November 29. Both high schools will be closed on Monday, November 29. We started on the same field. We will finish on the same field. Go Cougars! Go Falcons!

Catholic Central Auction Coming March 12 - 1/5/2011

Mark your calendars for Catholic Central's Celebration and Auction, coming March 12! This year's theme is "We are CC...The Heart of the City."



Tickets are available for a limited time only. Get yours now! www.wearecc.org has all the information.

West is the best - first ever football State Championship!! - 11/28/2010

The West Catholic Falcons made history on Saturday, November 27th – they won the school's first football State Championship! The Falcons entered Ford Field with a confidence and determination that couldn't be matched. They were a team with one goal – to beat Olivet for the championship.

It was a back and forth game during the first half but after halftime, the Falcons took control of the game. They worked together at a team to dominate their opponent and knock the game out of reach to beat Olivet by a score of 42-26.

After the game, coach Rohn was quoted as saying, "There have been some incredible moments of my life, but this ranks up there as one of the top ones. We've worked hard to get here, and we've worked hard as a football team, as a school and as a community."

Congratulations to our State Champions!!