



# West Catholic Perspectives

Published Monthly by West Catholic High School, recognized as one of the Top 50 U.S. Catholic High Schools

September, 2011



## Mission Statement

West Catholic High School provides a Catholic culture for instruction and faith formation that challenges students to know and love God, seek knowledge and truth, respect the dignity of each person, and contribute to society through leadership and service.

West Catholic High School  
1801 Bristol N.W.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
49504

Phone: (616) 233-5900  
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Website:  
www.grwestcatholic.org

Interim Principal  
Jack Young

Dean of Students  
Tony Fischer

Athletic Director / Facilities  
Manager  
Dan Rohn

Director of Guidance  
Heidi Smitley

## From the Principal's Desk

Parents, Alumni, and Friends of West Catholic:

Please make plans to attend our Open House on Wednesday, September 7. Open House provides a great opportunity for you to meet each of your child's teachers, familiarize yourself with the school building, discuss the demands of your child's courses, and appreciate firsthand the investment that you've made in your child's future.

All community members and parents are always welcome to join us for our all-school masses. Our opening all-school mass is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 8 at 10:15 a.m. Specifically for parents of Freshmen, the month of September will be an important time for you to reassure your child regarding the hectic pace of the high school day. Freshmen experience some growing pains in terms of their work-load and academic demands, as well as the change in their social envi-

ronment. Administrators, counselors, faculty and staff are confident that we can deliver a similar message at school to your own message at home, and that a consistent approach will empower our students/your children.

West Catholic Alumni: As we head into our 50th year (1962-2012), we're planning a year-long series of events to celebrate. The first is a **huge All-Class 50-Year Tailgate Party**, to be held here on campus before the football game on Sept. 30. That's Homecoming weekend, too, so be sure to mark your calendars. It promises to be a very special event.

On Wednesday, Sept. 28 we are hosting Mr. Tim Cusack, a motivational speaker with a concise message to high school students about living well and making the best decisions for their futures. Tim will address the entire student body in the Gymnasium beginning at 10:15 a.m.; parents are welcome to attend.

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## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Main Office	233-5900
Attendance Office	233-5911
Guidance Office	233-5909
Athletic Office	233-5912
Maintenance	233-5913



GIFT Days Class of 2012

In the afternoon, Tim will speak to the Catholic Central student body, as well. In the evening, Tim will address the parent communities from both West Catholic & Catholic Central in the West Catholic Gymnasium beginning at 7 p.m.

Finally, I want to formally introduce and welcome our new staff members. Our new Technology teacher is Ms. Dawn McCumber. Dawn comes to us from the Grand Rapids Public Schools; she replaces Ms. Shawn Abele in the Technology Department. Our new Campus Minister is Mr. Phil Dolci (WC '99). Phil has been working as the High School Faith Formation Director at Our Lady of Consolation parish since 2008, and we are very happy to have him back on campus. Welcome Dawn and Phil!

On behalf of the faculty and staff, thank you all for your support of West Catholic High School.

Sincerely,  
Jack Young  
Interim Principal

## ~GUIDANCE OFFICE NEWS~

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year! The WC Guidance Office looks forward to working with you, as groups and individually. Our department offers counseling in the areas of college planning, career exploration, educational testing, personal development and overall academic success. Counselors and staff are:

Mrs. Diane Ysasi – last names starting A-O  
Mrs. Deb Braseth – last names starting P-Z  
Mrs. Heidi Clark-Smitley – Director of Guidance  
Mrs. Lauri Ford – Guidance Assistant

**Parent Programs** - Don't forget to mark your calendars and attend informative workshops hosted by the Guidance Department. Read online school announcements daily and email blasts sent from our Naviance site for additional information on each program.

**Seniors** are encouraged to complete their college applications as early as possible this fall the end of October being a great personal deadline for most applications. Remember- “no trick-or-treat ‘til your apps are complete!” Students submitting applications earlier in the fall will receive optimal consideration in the admissions process and for scholarship opportunities. Information and reminders for seniors are communicated in the Daily Announcements and at the WC Naviance account (go to [www.westcatholic.org/Academics](http://www.westcatholic.org/Academics) website links).

### Senior Class Fundraiser

Each senior will receive one entertainment book on Orientation Day. Seniors have until Sept. 9 to sell this book. The cost is \$25; the “cash” coupons contained in the book are valued at \$35. The incentive to sell is as follows: if you sell five books, you will receive one free book **or** one ticket to the Homecoming Dance. The senior who has sold the most books by Sept. 9 will receive \$50 cash; the minimum number of books sold to win the \$50 cash is 10. Seniors may see Mrs. Coste de Falk anytime in Room 116 to receive more books to sell.

## All A's Walk Coming October 5

Mark your calendars for the All A's Walk on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 8:30 a.m.

That's when more than 1,000 students from West Catholic and Catholic Central take to the streets of Grand Rapids to raise money for tuition assistance. About a quarter of our students receive tuition assistance every year, and this is one of our biggest fundraising events.

### All A's Quick Facts

- \* 2011 fundraising goal: \$100,000
- \* Individual student goal: \$75.
- \* Raise \$125+ and get a free jeans day
- \* Distance: 3 miles
- \* Start: 8:30 a.m. at each school
- \* Both schools meet at Fulton & Seward then walk together to John Ball Park
- \* End: Students arrive at the park at approx. 10:30 and await dismissal
- \* Make a donation at [grcss.org/Donate](http://grcss.org/Donate) or [www.grwestcatholic.org/Support](http://www.grwestcatholic.org/Support) West Catholic

### Honor Your Favorite Alum

Make a *Legacy of Faith* donation to the All A's Walk in honor of an alum who has been an inspirational figure in your life. A donation of just \$150 lets you pay tribute to an outstanding alumnus or alumna of your choice. These alumni will be listed in recognition on the Legacy of Faith banner displayed at the Walk as well as on event T-shirts.

### Parent Volunteers Needed

We need parent volunteers to help make the All A's Walk successful. Opportunities include walking with a group of students, distributing water at the halfway point (Adobe In and Out, Fulton and Seward), donating prepackaged snacks and assisting with refreshments and decorations at the park.

Please fill out the form below and return to the school, or contact [mindywhiteside@grcss.org](mailto:mindywhiteside@grcss.org), 616-233-5918.

Thank you for your support!

**To volunteer for All A's**, send your completed form to: All A's Walk, 1801 Bristol NW, Grand Rapids MI 49504. Or contact [mindywhiteside@grcss.org](mailto:mindywhiteside@grcss.org), 616-233-5918. Check your preference:

\_\_\_\_\_ Refreshments/decorations at John Ball Park    \_\_\_\_\_ Provide snacks or drinks

\_\_\_\_\_ Distribute water at halfway point

\_\_\_\_\_ Walk the route with the students. Indicate school and/or teacher: CC \_\_\_\_\_ WC \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent email \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Senior picture deadline & yearbook photo information!***

In order for your senior to appear in the West Catholic yearbook, they must be photographed by The House of Photography, 523 Wilson NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534, 791-0531. We require this for several reasons:

- For a consistent high quality look and continuity in your yearbook's senior section
- Because the studio in return donates their time and services to photograph your students sporting events, courts, and other school event coverage for your yearbook. Please show them your appreciation.
- To gain our students the best senior pictures at a reduced rate. All WC seniors get a 20% discount off all normal House of Photography prints and senior packages.

**You can contact the studio directly at 791-0531 or [www.houseofphotography.com](http://www.houseofphotography.com)**

If you are on a budget or have basic needs, we have worked out some great deals with the studio.

### **Below are *NEW SUPER SAVER* deals!**

**Yearbook PLUS DELUXE: \$99.95** this session will take about 10 minutes. You'll have eight head and shoulder yearbook poses created. You will view your poses in the studio on their photo display monitor. You pick your favorite for the yearbook and your prints. This special includes yearbook photo and 1-8x10 and 21 wallet prints. You can add additional items if desired.

**Yearbook PLUS: \$69.95** this session will take about 5 minutes. You will have six head and shoulder yearbook poses taken. You will view your poses in the studio right after your session on the studio's preview monitor. You can select your favorite pose. This package includes yearbook photo and 2-5x7 prints with 7 wallet prints.

**Yearbook ONLY: \$20** you'll have 3-4 shots created. The studio will pick the best one. Sorry, you won't be able to see it or order any pictures from this session. It will be a high quality portrait comparable to all of the other studio work. It will be provided for you to the yearbook. No options or choices allow the studio to keep time invested to a minimum in order to price this option as low as possible. The studio does these at cost as a favor to you and your school.

#### **West Catholic Yearbook Picture Rules:**

- **Deadline is November 2 to have your picture taken in order to appear in our yearbook**
- House of Photography will take the yearbook style shots in compliance with your school rules. If you have the studio do all of your senior pictures, they will take the yearbook shots at the start of your normal session. You can select the one you want for your yearbook.
- Your appearance must be in accordance with school rules. The studio is not responsible for your appearance. Girls must be in long sleeved tops that aren't low cut. Solids are better than stripes or patterns. Guys must wear a sweater and tie or sport coat and tie.

These rules pertain only to the first 6-8 shots of your normal studio senior session and to the three yearbook sessions listed above. Afterwards, you can do anything you like.

**See your friends from last year on their website and facebook! [www.houseofphotography.com](http://www.houseofphotography.com)**

### Class of 2012 GIFT Days

The seniors of the Class of 2012 started their final year at West Catholic with the two-day GIFT Days retreat at Camp Blodgett in Grand Haven. GIFT Days stands for “Growing in Faith Together.” At the retreat the students had an opportunity to reconnect with classmates after the summer vacation and to get to know their classmates on a newer and deeper level. In addition to some fun and games, the students engaged in small group discussions, listened to a keynote speaker, and spent time in prayer. The retreat concluded with a Mass offered by Fr. Tom Page of St. Jude Parish. The specific theme chosen for this year’s retreat was “Time of our Lives,” encouraging each student to make the most of this time in his or her life. It is hoped that the fruits of this retreat will empower the Class of 2012 to have a very successful senior year—academically, athletically, socially, and spiritually.

*Thank you to the many parents and teachers who gave of their time and talents to make this retreat a success.*





## Parents' Club News

**Welcome** to all new West Catholic families. Joining the Parents' Club is a great opportunity to meet other families and get involved. Please consider giving your time and talent to this committee by joining us at our quarterly meetings or simply helping with any of the areas that are listed on the Volunteer Form. Please welcome back the following members:

Open – Chairperson  
 Joni Norder – Communications  
 Robin Boorsma & Laurie Sipka – Co-chairs of Hospitality  
 Tamara Mason – Grounds Care

**Membership** It's simple to join the Parents' Club. Complete the enclosed form and send back to school. The \$10 that you are asked to pay in dues helps to fund our activities. We do not hold fundraisers.

**Fall Event** The Parents' Club is very excited to announce that Tim Cusack, who is a well-respected motivational speaker, is coming to West Catholic to speak to our students on Wednesday, September 28. Tim's message will be one that helps start our students off on a positive note to facilitate good character behavior and challenges to the students throughout the school year. In addition, Tim will be talking at an open forum that same evening at West Catholic to parents as a continuation of his message. The idea is to involve parents in what the students are learning to help make conversation in the home easier. Please put this date on your calendar. We hope you look forward to this very inspirational event.

**Next Meeting** Our next meeting will take place in October. Please look for date and time in October Perspectives. Hope you can join us.

### Save the Date for *Our Town*

*Our Town* performances will be October 27, 29, November 3, 5 at 7:30 p.m.; October 30 and November 6 at 3 p.m. at the Aquinas College Performing Arts Center. Tickets go on sale October 17. More details to come in the October newsletter.

### Individuals Needed for Adoration at West Catholic

As we have continuous adoration here at West Catholic, we are looking for individuals who may be able to stay with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament during school days. Many of our regulars are older or have moved on and we desperately need regular adorers and substitutes to fill in occasionally. If you want a quiet spot to be with our Lord, this may be a great opportunity for you. Everyone is welcome. Please call Lois Flickinger at 453-9104 for more information or to sign up.

# news from the west catholic Fine Arts department

## WELCOME BACK

In this monthly section you will be informed of the activities in the West Catholic Fine Arts Department. From our award-winning marching band and phenomenal jazz band to our excellent visual arts classes, active art club, our growing choirs, our impressive fall play, Shakespearean production, and the spring musical, we will include dates and times of upcoming events, performances and auditions and more.

**We all look forward to this year and thank you in advance for your prayers and support.**

## THE WC FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

**Ms. Mary Harwood:** Choir Director - West Catholic High School Choir, Liturgical Music, Drama Co-Director - Fall Play and Director of our Spring Musical.

Contact Ms. Harwood at: [maryharwood@grcss.org](mailto:maryharwood@grcss.org)

**Mr. Darren LaPrise:** Band Director - West Catholic High School Marching Band, Concert Band and Jazz Band.

Contact Mr. LaPrise at (616)233-5931 or [darrenlaprise@grcss.org](mailto:darrenlaprise@grcss.org)

**Mrs. Lisa Nawrocki:** Fine Arts Department Head, Art Instructor: Art I - Drawing, Art II - Design, Art III - Studio Art, Art IV - Portfolio Preparation, Art Palette and Kendall College Dual Enrollment classes, Art Club Advisor.

Contact Ms. Nawrocki at: (616)233-5939 or [lisanawrocki@grcss.org](mailto:lisanawrocki@grcss.org)

**Mr. Bob Rose:** Co-director - WC fall play, Director - mid-winter joint WC/CC Shakespearean production.

Contact Mr. Rose at: [roseisarose52@yahoo.com](mailto:roseisarose52@yahoo.com)

## ArtPrize

ArtPrize will run from September 21 through October 9 at venues throughout downtown Grand Rapids and Frederick Meijer Gardens. WC Fine Arts Department head, **Mrs. Lisa Nawrocki** will once again have a piece on display.

Mrs. Nawrocki has created a seven panel, acrylic painting depicting the creation story. The piece will be displayed at the Downtown Courtyard Marriott at 11 Monroe Ave and an opening reception will take place September 24.

For details go to [www.artprize.org](http://www.artprize.org)

## CSS 2011 PERFORMACE SCHEDULE

**Our Town** October 27-30 & November 3-6, 2011

**Twelfth Night** January 20-22 & 27-29, 2012

**Seussical the Musical** March 7-11, 2012

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**  
March 21-24, 2012

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**September 1, 16, 30** Marching Band performs at varsity football game, 6:45 p.m.

**September 8** Art Club, first meeting of the year, 7:40 a.m. in the art room, 313

**September 17** Marching Band performs at Walk for Juvenile Diabetes at Ah-Nah-Ba-Wan Park, 9:30 a.m.

**September 21 - October 9** ArtPrize

**September 30** -- WC Choir sings the National Anthem at Homecoming Game 7p.m.

### SAVE THE DATE!

West Catholic and Catholic Central Drama Departments are once again teaming up this fall to present Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize winning play, *Our Town*, October 27, 29 and November 3, 5, at 7:30 p.m. and October 30 and November 6 at 3 p.m. All performances will be staged at the Performing Arts Center at Aquinas College.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Any students interested in adding zero hour choir to their schedules should talk to Ms. Harwood ASAP!

- Join Mrs. Nawrocki for spring break 2012 on an *Italian Adventure*. Highlights include: **Rome** - Spanish Steps, Navona, Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, **Vatican City** - Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, and a visit to St. Peter's Basilica, **Ancient City Rome** - Colosseum, Romanum, Venezia, Tivoli, and Villa d'Este, **Pompeii** - Catacombs and Gladiator center Excursion.

For more information contact Mrs. Nawrocki by phone at **233-5939** or by email at [lisanawrocki@grcss.org](mailto:lisanawrocki@grcss.org) or log onto:

<http://www.explorica.com/Nawrocki-6152>

(this trip is limited to 30 participants & department approval.)



September 2011

S	M	T	W	1 T	2 F	3 S
					No School Labor Day Week- end	
4	5 No School Labor Day	6	7 Open House 6-9 p.m.	8 AM Activity - All School Mass	9 \$1 Jeans Day PM Activity-All A's Kick-Off	10
11	12	13 Parent Info Night for Middle School Fami- lies at Aquinas Donnelly Center 7 p.m.	14	15	16 Spirit Day	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Spirit Day	24
25	26	27	28 AM Activity - Tim Cusack/Parent Fo- rum 7 p.m. in the Gym	29	30 Spirit Day; PM Activ- ity-Homecoming Assembly; 50th Year Tailgate Party	October 1  Homecoming Dance
2	3	4	5 1/2 Day-All A's Walk	6	7 \$1 Jeans Day	8