



West Catholic Perspectives

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



February 2012



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.

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From the Principal's Desk

February has always been one of my favorite winter months. There's usually snow on the ground yet we are coming out of the darkest days of winter. The sun feels warmer and seems to shine more. Although in Michigan we know we have at least six more weeks of winter, we watch the ground-hog anyway, hopeful for an early spring. The month goes quickly and we find ourselves in March, mud and a real promise of spring. Here at West Catholic we are in the height of our learning season. We've finished first semester, the year is more than half way complete, and we are very busy. We look back at what we've accomplished and we look forward to not only finishing out this year, but are immersed in planning for the next.

In the months of December and January we accomplished much. We relaxed a bit on Christmas break after delivering brand new hats and gloves

to every student at San Juan Diego Academy, compliments of our Student Government and the entire student body. Our robotics team brought on a new local partner, CRI (Consolidated Resource Imaging). Along with substantial financial help, they are supplying us with engineer mentors to help our students build their robot for the 2012 season. We closed out the Shakespeare play, *The Twelfth Night*. Our West Catholic Students for Life participated in the annual March for Life in Washington, DC, bringing 47 students and 10 adult chaperones through a snow storm to stand up for the rights of the youngest members of our human family. The Shake Your Tail Feathers Dance, a benefit to raise money for our band, was a big success.

We ended January and begin February during Catholic Schools Week. Throughout the United States Catholic Schools celebrate their success under the theme, Faith, Academics, and Service.



2012 March For Life Group in Washington, DC

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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

Catholic schools offer a unique learning experience that involves three priorities: Students learning about their faith, academics that hold students to the highest standards so that they may reach their full potential, and service – putting faith into action that takes the focus away from self and places it on helping others. This combination creates leaders who go on to strengthen our local community, our nation, and the world. To kick off this celebration our local parishes helped us by allowing WC students to speak about the benefits of Catholic Education at mass and include a flyer with further information in their bulletins. Please thank the parishes of Holy Spirit, St. Anthony, St. Jude, Blessed Sacrament, St. Alphonsus, St. Isidore, Our Lady of Consolation, Assumption, Holy Trinity, Sacred Heart, SS. Peter and Paul, St. Patrick(Parnell), St. Mary Magdalen, the Basilica of St. Adalbert, St. James, St. Mary's (Grand Rapids), St. Sebastian, and St. Luke. During this week we will celebrate in other ways as well, including the induction of our National Honor Society members at our Thursday, Feb. 2 Mass.

On Feb. 11 we will have our annual *Here's My Heart Dance* at Noto's Restaurant. I understand that there were a number of unhappy West Catholic students at our Homecoming Dance last October. We had two issues; the lighting in the gym and inappropriate dancing. In regard to the lighting, we had to make a choice between too dark or too light, as the minimum amount of lighting available in the gym was too bright for a dance. But with no lighting it was pitch black. With the blue covering that was down to protect the floor surface it simply wasn't safe to have all the lights off. Next year we may want to consider alternate lighting or going back to the Cafetorium where the lights can be dimmed. I would like to assure parents and students that at *Here's My Heart*, lighting will not be an issue. Noto's is an off-site location of professionals who know how to create the perfect dance atmosphere. Inappropriate dancing is another matter however. As a Catholic administrator, upholding Catholic values, I cannot condone suggestive, lewd, or inappropriate dancing at *any* school-sponsored event. I hope you join me in support of a faith tradition that teaches modesty and respect for both our young women and our young men.

Enrollment packets for current students just went out in the mail. You should have received it, or should be receiving it soon. Please note that enrollment forms are due in the Business Office no later than March 1. I encourage you to apply for financial aid as well. This year's PSAS financial aid forms are available here in the office or online at <http://www.grwestcatholic.org/GRCs/WCHS/Admissions/Tuition+Contract+Forms.htm>

The deadline for both the PSAS and the enrollment form is March 1, 2012. As communicated earlier, the enrollment fee per family increases from \$100 to \$400 for forms sent in late by current students. A March 1 deadline allows us to begin registering students for classes in March, giving us more scheduling flexibility and fewer scheduling conflicts.

In other news, please welcome Todd Peters, Director of Admissions and Alumni Relations. He is a 2004 WC graduate and a 2008 graduate of Aquinas College. Tammy Dykema, our previous director, has accepted another position in Kalamazoo.

Enjoy the month of February!

Cynthia Kneibel
Principal

March For Life Trip

47 students and 10 adult chaperones from West Catholic attended the annual March for Life in Washington, DC on January 23. The students visited many of the museums and monuments in the capital. They also attended the Youth Rally and Mass before the March. West Catholic students had the special privilege of being asked to be the student leaders at the Rally and Mass. Brendan Kosnik and Nolan Mikowski led the prayers of the Rosary before the Mass. During the Mass, Aubrey Clark, Ben Moore, and Greta Worm served as the lecturers. Sarah Huber, Shelly McGough, Natalie Scalabrino, and Libby Schichtel presented the gifts at the Offertory. In his remarks at the conclusion of the Mass, Cardinal DiNardo, the principal celebrant, specifically thanked and complimented West Catholic for its role in the Rally and Mass.

~GUIDANCE OFFICE NEWS~

SENIORS

Please note these important steps to take in the next month:

1. Seniors must always make transcript requests online through the Docufide (Parchment) link on our school website. (Go to: http://www.grwestcatholic.org/GRCS/WCHS/Academics/Website_Links.htm and click on Docufide)
2. Note: Common App Mid-Year Reports require a 7th semester transcript (January of 12th grade). Seniors must communicate all admissions decisions & scholarship offers to the Guidance Dept *prior to Graduation*. PLEASE email lauriford@grcss.org OR call 233-5909 OR stop by the office with updates as this information is received. THANK YOU!!
Financial Aid for Higher Ed is explained via these websites: <http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid> ; www.micollegegoal.org ; www.fafsa.ed.gov

Also, the following sites are hosting the free College Goal Sunday event on Feb. 12 to help families complete the FAFSA by March 1.

Grand Valley State University, 401 Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Davenport University-Holland, 643 S Waverly Road, Holland, MI 49423

JUNIORS

Don't forget to register to take the ACT or SAT more than once.

Note: Students that currently use an extended-time test accommodation may want to ask their counselor about submitting this request with proper documentation to ACT or College Board in advance to the regular deadline.

www.actstudent.org - ACT Test Dates:

Feb 11 – Late or Standby registration only (see Guidance Office for details)

April 14 – regular deadline Mar 9

June 9 – regular deadline May 4

www.collegeboard.com – SAT Test Dates:

Mar 10 – regular deadline Feb 10

*May 6 – regular deadline Apr 6

Parents Club News

Used Formal Dress Sale..... Thank you again to everyone who helped to make this project a success. We had a great variety of dresses for everyone. Once again, we had a lot of fun.

Next Meeting..... The next Parents Club meeting will be announced in the March Perspectives. Hope to see you there.

Used Uniform Sale..... There will be a used uniform sale coming up again in May. More information will be coming soon.

Looking Ahead to Spring..... Starting in April, volunteers will be needed to coordinate group efforts in cleaning up the grounds for our annual Spring Clean up. Watch for further details in the March Perspectives.

Dear Parents of Current Students,

In order for Catholic Secondary Schools to prepare, plan and welcome students to a new school year we have developed some very specific budget setting and enrollment processes.

We begin the budget setting process as early as August of the current school year in preparation for the next year. Throughout the current year, we will draft an estimated budget reflecting enrollment trends and typical expense patterns of Catholic Central and West Catholic High Schools based on data collected by the Business Office.

Using projected enrollment numbers and those estimated costs, the Business Office will develop standard operating and student budgets for the awarding of grants and scholarships, staffing and labor costs, supplies, operations, programming, Campus Ministry, course offerings, transportation, etc.

Ninety percent of our operating revenue comes from tuition, so an **enrollment deadline of March 1** allows us to gain an accurate projected student count early in the year. This allows us to better prepare for staffing needs, the scheduling of core courses, class size, additional course offerings, extra-curricular offerings, including athletics and the performing arts, bus runs, and campus ministry.

Since three quarters of the student population is made up of returning students we feel that it is a reasonable expectation for us to have 75 percent of course schedule and staffing needs identified by the enrollment deadline. Ultimately, we want our faculty to feel certain of their employment and of the courses they'll be teaching. Our goal is to have a course and daily schedule in place on the first day of classes to insure the best use of our resources and your investment in your child's education.

As you are aware, course registration cannot take place until enrollment is complete. Yet we have experienced a recent trend toward late enrollment on the part of many of our returning families. This trend has a negative effect not only on staffing but also on programming, possibly compromising our number of course offerings – especially singleton classes, such as Advanced Placement and Honors courses. Late enrollments also put a strain on the master schedule as we attempt to balance course offerings; class sizes are affected; and individual student schedules must be adjusted to accommodate changes.

To help remedy the situation, we are **reminding our returning families to enroll no later than March 1**, submitting both the completed Tuition Contract forms and the \$100 (per family) enrollment fee to the Business Office. Further, beginning in 2012 returning families who do not complete the enrollment process by March 1 will pay \$400*, per a recent policy passed by the CSS School Board.

To clarify, the enrollment process is as follows:

- Complete a Tuition Contract
- Pay the Enrollment Fee (\$100 per family if paid by March 1)
- Complete the Payment Processing Agreement
- When the enrollment process is complete, your student may register for classes.

By making use of these budget setting and enrollment processes, we can provide an efficient start to the school year, a higher degree of employment certainty for faculty and staff and continued high-quality programming. We ask that our families also consider these goals when enrolling your student(s) for next year. Necessary enrollment forms will be mailed to homes and available on the school websites near the end of January 2012.

Please don't hesitate to contact your building principal with questions.

Sincerely,

Tom Maj
President, Catholic Secondary Schools

* Please notify the Business Office if your future enrollment is uncertain due to job status change, medical issue, or other hardship.

Parent Evening Prayer

Please join us on the first Monday of the month in West Catholic's St. Maria Goretti Chapel* at 8 p.m. for an evening of praying for yours and your family's intentions. Special intentions are always offered for West Catholic students, graduates, teachers and administrators. Please bring a rosary, reflective readings or prayer service to share. If you have questions, call Patti Emmerson at 616.540.2897.

*In the summer we pray by the statue of our Blessed Mother in the parking lot by the road.

Athletic Department News

There have been some exciting things happening during January in the Athletic Department

- Girls Varsity basket team remains unbeaten in the OK Blue Conference league
- Senior Tony Brechting won his 100th career match in wrestling
- The boys bowling team broke the school record of 1065 for one game, with a new record of 1148, winning the match against Forest Hills Northern. Sam Weatherhead had 15 strikes in a row and had a game of 286. Trent Clark had 10 strikes in a row for a 289 game.
- The hockey team will be traveling the weekend of Feb. 10 to a tournament with Monroe St. Mary's Catholic.
- Swimmer Hunter Nemmers has qualified for the State Meet in the 50 yard freestyle. The 200 free-style relay team is on the brink of qualifying for state as well. Ben Paxson is one of the area's top divers.
- The ski team captured the following honors at a recent event at Boyne Highlands: Giant Slalom Boys 5th place- Nate Stancroff, team placed 2nd in this event; Giant Slalom Girls 2nd place-Mallory Eliopoulos; Slalom Girls 2nd place-Mallory Eliopoulos, Girls took 2nd place overall.

West Catholic Youth Basketball League is enjoying a second successful year!

236 kindergarten thru fourth graders have been coming to West Catholic Saturday mornings to play basketball for the second year in a row. This youth basketball league gives these young athletes a chance to work on their basic fundamentals and develop into well rounded basketball players. The Lady Falcons joined the Men's Basketball program this year to promote and organize the fun by both coaching and refereeing through a full practice and game each Saturday.



Mobile App Available for Infinite Campus

For those of you that don't know, there is a mobile app available to access your Infinite Campus account. There is a link available in the WC announcements on the website and the information was also emailed to students and parents.

West Catholic Recycling

West Catholic has revamped its recycling program to include weekly pickups. Every Thursday it has become common practice to see Meg Ziegler, Amber Ellen, and Shannon Kneibel traveling the hallways collecting paper that will be put in our paper gator. Two of these dumpsters are filled weekly. Along with paper recycling, Katy Miller, Audrey Ostrowski, and Matt Nelson can be seen collecting cans, bottles, and other recyclable items for Grand Rapids city pickup. Every two weeks, they move three full city bins down to the street for pickup. Recycling has expanded to the cafeteria and the athletic department as well. In addition, household batteries and printer ink cartridges are being collected in containers in Miss Golembiewski's classroom. The ink cartridges, under the direction of sophomore class president, Mitch Mox, will be sent to a company and proceeds will benefit the sophomore class. Cardboard is also collected for recycle and deposited into our cardboard dumpster, which in turn gives us credit toward our dumpster/trash costs. As a school, we are making recycling a way of life that will improve our attitude towards the earth that God has entrusted us with, helping pave the way for future generations. Go Green! Go West Catholic!



Amber Ellen, Shannon Kneibel, and Meg Ziegler collect paper for the Paper Gator.



Audrey Ostrowski, Katy Miller, and Matt Nelson take care of the GR City recyclables.

Deal Yourself In - Casino Night and Live Auction

West Catholic's annual *Celebrate West!* Auction will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2012. Casino Night and Live Auction will begin at 6 p.m. with hearty appetizers, drinks, casino games and auction festivities until 10 p.m. Mingle with your friends while you donate your winnings back to this great school. Many raffles throughout the night and lots of prizes will be given away! Register for this event soon - you are not going to want to miss this fun filled night! Reservations are only \$30 per person - register at www.celebrataewest.org. Registration forms are also available in the main office. How can you help?

- Host a gift-giving party! Gift giving parties are a great way to provide live auction or raffle items. Join a group from your parish or elementary school, sports team or a group of friends and throw a party!
- Volunteer! We need many volunteers to make this event happen - both in planning and on the evening of the event.
- Donate a live auction item or a raffle prize! Do you have a summer cottage or tickets to a great event? Maybe your company or the company you work for can provide a unique item or even a cash donation! Be creative!
- Be a sponsor! You can make a cash donation or place an ad in our auction book! Different levels of sponsorships are available.

news from the west catholic Fine Arts department

February 2012 By LMN

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 31 WC Choir performs at the Diocesan Catholic Schools Week Mass with Monsignor Duncan

February 2 Art Club meeting, 7:40 a.m. in room 313

February 4 Members of our WC band compete in the MSBOA District Solo and Ensemble Competition, times TBA

February 5 Cash for Class, at you local D&W Fresh Market and Family Fares (for more information see details below)

February 9 meeting for Italy travelers, 6:00 p.m., room 313

February 19 Cash for Class, at you local D&W Fresh Market and Family Fares

March 2 - 3 WC Concert Band performs at MSBOA Concert Festival, time TBA



THANK YOU

"A big thank you to President Steve Sacha and the rest of the band boosters for another tremendously successful 'Shake Your Tail Feathers' dinner dance supporting the band program here at West. We are so grateful for all of the incredible support you provide for our band students. God Bless you all for your help this year and always."

- Darren LaPrise, WC Band Director



Above: Art Club members enjoy their visit to the Voigt House run by the Public Museum of Grand Rapids

FUNDS FOR THE ARTS

Our group is again participating in both the D&W Fresh Market and Family Fare *Cash for Class* program to earn money. However the program has been updated and it now ties directly to your D&W Fresh Market / Family Fare 'YES' card.

YES card holders need to visit their website at: www.myyesrewards.com to link your card to our group, West Catholic Friends of the Arts - Thank You

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Catholic Schools Week	2 AM Activity All School	3 Free Jeans Day	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Spirit Day PM Activity HMH Assem- bly	11 ACT Test HMH Dance
12	13	14	15	16	17 No School Mid-Winter Break	18
19	20 No School All A's Day Off	21	22 AM Activity Ash Wednes- day Mass	23	24 Spirit Day	25
26	27	28	29	March 1	2 \$1 Jeans Day	3