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*CCHS has made every attempt to  
publish a comprehensive and accurate  
list of donors documenting gifts between  
July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018.*

*We sincerely apologize if your name  
was inadvertently omitted or printed  
incorrectly. If a correction needs to be  
made, please contact CCHS at  
304-233-1660.*

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## CCHS ENDOWED FUNDS

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Yocke Tuition Fund  
Doc Viglietta Tuition Fund  
Schmitt Family Tuition Fund  
Rosella Saseen Tuition Fund  
Coyne Family Tuition Fund  
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Class of 1976/1977 Tuition Fund  
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**Central Catholic High School**  
75-14th Street  
Wheeling, WV 26003

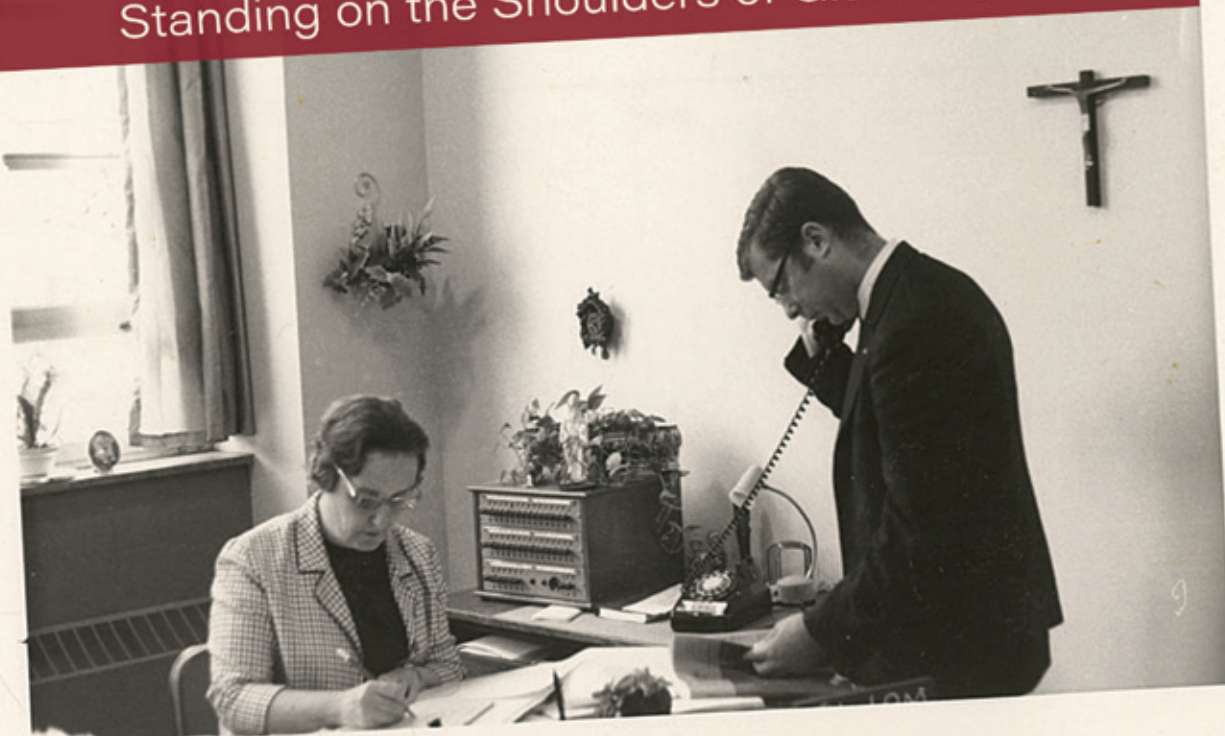
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# Central Catholic High School

**Brother William Chanel & Sr. Anne Regina**  
Standing on the Shoulders of Giants Pg. 14-15



SEPT 1969



**For the Good  
of the  
Country**  
Pg. 5



**Msgr.  
Ostrowski**  
Pg. 13



**Tom  
Kleeh**  
Pg. 20



**Enhancing  
Education  
with Art**  
Pg. 21





LAWRENCE E. BANDI, PRESIDENT  
CLASS OF '72

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni & Friends,

What a banner year it has been for our beloved Central Catholic High School. From Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, class reunions to five state championships. The 2017-2018 academic year marked another year of accomplishments and acclaim for CCHS with a graduating class of 90 students who amassed over \$5.5 million in scholarships from 85 universities and colleges and includes an unprecedented *four* student appointments to our military academies. I believe that we are truly demonstrating our commitment to excellence in education.

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CCHS CLUB  
UP TO \$99

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Our faculty and staff consistently demonstrates a commitment and dedication to the success and advancement of CCHS. Our alumni are leaders in business, education, medicine, art, law, and more. They are contributing to improving and enhancing their communities and the country, often in quiet, unassuming ways. Central Catholic High School is full of positive energy, momentum, progress, and pride. How truly blessed we have been and continue to be! When I think of blessings I think of you, our supporters. Thank you for all that you do to support The CCHS mission. It would be almost impossible for me to thank each and every one of you personally for all that you give to the school, or to relate each and

every one of the stories that would illustrate the ways in which your support helps our students and faculty. I do want you to know, however, that you are making a true and lasting difference in the lives of these young Knights, and that we are deeply appreciative your support.

As we look to the future of Catholic education we struggle to keep costs affordable. The way we accomplish this is through the support of our alumni, parents, donors, faculty and staff. I hope we can count on your continued support.

God Bless,

*Lauren E. Sandi*



# ADMINISTRATION

**Central Catholic High School** has a Pastor/President/Principal model of governance. This model allows for a shared authority and division of administrative responsibility. CCHS's president handles the finances, development, strategic planning, marketing, alumni, faculty and grant writing. The principal's chief focus is on the academic program, students, teachers, parents and daily operations of the school. This well defined division of responsibilities allows each position to concentrate their efforts to the growth of Central Catholic High School.

*The pastor, president and principal share responsibility for the Catholic identity of the school and the spiritual leadership of the faculty and staff.*

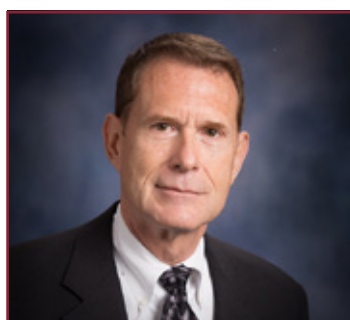
## MONSIGNOR PAUL HUDOCK



DESIGNATED PASTOR

- Earned Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from Shepherd University
- Earned Master's in Divinity Degree from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD in 1998
- Ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in June, 1998
- Served as vice rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, WV (1998-2001)
- Served as associate pastor at St. John University Parish in Morgantown (2001-2004)
- Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Huntington, where he also served as chaplain to Marshall University
- Served as priest secretary to Bishop Michael J. Bransfield, associate director of vocations for the DWC and director of vocations (2007)
- Named a Chaplain to His Holiness (Monsignor) by Pope Benedict XVI (2011)
- Served as pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Follansbee (2012-2015)
- Currently serves as pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish
- Affiliations: Serves on the Presbyteral Council for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

## LAWRENCE E. BANDI '72



PRESIDENT

- Earned Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Wheeling College
- Received Master of Business Administration from Wheeling Jesuit College
- Graduate of Central Catholic (1972)
- 37 years of experience in business administration; six years in a college setting
- Received Papal Honors in 2013
- Board Affiliations: Wheeling Jesuit University; Catholic Charities of West Virginia (Audit Committee Chair); Special Wish Foundation; WV Northern Community College Foundation (Allocations & Finance Committee); Welty Corporation (Trustee); WesMark Funds (Trustee); St. Vincent School Board
- Bishop's Fund
- United Way Marketing Committee
- Club Memberships: Serra Club and Rotary Club
- Father of Erin and Kristina; Grandfather of Charleigh and Georgia

## REBECCA SANCOMB



PRINCIPAL

- Earned Bachelor of Science Degree (Kinesiology/Physical Education) from University of Maryland (College Park, MD)
- Earned Masters of Educational Leadership and School Administration from College of Notre Dame (Baltimore, MD)
- Prior to moving to Wheeling, served as Associate Principal of Student Life, followed by Associate Principal of Academics at St. Mary's Ryken College Preparatory High School (Leonardtown, MD)
- Served as Assistant Principal at CCHS in 2011; named Principal in 2012
- Committees and Affiliations: Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, Wheeling in Leadership
- Married to Danny Sancomb; mother of Eli (11), Luke (10) and Jack (3)

## 2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT**  
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Helen Altmeyer  
Class of 1972

Fr. Arul Anthony

Fr. Joseph Augustine

Thomas Burgoyne

Kayleen Fitzsimmons  
Clough  
Class of 2006

Robert Contraguerra  
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Patrick Felton  
Class of 1978

William Holt

Msgr. Paul Hudock

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Class of 1966

Fr. Paul  
Mundumoozhikkaranirappel

Msgr. Joseph Peterson

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Class of 1965

Renee Schneid

# ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETIES

It is through the efforts of our most generous benefactors that Central Catholic High School is able to raise the dollars necessary to achieve our mission each year.

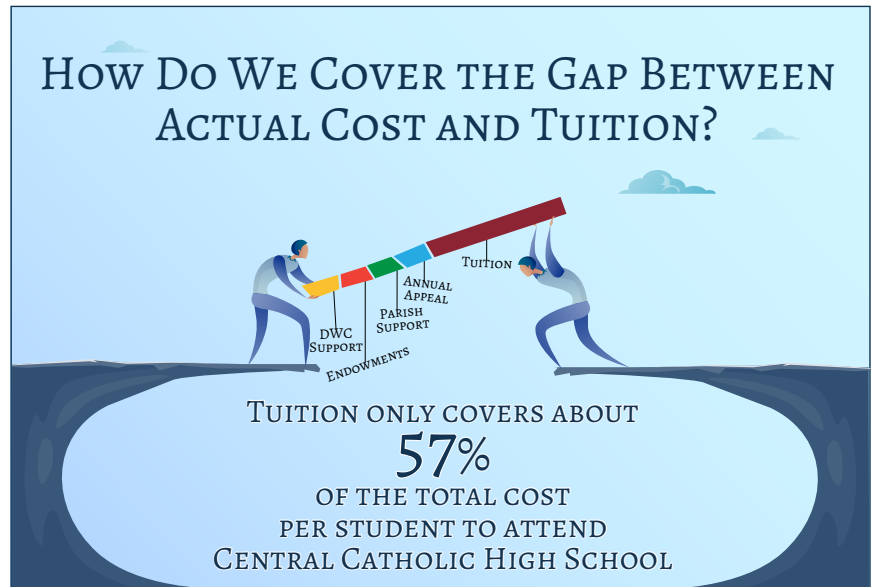
BISHOPS' ROUND TABLE \$25,000 AND ABOVE	KNIGHT'S CLUB \$1,000 - \$4,999	SWORD & SHIELD CLUB \$500 - \$999
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	MAROON & WHITE CLUB \$100 - \$499	
	Mr. Rick & Mrs. Eileen Aaron Mrs. Catherine Abraham Mrs. Mary Abraham	



# WHY TUITION ISN'T ENOUGH

Every student who attends Central Catholic High School receives the benefit of a tuition grant. Since the actual cost to educate a student is \$10,795 and the in-parish tuition rate is \$6,415, CCHS is always searching for creative ways to make up the difference between the two. Many students receive other additional discounts for multiple students and for siblings in partner elementary schools, but the need is still great.

On average, each and every student is receiving assistance of at least \$4,380. That's why grants, endowed tuition assistances and your donations are crucial to keeping Catholic education affordable for our families.



## PAY IT FORWARD

Whether you realized it at the time or not, when you were a student at Central Catholic High School, someone was helping to make the cost of your education less expensive for your family.

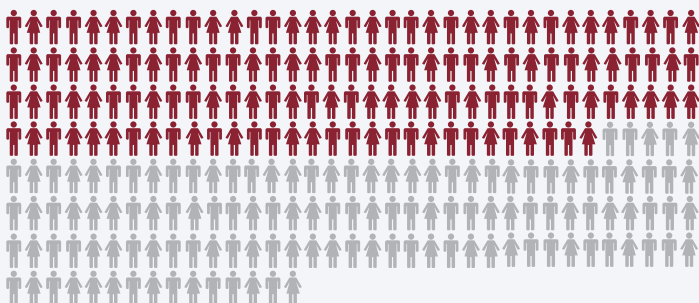
That's right! CCHS has a long history of working hard to make the benefit of a faith-based education affordable for all who seek to pursue it. We do that by working closely with families, community organizations, our partner parishes and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to establish endowed funds and funds that are designed the ease the burdens of our CCHS families.

So, what can you do to help? That's pretty simple. Pay it forward. Think about your own experience here at CCHS and consider ways that you can help to make that same experience a reality for those who are still to come.

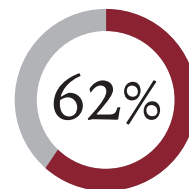
Here are some things you can do:

- Get together with a group of classmates or friends and work to establish a 'Class of....' Fund or some type of fundraiser dedicated to tuition assistance.

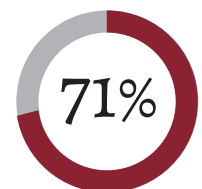
### STUDENTS IN NEED



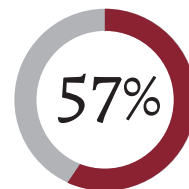
**OUT OF 290 STUDENTS, 165 NEEDED OUR HELP!**



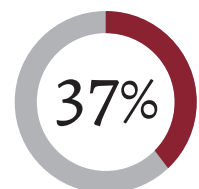
CCHS Students request need-based tuition assistance



Students receive TAPS (Diocesan Funds)



Students received CCHS Endowment Funds



Students received both TAPS and CCHS Aid

- Join the CCHS Boosters and take an active role in their projects and fundraisers. The money that they raise is vitally important to so many of our programs.
- Consider CCHS in your estate planning. What better legacy to leave than that of knowing that you're helping to secure Catholic education in our community for years and years to come?
- Continue to support the Knights Fund through your annual giving. Prayerfully consider increasing what you are able to pledge. Donations to our Knights Fund go directly to enhance the learning experience for our students.

Remember, there is no greater investment you can make than that of our children. By supporting CCHS, you are helping to provide the same benefits to current and future generations that you enjoyed. Isn't that really what it's all about?



**Central Catholic  
High School**  
Wheeling, WV • est. 1865

75-14th Street  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
(304) 233-1660  
[www.cchsknights.org](http://www.cchsknights.org)

Oh, what a year! Our theme for the 2017-2018 school year was to “Rise Up & Reach Out.” The challenge to students was this: *RISE UP - rise up to the challenge of our mission statement, “TO THINK AND ACT LIKE CHRIST” and do your very best in each class - accept the challenge to step out of your comfort zone - take advantage of the opportunities presented to you - get involved in school activities - be prepared to learn. REACH OUT - accept the challenge to live your faith each day - be of service to others in our community - reach out to those who may be marginalized - be a welcoming presence in our school - choose to be kind - treat others as you would want to be treated.*

Our students rose to this challenge, excelling in their academics, service projects, athletics, and other areas of interest. In the 2017-2018 school year CCHS students completed nearly 6,000 hours of documented community service, were inducted into 5 different honors societies, gained recognition for choral and instrumental performances, were awarded student Emmys for their work in broadcast, won five state championships, and so much more! As I begin my seventh year at CCHS I am still humbled by the storied history and traditions of our great school. There have been many occasions in my time here where I have been struck by the connections that tie us all together. Earlier in the school year we were blessed by a visit from Br. Rene Roy. I watched as several faculty members came up to him and shared treasured memories. Brother Rene remembered each person by name and in turn recalled how they were as students. These personal connections are what continue to intersect our past and present.

Another occasion I had to reflect upon this was during the summer when I had the privilege of attending the ordination of CCHS alumnus Martin Smay to the priesthood. Among the grand ceremony of the ordination, what stood out to me was the simplicity of his parents’ love and joy as he answered the call to this vocation. While I had nothing to do with Martin’s upbringing or schooling, I couldn’t help but feel pride in the fact that CCHS was some part of his faith formation. In the short time that Fr. Martin has been a priest, he has been a source of honesty, humility, contrition, and healing in a period of great need for our church.

Fr. Martin is just one example of how our alumni reflect the mission of our school “To Think and Act Like Christ” and our challenge to “Rise Up & Reach Out”. We hope you enjoy reconnecting with CCHS through this alumni magazine. We look forward to continuing the traditions of faith, family, and spirit that make CCHS great. Once A Knight, Always A Knight!

Brightest Blessings,

Rebecca Sancomb  
Principal





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# *In Memoriam*

*Eternal rest grant unto these members of the  
Central Catholic High School and St. Joseph Academy community...*

*Eugene Botizan*

*William Carroll ('62)*

*James Collins*

*Joseph Dallison ('72)*

*Ryan Danley ('96)*

*Joseph Denardo ('48)*

*James W. Derrow*

*Thomas 'Terry' Donahie ('51)*

*Jerry Dowd, Jr. ('04)*

*Thomas Dytko ('63)*

*James Evangelist ('49)*

*Margie Bokanovich  
Fitzpatrick ('62)*

*Richard Humway ('75)*

*Janice Kalo ('64)*

*Edward Kirchgessner ('49)*

*Chrys Kurtz ('09)*

*Maureen Hanly Lovinski ('52)*

*Beatrice Pagendarm  
Marquart ('50)*

*Marcella Baker McGinnis ('45)*

*Richard Miller ('67)*

*William Nesbitt ('68)*

*Jamie Orth-Taylor ('05)*

*Robert Reasbeck, Jr. ('56)*

*D. Jane Roth*

*Betty Glasgow Savage ('42)*

*Clement Schmitt*

*Robert Schutz ('58)*

*Eleanor Bishop Sneddon ('46)*

*Joseph Tellitocci ('70)*

*Rosemary Villanova ('48)*

*Suzanne Null Walter ('42)*

*William Wiethe ('42)*

*Martha Yahn*

*Rosalie Dailer Young ('43)*

*Alberta Witzberger Zinn ('40)*

*Memorial Information is  
collected through the Alumni  
Association. If you have  
information about deceased  
CCHS or SJA alumni or friends  
of the school that you would like  
to list, please contact the school.*





# AND THE EMMY GOES TO... THE CCHS VIDEO PRODUCTION TEAM



That's right! The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS) has awarded the High School Student Production Award for Excellence to a crew team from Central Catholic High School!

Seniors Isaac Basinger (color analyst), Shelby Imer (camera) and Daniel O'Leary (play-by-play), along with juniors Hayden Beresh (camera) and Davis Warmuth (graphics) were the members of the team awarded the Academy's highest honor for their live coverage of the Undo's Basketball Tournament, held in January of this year at Wheeling Jesuit University.

"This is just a tremendous accomplishment for these students," said Rebecca Sancomb, principal at CCHS. "It validates the work that they do throughout the school year and rewards their effort and commitment."

Commitment really is the key as it applies to video production. Students involved in events such as this one spend hours in preparation before the camera ever rolls. The time is not limited to the school day or the day of the particular event being covered. It spills over into evenings and weekends, but that's ok for this energetic group.

"These kids have been fully committed throughout the school year to doing the job and doing it well," according to Debra Warmuth, the Director of Instructional Technology at CCHS. "They're completely invested in the program."

Because coverage for an event of this type is live, there is no margin for error, nor are there 'do overs' if things don't go right. The group has an easy answer for that challenge—they just make sure that things go right.

"They spend hours and hours preparing to make sure that when the camera rolls and the live action begins, they are ready," Warmuth commented. "If you watch a live game on ESPN, the announcers make you think that they just know all of the information that they share with you. The reality is that all of it is researched and prepared ahead of time."

The work can be complicated and tedious, but that's ok because the students love it, so much so that several of them are making it

their life's work. Basinger will be majoring in Broadcast Journalism this fall at West Liberty University and has already been tapped to work in the broadcast booth there. Imer will be utilizing her skills as a Marketing major at Wheeling Jesuit University and O'Leary will major in Art at The Ohio State University with an emphasis in photography and a minor in moving images.

"That's really one of the great things about being able to offer this program," Warmuth said. "The kids can truly get a feel for what's involved in this type of work and whether or not they really want to make a career of it."

"So many times high school students see the 'glamorous' side of sports reporting, but until they get into it, they really don't know everything that's involved," she added. "These students can go into college not only with a real advantage over other kids because they've actually done the job, but also with a clear knowledge of what a career in broadcasting or behind-the-scenes work is all about."

High school student production awards are not handed out by NATAS indiscriminately. They are presented regionally, according to the location of the high school and they are opened to all high school students whose schools offer video production. The Mid-Atlantic region includes schools from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Northern Delaware and the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia and is one of 19 regional chapters of the NATAS, which is headquartered in New York City.

NATAS Mid-Atlantic, as well as all of the regional chapters, consider it vitally important to support and reward future industry professionals by recognizing their talents and efforts. The mission is to encourage excellence in the broadcast community by presenting the regional EMMY and other awards, by providing and developing leadership, by building community in television through camaraderie, and by providing networking opportunities, education and resources to video production programs throughout the country.

In addition the team award, Daniel O'Leary was one of three finalists for Outstanding Videographer for his hype video for the WV State Football Championship.





# FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY

## FOUR CCHS GRADUATES RECEIVE SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS

When a high school sends a student to a service academy, it's something to celebrate. But, what can you say when a school, particularly a school the size of Central Catholic sends four students from one class to various academies? We call it unprecedented.

We could not be more proud to share that the CCHS Class of 2018 sent four young men to service academies across the United States. These young men, all outstanding students, represent the commitment to excellence that is the cornerstone of the CCHS mission.

Derek Dearth and Michael Hall accepted appointments to the United States Military Academy at West Point, Jack Stryker has accepted an appointment to the United States Naval Academy and Owen Gainer has accepted an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy Prep School.

"This is a huge accomplishment for these young men and for our school," said Lawrence E. Bandi, president of CCHS. "It's a testimony to the perseverance and hard work of these students and their families."

The announcement of the appointments of Dearth, Hall and Stryker was made during a visit by Senator Joe Manchin in February, while Gainer was notified this Spring of his appointment. Representatives from all of the service academies were on hand for the CCHS Senior Awards to make presentations to the appointees and welcome them into their respective academies.

Dearth is the son of Ken Dearth of Wheeling and is a member of the Cathedral of St. Joseph. An honor student, he was a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society, Rho Kappa Honor Society and the Distinguished Honor Roll. He was a member of both the hockey and lacrosse teams, serving as captain of both during his senior year. He was also active in the Drug Free Club, Student Ambassador Program, Student Council, Key Club, United Way Junior Board and Peer Ministry. Derek served on the Diocesan Youth Board, Pontifical Crew and attended Mountaineer Boys State. While his major is undecided, he does not rule out the military as a career for himself.

Hall is the son of Heather Hall of Wheeling and is a member of the Vineyard Christian Church in Wheeling. He has participated in basketball and baseball and was a member of the chess and ski clubs. His major is undecided.

Gainer is the son of Ken and Dawn Gainer of St. Clairsville and is a member of the First Baptist Church of Wheeling. A member of the National Honor Society and Spanish



National Honor Society, he has been a four year participant in basketball. He served as a homeroom representative, a member of the Drug Free Club and was a play-by-play announcer for the video production department at CCHS. He also served as a volunteer for the YMCA Miracle League, the CCHS Canned Food Drive, the Elks Hoop Shoot and attended Mountaineer Boys State. He will be majoring in Biology.

Stryker is the son of Kevin and Carol Stryker of Wheeling and is a member of St. Michael Parish. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Society, Rho Kappa Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. He attended Mountaineer Boys State, Hugh O'Brian Leadership Program and the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership. He was a member of the Pontifical Crew, Peer Ministry, Key Club, Student Council and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Youth Board. An OVAC All-Academic, he also played football and was a two year captain of the soccer team. He will be majoring in engineering.

"These are incredibly talented, hardworking and gifted young men," said Rebecca Sancomb, principal at CCHS. "It is a long and arduous process to get to where they are and we commend them for making this commitment."

"We ask God's blessings not only for them, but also for their families," she added.

At publication time, all four young men had reported to their respective appointments and have begun the journey that will ultimately lead to the service of our country.





# The Ordination of Father Martin Smay

## CCHS Grad Answers the Call to Serve

Family and friends joined priests, deacons and administration from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in the recent celebration of the ordination of Father Martin Smay to the priesthood. He was ordained on June 30th with priests from around the state participating in this holiest of occasions.

A 2007 graduate of Central Catholic High School, Fr. Smay is one of six children of Jeffrey and Carole Smay of Warwood. He was baptized and confirmed at Sacred Heart of Mary Church in Weirton and attended both Sacred Heart of Mary and St. Paul Schools before attending and graduating from CCHS.

After receiving a degree in mining engineering from West Virginia University in 2011, he was employed by CONSOL Energy at the McElroy Mine in Marshall County. But, the lure of the church and his faith mission continued to call to Martin.

So, Fr. Smay entered St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, where for two years he studied Philosophy. Following that, he spent the next four years studying Theology at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. He was ordained as a transitional diaconate in June of 2017, paving the way for his eventual ordination to the priesthood.

As part of the greeting at the ordination, praise was given to the large number of people gathered for the special event and thanks were offered to everyone, particularly Fr. Smay's family, for their prayers and support during his journey to the priesthood.

"You know well the many sacrifices that your parents made for you, the encouragement and occasional correction they offered you, and the great generosity of spirit they have shown in giving you life, nurturing you in each moment, and raising you to be the man you are today," Fr. Smay was told at his ordination. "They have shown you in so wonderful a way the nature of Christ's sacrificial love: sacrificing for you and your siblings that you might have life and happiness and finding in that their own unending joy."

"Today, as you lay prostrate before the altar, you will literally

lay down the life that has been yours until now," he was told. "As you have hands imposed upon you and have the prayer of ordination offered over you, you will take up the life of Christ the high priest, a new life filled with great joys and blessings, challenges and sacrifices and grace upon grace."

As part of his ordination, Fr. Smay promised to serve the people of God as a priest. Hands were placed upon Fr. Smay's head and the Holy Spirit was called upon to make him an ordained priest. The joyous moment was met with resounding applause from those in attendance at the holy event.

Following the service, a reception was held in the Great Hall at Central Catholic High School, where friends and family waited in line to be blessed by the newly ordained Fr. Smay. He celebrated his first mass as an ordained priest on Sunday, July 1 at Corpus Christi, his home parish, with Msgr. Eugene Ostrowski and other priests as his concelebrants. A reception in the parish hall followed the completion of mass.

"It is truly an honor and a blessing for us to be able to celebrate the ordination of a member of the CCHS family," said Lawrence E. Bandi, president at CCHS. "We are thrilled for Martin, for his family, for the members of Corpus Christi Parish and for the entire CCHS community."

Fr. Smay spent the remainder of his summer in pastoral ministry at St. Michael's Parish in Wheeling, where he is currently serving.

Fr. Smay and Kathleen Dieffenbaugher, Class of '90, give thumbs up at the St. Michael Parish Festival.





Front Row (from left): Raquel Burns-Davis, Rebecca Kostival-Muehlfield, George 'Bunny' Naum, Richie Nau (wife), Andy Urbanic and Robert 'Bo' McConnaughy.

Back Row: Doug Wojcik, James 'Dubie' Dailer (son), Paul Renowicz, Joseph 'JoJo' Blaha and Steve Wojcik

### 2017 Inductees

**Joseph 'JoJo' Blaha, Class of 1983**

Football, Basketball, & Baseball

**Raquel Burns-Davis, Class of 1998**

Basketball & Softball

**James 'Dubie' Dailer, Class of 1944**

Football & Basketball

**Rebecca Kostival-Muehlfield, Class of 1998**

Softball

**Nick Mansuetto**

Athletic Director

**Robert 'Bo' McConnaughy, Class of 1966**

Basketball & Baseball

**Richie Nau, Class of 1947**

Basketball

**Dr. George 'Bunny' Naum, Class of 1951**

Football, Basketball, Baseball, & Track

**Paul Renowicz, Class of 1977**

Basketball & Baseball

**Coach Andy Urbanic**

Football Coach 1964-1967

**Doug Wojcik, Class of 1982**

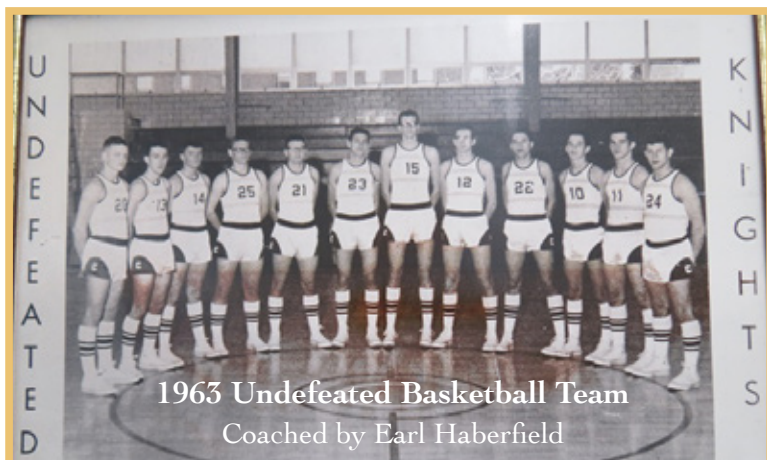
Football, Basketball, & Baseball

**Steve Wojcik, Class of 1969**

Baseball

**1963 Undefeated Basketball Team**

Basketball & Baseball



**1963 Undefeated Basketball Team**

Coached by Earl Haberfield



Front Row (from left): Earl Haberfield (son), Larry Romine, Ray Flanagan, Joe Doerr, Chuck Lovinski and Tom Abraham.

Back row: Earl Haberfield (son), Stan Kaniecki, Paul Klenowski, Jay Duffy and John 'Butch' Erb. Absent: George Altmeyer, Dennis Deegan and Al Salvadori





Front Row (from left): Bill Gompers, Suzie Dailer, Jim Foti (daughters), Neil Habig (niece), Jackie Ernest-Reinbeau.

Back Row: John 'Butch' Erb, George 'Skip' Prosser (son), Lenny Pavlic (son), Dick Miller (son), Rick Nau and Jim 'JT' Thomas (son)

## 2016 Inductees

**Suzie Dailer, Class of 1990**  
Basketball, Tennis & Volleyball

**John 'Butch' Erb, Class of 1963**  
Basketball

**Jim Foti**  
Basketball Coach 1942-1949

**Bill Gompers, Class of 1940**  
Football & Basketball

**Earl Haberfield, Class of 1953**  
Basketball Coach

**Neil Habig, Class of 1954**  
Football

**Dick Miller, Class of 1952**  
Baseball, Basketball, & Football

**Rick Nau, Class of 1969**  
Basketball

**Lenny Pavlic, Class of 1959**  
Baseball, Basketball, Football, & Golf

**George 'Skip' Prosser**  
Basketball Coach 1980-1985

**Jackie Ernest-Reinbeau, Class of 1985**  
Basketball

**Jim 'JT' Thomas, Class of 1963**  
Football Coach

# Viva La France!

If you ever wonder in what unique and special ways teachers touch the lives of students without even realizing it, consider the case of Gabrielle Gentile.

Gabrielle, a member of the CCHS Class of 2014, first began to study French as a freshman in 2011. Not for any reason in particular, but simply because it was different and learning something new was tempting to her.

"Back when I was starting at Central, the novelty of learning French appealed to me after having been taught Spanish throughout my previous schooling," she said. "It made the foreign language choice simple."

What she quickly found was that she thoroughly enjoyed the study of all things French, from the vocabulary to verb conjugation to the geography and history of the country. And, she credits her teacher, Mrs. Hartman, for fanning that flame.



CCHS Graduate, Gabrielle Gentile Loves Foreign Language!

"Through my experiences in Madame's classes, I developed a love for French," she remarked. "Her unparalleled teaching and her passion for the subject were sources of inspiration, motivating me to continue my French studies after my time at CCHS."

That's exactly what she did. An excellent student, Gabrielle was blessed with a multitude of opportunities and offers upon graduation. She finally settled on the University of Pittsburgh, where she majored in Microbiology and minored in...you guessed it...French.

The benefits of minoring in French were numerous for her. First, nearly all of the classes she took counted toward her General Education requirements, which enabled her to complete other classes for her literature and history requirements.

"I was able to take classes like 'Approaches to French Literature' and 'The French Atlantic' as electives and they were classes in which I was interested," she commented.

She also foresees it as opening doors for potential job opportunities. Since it is not uncommon in the research field for a scientist to study abroad, she is eyeing the possibility of being offered a position to work in France at some point.

"I'm open to the possibility of being offered a position to research in France at one of their universities," she said. "This would allow me to keep studying the two things I love most: French and science!"

Additionally, her coursework afforded her the opportunity to study in France through the Pitt in Nantes Study Abroad Program, a summer spent in France learning culture, cuisine and history. She believes that her four years of French with Madame Hartman provided her with excellent preparation for the trip.

"My speaking skills were far from perfect, but I knew that I was well-trained by Madame Hartman," she said. "Madame's classes position you well for a trip to France."

"My experience at CCHS provided me with a strong linguistic and cultural foundation and equipped me with the communication and comprehension skills that I needed," she added.

According to Mrs. Hartman, it was not Gabrielle's aptitude for the language that was so memorable, as it was her enthusiasm for learning.

"She was an amazing student," Madame commented. "Of course she was always prepared, she always participated, she always had the best grades; however, it was her enthusiasm for learning that made her stand out."

"She was as enthusiastic about compound verb tenses as she was studying French art," she added.

For her own part, Mrs. Hartman speaks humbly of her influence on students after nearly 35 years of teaching.

"I try to share my love of all things French with my students," Madame commented. "Sometimes, like in Gabrielle's case, I succeed!"

While she admits to a bias for French, Gabrielle encourages students always to take and embrace the study of some type of foreign language. In addition to the fact that it will frequently exempt students who take 3-4 years in high school from the second language requirement in college, it can also help to develop an appreciation for the language and its culture.

"Overall, I think there is a lot to be gained from studying a foreign language, especially if a study abroad opportunity arises" Gabrielle commented. "It's also a valuable skill to have and experiencing a different culture puts your own culture and way of life into perspective."

This fall, Gabrielle began graduate school studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she is pursuing a master's degree in Biological and Biomedical Sciences. She credits CCHS with seeding her passion for science, as well as French.

"The interactive learning and hands-on activities offered in the Biology and Anatomy classes I took inspired me to pursue a career as a research scientist," she said. "I hope to carve a life that is both fruitful and meaningful by performing research that significantly contributes to current science, while sharing my enthusiasm with students who will follow."

"C'est la bonne vie," she added. Life is good.





# Honoring our Scholars



## Mr. Patrick Brown *Valedictorian*

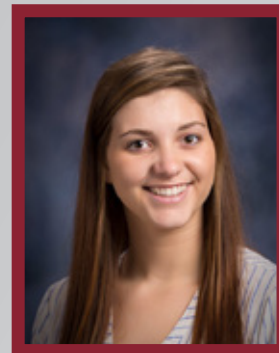
Patrick is the son of Geoff and Beth Brown and is a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish. In addition to being the valedictorian of the Wheeling Central Catholic Class of 2018, Patrick is the recipient of the

2018 Aquinas Medal awarded by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and was named the West Virginia Secondary Schools Athletic Commission (WVSSAC) Male Student Athlete of the Year. He was a captain of the 2017 state championship football team, was a three-year letter winner and was named to the 2018 OVAC Football All-Star Team. Patrick is a captain of the 2018 baseball team, is a three-year letter winner, is a member of the 2017 OVAC Championship Team and as a junior received Honorable Mention for both the All-State and All-Valley Teams. He was recently named to the 2018 OVAC Baseball All-Star Team. He participated in West Virginia Boys State and the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program (HOBY). He is a member of the National Honor Society, the National Math Honor Society (Mu Alpha Theta) and National Social Studies Honor Society (Rho Kappa). He is also a member of the 4.0 Distinguished Honor Roll and was a recipient of the Larson Scholarship. He is a member of the Central Student Boosters for Enrollment and Retention, the Pontifical Crew and Student Council, where he has served as a homeroom representative and the Junior Class President.

Outside of CCHS, Pat volunteers his time serving as a youth baseball coach. He has participated in the CCHS Canned Food Drive, United Way Day of Caring and Catholic Charities. Pat enjoys spending time with friends by going to the movies, bowling, swimming or golfing.

Patrick is attending the University of Notre Dame where he will major in biochemistry with the intent to pursue a career in sports medicine.

## Ms. Alexis Dick *Salutatorian*



Alexis Dawn Dick, a graduating senior at Wheeling Central Catholic High School, is the daughter of Heather Robbins and Brent Dick. During her four years at CCHS, she earned membership into the National

Honor Society, Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Math National Math Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. She was selected to participate in West Virginia Girls State, Leadercast, Wheeling Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership and the United Way Junior Leadership Board. Alexis has participated in Drug Free Clubs of America, We Stop Hate Club, Spanish Club, Teens for Life, March for Life, Peer Ministry, Knight Shadows and a Central Catholic Student Boosters for Enrollment and Retention. As a sophomore, she initiated Red Ribbon Week at CCHS and has continued to serve as the coordinator.

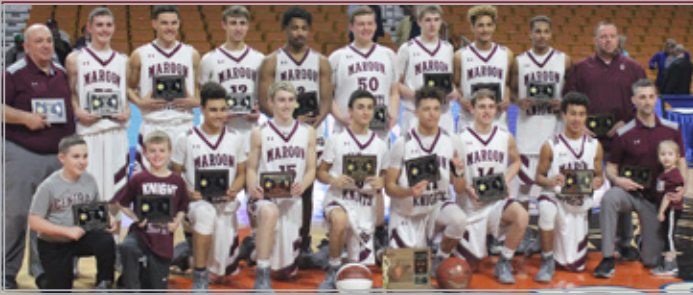
In addition to academic achievements, Alexis has been a member of the volleyball team for four years and played varsity for three years. She was selected to play in the West Virginia North South All-Star Game her senior year. She has volunteered with many organizations, including the United Way Day of Caring, CCHS Canned Food Drive, Miracle League, Catholic Charities, Westwood Landing, St. Sylvester Central Elementary School and Woodsfield Elementary School. She serves as a Eucharistic Minister and altar server at St. Sylvester Church.

Alexis is attending The Ohio State University, where she is studying neuroscience and where she received the Land Grant Opportunity Scholarship, which covers the full cost of attendance for four years. After graduation, she hopes to attend medical school and become a pediatric urologist.



that the school has enjoyed over the past several years.

“We were blessed, as always, to have some tremendous athletes,” said Donnie Murray, CCHS Athletic Director. “Also, we had some kids come in from Bishop Donahue who were able to contribute right away and that helped, too.”



But, as we all know, it takes more than talent to win championships. It takes hard work, determination and leadership, three things that all CCHS athletes understand and embrace.

“A lot of it comes down to leadership,” Murray noted. “The leadership from this group of seniors has been tremendous. And, it filters down. The underclassmen see it and they learn from it and in the coming years, they will step up as well.”

Graduation works as a natural form of attrition and this year is no different. Numerous outstanding

seniors will be moving on to college, but as is always the case at CCHS, there are younger athletes who are ready to take their places.

“We have no doubt of our ability to compete, even with the graduation of some outstanding seniors,” Murray commented.

“We win because we have a great tradition of winning. We have outstanding student-athletes and many of the Ohio Valley’s top coaches.”

“Every year the students come back hungry,” Murray added. “They’re never complacent. They want to win every year. And, they want to be good at everything. They want to be good athletes, good students and good young citizens of the community.”

With faith as a cornerstone, CCHS students are taught to work hard, compete hard and serve their community.

“We encourage our students to be faithful stewards in all areas of their lives,” said Lawrence E. Bandi, President of CCHS. “We are immensely proud of what they have achieved this year as student-athletes and we are equally proud of their achievements in academics and service.”

Wondering what 2018-2019 will bring? Visit the website at [www.cchsknights.org](http://www.cchsknights.org) to see schedules and scores.



# CHAMPIONS



It all started on a cold Saturday night in December of 2017. After a dismal start to a season where even making the playoffs seemed out of reach, the CCHS Maroon Knights Football Team capped off a relatively smooth trip through the playoffs with a decisive win over St. Mary's to capture the West Virginia Class-A State Championship.



"People were already writing us off when we started the season 2-4," commented Coach Mike Young of his 2017 squad. "We knew that we had something special in this team, it was just a matter of making the proper adjustments to bring it all together."

That was only the beginning of what would become an unprecedented year in CCHS Athletics. Scarcely three months later, the CCHS Hockey Team captured its third consecutive state championship with an impressive come-from-behind victory over crosstown rival, Wheeling Park. Down 2-0 with just over ten minutes left in the game, CCHS scored six unanswered goals on its way to another coveted Bob Otten Trophy.

Later that same month, both the boys and girls basketball teams made return trips to Charleston. Both were determined to achieve the championship titles that had eluded them in the 2017 tournament.

"Last year we lost in the semi-finals and didn't play well," said Penn Kurtz, head coach of the Lady

Knights. "That kind of fueled the team."

The girls met a heavily favored Huntington St. Joe's team in the finals at the Charleston Civic Center and came away with their first state title since 2008 in a game that did not disappoint!

The following week, it was the boys who stood in the winners' circle after they defeated Ravenswood for their first title since 2014.

Finally, CCHS celebrated another three-peat when the softball team brought home its third consecutive state title with a dominant win over Moorefield. It should be noted that the baseball team gave up a run in the last inning of the state championship game, also against Moorefield, to fall just short of a sixth state championship for the Maroon Knights this year.

In addition to the five state championships that CCHS achieved in 2017-2018, they also recorded six OVAC Championships. They included Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Cheerleading, Golf, Girls Soccer and Girls Track. All in all, it was quite an incredible year for the Maroon Knights!

You might ask yourself what the formula for



success is to achieve such tremendous results from a school the size of CCHS. According to coaches and administrators, it's a combination of factors, all of which contribute to the overwhelming success

# WV STATE





## Mr. Patrick Brown - *The Aquinas Medal*

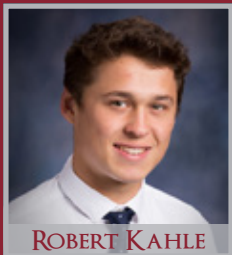
The Aquinas Medal is the highest award a student can receive from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Recipients of this prestigious award display ideal qualities of faith, intellect and service every day and in every way. It is awarded to the student who epitomizes the exemplary Catholic student.



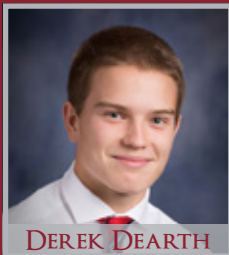
## Ms. Maria Murphy & Mr. Jack Stryker - *St. Sebastian Award*

The St. Sebastian Award is presented to one female and one male student-athlete from each school in the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston. In addition to outstanding academic performance, these students display outstanding sportsmanship and teamwork, as well as respect of school, classmates, teammates, competitors, parish and community.

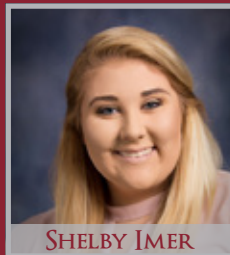
## 2017-2018 SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS



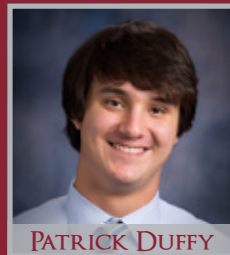
ROBERT KAHLE  
PRESIDENT



DEREK DEARTH  
VICE PRESIDENT



SHELBY IMER  
SECRETARY



PATRICK DUFFY  
TREASURER

# Class of 2018

Alyssa Bartsch

Isaac Basinger

Jason Bennington, II

Riley Bennington

Riley Blaha

Nathan Blair

Sarah Booth

Jonah Boyd

Caroline Brannan

Patrick Brown

Olivia Carpenter

Olivia Carte

Michael Chappelle

Douglas Clark

Christopher Costain

Bryan Courts

George Cupp

Caleb Custer

Abigail Davidson

Derek Dearth

Paul Denard

Trey Denniston

Alexis Dick

Claire Dieffenbaugher

Brek Dimmick

Brianna Downs

Rachel Drnach

Patrick Duffy

Taylor Duplaga

Ryan Dytko

Maria Dzmura

Emily Emmerth

Graydon Flati

Christopher Furka

Owen Gainer

Marissa Garlitz

Kenzie George

Ian Georges

Michael Hall

Kara Harris

Zhuofan Hua

Jiazheng Huang

Shelby Imer

Xiru Jian

Robert Kable

Chase Kelly

Isaac Kinneer

Shannon LaBelle

Luke Lawrence

Caroline Lestitian

Elizabeth Looney

Travis Lufft

Connor Michaels

Maria Murphy

Lai Nguyen

Nicolette Nolte

Melissa O'Kelley

Daniel O'Leary

Emilee Ondrick

Julia Padden

Carly Pajak

Blake Peluchette

Ava Peroni

Morgan Petchar

Brent Price

Sarah Riedel

Jaron Rine

Tyler Roth

Logan Ruckb

Michael Runkle

Brandon Russell

Alexis Saunders

Chayse Stahanczyk

Daevon Stradwick

Jack Stryker

Grace Taylor

Isiah Threats

Samantha Turner

Matthew Turziano

Andrew Vecchio

Sarah Wagner

Dawson Wear

Logan Wells

Timothy Wensel

Madison Wiedebusch

Andrew Wilhelm

Cedric Williams

Zachary Zelewicz

Ava Zende

Shilong Zhang

# Legacy Graduates

Central Catholic High School Legacy Graduates are continuing a long tradition of CCHS graduates within their families. Members pictures below are at least a second generation to graduate from CCHS. Each asterisk \* denotes a generation of CCHS alumni. *Legacy families include parents and grandparents as alumni.*



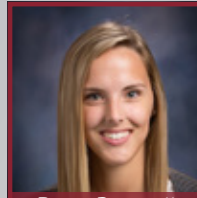
ALYSSA BARTSCH\*\*



ISAAC BASINGER\*\*



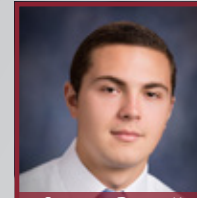
COLE BENNINGTON\*\*



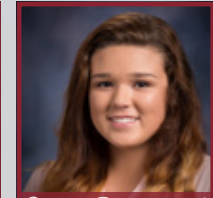
RILEY BLAHA\*\*



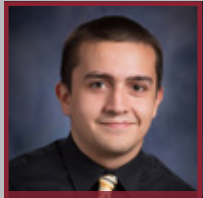
NATHAN BLAIR\*\*



JONAH BOYD\*\*



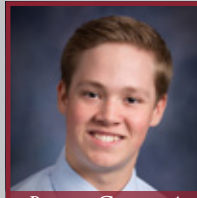
OLIVIA CARPENTER\*



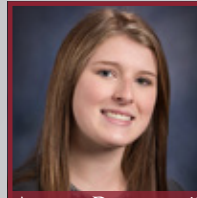
MICHAEL CHAPPEL\*\*



CHRIS COSTAIN\*\*



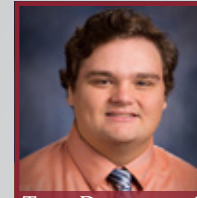
BRYAN COURTS\*



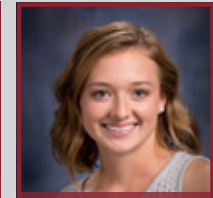
ABIGAIL DAVIDSON\*\*



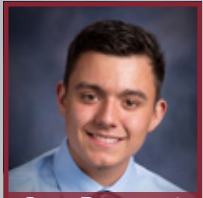
PAUL DENARD\*\*



TREY DENNISTON\*\*



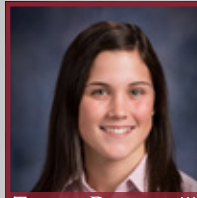
CLAIRE DIEFFENBAUGHER\*



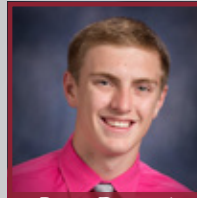
BREK DIMMICK\*



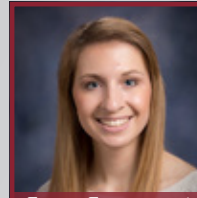
PATRICK DUFFY\*



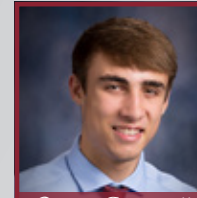
TAYLOR DUPLAGA\*\*\*



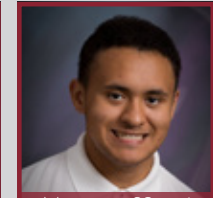
RYAN DYTKO\*



EMILY EMMERTH\*



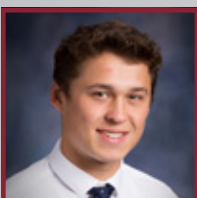
OWEN GAINER\*\*



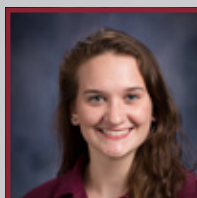
MICHAEL HALL\*



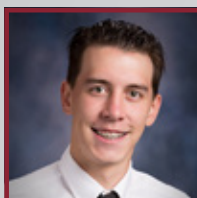
SHELBY IMER\*\*\*



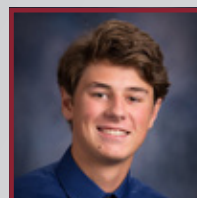
ROBERT KAHLE\*\*\*



SHANNON LABELLE\*



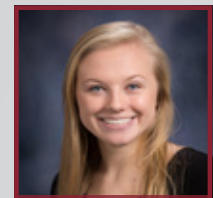
TRAVIS LUFFT\*\*



CONNOR MICHAELS\*\*



MARIA MURPHY\*\*



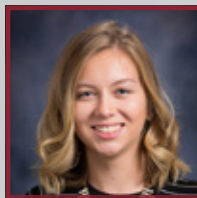
NICOLETTE NOLTE\*



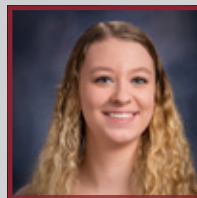
DANIEL O'LEARY\*\*\*



BLAKE PELUCHETTE\*\*



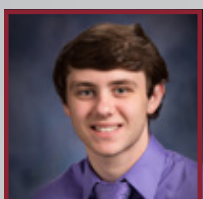
AVA PERONI\*



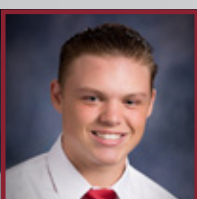
SARAH RIEDEL\*\*



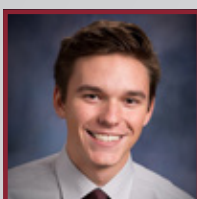
TYLER ROTH\*



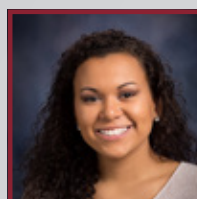
LOGAN RUCKH\*\*



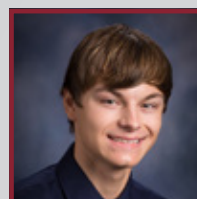
MICHAEL RUNKLE\*



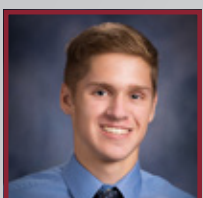
BRANDON RUSSELL\*



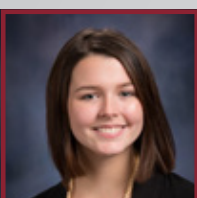
ALEXIS SAUNDERS\*



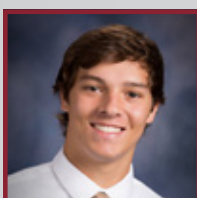
CHAYSE STAHANCZYK\*



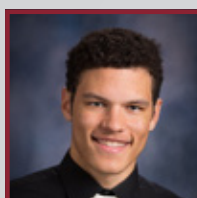
JACK STRYKER\*



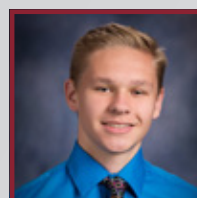
GRACE TAYLOR\*



DAWSON WEAR\*\*\*



CEDRIC WILLIAMS\*



ZACHARY ZELEWICZ\*

## WEST VIRGINIA PROMISE SCHOLARS

<i>Alyssa Bartsch</i>	<i>Kenzie George</i>
<i>Riley Bennington</i>	<i>Michael Hall</i>
<i>Riley Blaha</i>	<i>Robert Kahle</i>
<i>Nathan Blair</i>	<i>Maria Murphy</i>
<i>Jonah Boyd</i>	<i>Melissa O'Kelley</i>
<i>Patrick Brown</i>	<i>Daniel O'Leary</i>
<i>Olivia Carpenter</i>	<i>Julia Padden</i>
<i>Derek Dearth</i>	<i>Ava Peroni</i>
<i>Paul Denard</i>	<i>Morgan Petchar</i>
<i>Claire Dieffenbaugher</i>	<i>Michael Runkle</i>
<i>Rachel Drnach</i>	<i>Jack Stryker</i>
<i>Patrick Duffy</i>	<i>Grace Taylor</i>
<i>Emily Emmerth</i>	<i>Dawson Wear</i>
<i>Marissa Garlitz</i>	<i>Madison Wiedebusch</i>



"We have a rich history of great bands here," he added. "We'd like to see that again."

Music isn't the only option for students whose interests are on the creative side. CCHS also boasts an outstanding visual arts program, which has been the pride of instructor Ann Kahle for the past 25 years.

"Everyone has the ability to draw and to create," Kahle commented. "Art is an outlet for creativity and communication. It's not about being the best or the 'most talented', but more about expression and individuality."

Many of us will recall the opportunity to take Art I and Art II as CCHS students where we learned to draw, experimented with paper mache and sometimes macrame. Today, students are doing all sorts of things from self portraits to complex murals to graphic images. Like everything else, art has evolved with the era of technology, making more and more options available for students.

"Everyone starts at the beginning with Art I," Kahle explained. "We introduce students to things like drawing, shading and painting. We also cover elements of design, as well as art history."

Students who show interest can move on to Art II, Senior Art or Graphic Arts, all of which offer the opportunity to build upon the fundamental skills emphasized in Art I.

"Once students move on from Art I, we start to challenge them a bit creatively," Kahle remarked. "We encourage them to push their artistic comfort zones and really embrace the variety of endeavors that are presented to them."

Every year, students in the Graphic Arts class design the school's Christmas Cards. Mrs. Kahle offers guidelines, then the students are given free reign to use their own creativity to create unique designs. Several are chosen to be mailed out to friends and family of CCHS as part of the holiday observance.

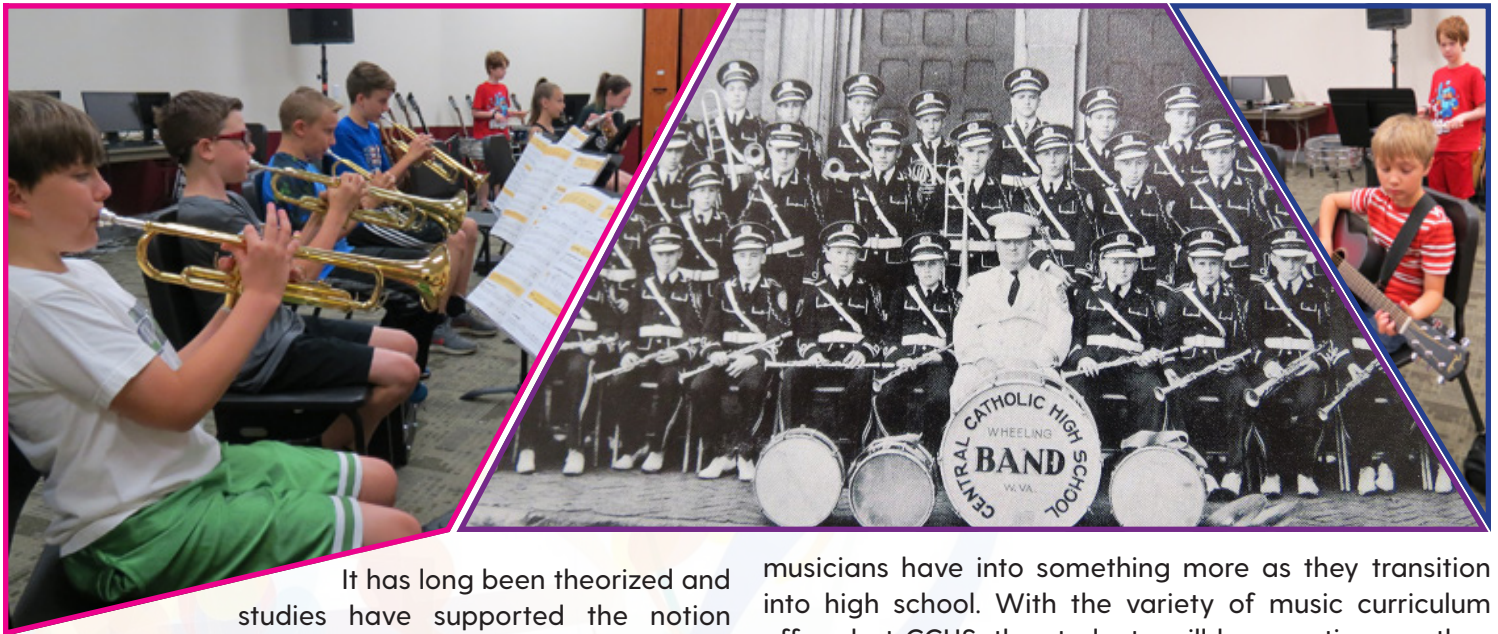
Additionally, students have the benefit of being able to participate in the performing arts, including a fall play and spring musical, even as freshmen. According to Sancomb, it's an asset to our school program.

"We have activities in the fall, at Christmas and in the spring. We have concerts, the spring musical and an assortment of other performance activities. Students are invited and encouraged to participate from their very first day here," she said. "The message that we send is very clear. If you are interested in the arts, we have a place for you to hit the ground running."

Families who are interested in learning more about the CCHS Fine Arts Department should visit the website at [www.cchsknights.org](http://www.cchsknights.org) to see course offerings.







It has long been theorized and studies have supported the notion that the arts can be important in the academic development of children. Experts in education have been long-time proponents of the arts in schools, not only in classrooms, but also as extra-curricular activities. CCHS shares this belief, which is why we offer an extensive fine arts program, and we work to improve it every year. And this year, we've expanded our programs to include our partner schools!

"We consider our fine arts department to be every bit as important as math, science and English," said Rebecca Sancomb, principal at CCHS. "Every student has a creative side. It's important for us to provide an outlet for the student to explore it if there is a desire."

Currently, students in our partner schools who are interested in musicianship are encouraged to participate in a weekly program presented by Mr. Matthew White, music instructor at CCHS. The after-school program brings together middle-school aged children from around the Valley who either play or are interested in playing musical instruments.

"We meet as a group every week," White explained. "There is instruction and collaboration and the kids are getting to know one another, which is an important part of the lesson."

The benefits of the program are numerous. First of all, it provides the young students with a forum for playing their instruments, something that White says can't be done too much.

"They learn to play and just as importantly, they learn to play as part of a group," he explained. "Plus, they're meeting kids from other schools who have similar interests, so when they come in as freshmen, everyone already has a network of friends, many of whom are new friends. It's definitely a win-win."

White's goal is to cultivate the interest that the young

musicians have into something more as they transition into high school. With the variety of music curriculum offered at CCHS, the students will have options as they grow and develop their talents.

CCHS offers courses in Chorus, Band and Strings/Guitar, as well as Music and Music Theory. Additionally, students can take courses in digital audio recording and can take a course which allows them to write and record their own music. It's just part of the total package that CCHS offers, according to White.

"Because it's maybe not in the newspaper every week, people aren't necessarily aware of what we're doing here with regard to fine arts," White commented. "But, we are doing great things, we are reaching out to young musicians and we can guarantee our students that if they're interested in music and they're interested in developing their skills, we have a place for them here and an outlet for active participation from their very first day with us."

Because of class size, there are opportunities for one-on-one instruction time and as the program continues to grow, students are presented with more and more opportunities to perform...and to compete.

In fact, the CCHS Chorus recently travelled to New York City, where they competed against schools of similar size from throughout the U.S. and Canada. They came away with a rating of excellent, a silver medal and the opportunity to network with like-minded students from all across the country.

White's ultimate goal is to grow interest to the point where CCHS can assemble a band for football and basketball games, as well as other events throughout the school year. Already, there is an alumni group that performs at football games.

"For a school the size of ours to have a full band is a challenge," he said. "As interest grows and students from our partner schools move into high school, we see the potential for good things."



# WRESTLING RETURNS TO CCHS

There's an old saying about striking while the iron's hot and there's no question that it's hot right now at Wheeling Central Catholic High School. The success that the athletic program has enjoyed in recent years has prompted officials to bring back

intangibles of the sport for one of the reasons the decision was made to bring it back. Things like discipline, mental toughness and character, none of which can be measured in wins and losses.

"Wrestling is a sport that requires more than just physical toughness and agility," Murray commented. "It requires toughness, self-discipline and a lot of sacrifice."

"It's just the competitor and his opponent with nowhere for either of them to hide," he added. "The upside is that it can be incredibly rewarding."

Aside from the opportunity to highlight individual athleticism, a wrestling program can also serve as a means by which to stay active and conditioned. It is often used by athletes who play football and baseball or lacrosse to build

in its wrestling program over the years, touting several state winners and a dozen OVAC individual champions. Additionally, they boast an OVAC Championship Team (1970), a former Mr. Mat Award Winner in Dan Doyle (1973) and an OVAC Wrestler of the Year in Zach Basich (2008).

Officials have tapped wrestling veteran and West Liberty University standout David Doyle to serve as the head coach. Doyle has more than 20 years of experience in wrestling, most recently serving as a middle school head coach in Ohio County.

"It's an honor and with excitement that I accept the position as head wrestling coach at CCHS," Doyle commented. "I can't help but feel a sense of pride that the opportunity comes from the school that started my family's healthy obsession with the sport of wrestling."

"I look forward to resurrecting the legacy and success of the program for the Wheeling Central community," he added.

The plan is to jump right in during the 2018-2019 season by participating in



another storied program: **Wrestling.**

"There are a lot of good reasons to bring back our wrestling program," said Donnie Murray, Athletic Director at CCHS. "We are in the midst of an era where we are blessed with stellar athletes, so it only makes sense to offer them this opportunity."

Football, basketball and baseball are among the programs that have seen great success over the past several years at CCHS, which sparked an interest among current students and alumni with regard to wrestling. Once a highly successful program, wrestling at CCHS saw a decline in participation over the years. It was dropped and reinstated several times during the period from the mid-1970s to the mid-2000s.

"There was a decline in participation across the Ohio Valley and the state as other sports like hockey gained momentum," Murray commented. "It's definitely easier to be part of a team than to be out there on a wrestling mat as an individual."

Murray referenced the

strength and dexterity between those seasons. Murray sees this as an added bonus for CCHS student-athletes, many of whom participate in numerous sports.

"If you're a football player and you also participate in a spring sport like baseball or lacrosse, wrestling is an ideal way to keep active and in shape during those winter months," he said. "There's no question it's a great conditioning sport."

CCHS has seen considerable success



invitational and tournament settings, as well as large-scale wrestling meets. Based upon participation, they will consider dual, triangular and quad meets. By 2020-2021, they expect to have grown to the point where they are ready, not only to participate in a wide variety of meets and tournaments, but also to host some. Doyle is confident that they have athletes who can compete immediately.

To follow CCHS athletics, team schedules and other valuable information, please visit the school website at [cchsknights.org/athletics](http://cchsknights.org/athletics).

# Partners & Friends

## CCHS Shares a Bond with Area Partner Schools

A partner is defined as a person who takes part in an undertaking with another or others. In the case of CCHS and its area elementary schools which are commonly referred to as 'partner schools', the relationship between the two groups seems to be so much more than that.



CCHS students and staff collaborate with the Wheeling area Catholic elementary schools throughout the school year on a variety of projects and it's truly both a learning and a bonding experience for both groups.

"Our partner schools are so important to our overall mission, as well as our success," said Rebecca Sancomb, Principal at CCHS. "We welcome having them here for various events throughout the school year and are so happy when our students are able to be there, helping them."

As part of its service learning, CCHS sends students to its partner schools to assist with a variety of events, including the Angel Walk at St. Michael Parish and the Race for Education at Corpus Christi. Since CCHS students are required to earn service hours toward graduation, helping out at the elementary schools is not only fun for them, but also beneficial.

"Working with our partner schools is an opportunity for our students to earn service hours," Sancomb commented. "They like going back to their elementary schools and the schools love having them, so it's definitely a win-win."

In addition to helping with school-related activities and retreats, the CCHS students also visit during special times of the year, such as Homecoming Week. This past year, students spent a morning at elementary schools serving as greeters, welcoming



the students to class that day. Also, the students are invited every year to participate in Homecoming activities, including the popular parade and pep rally.

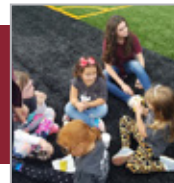
"We decorate one of our busses for the elementary football team to ride and we encourage all of our partner school students to participate in the activities," Sancomb said. "It's fun, festive and a great experience for them to see what student life is like at our high school."

It's not just the CCHS students making trips to the partner schools. Students from the partner schools routinely spend time at CCHS for a variety of events.

Several open houses and visitation days are scheduled throughout the year in order to give the young students some exposure to the 'Knight Life'. Through an event called 'Day As a Knight' they can shadow with high school students and spend a typical CCHS school day on campus and as part of the CCHS family.

"We love having the students here as shadows," Sancomb remarked. "They're enthusiastic and excited, sometimes a little shy. But, it's a good experience for them and our students love interacting with them."

Additionally, CCHS hosts numerous events on behalf of the partner schools throughout the year, things like regional science and social studies fairs. The centralized location of the high school, as well as the convenience of the Great Hall, make it an ideal location for the elementary schools to gather as one group for events.



"We are happy and proud to be able to host things like instructional fairs where our faculty can serve as judges and our students as ambassadors," Sancomb said. "The students, faculty and principals from the partner schools are such an important part of the mission that we promote at Central Catholic and we welcome the opportunities that we have to host them."

The partner schools also bring special events to the school, Sancomb stated. For instance, the student body and staff of CCHS were treated to a wonderful display by the students at St. Vincent de Paul School, who came to school and presented live Stations of the Cross during Lent this year. It was a wonderful experience for both the CCHS students and the children who came to perform.

"It was a tremendous performance by the students from St. Vincent's and a meaningful experience for our students," Sancomb commented. "They work very hard rehearsing and preparing for it and I'm so glad that we were able to have them here."

The relationship between CCHS and its partner schools is an important one, Sancomb said. Each relies on the other to help with things like enrollment and retention.

"Obviously, we want to see the elementary students transition to high school here," she said. "So, our hope is that having them here, showing them what we're about and welcoming them for different events will make the decision to stay with Catholic education an easy one."

To learn more about CCHS, its programs and mission, please visit the official school website at [www.cchsknights.org](http://www.cchsknights.org).



# Enhancing Education

with

*Art*

Students  
Benefit  
from an  
Impressive  
Assortment  
of Offerings





# CCHS GRAD TOM KLEECH RECEIVES U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE APPOINTMENT

In the early 1990s when Tom Kleeh was a student at CCHS, he was like most other kids his age. The most important things in his life were golf, basketball, his teammates and his friends. When he graduated in 1992, he set off for Morgantown like so many of his classmates.

"The only thing I knew at that point was that I wanted to go to law school," Kleeh remarked in a recent telephone interview.

The interest in law stuck, so after graduating summa cum laude from West Virginia University with a degree in accounting, he entered the College of Law, where he was inducted into the Order of the Coif, which recognizes outstanding scholarly achievement and contribution to the department. A standout scholar, he also served as editor-in-chief of the *West Virginia Law Review*. Clearly, he was on a path to succeed.

Today, nearly 20 years following his admittance to the West Virginia Bar, Kleeh has received a recognition that most of his professional contemporaries can only hope to achieve. He was nominated to serve as a U.S. district judge for West Virginia's Northern District. He will replace Senior U.S. District Judge Irene M. Keely, a long-time veteran of the bench.

"It's been a great honor for me, as well as my family," he said.

Kleeh was officially nominated on February 12th of this year by President Donald Trump and was enthusiastically endorsed by Senator

Shelley Moore Capito.

"Tom is incredibly qualified to serve West Virginia as a judge on the U.S. District Court--a fact that has been recognized by individuals from all corners of the legal community," Capito commented.

His nomination was sent to the U.S. Senate for consideration several days later. It was passed without issue.

Kleeh's appointment is the culmination of 19 years as a practicing attorney with the firm of Steptoe & Johnson in Charleston, where

their website says he "concentrates his practice in labor and employment law." Additionally, he has served since 2015 as staff counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee of the West Virginia Senate, where he has presented legislation and advised the Senate on a wide range of issues.

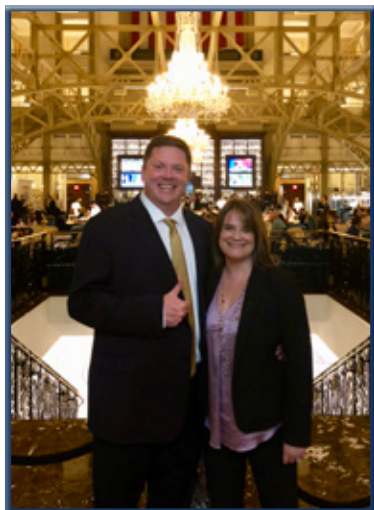
"Tom is a phenomenal lawyer and a gifted courtroom attorney," said Susan Brewer, chief executive officer for Steptoe & Johnson. "The president has made a perfect choice in nominating Tom for U.S. district judge."

An honor student at CCHS, Kleeh was a member of the golf and basketball

teams, as well as the National Honor Society. He credits CCHS with providing the foundation that has led to his success as an attorney.

"There was an expectation at Central," Kleeh commented. "It was a lot of fun, but there was an emphasis on academics. They expected everyone to work hard."

For Kleeh, the entire process has been a whirlwind of new experiences, including a trip to Washington D.C., where he met with Senator Capito,



toured Capitol Hill and enjoyed lunch in the Senate Dining Room.

"We took my parents," Kleeh said of his recent trip. "It was a great experience for all of us. Having lunch in the dining room, surrounded by the most powerful people in Washington, it was just incredible."

A profound WVU fan, Kleeh and his wife of 15 years, Teresa, will be residing in Morgantown with their three children:

Noah Patrick (11), Lily Regan (7) and Kate Elisabeth (2).







# Monsignor Eugene Ostrowski

41 Years of Devotion and Service

After 41 years of devoted and loyal service to the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, our beloved Monsignor Eugene Ostrowski has stepped down to enjoy the less hectic pace of retirement. It's a loss that the CCHS Community will continue to feel for quite some time.

Over the course of his lengthy association with CCHS, Msgr. Ostrowski has served the school in a wide variety of capacities and has touched the lives of several generations of alumni, displaying an uncanny gift for being able to reach out to students where they are in their lives and adapting to a changing church, as well as a changing view of it by students.

"His interest and work in guiding our students and faculty along their faith formation has come in many forms," said Rebecca Sancomb, principal at CCHS.

"While his history with CCHS extends back to the 1960s, Monsignor has also been committed to providing a vision for our future and how we meet our students where they are now in their faith, given our modern culture," she added.

He began what has become a legendary association with Central Catholic High School in 1959 when he joined the faculty as a Marist Brother. In addition to his work teaching math, he wore a number of different other hats during his tenure, teaching courses in band, religion and physics, while also serving as the director of vocations.

"I have a long, wonderful history with Central," Msgr. Ostrowski said recently.

After 11 years at CCHS and 21 as a Marist Brother, Ostrowski returned to the classroom as a student himself, when he made the decision to expand his commitment to the church by joining the priesthood. He was ordained a priest on May 21, 1977 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph by Most Reverend Joseph H. Hodges.

As Father Ostrowski, he worked over the next 20 years as an associate pastor at St. Anthony's in Follansbee, as well as in several different capacities for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston before settling into the role of pastor at Corpus Christi Church in Warwood, a position he held until his retirement in July.

Through his role at Corpus Christi, where he continued until his retirement to teach mathematics to the students at the grade school, we were blessed to have him return to CCHS. He served for 20 years on the CCHS Board of Advisors and for the past 10 as the designated pastor to the school, a role that he truly loved and embraced wholeheartedly.

"The young men and women who attend Central are delightful, generous and wholesome," he commented. "The school is truly Catholic--Christian values, relationship with God."

In 2009, shortly after beginning his role as designated pastor to

CCHS and in recognition of his loyal service to the Diocese, his parish and Central Catholic High School, he was elevated to the designation of Monsignor by Pope Benedict XVI. Nonetheless, he continued to stress the importance of the brothers and sisters at the high school and the legacy that they created.

"The spiritual heritage of the Marist Brothers and the Sisters of Saint Joseph still flows through the halls of Central Catholic," he commented.

His own legacy has spanned more than six decades and manifested itself in many forms as he has served as a teacher, a mentor and an advisor to the thousands of students and staff whose lives he has touched.

"Whether it was presiding over our school masses, visiting classrooms, hearing confessions, meeting with students or serving on committees, Monsignor has been committed to challenging us all to work and lead in a manner that upholds our mission, which is 'To Think and Act Like Christ'," Sancomb said.



"Personally, Monsignor Ostrowski has provided me with support and guidance during a time of transition and change at CCHS," she said.

Jeff Smay, religion teacher at CCHS and a member of Corpus Christi Parish, was fortunate to know and enjoy the benefits of working with Msgr. Ostrowski, as well as the blessing of celebrating weekly mass with him.

"In our years at Corpus Christi, Monsignor has been a major source of support and encouragement for our family," he said. "He has been kind and generous to our family and a great

example of holiness. His homilies are spiritually rich and helped everyone in the parish."

Msgr. Ostrowski was recognized for his years of service at a recent board meeting with a reception in his honor where President David Taylor presented a proclamation honoring him and his years of service to CCHS.

"Msgr. Ostrowski has given CCHS the wonderful gift of a lifetime of commitment, loyalty and dedication to the mission of Catholic education," said Lawrence E. Bandi, president of CCHS. "He has touched countless generations through his association with our school and his legacy will endure for generations to come. We are and will continue to be indebted to him in a way that cannot ever be repaid."

Monsignor Ostrowski was also recognized at the Baccalaureate Mass of the Class of 2018, his final celebration as the designated pastor at CCHS. Students thanked him for his many years of service and he was presented with a gift from the Class of 2018.

"We will all miss him," Mrs. Sancomb said simply. "He is leaving an amazing legacy that will endure forever."



## THREE CCHS FACULTY RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

When you make the decision to work in education and you dedicate yourself to doing it well, good things happen. Such is the case for three members of the CCHS faculty who were honored this year with prestigious awards for their commitment to their students and our school.

Faculty members Pamela Hartman, Brian Pooley and Debra Warmuth all received awards related to the work they do in their classrooms, their interactions with students, their dedication to their chosen curriculums and their professional approaches.

"We pride ourselves on choosing teachers who commit themselves to our students and to our faith mission," said Rebecca Sancomb, principal at CCHS. "These teachers represent our dedicated, caring faculty who have chosen the ministry of catholic education."

Learn more about these outstanding teachers, as well as the entire dedicated faculty at CCHS by visiting the website at [www.cchsknights.org](http://www.cchsknights.org).



### MADAME PAMELA HARTMAN

Madame Pamela Hartman, French instructor and chairperson of World Languages at CCHS, was named the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce High School Teacher of the Year. A graduate of Bethany College and West Virginia University, she has been teaching at CCHS for more than 30 years.

In addition to her outstanding performance as an instructor, Madame Hartman serves as moderator of the CCHS French Club, one of the school's most active service organizations. She also oversees the National French Honor Society and every two years, she works with her students to present the French Follies, a favorite among students, families and staff. She also coordinates the annual Queen of Queens Pageant.

"Mrs. Hartman teaches students not only to speak the language of French, but also to love it and to love the culture," said Rebecca Sancomb, principal at CCHS. "They sing, they do skits, they learn so much more than just vocabulary and verb conjugation."

"The contributions that Mrs. Hartman make to our school go so far beyond the classroom," Sancomb said. "Yes, she is an excellent teacher, but she is so much more than that. She is a mentor to younger teachers. She is a consummate professional in everything that she does. She is dedicated and hardworking, energetic and enthusiastic. She encourages her students to love learning."





the mission of the association, class agents and decade chairs will assist in the gathering and organizing of alumni information

“It can be more difficult than you think to be able to keep updated records on all of our alumni,” he commented. “People move, they lose touch. Even with social media, it’s difficult to keep track of them sometimes.”

“Class agents and decade chairs help us to keep track of the people in all of the individual classes,” he added. “Our data base is only as good as the information that we receive. We’re working hard to try to have it as accurate as possible.

Young said that when planning a reunion, organizers from the various classes will contact the school looking

for updated information. It’s a goal of the organization to try to assist as much as possible with contacts, as well as the logistics of the event.

“We welcome and encourage groups to have their reunions here with us in the Great Hall,” he said. “We’re proud of what we have here and we like nothing better than being able to share it with our alumni.”

“There is no charge to use our Great Hall. We offer tours of the building and that’s something that is very popular with our graduates,” he commented.

If you need proof of the importance of alumni and their role in the overall continued success of the school, consider the legacies. In the Class of 2018 alone, nearly half of the graduating class were legacies, which means that the student was not the first member of the family to attend CCHS. About a quarter of the class were at least a second generation and a half dozen were third or fourth generation graduates.

“Graduates obviously believe enough in our school to make the commitment to send their next generations here,” Young said. “It’s a great place with great people and our goal is to bring them together for fun and fellowship.”

Young says there are a variety of new events being planned in addition to the many that are already in place for alumni to come back and visit. In addition to Homecoming and its related activities, there is also an Alumni Weekend, annual steak fry, reverse raffle, and the annual Hall of Fame induction.

If you’re interested in more information regarding the CCHS Alumni Association or would like to plan a reunion in the Great Hall, please contact Coach Young by calling the school or via email at [alumni@cchsknights.org](mailto:alumni@cchsknights.org).



# CCHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## KEEP THE TRADITION ALIVE BY JOINING THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

If you recall when the faculty was primarily comprised of brothers and sisters, you might be a CCHS Alumni. If you spent your Friday nights in October hanging out at Wheeling Island Stadium, you could be a CCHS Alumni. If you remember when the cafeteria became the 'Great Hall', then you are probably a CCHS Alumni.

And if you are a CCHS Alumni, then you will be excited to learn that Central Catholic wants you to be involved with our school, our students and our mission. How do you do that? By joining the CCHS Alumni Association!

"To say that we are 'resurrecting' the alumni association would not be accurate because we have had one for many years and it has had a presence in our school," said Lawrence E. Bandi, president of CCHS and member of the Class of 1972.

What is accurate to say is that CCHS recognizes the importance of alumni to the continued success of the school and is working hard to increase not only membership, but also participation in alumni-related activities, as well as appreciation events designed specifically with CCHS alumni in mind.

Toward this end, Coach Mike Young, who recently retired from his duties as athletic director at the high school, has

transitioned into the role of Director of Alumni Affairs and Special Programs. He is working hard to create an environment for alumni to be more actively involved with the school.

"It's no secret that CCHS alumni love their school," Young said. "What we'd like to do is offer more activities, as well as an organized forum for them to be involved."

home football games held at Wheeling Jesuit University and access to the hospitality room/tent for home football and basketball games.

"Membership also provides folks with the opportunity to connect and network with fellow classmates and alumni," Young said. "We want their input, as well as their participation."



The CCHS Alumni Association now holds regular meetings and membership is one of the best bargains around! The annual fee of \$25 provides you with access to the newsletter, VIP parking at

In a world where social media makes it impossible to hide, one would think that it's an easy thing to keep up with alumni and their whereabouts, but Young said that's not always the case. As part of





## MR. BRIAN POOLEY

Each year, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston recognizes a teacher for his or her dedication to the mission of Catholic schools, as well as work ethic, Christian values and outstanding instruction. The recipients of this prestigious award are teachers who separate themselves as always going above and beyond to be the best and who expect the best from their students. This year's recipient of the DWC Silver Apple Award was Mr. Brian Pooley.

A graduate of Wheeling Jesuit University, Mr. Pooley has been with CCHS for nearly 20 years where he teaches religion, moderates the Key and Creative Writing Clubs,

assists in the editing and publication of *Inspirare*, the CCHS Literary Magazine and can often be seen on the morning announcements providing book reviews or leading the students in the celebration of the rosary. Additionally, he is often at sporting events, working as a volunteer or chaperoning busses for trips to road games or the tournaments in Charleston.

Mrs. Sancomb recently described Mr. Pooley as a teacher who “has an inherent ability to reach students where they are in their lives, to allow them to examine and explore their faiths and to challenge them to be better students, better Christians and better members of the faith community. He is truly a teacher who ‘walks the walk’ in terms of his dedication to his students and his faith.”

Mr. Pooley received his award and was recognized at the 2018 Bishop's Cross Dinner, which is held annually in Morgantown and includes all diocesan schools.



## MRS. DEBRA WARMUTH

Mrs. Debra Warmuth is the Director of Instructional Technology and the TEAL Lab at CCHS. In her fifth year at CCHS, she was recently named the School Broadcast Teacher of the Year by the NFHS High School Sports Network, a national organization of more than 2,000 schools nationwide that assists high schools with producing live video broadcasts.

A graduate of West Liberty University, Mrs. Warmuth holds advanced degrees from both West Virginia University and Wheeling Jesuit University. She manages all of the broadcasting duties from instruction to the morning announcements to the website to school-related videos and

live broadcasts. Everywhere you look, you see the presence of the video production department.

Awards have been plentiful for this group under the tutelage of Warmuth, including a 2018 Regional Emmy for live broadcasting by a student video crew. The students learn everything in Warmuth's classes from the bottom up. They start at the beginning and by the time they're ready to graduate, they are seasoned and poised professionals, whether they're on-air talent or behind-the-scenes personnel.

“We are so proud of what our broadcasting department has achieved under the guidance of Mrs. Warmuth,” said Lawrence E. Bandi, president of CCHS. “She has built this program and she has taught the students to love what they do. She rose to the challenge and created something which is a shining star for our school.”

# Brother William Chanel and Sister Anne Regina



## Standing on the Shoulders of GIANTS

Like the rest of country, the decade of the 1960s saw sweeping changes take place for Central Catholic High School and St. Joseph Academy. What began as a plan to expand the school and its facilities became, over the course of the decade, the CCHS that we all know today.

In 1958, amid much excitement and fanfare, a new gymnasium was erected at the corner of 13th & Jacob Streets. That same year, construction began on a new school, which necessitated using the new gym to set up temporary classrooms.

Wheeling historian and former CCHS faculty member, Margaret Brennan was a student at the Academy at that time and like her classmates, took classes in the makeshift rooms.

"It was not an ideal situation," Brennan commented. "It was very difficult for both teachers and students. But, what could you do? Everyone made the best of it."

Two years later construction was complete, Archbishop John Swint blessed the new building and the following year it was dedicated as a co-institutional establishment. The new

school was to be called Central Catholic High School.

That particular decision was not popular with the Sisters of Saint Joseph, who had lovingly tended to the Academy since its inception in 1865.

"There were many hard feelings over the decision to call the school Central Catholic High School," Brennan said. "The sisters were not happy with the dissolution of the Academy."

Nevertheless, the Sisters of St. Joseph continued to teach the girls in the north end of the building, while the boys were overseen on the eastern wing by the Marist Brothers.

That same year, a young brother arrived at CCHS. Only a year or two out of seminary, Brother William Chanel Lambert quickly became the right-hand man of Brother Jude, who was the principal of the boys' school.

A member of the faculty at the same time, Brother Rene Roy recalled that Brother Chanel was an immensely intelligent and energetic educator who showed great promise

not only as a teacher, but also as an administrator.

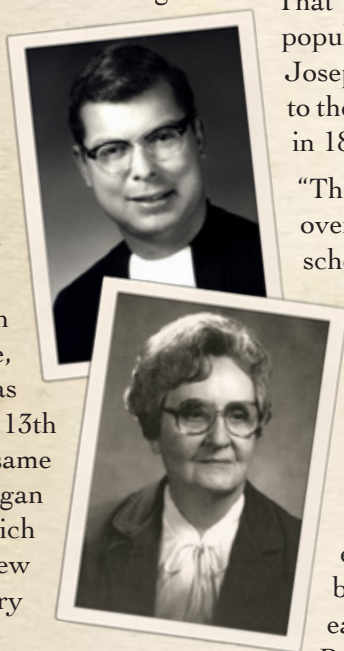
"He was so young, only 26 or 27 years old," Brother Rene Roy said in a recent telephone conversation. "He had a tremendous amount of responsibility for a man of his age."

At the same time, students were beginning to mix. They shared lunches, intermingled in the cafeteria and at extra-curricular events. They participated in school activities like student council and sign painting. Classes, however, were a completely different matter.

"They were separated during classes, but they mixed a lot in the cafeteria and at social events," Roy commented. "They were comfortable being together."

Midway through the decade, following the departure of Brother Jude, Brother Chanel transitioned into the role of principal of the boys' school. Around that same time, Sister Anne Regina arrived to assume leadership of the girls' school. It was during this time and under this leadership that significant changes began to take place.

Roy recalled that as students, particularly girls, became more interested in taking specialized math





and science classes, it was a challenge to find instructors to fill those needs. So, classes began to merge as a matter of necessity.

"There was an absence of qualified teachers, particularly on the girls' side," Roy said. "There was no strategic plan in place for combining the girls and boys. They just began to do it in order to fill the need."

During those years, Brother Chanel and Sister Anne Regina worked together with the help of an advisory council to look at other departments and determine where it made sense to try to combine classes.

"The foundation was already there," Roy remarked. "The transition was easy."

First came the consolidation of homerooms, followed by bringing all students together in religion classes. Over the course of the next two to three years, they continued to blend classes until finally, the school was completely co-educational.

"It was very natural for the students; they already got along," Roy commented. "And, academically speaking, it was beneficial on both sides."

"I believe that the general consensus at the time was 'why did we wait so long to do it'," Roy added. "There was no big dramatic moment. It just evolved."

The two continued to work together successfully until Sr. Anne Regina departed in 1970. In 1971, Brother Chanel returned to his home state of Massachusetts. Both successfully pursued other interests related to their individual callings.

Brother Chanel earned a PhD in Education from Boston College, where he became a member of the faculty and began working with severely

handicapped children.

After spending the early part of his career in the classroom, then moving into administration, Brother Chanel found his niche in working with the special needs students.



"He really lived his Brotherhood at Boston College," Roy said.

Brother Chanel passed away earlier this year from complications related to Parkinson's Disease. He was so beloved that former students and proteges flocked to his funeral and remembered him as an energetic, fun-loving and passionate professor.



"One after another of them said 'he was my best friend'," Roy said. "They called him 'Bro Doc'."

"This man that many remembered as being ultra-professional, distant and sometimes aloof was remembered so fondly by these students who absolutely loved him," he added. "They

told wonderful stories of their time with Brother Chanel at Boston College."

For her part, Sister Anne Regina left CCHS to become one of the most influential and respected members of her Order. In addition to serving as the Diocesan Coordinator of Health Affairs and the Director of the Office of Women for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, she also served a stint as the Mother General at Mount St. Joseph and as the President of the Sisters of St. Joseph Federation, where she garnered national attention and respect.

"When women began to serve the church in greater capacity, she was involved," Brennan remarked. "She was involved in so many things. Her perspectives were respected and valued."

Sister Anne Regina passed away in 2009 after serving the Sisters of St. Joseph and Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for more than 75 years.

The foundation of the CCHS that many of us know and love today has its roots in the hard work, dedication and influence of Brother Chanel and Sr. Anne Regina. Brother Chanel's passing brings to a final close the most significant era of change that Central Catholic

High School has ever known.

"It's impossible to appreciate fully the level of influence that these two individuals have had on our history as an institution," said Lawrence E. Bandi, President of CCHS. "They have left their marks, both collectively and individually, in ways that will never be seen again."

"As long as Central Catholic High School continues to grow and thrive, they will always be remembered for their contributions to its success," he added. "We are truly and will be forever standing on the shoulders of giants."