

Catholic High Parentlines

Supporting our parents in their role as the primary educators of the Catholic faith

Owensboro Catholic High School

<http://www.owensborocatholic.org/ochs/index.asp>

March 05, 2010

What's inside

- p. 2 Sherry Orth talks about giving thanks to God
Guidance Department news
- p. 3 Amy Lambert explains dress code for Prom
Practice ACT test given
- p. 4 Calendar
- p. 5 News, notes, and dates for parents
- p. 6 Parent survey results
- p. 7 Bishop Medley attends OC Mass
- p. 8 Thank you to OCS parents for Faculty lunch
OCS System raises money for Haiti

Ellen Wright is proud to be a part of OCHS



Ellen Wright,
Senior

As I prepare to graduate, and I look back on my experience at Owensboro Catholic High School, I realize that I could never have received a better education in a more nurturing atmosphere anywhere else. I may complain about the low stall doors in the religion department bathrooms or the disappearance of the grilled cheese option on chili day, but deep down I know that these things are trivial, and I am proud to be a part of the Catholic School System. It has nourished both my mind and my spirit, and that is something that other school systems cannot do.

I have been so blessed to be given the opportunity to cultivate my faith in a school setting; every student in the Catholic schools has this opportunity. We come together each week to celebrate the Mass as one family. However, you don't have to be Catholic to be a part of that family. In fact, religion is never pushed on any student—Catholic or otherwise—which, for me personally, has only served to strengthen my

Continued on page 3

Annual parent surveys

Each year for the past 15 or so years, we have sent parents a survey, asking them for input on their perceptions of how well Catholic High is doing in many areas.

We have always been pleased with the responses in so many ways. But we have also always seen plenty of room for improvement.

It is frequently interesting that areas we might think we are doing better in are not always the ones that parents see as our strengths. And likewise, sometimes the areas we feel we need to work harder on are not always the ones parents identify as needing attention.

This year's results are no different. There is plenty of room for satisfaction. But there is also plenty of room for continued work and improvement.

Catholic High is in many ways the same place it was when I came here 38 years ago. And I think alumni who might come in and visit us for a few days would agree that it is the same family it was when they were students here.

Still, in many ways, it is a very different school. There is a different atmosphere, a

Harold Staples,
Principal

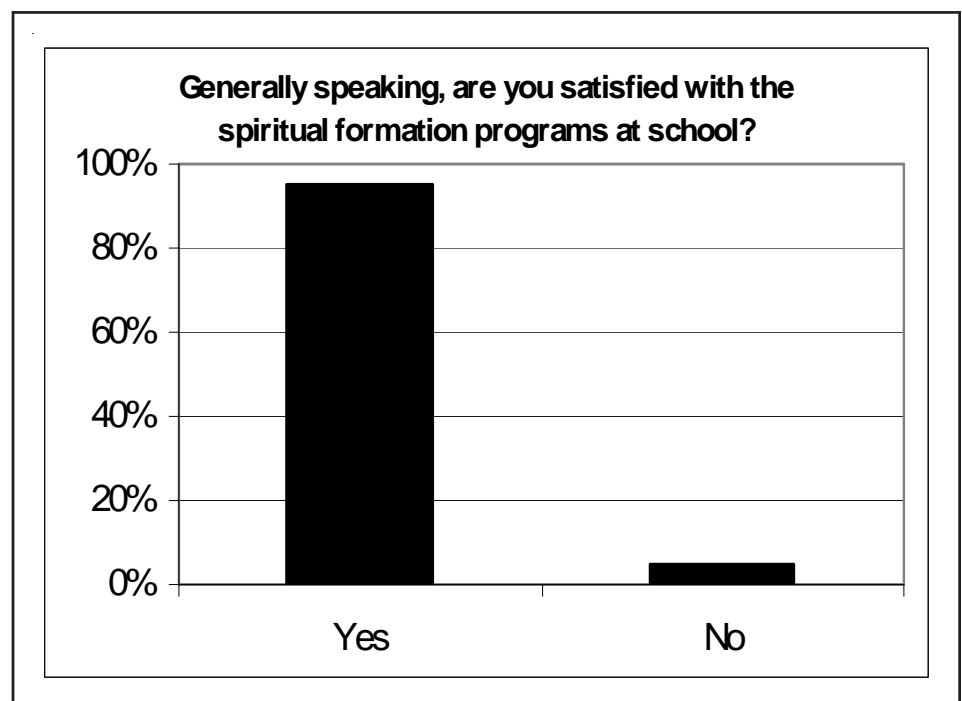


different culture, a more serious, more academic side. Test scores would attest to that fact.

And beyond even those things, I think I see kids even more concerned about others, working hard on becoming leaders, practicing the faith. One of the more interesting notes is that approximately half the student body belongs to our Right-to-Life chapter.

Thanks to so many of you who have helped us in so many ways to make Catholic High the best school we can make it. Thanks for your friendship and your support in our mission in the Church.

See more survey charts on pages 6-7



Give thanks to God for all of our blessings

I often hear people say, "The world is in such disarray, how can things get any worse?" This sentiment is certainly understandable if we listen to the news or read the daily newspaper. I told my students just the other day that if we are not careful we fall into the trap of always being negative, even in our prayer life. I asked them, do you say, thank you God for your blessings, as much as you say God help me. Of course there is nothing wrong with prayers of petition, but aren't prayers of thanksgiving just as important?

As for me, I only have to go to school to realize that the world really is in good shape. I know this because it will one day be

in the hands of the youth that I work with everyday. You see they never fail to amaze me with their concern for those in need, whether or not it is one of their own, or the thousands that they will never know, like the victims of Haiti. I am not sure that they are even aware of their own goodness. They should be able to recite the Corporal Works of Mercy, but more importantly than that, they, like all of us, are called to live them in our daily lives. In their giving of themselves, I see them feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick and imprisoned, and bury the dead. This is why we are Owensboro Catholic High School, we are free to "pro-

**Sherry Orth,
Religion Department
Chair**



fess our faith" and act on it.

So on this day, rather than say God help me, I am going to say, thank you, God, for the wonderful students that you have entrusted to my care. When I look upon them, I really do see the face of Jesus.

Guidance Department News

Students should continue to take challenging courses

As you register for your fall classes, here are five good reasons why you should take challenging courses:

1. Colleges look at the high school courses you've taken and want to see that you weren't coasting through.
2. Tough courses give you the knowledge and skills you need to do college work.
3. Students who take challenging courses score higher on the ACT.
4. You'll be less likely to need remedial courses in college.
5. You will have more options for college and a career.

ACT's list of high school course recommendations can serve as a guide for planning your choices. Be sure to check with the colleges and universities you're interested in to compare the requirements. The ACT minimum recommendations are:

- English: four years
- Mathematics: three years (algebra and higher level math)
- Natural Sciences: three years, with lab experience
- Social Studies: three years

Additional courses: Some colleges and universities require other classes as prerequisites for admission, such as two or more years of the same foreign language or courses

in the visual arts, music, theater, drama, dance, computer science, etc.

When/How often should I take the ACT?

No one likes to take tests, so you want to make sure that when you do take your college entrance exam, you're prepared.

The ACT measures your skills and knowledge in English, math, science and reading. A good time to take it is the spring semester of your junior year. By that time you should have taken the courses that prepare you for the test. That is, if you are taking courses that prepare you for college. By taking the ACT in your junior year, you'll have plenty of time to retake the test before applying to colleges.

The decision to take the test more than once depends on your own situation. If you are happy with your scores, don't take it again. But if you think you'll do better a second time because you know what to expect or you've taken additional classes, take it again. ACT research shows that of the students who took the ACT a second time, 55 percent earned a higher composite score, 23 percent earned a lower score and 22 percent stayed the same.

Talk it over with your parents and guidance counselor if you are uncertain.

Test date reminder

The next nationwide ACT testing date

is April 10. The regular registration postmark deadline is March 5 and late registration is March 6-19. Online registration is available at

<http://www.act.org/aap/regist/elecereg.html> If you choose to register online, register early to avoid heavy Web traffic and delays.

Don't forget to check out the ACT website and take advantage of test preparation aids, including free sample test questions at <http://www.act.org/aap/testprep/samples.html>.

The online ACT Store also offers ACTive Prep (ACT's CD-ROM test prep program) and sample test booklets, real ACT tests from previous years. Your ACT registration packet, available from your guidance counselor, also includes a sample test. Try taking it and timing yourself to prepare for test day.

The website also gives you test day tips, a list of items to bring to the test and details on what type of calculator you can use on the Math Test.

Duplicate mailings

If you are receiving duplicate copies of Parentlines, or if your address is incorrect in any way, please notify the Catholic High office as soon as possible at 684-3215.

Catholic High's dress code for prom

On Saturday, April 17, 2010 Owensboro Catholic High School will host the Junior/Senior Prom at the Hines Center. Students who reached their magazine drive quota will be allowed a half-day off on Friday, April 16 as long as they have turned in their permission forms. I would like to remind all those attending prom to refer to page 19 of the student handbook, regarding Catholic High's dress code for prom.

Formal Dress (Prom)

Gentlemen

- Suit & Tie or Tux

Ladies

- Sleeveless formals are permitted
- Straps must be worn
- No backless tops or dresses, midriff tops, cleavage, or strapless
- Formal dress must be no more than 5" from the floor when kneeling (including slit)

- Any material added to dress can not be transparent

As the Dean of Student Activities, it is my responsibility to see that all students attending the prom follow the guidelines of the dress code.

In the past, there have been issues concerning young ladies with strapless dresses, dresses cut too low in the front, cut too low in the back, and/or slits being too high cut. In these instances, I have provided straps at the door, (which may or may not match the dress), required them to wear their date's jacket, provided safety pins, or refused admission to the prom because of their dress.

Parents, we ask that you help us in this matter. Please insist that your child and their date comply with the dress code before attending the prom. Taking care of these matters will help eliminate embarrassment at the prom. Also, remember that juniors and se-

**Amy Lambert,
Dean of
Students**



niors may invite sophomores or someone from outside our school to the prom. Please make these students aware of our dress code policy and remind them that all students attending the prom must adhere to the dress code.

I also want to remind students and their dates that we will be doing the breathalyzers before and after the dance, as we have done at all dances this year.

Thank you for your assistance with this!

Ellen Wright: proud of her Catholic school education

Continued from page 1

faith. The combination of faith and education is possibly the most unique feature of the Catholic Schools.

Quality teachers can be found in any of Owensboro's schools. However, the teachers at Catholic are a notch above simply because they choose to work in the Catholic system, even though they know their salary will be lower. This sacrifice alone provides an exemplary model for students to follow. Our teachers work hard to make sure we are prepared to go out into the world on our own. You can tell they truly care about us. I will never forget gathering with my Calculus AP class at a student's house with our teacher Mr. Fritz to study for the exam. I was so impressed that he would come on his own personal time to help ease our stressed minds and eat fudge. We are more than just a name to check off the attendance list.

Knowledge is not the only thing gained by students in the Catholic Schools. We are taught more than how

to add, subtract, multiply and divide. Here, we are taught values that will later make us upstanding members of our community. This gives us a greater amount of responsibility, but almost all students seem to accept this willingly. I have come to see that Catholic High is filled with generally good people. I don't mean a utopian society full of smiling faces and automatic responses and carefree lives. We all have our weaknesses and our troubles, but all the students seem to rise to the occasion whenever there is a need. There have been various times when I have had the great privilege to see Christ in everyone around me.

I may carry a textbook to class instead of a laptop, and sometimes my locker won't lock, but I certainly have enjoyed my thirteen years of Catholic education. The teachers and the students have taught me things that aren't taught in classrooms at other schools, and for this I am forever grateful. I would not trade my experience for the world.

Practice ACT test given

Owensboro Catholic High School is partnering with Sylvan Learning Center to provide a FREE practice ACT test for the high school juniors, says Kurt Osborne, Assistant Principal. The test will be conducted on Monday, March 8, 2010.

Parents can help their sons and daughters prepare for this test by reminding them to take this free opportunity seriously and encouraging them to do their best.

Results will be available about two weeks after the test is administered. Parents should review their children's scores and talk to their students about areas of strength and opportunities for improvement. Students should be encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to make improvements before taking the test again.

Magazines can be purchased throughout the year

Parents, alumni and friends, we encourage you anytime throughout the year to buy or renew your magazines on line through OCHS. Just go to QSP.com.

Owensboro Catholic High School

February 28 - April 10, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>February 28</i>	<i>March 1</i> Pick up St Coun/ Class Off nomin forms BkB G Reg @ Butler Co. TBA	<i>March 2</i> Pick up St Coun/ Class Off nomin forms	<i>March 3</i> Career Day Pick up St Coun/ Class Off nomin forms Faculty Mtg 3:20pm	<i>March 4</i> 7:45am Fac Mtg m/u Mass 10:35 am Pick up St Coun/ Class Offnomin forms	<i>March 5</i> Pick up St Coun/ Class Off nomin forms TK @Mason Dixon Meet TBA TK @SIU Indoor Inv TBA	<i>March 6</i> TK @Mason Dixon Meet TBA TK @SIU Indoor Inv TBA Winterguard @ L'ville Butler
	Phonathon					
<i>March 7</i>	<i>March 8</i> Practice ACT Turn in St Coun/ Class Off nom forms	<i>March 9</i> Excellence P in Day Student of Month Lunch Turn in St Coun/Class Off nom forms Concert Band @Madisonville	<i>March 10</i> FCA Mtg 7:30 am Admin Coun 3:20 pm BkB G V State @B. Green TBA Concert Band @Madisonville	<i>March 11</i> 7:45 am Mentor Mtg Tape St Coun/Class Off speeches 7:30 am	<i>March 12</i> Tape St Coun/ Class Off speech es 7:30am	<i>March 13</i> SAT Test Acad State Finals@L'ville BB V @Critt Co Scrim 3:30p Winterguard @John Hardin
	Phonathon					
			Sr Boys Retreat			
<i>March 14</i> Acad State Finals@L'ville	<i>March 15</i> Tape St Coun/Class Off speeches 7:30am Acad State Finals @L'ville SB @Allen Co 5:30 Scrim	<i>March 16</i>	<i>March 17</i> End of 3rd qtr Show St Coun/CI Off speeches-HR Faculty Mtg 3:20pm	<i>March 18</i> 7:45am Fac Mtg m/u	<i>March 19</i> Jr Day of Recoll	<i>March 20</i> BB V @B.Green Scrim 12P SB (L'ville Butler) 11 AM Scrim
		Blood Drive				
	Phonathon					
<i>March 21</i>	<i>March 22</i> Grades due 10am Safe Environment -students Grades venf after school BB JV/JV @DCHS 4:30/7p SB FR (Hanc Co) 5:30P TN Hanc Co @OMS/KWC 4:15p	<i>March 23</i> Grades venf before school Safe Environment -students BB V @Warren E6p TN Olio Co @Moreland 4:15p	<i>March 24</i> FCA Mtg 7:30 am Dept Mtg 3:20pm BB JV/JV @Apollo 4:30/7p SB Fr @DCHS 5:30P SB V/JV (Rivertdale) 5:30P	<i>March 25</i> 7:45 am Mentor Mtg Mass 10:35 am BB V (Hend Co) 6p SB V/JV (C.Hardin) 5:30P TN Cloveport @OMS/ KWC 4P	<i>March 26</i> Pastors give out report cards Vote St Coun/CI Off-HR SB V @Ardmour Al Inv 8P Spring Play 7 pm	<i>March 27</i> BB JV/Fr (Hend Co) 12/2:30p BB V @St. X 1:30/4 EST SB V @Ardmour Al Inv 8P Spring Play 7 pm Winterguard Champ @Ryle
	Phonathon					
	Kuna Trip					
<i>March 28</i> Palm Sunday Spring Play 2 pm	<i>March 29</i> Bus Evac Drill SB Fr @Hanc Co 5:30P SB V/JV @OHS 5:30P TN DCHS @Moreland 4p	<i>March 30</i> All A Lunch BB V/JV @S. Spencer 5/7:30p SB Fr @Muhl Co 5:30P TN @Muhl Co 4p	<i>March 31</i> Faculty Mtg 3:20pm Intramural Championships- tentative BB F/F @Apollo 4:30/7p BB V (Apollo) 7p SB V/JV (DCHS) 5:30P TN Hend @OMS/KWC 4p	<i>April 1</i> 7:45 am Fac Mtg m/u Holy Thursday Services Holy Thursday - No Activity	<i>April 2</i> Good Friday - No Activity Professional Day - No School	<i>April 3</i> Holy Saturday Holy Saturday - No Activity
<i>April 4</i> Easter Sunday Easter Sunday - No Activity	<i>April 5</i> BB V Vero Beach FI TBA SB V/JV S.Maria CA TBA	<i>April 6</i> BB V Vero Beach FI TBA SB V/JV S.Maria CA TBA	<i>April 7</i> BB V Vero Beach FI TBA SB V/JV S.Maria CA TBA	<i>April 8</i> BB V Vero Beach FI TBA SB V/JV S.Maria CA TBA	<i>April 9</i> BB V Vero Beach FI TBA SB V/JV S.Maria CA TBA	<i>April 10</i> ACT Test BB V Vero Beach, FI TBA SB V/JV S.Maria CA TBA
	Spring Break - No School					

Important news, notes and dates for parents

PRE-REGISTRATION HELD

Owensboro Catholic has had two pre-registrations for next year's sophomores, juniors and seniors, Mr. Kurt Osborne, Assistant Principal, said.

Those pre-registrations were held Feb. 02 and Feb. 12, during extended homeroom periods, Mr. Osborne said.

Prior to the first pre-registration, students were expected to work out their class lists for the upcoming school year. They were required to get approval from their present teachers for most courses. This approval came in the form of teachers' signatures on the pre-registration form.

The purpose of this was to make sure students take the proper courses required for graduation, take them in the proper sequence, and take courses with a level of difficulty to match their abilities, Mr. Osborne said.

Mr. Osborne said the school requested that parents also sign the students' pre-registration forms.

The second pre-registration was held so that students could adjust their schedules if one or more classes they signed up for did not make the 2010-2011 course offerings because of insufficient student interest.

The pre-registrations help department heads position their teachers in the course slots that need to be filled and give the school an indication of the number of teachers that will be needed the next year. This information is essential to the budget-making process.

THIRD QUARTER PROGRESS REPORTS ISSUED

Third quarter progress reports were handed out, by teachers, to all students in their classes the week of Feb. 08.

The purpose of the report is to notify the student and the student's parent of the current grade in each of the student's classes. The school mailed a progress report home to the parent that is similar to a report card on February 12. Each student was given a more detailed progress report from their teachers to bring home and have it examined by his or her parents.

If a child is struggling in a particular class (with a D or lower), what should a parent do?

First, the parent should have a serious discussion with the child to determine what the problem is. Following the discussion, the parent might want to call or meet with the student's teacher. Members of the OCHS faculty are extremely interested in their students and want very much for each and every one of them to enjoy academic success. OCHS faculty members are always happy to meet with parents, but they do ask that you make an appointment if an in-person conference is desired. Simply call the school and leave your name and number, and the teacher with whom you wish to talk will return your call.

END OF THIRD QUARTER

The administration has announced March 17 as the end of third quarter.

Pastors will be here March 26 to give out report cards to the students of their parish.

FEES RECENTLY BILLED

Parents of students have just recently been billed for students' second semester book rental fees, Mrs. Tracy Miller, bookkeeper, announced.

Mrs. Miller said book rental fees are billed on a semester rather than a yearly basis because many students change their courses for the second semester, and the book rental fees total is based on the classes a student is taking.

Mrs. Miller said first semester book rental fees were billed to parents in November.

If a copy of the statement is not sent with your check, then please include your child's name on the front of your check. This is especially important when your child's last name is not the same as the person writing the check.

Senior parents are reminded that all bills including SCRIP must be paid by Tuesday, April 20, and families must be current in their tuition payment in order for their seniors to meet their requirements for graduation. Caps, gowns and /or tassels will be held until all financial obligations have been met.

TECHNICAL SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Several OCHS seniors attend Owensboro Community and Technical College where they take campus based Technical programs. According to Mrs. Bev

Howard, Guidance Counselor, approximately 10 of the school's senior class attend classes at OCHS and then are dismissed to go to their technical classes. This is a wonderful opportunity to do some career exploration as well as earn college credit.

Mrs. Howard listed the programs offered at the Daviess County and Owensboro campuses as: Air-conditioning Technology, Auto Technology, Biotechnology, Carpentry Technology, Computer Aided Drafting, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Health Services, Information Technology, Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education, Machine Tool Technology, Manufacturing Industrial Technology, MIT: Electrical and Engineering Technology, Mechatronics, and Welding Technology.

Usually in March, the school receives its allocation of program slots, said Mrs. Howard. Then based on their grades, attendance, and teacher ratings, the next year's seniors are allowed to apply for those openings.

If you are interested in finding out more about these programs, call Mrs. Howard or have your son or daughter stop by her office where they can pick up a DVD that gives an overview of the programs mentioned above.

OCHS BLOOD DRIVE

Catholic High will be sponsoring its second Blood Drive this year on March 16 and 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with a T-shirt incentive.

With the enactment of a new state law for blood donation, the minimum age is 16 years with a special parental permission slip. OCHS students 17 years or older must have a permission slip that is a general school permission slip.

Ms. Joan Perry, OCHS science teacher, says "students need to also see, in witness form, that adults from our Catholic Schools community see blood donation as an important priority that is selfless."

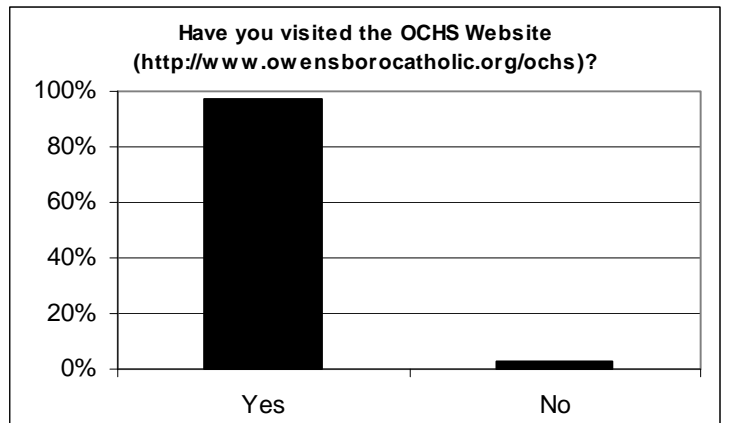
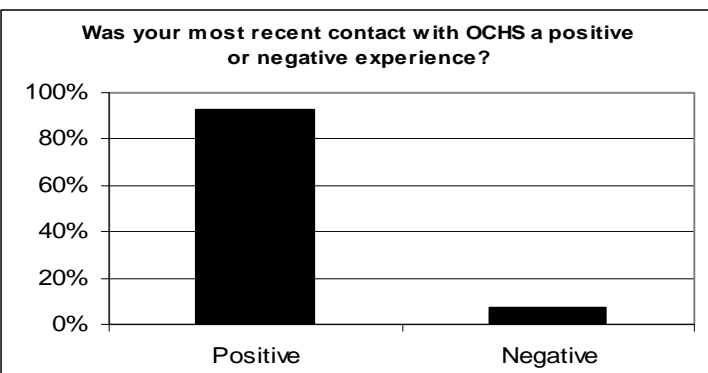
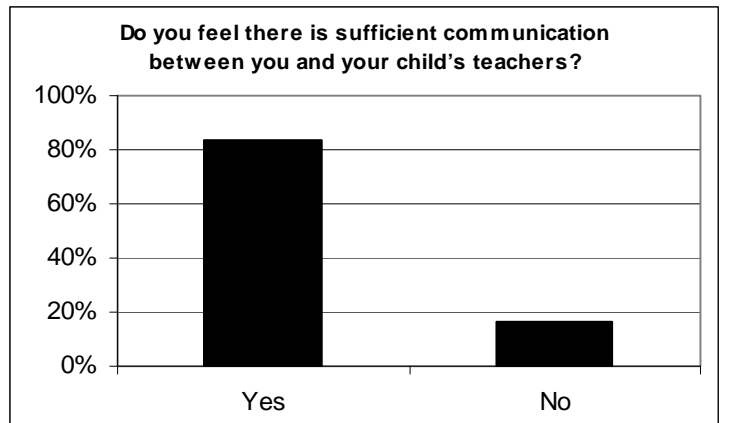
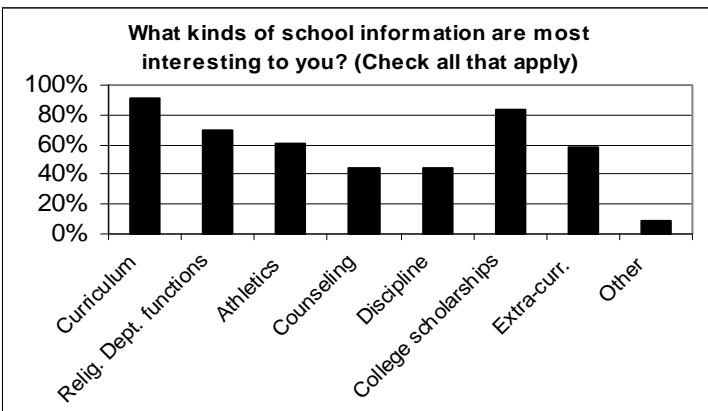
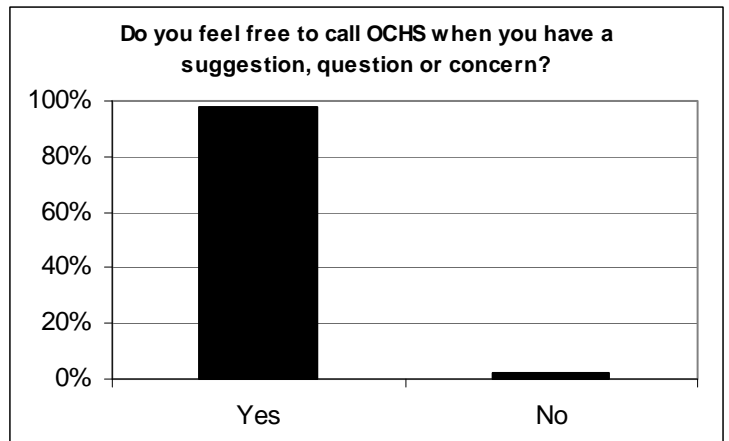
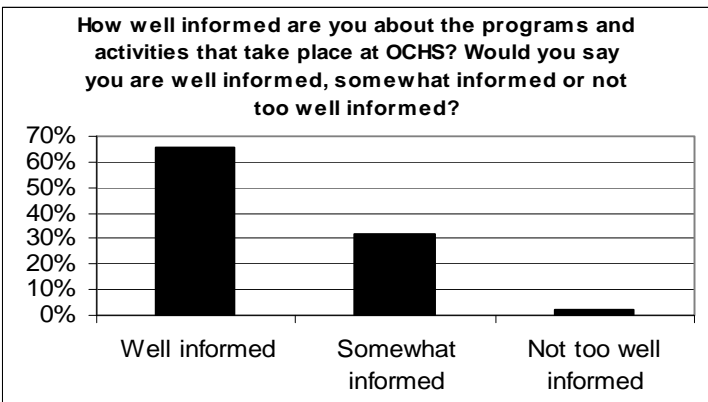
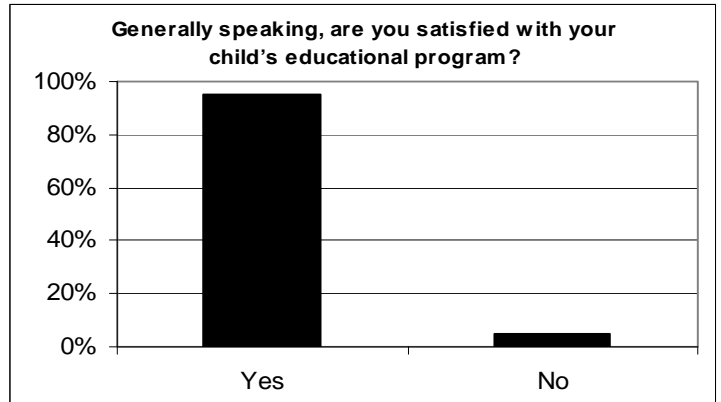
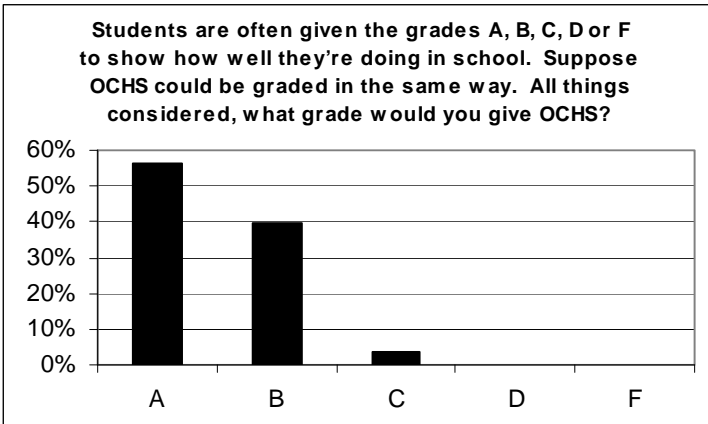
We had a total of 111 participants here at OCHS with 91 actual pints of blood donated in the name of Owensboro Catholic High School during our December blood drive.

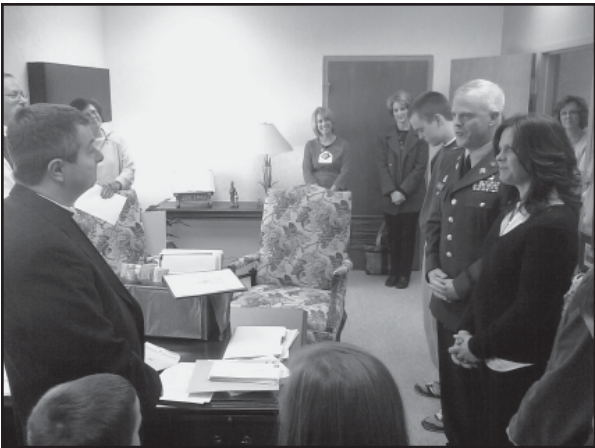
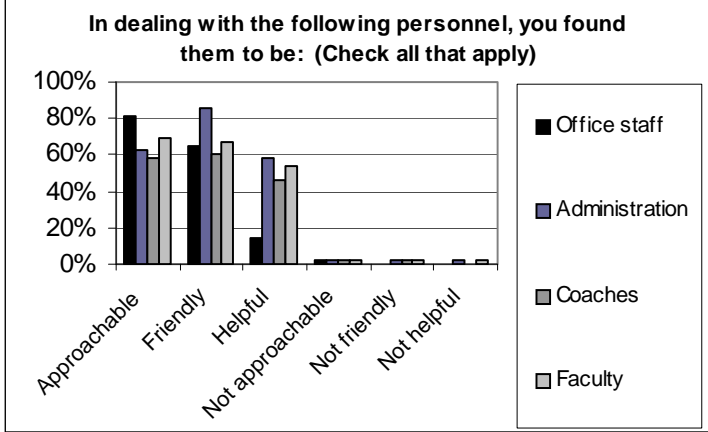
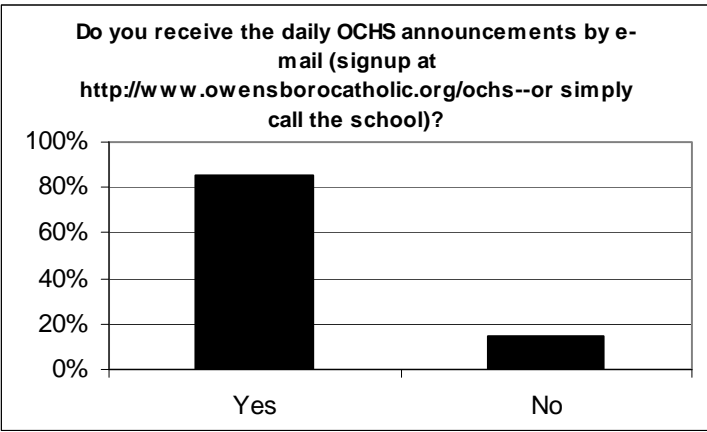
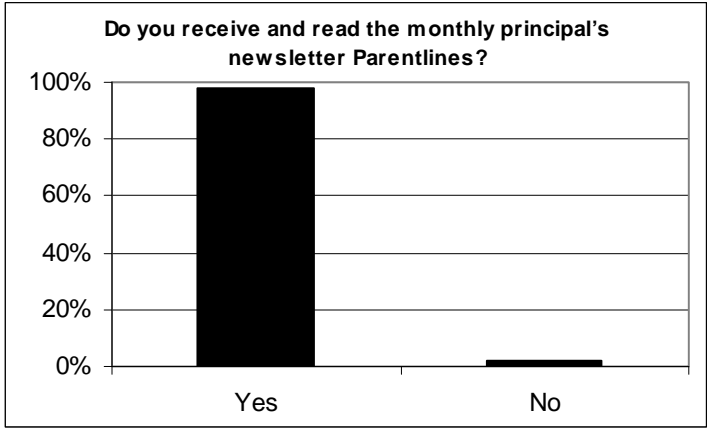
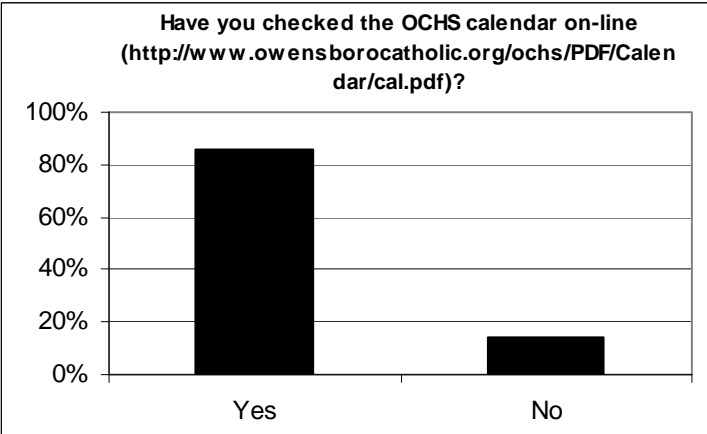
For parents interested in donating, you will need to stop by the main office to check in and find out which room they will be using for the Blood Drive.

Continued on page 8

Staples: survey results reported

Continued from page 1





Bishop-Elect William Francis Medley processes in to his ordination Mass at the Owensboro Sportscenter, February 10, along with priests from the Diocese of Owensboro and from his home diocese, the Archdiocese of Louisville, and with bishops from around the country. Upper left, Bishop Medley chats with OCS parents Anne and Sean Higgins in his office. Bishop Medley was receiving invitations from the Higgins family for him to visit all the schools in the diocese. Bottom left, Bishop Medley poses for a group picture with Anne, Sean, and the eight Higgins children.

Owensboro Catholic High School

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Catholic High parents prepared and served a delightful lunch for faculty and staff Thursday of Catholic Schools week last month. Pictured, left to right, are Shannon Wright, Lanita Robertson, Sylvia Hayden, and Beth Berry. Also contributing dishes were LaNell Lilly, Deborah Carrico, Lisa Englert, Diana Wall, Brenda Faucheux, Kathy Buntin, Michelle Ingram, Chris Schepers, Allison Johnson, Laura Mattingly, Jane Lovekamp, Gwen Raley, Michelle Hayden, Dava O'Nan, Cassie Stelmach, Lisa Dotsey, Dolores Aull, Cindy Vaughan, Katie Ballard, Myra Weis, Dorothy Powers, Michele Linn, Cathy Franey, Tina Gough, Tricia Buckman, Peggy Honadle, Jolene White, Tracy Brown, Barbara Fullenwider, Suzann Millay, Carol Ralph and Karen Bickett.

News, notes

Continued from page 5

If parents wish to donate at the Blood Center on Old Hartford Road they can just tell the staff member that they are donating in the name of Owensboro Catholic and we will get the credit.

OCS System raises money for Haiti

The OCS schools raised over \$5,000.00 for Haiti.

The K-3 Campus raised over \$1900 through donations and students bringing in change.

The 4-6 Campus raised \$1200 through donations and Jean Day donations.

OCMS raised \$400 through donations and Jean Day donations.

OCHS raised \$1500 from the entire student body from the Coke-A-Week fund.

The funds will be sent to Catholic Relief Services.