Catholic High Parentlines

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

Owensboro Catholic High School ***January 2019***

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Please consider volunteering

Gates Settle, Principal

Everyone who has ever been involved with OCHS has probably heard of bingo, whether it be from a request to volunteer, or through publications such as this that try to explain the importance of it.

Since bingo's inception many years ago, it has been an extremely valuable source of revenue. It has funded much-to-most of our athletic and band programs and provided a substantial amount of help with the general budget. And, bingo's revenues have helped keep tuition costs down for everyone in the entire Owensboro Catholic Schools system--regardless of whether or not one's child participated in band or sports.

Unfortunately, we have started to see a decline in the amount of revenue we receive from bingo, and in my opinion, this decline will probably continue for us, based on trends across the country. The other issue we face is a lack of volunteers, especially for callers. This is the one fundraiser that we have at Catholic High that doesn't ask anyone for a dime--it only requires some time every so often.

As we continue to search for other options for the future to help replace what has been a financial boon for OCS, we are desperately seeking more help. At this time, we are debating having to shut down one of our three sessions, not due to a lack of players, but due to a lack of volunteers.

There are three bingo sessions: Saturday afternoon, Sunday afternoon, and Sunday evening. We would like to keep all three of them, especially while they are still productive, but we are going to have to have help. Please consider volunteering your time to help by contacting the school (270-684-3215) and leave your name and number.

Eddie Phillips, pictured here calling one of our weekly bingo sessions, is a band parent and volunteer caller. Our band parents volunteer to call at our weekly sessions. Our bingos put $80,000 per year into the OCS general budget and $70,000 per year into the high school and middle school athletic budgets. And there are many of our parents and other friends who faithfully work our bingo sessions. For them and their help, all the rest of the Catholic High family are enormously grateful. If you would consider volunteering, please call the school (270-684-3215) and leave your name and number.

Olympic gold in the family

Brianna Decker (twitter.com)

Brianna Decker is the 27-year-old granddaughter of Catholic High alumni Robert ('52) and Charlotte O'Bryan ('53). Recently signed with the Calgary Inferno (of the Canadian Women's Hockey League) to play the upcoming season, Decker most notably helped USA teams win in the 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi (silver) and the 2018 Games in Pyeongchang (gold). But she also has even deeper credentials.

A stand-out player at the University of Wisconsin, she was named Player of the Year in 2012. In 2011, she helped her team win the Division I national championship. She has since played professionally for the Boston Blades (CWHL) and

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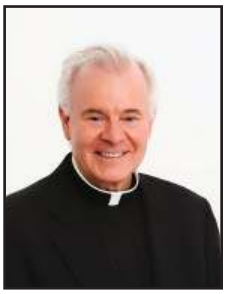
Are we willing to make our best show through?

Fr. Ed Bradley, Campus Minister



Welcome to 2019! What a blessing to step into 2019. I truly believe that it is a precious blessing to be given the opportunity to begin another year and to continue working toward reaching our goals and making our dreams come true. New year resolutions are made to motivate us to try harder to become the person God created us to be.

In our Catholic tradition, we have the Sacrament of Reconciliation to help us review last year, ask God's forgiveness for our failures and make a resolution to do better, to try harder, in the new year to accomplish our goals. Here at Catholic High, the priests in the Owensboro-Daviess County area came to visit our students and give them the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament. They found that to be a good experience during the Advent season.

New year resolutions are made to help us work toward our goals and make our dreams come true. I think it might be valuable to talk about the power of our dreams as we begin 2019. I know that within each one of us there are worthwhile ideas just waiting to emerge. And yet, too often we do not take the time to notice them, let alone write them down or seriously tend to them.

Consider this a clarion call to you to slow down long enough to identify and nurture the dream inside you. Go a step further and accept that it is your personal duty in your life to cultivate the fruit of your deepest convictions. Why? Because too many of us grumble along doing things that do not fulfill us out of a false sense of stability or fear or laziness. Some of us give up because everything just seems too hard, or because a catastrophe befell us and the climb out of the hole seems too far away. Others do not dare believe that their measly little ideas would amount to anything worth sharing.

To all of those voices inside our heads, I say, "STOP!" Stop the broken record of negativity that serves only to lower our self-esteem and paralyze us from taking action. Stop complaining or hiding or plodding along, doing things that do not serve your highest self.

Evaluate your life. Figure out what is working for you and what can be discarded. This includes people, places and things that simply must go. Be still long enough to hear that voice within. Pay attention to your dreams--those that occur in your sleep and as you are going about your day. Then nurture those ideas. Give yourself some time each day to cultivate your dreams. Figure out what you need to learn to be prepared to do the work. Align yourself with the people who will support you. Walk away from those who stand in your way.

Why is this important? Our world thrives based on the goodness we put into it. When people are not offering their best to themselves, their families, their communities, and their jobs, negativity can fester. We live in times that require us to reach for the highest in ourselves and others. Our ideas, our inventions and our discoveries are essential to the successful journey that equals each of our lives. Every life is valuable. The question is, how valuable do you consider your contributions to be? And are you willing to do the work to make the best of you show forth? I hope so. It is 2019; it is time to leap into your greatness!

Fr. Pat Bittel, Pastor at St. Martin Parish in Rome, hears a confession recently at Catholic High. Local pastors and their assistants hear confessions at school two days each semester—and will be returning in March.

Testing opportunities at Catholic High

Kurt Osborne, Assistant Principal

The students at OCHS know that our Faith is the main reason we exist. Without that component, we would be just another high school. However, we also know that another main component of OCHS is our academic excellence. This is reflected in the millions of dollars in scholarships offered to our graduates on a yearly basis and in the outstanding ACT scores (see chart) our students continue to achieve. As you may be aware, the ACT is the college entrance (and sometimes placement) exam of choice of colleges and universities in this region of the country. It is also the contributing factor that colleges and universities use to award scholarships. With this in mind, we made the decision in the mid 1990's to align our curriculum with ACT standards, and the results have been well worth the effort.

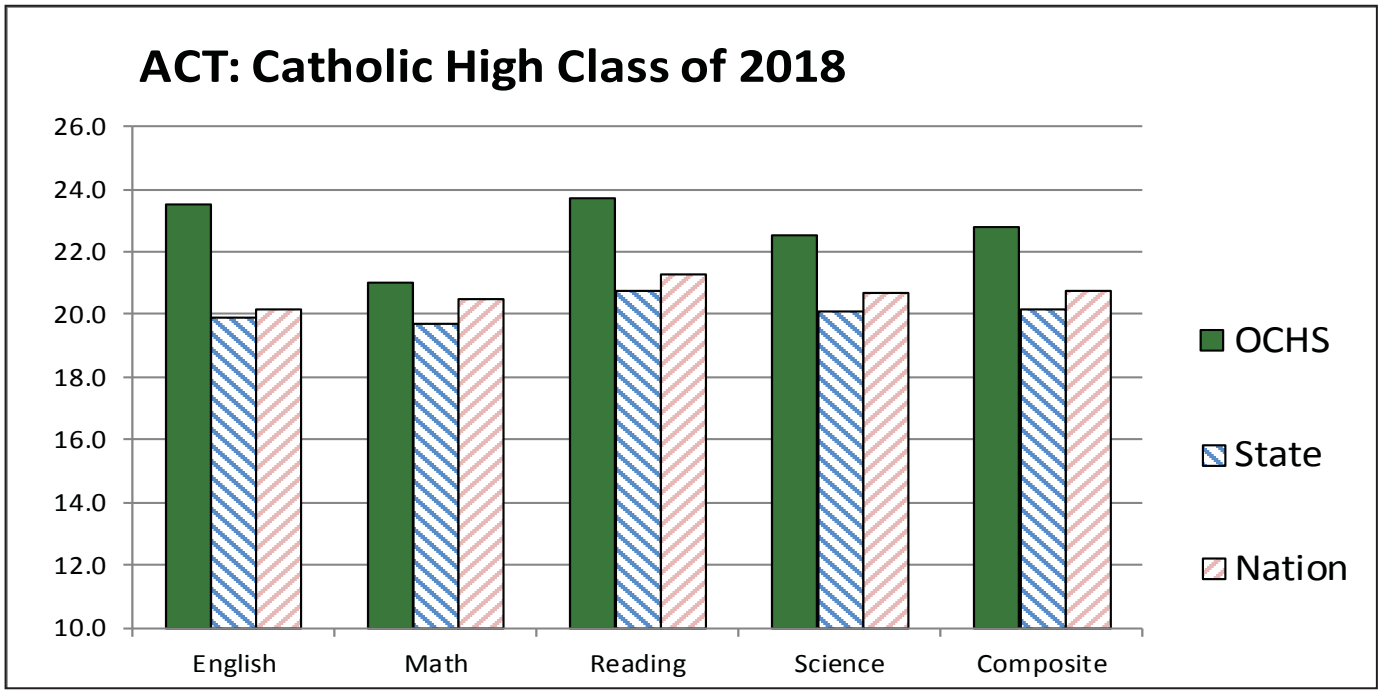
In the past few years, there have been some significant changes to the ACT program at Catholic High. The District Choice in-School Testing Program will allow OCHS juniors to take the ACT during the school day on February 20th. We believe that this will be an important step for our juniors to gauge their academic progress heading into their senior year. The results of the ACT will give students and/or parents important feedback as to college readiness and academic strengths and weaknesses, which allows students to address those before taking the October ACT in their senior year.

In addition, with the ACT District Choice in-School Testing program, students:

- Are tested on what they are actually learning in school—they've already been preparing for the ACT with their high school curriculum
- Take the test during a regular school day and don't have to travel to a test site on the weekend
- Are exempt from the photo upload requirement
- Feel less stress in a familiar environment surrounded by familiar faces
- Receive college admissions scores that are accepted by all four-year colleges and universities in the United States
- May request scores to be sent to as many as four colleges and universities when completing the non-cognitive portion of their answer document during the pretest session
- Get personalized information to make future college and career decisions
- May choose to provide information that may help identify opportunities for college admissions and scholarships

Juniors will be able to register as we get closer to the test date, and more information will soon be available about this exciting opportunity for our students.

In addition, sophomores will have the opportunity to take a practice ACT known as the Pre-ACT to be given at school on February 19th. The Pre ACT is identical to the ACT, only shorter. Students will receive feedback on this test, including a projected ACT score. Later in the spring, freshmen will be tested with the ACT ASPIRE. While not set up exactly like the ACT, many of the types of questions found on the ASPIRE are similar in nature to the ACT. The more often students see these types of questions, the more comfortable they will feel when it comes time to take the ACT.



Guidance Department news

Students can receive their KEES award for four years of higher education. It isn't a one-time deal. All the students have to do is keep their grades up while in college or technical college. At the end of the first year, that means having at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA. After their second year, students must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA to qualify for the full award. Students will still qualify for a partial award if they maintain a GPA between 2.5 and 2.99 after their second year.

KEES awards can be received for eight academic terms and must be used within five years of a student's graduation from high school. If a student is in an approved five-year program, a KEES award can be received for 10 academic terms and must be used within six years of the student's graduation from high school.

Students' KEES accounts are maintained at KHEAA until their awards expire. If students decide to work, take a year off from school, or attend an out-of-state institution, their KEES accounts are available to them when they decide to attend an eligible postsecondary institution. However, their KEES awards must still be used within the allotted time.

The KEES award amount for each student is based on the student's yearly GPA in high school, not the cumulative GPA for all four years of high school.

For example, let's assume that a student had a 2.80 GPA her freshman year of high school. For that, she earned a $200 KEES award. Her GPA for her sophomore year was 3.2, which earned her another $300. During her junior and senior years, her GPAs were 3.3 and 3.1, respectively. She earned a $325 for her junior year and a $225 award for her senior year. In addition, the student's highest composite score on her ACT is 21, for which she earns a $250 KEES bonus award. Add all those awards together, and she will have a $1,350 KEES award for each year of higher education (as long as she keeps her grades up in college and uses the award within the allotted time).

Students should also be reminded that the cost of higher education in Kentucky is affordable and that there are record amounts of state and federal student financial aid available to help students pay for it. As a general rule, the more it costs to attend a particular school, the more financial aid will be available. (Reprinted from Counselor Connection Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, Volume IX, No. 4.)

Students and parents can check the progress of their KEES account by logging on to the KEES website at www.kheaa.org.

The 2018 Induction Class of Owensboro Catholic High School's Francis R. Cotton Chapter of the National Honor Society pictured here include Alyssa Beyke, Brooke Boarman, Cassidy Carrico, Brooke Cecil, Maddy Clements, Kaitlyn Durbin, Hagan Edge, Georgia Farina, Evan Goetz, Natalie Goodwin, Christopher Greenwell, Claire Hauke, Grace Hauke, Maggie Hayden, Sarah Hayden, Danielle Henning, Isabella Henning, Michael Keller, Elise Kerr, Lilly Krampe, Katherine Logan, Madeline Mattingly, Anna Lee Meyer, Lily Moore, Kara Morris, Kaylee Morris, Spencer Osborne, Hannah Overstreet, Paul Pfeifer, Alex Scheithe, Carsyn Settles, Addison Waller, Kate Weafer, Isabella Wright, and Lydia Wright.

News, notes, and dates for parents

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gives students an estimated ACT test score and can be used as an indicator of college and career readiness. Reports include data to help teachers and counselors target interventions, inform classroom instruction, and guide students in course selection.

Pre-ACT will be administered to sophomores Tuesday, February 19th. The cost of the test is $13.00 per student. Students may sign up and pay their test fee in the main office. Deadline to register is Friday, February 8.

NOTICE CONCERNING THE USE OF PESTICIDES

The school system provides numerous health services for students as well as employees. One of those services is pest control. A recent change in state regulations now requires that the school give a 24-hour notice prior to any pest control applications made on school property. This information is available to all parents and employees requesting it.

Parents and employees may be placed on a mailing list for notification. In order to do so, simply come to the school's main office and sign the registry.

Important news, notes, and dates for parents

REPORT CARDS MAILED HOME

Students' report cards were mailed home Friday, January 11.

The report cards contain the first and second-quarter grades, exam grades and semester averages. The second quarter ended December 19.

The report cards have the same computerized format of those issued at the end of the first quarter in October.

As always, the administration urges parents to carefully examine these reports.

SECOND SEMESTER FEES BILLED

The second semester of the school year began January 2. Mrs. Tracy Miller, Office Manager, said that second-semester fees will be billed mid February. These are for second-semester classes and any unpaid first-semester fees, which were billed previously in October.

If a copy of the statement is not sent with your check, then please include your child's name and grade on the front of your check.

Senior parents are reminded that all bills including SCRIP must be paid by Monday, April 22 (tentative), and families must be current in their tuition payment in order for their seniors to meet their requirements for graduation.

PROGRESS REPORTS ISSUED

The week of February 4 the school will mail third quarter progress reports home to parents that is similar to a report card. Each student will also receive a more detailed report from each of their teachers to bring home.

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.

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.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES SCHEDULED ON-LINE

Parent-Teacher conferences have been scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, February 19 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Parents should schedule appointments online using Sign Up Genius. Please go to the link below to view the on-line sign-up sheet and to sign up:
www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080945ACAB2DA20-ochs

If you are unable to attend, or if a teacher's schedule is full, you may contact that teacher via email to set up another time to meet with your child's teacher.

We ask that you try and be on time for your appointments, and not to take more than the time allotted, so that others may see the teachers they need to see. We look forward to seeing you on February 19.

PRE-REGISTRATION OF CLASSES FOR 2019-20

Owensboro Catholic will have pre-registration for next year's sophomores, juniors and seniors, according to Mr. Osborne, Assistant Principal.

Those pre-registrations will begin in February.

Prior to the pre-registration, Mr. Osborne meets with each class in Soenneker Hall to explain which classes are required each year for every diploma offered at Owensboro Catholic High School. He also discusses other aspects of a student's academic career, such as G.P.A., the student's transcript and the importance of choosing the proper electives for each student's individual course of study. Students are then expected to work out their class lists for the upcoming school year. They are required to get approval from their present teachers for their courses. This approval comes in the form of teachers' signatures on the pre-registration form.

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

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

Students will also be asked to submit several "alternate electives", so students can adjust their schedules if one or more classes they signed up for have been dropped due to insufficient student interest. Every effort will be made to ensure that the classes chosen at this time will be the student's schedule for the next school year. So students are advised to choose classes carefully.

OCHS guarantees students their core courses (Religion, English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language) but cannot guarantee students will get every elective they select.

The pre-registrations help department heads position their teachers in the course slots to be filled and give the school an indication of the number of teachers that will be needed the following year.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT FOR INCOMING NEW STUDENTS

Parents of eighth graders and other new students considering attending Catholic High next year are invited to attend an Information/Registration meeting at the school on Wednesday, January 23 at 5:30 p.m. in Soenneker Hall.

If you have any questions or concerns or would just like to have more information about the registration process, please call Kurt Osborne at 684-3215, or e-mail him at kurt.osborne@owensboro-catholic.org.

SOPHOMORES TO TAKE PRE-ACT

One of the goals of Owensboro Catholic High School is to provide your sons and daughters a quality education. For this reason, we plan once again to administer the Pre-ACT test to our sophomores.

Pre-ACT provides students with a realistic ACT test experience and the opportunity to gain insights into their college and career readiness. Pre-ACT, administered in grade 10, gives students practice with the ACT test and empowers them, their parents, and educators with these valuable insights even sooner. Pre-ACT also

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Hi, friends of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth

Elizabeth Field (Corr), OC '63

Elizabeth Field (Corr) is a Catholic High alumn (Class of '63). As a member of the Sisters of Charity, she taught in the Religion Department at OCHS during the 1980-81 school year.

YEAH! We have now reached over $1K! A huge "thanks" to all the donors!!

You've been busy this summer, family fun, travel, and have not sent in a donation yet.

So here's a REMINDER.

Reasons for donating that you will agree are good ones, we trust:

- A memorial honoring the Sisters at OCHS is one to keep a daily reminder in front of students that living our lives for others is a central message in the Gospels. A physical reminder may inspire some youths to give their lives for others.
- Catholics who value Catholic education for young people who are under stress from the culture of anti-religious lifestyle and faith support OCHS.
- At OCHS, students daily experience an atmosphere that offer Christian/Catholic beliefs, values and example, along with thorough scholastic programs, curriculum and pre-collegiate studies.
- Catherine Spalding, foundress of the SCNs, spent her life leading in the development of education toward those aims, and practical achievements. Catherine was also the leader in establishing the first SCN Catholic School in Owensboro, St. Frances Academy.
- Sisters continue to witness the life and message of Jesus today, even though most are retired or are no longer with us.
- We witness the lasting "footprint" of the SCNs in Owensboro, and the Diocese, as we see faith lived out every day in our families, friends and Church and civic communities.
- Let us give thanks to those Sisters of Charity for their gifts even into the future!

The 1963 OCHS Class alumni is spear-heading this effort; the Steering Committee believes that this Memorial in honor to the SCNs should be of quality material to last.

You can help get OCHS this Memorial to the GOAL: $9K (possibly) by the end of 2019:

1. Donate, small or large! Tax deductible! You will receive a tax donation letter in return.
2. Ask Owensboro area businesses to make larger donations, which are, of course, tax deductible!

Tell others about the project, and where to send their donations! Send checks to:

Tracy Miller, Owensboro Catholic High School
1524 W. Parrish Ave., Owensboro, KY 42301
[Subject line: SCN Memorial]

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth devotees, t'is the season of giving

SCN/OCHS Memorial Project continues, honoring the service of the SCNs to OCHS!

The Owensboro community has been enriched by the presence of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, in many ways--not just through preparing students for life and for careers academically, but also by giving them a firm spiritual foundation to navigate the future, whatever it might bring. Please consider giving support of this important Memorial Project as one way to give thanks to God for the Sisters!

Please send your tax-deductible donation to
Owensboro Catholic High School,
Attn: Tracy Miller,
1524 W. Parrish Ave.,
Owensboro, KY 42301
Subject line: SCN Monument Fund.

Many people have already donated, and we are most grateful for their support! However, we need several more thousands to reach our goal of $9K for bust, stand, plaque and installation! If you are a business owner, please consider $500-$1000 to help bring this project to completion soon, on site and blessed by Bishop Medley this spring. Thank you, and may God bless you and yours this New Year.

The bronze plaque will read:
"The love of Christ impels us." (2 Cor. 5:14)

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, KY
+ Founded in Bardstown 1812
+ Arrived in Western Kentucky in 1820
+ Arrived in Owensboro in 1849
+ Owensboro Catholic H.S. 1951–1983
+ Honor to the service of the SCNs to OCHS.

Granddaughter brings home the gold

Continued from page 1

the Boston Pride (NWHL). Her credentials, of course, go much further than even that. She has numerous other college and professional awards and recognitions. She even helped her high school team (Shattuck-St. Mary's in Faribault, Minn.) win three national high school championships.

Talking about the Olympic victory and world championships, Decker says, "Trust me, Pyeongchang was an unbelievable experience and I will forever be proud of what we accomplished. But what I really wish people would talk about is how Team USA has won eight of the last ten world championships; nearly each being decided by one goal in regulation or a shootout. Needless to say, if you enjoyed watching us win gold this past February, you might be missing out on some outstanding hockey every April!"

Her grandmother Charlotte says of Decker, "She always played tough," mostly playing on boys' teams as a child. Charlotte feels that background contributes highly to how tough she has always played. Decker's grandfather and Charlotte's husband Bob says he and his wife enjoy watching professional hockey nightly, especially women's, and especially, of course, the Boston Pride. He says it gives Charlotte and him a great deal of satisfaction to see their granddaughter compete on such a high level and achieve so highly at that level.

Top photo, Bob (OC '52) and Charlotte (OC '53) hold pictures of their granddaughter Briann Decker as they wear their Team USA Women's Hockey shirts. Decker helped bring home a silver metal from the 2014 Sochi Olympics in women's hockey and gold from the Pyeongchang Olympics. (Mitch Prentice/Lake Sun). Bottom, Bob and Charlotte pose with Brianna with her Olympic gold medal.

Prayer for Grandparents

Dear Saints Joachim and Anne, you raised in faith my Heavenly Mother Mary, and I honor you today. Please watch over all the grandparents of this world who hold generations of children in their hearts. Replace their worries with peace of mind and reward them for their lasting love. Amen.

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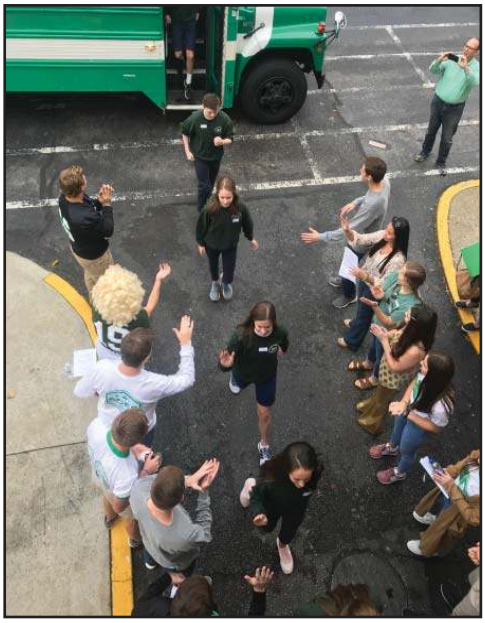
Philosophy and mission

Owensboro Catholic Schools share in the mission of the Church in communion with families and parishes to provide excellence in Catholic faith formation and academics which prepare students to become responsible members of family, Church, and community.

We at Owensboro Catholic High School believe that each person is sacred and individual, and both called and destined by God for continued growth of all his or her faculties, abilities and awarenesses, both spiritual and material.

We believe, therefore, that it is the primary responsibility of the school to create a truly Catholic environment in which each student is afforded the opportunity to become aware of his or her own worth and be inspired to seek fulfillment in all levels of his or her existence .



Visiting middle schoolers

Catholic High recently hosted its annual eighth grade visitation. This year, visiting students were from Owensboro Catholic Middle, Holy Name Henderson, Montessori Owensboro, and Daviess County College View Middle schools. Arriving here are students from Owensboro Catholic Middle School. Catholic High ambassadors, who talked with the students about spirituality, academics, extra-curriculars, athletics, and life at Catholic High in general, included the following students: Trendon Byrne, Nolan Clark, Hank Dotsey, Ashley Fulkerson, Jade Flaherty, Abby Hagan, Emily Haleman, Jonathan Hauke, Maggie Hayden, Faith Hogg, Lyndsey Hobelmann, Rachel Kyle, Paul Pfeifer, Laryssa Rogers, Griffin Rudy, Noah Todd, Sean Whitehouse, Von Williams, Cassidy Carrico, Ce Ce Clemens, Maddie Clements, Rudy Clouse, Hagan Edge, and Max Hein. Students from John Paul II Morganfield were unable to attend due to bus issues. The plan is for the school to visit later this month.