

Catholic High Parentlines

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

Owensboro Catholic High School

March 2020

Thank you, Catholic High community

Approximately two and a half years ago in this publication, I wrote “The Gift of Life” about my mom and her deciding to have what doctors called, a “minor procedure” to take care of a medication-related problem. That minor procedure turned into two near-death experiences, a much more serious surgery, a 32-day stay in the hospital, and an agonizing recovery period. Thankfully, she made it through and recovered pretty well for a 90-year-old and returned home to Calhoun and to her former self.

After 93 very loving, caring, helpful and selfless years, my mother passed away on February 9th, and I was fortunate to be with her and talk to her right to her last breath. I was so

grateful for that, but I was even more grateful that she was given the “Gift of Life” for that extra two and a half years. And I was able to express my love, gratitude and the great memories with her before she passed away.

Even with her gone, my mom is still teaching me a lot of lessons that I can’t thank her for, but I take great comfort in having no regrets with having had the opportunity to have thanked her before it was too late.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all of those who sent cards, well wishes, condolences and, most of all, the prayers for my family and me. My family and I take comfort in knowing that Momma was a faith-filled

Gates Settle,
Principal



woman who served others and has already heard those words we all long to hear: “Well done, good and faithful servant.” I am so fortunate to be a part of the Catholic High community and be surrounded by so many caring, thoughtful and supportive people.

Callers get free Catholic High t-shirts

The 2020 Phonathon for Owensboro Catholic High School is officially underway. Gifts to the OCHS Phonathon will touch the lives of all students, 9-12, from their first day as freshmen to their last day as graduates. Tuition only covers about 60% of the actual cost of an Owensboro Catholic education. Each year hundreds of loyal OCHS alumni, parents, and friends contribute to the fund and help meet the school’s ongoing needs for flexible, unrestricted income to support our academic mission. These contributions are used on a daily basis where the needs and opportunities are greatest.

Phonathon volunteers are needed, and OCHS alumni are the best ambassadors!

Rally your classmates to come back to campus and volunteer for the 2020 Phonathon. Compete against other classes and strive to reach the

Top Ten. The Top Ten giving classes for the 2020 Phonathon will have their class year posted on our new Giving Classes Wall of Fame. Friends of OCHS make up a class of their very own. Get your class on top this year.

Phonathon calling nights are fun. Reconnect with friends and classmates. Dinner is provided and each caller gets a free Owensboro Catholic t-shirt. Not an alum? All friends of OCHS are welcome to join us for a calling night.

To volunteer, contact haley.hamilton@owensborocatholic.org (or at 270-686-8896) to schedule your calling night. Calling nights will be Monday through Thursday, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:45 p.m. The 2020 Phonathon calling nights will wrap up on Thursday, March 19th.

If you would like to go ahead and make your contribution now, go online to <https://owensborocatholic.org/support-ocs>.

org/support-ocs.

You can also mail or walk-in your gift to the Owensboro Catholic Schools’ Central Office, 1524 West Parrish Ave., Owensboro, KY.

For questions or for additional details regarding Phonathon, you may reach Natalie Hayden, Director of Advancement at 270-686-8896.

And thank you.

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An Encounter with Christ and His mercy

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.”

These words are attributed to St. Augustine. It seems to be a paraphrasing of his famous autobiography *The Confessions*, in which he wrote “O God Omnipotent, You who have such care for each one of us as if You had care for him alone, and such care for all as if we were all but one person.”

Either way, the point is clear. God loves us!

In John’s Gospel, Jesus tells us, “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.... I have called you friends.” Jn. 15:14-15

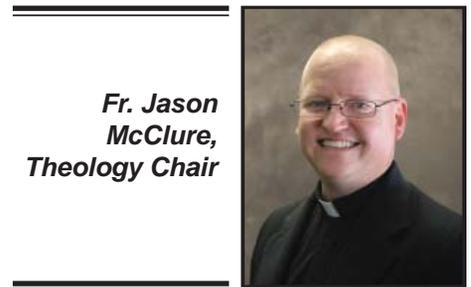
It is nothing short of extraordinary, that the God of the universe calls us “friends.” He wants to have a personal relationship with us, to know us, to be with us, and for us to respond to that friendship by choosing to love Him back. Jesus came to us in our darkest hour and gave Himself completely on that cross, that we might be freed from the captivity of our sins and have the fullness of the life that only He can give. Perhaps because of our human limitations we are unable to fully comprehend the magnitude and power of such an amazing love. He wants to call us friends. Wow!

One of the many gospel stories in

which this love is on full display is found in John 4, where Jesus journeys to Samaria to visit a woman at the well. At first, this might not seem like a big deal. But that Jesus would travel into Samaria and speak to a Samaritan woman would have shocked those who first witnessed it. There had been a strong animosity between Jews and Samaritans for many centuries, and the two did not get along. Jewish tradition discouraged men from conversing with women in public, sharing a drink with Samaritans, or associating with a recognized sinner. Jesus did all three in this encounter with the unnamed Samaritan woman. This gospel story provides a depth of spiritual direction for us, and in my estimation, it gives us the model of faith formation on which we hope to develop our own program here at OCHS.

In this story, there was an encounter with Christ, a conversation with Christ (prayer), and an inner conversion in the Samaritan woman. This woman who had been shunned by her community was a notorious sinner, alone, and likely had little hope until that day when Jesus came to her, signifying His love for her and her value as a human being, despite her sins.

The gospel says that “He had to pass through Samaria” (Jn. 4:4). This implies more of a divine necessity than a geographical one, as Jews often bypassed Samaria



**Fr. Jason
McClure,
Theology Chair**

by taking another route. But Jesus “had to” go to Samaria because in this woman seen as worthless by her community, Jesus could see a soul worth dying for. Such encounter called her to a conversion, and this unnamed Samaritan woman became the first evangelist in John’s Gospel as she told others about Jesus and “Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony” (Jn. 4:39).

One of the goals of the Theology Department at OCHS is to encourage students to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, similar to that of the Samaritan woman. One way of doing this is to provide opportunities for that encounter with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. During Advent our communal reconciliation service was celebrated in the context of Eucharistic Adoration. Together we prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and spent time in prayer before Jesus in the Eucharist, while encountering His mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As we enter into Lent, we will again provide this opportunity. The Samaritan woman didn’t expect to encounter Jesus at that well. But there, she came to discover His divine love and her own worth as a human being. Students might not come to school each day expecting to encounter Christ. But if we make available the means to an encounter with Him, then by His grace, even the most unexpected among us might come to new life in Him and recognize Jesus as our Lord, our God, and our friend.

Our communal reconciliation service is scheduled for March 25th and 26th. Please pray for our students, faculty, and staff, that this encounter with Christ and His mercy might lead to a personal ongoing conversion and a desire to love Him as He first loved us.

Entire school reads Sepetys novel



**Ruta
Sepetys**

The OCHS All-School Read program started on Wed., Feb 5. Students have been reading *Salt to the Sea*, by Ruta Sepetys, who is an internationally known author.

According to her website (<http://rutasepetys.com/>), Sepetys is an “... internationally acclaimed, #1 New York Times bestselling author of historical fiction published in over 60 countries and 40 languages. Sepetys is considered

a ‘crossover’ novelist as her books are read by both students and adults worldwide. Winner of the Carnegie Medal, Ruta is renowned for giving voice to underrepresented history and those who experienced it. Her books have won or been shortlisted for over 40 book prizes, are included on over 30 state reading lists, and are currently in development for film and television.”

The daughter of a Lithuanian refugee, born in Michigan, raised in a family of artists, readers, and music lovers, Sepetys says that she is passionate about the power of history and

Continued on page 3

ACT: Putting in the time

There are many times throughout the year that I am asked the question, "What is more important to colleges, a student's GPA or ACT score?" Of course, my answer to that question is, "both." All joking aside, colleges and universities have a variety of ways to evaluate a student for both admission and scholarship. In talking with admissions counselors from around the area, the one consistent thing is almost everyone is inconsistent. What one college favors may be different from what others do and vice-versa. However, there are some things to consider as you help your student with their curriculum choices that will lead them to their college.

If you take a look at the scholarship charts published by most universities, it is clear that the higher the ACT, the more scholarship dollars that are available. Using one public university as an example, a student with a 3.8 GPA and a 28 ACT is guaranteed a scholarship of 60% of the cost of tuition. If that same student with a 3.8 GPA only has an ACT score of 25, those

scholarship dollars drop to 20% of tuition. So, in this case, ACT score is weighed significantly higher than GPA. Another public university gained some notoriety lately by "doing away" with the ACT requirement, but upon further review, to be considered for a higher level scholarship, the same university does indeed, require an ACT score. One thing we have discovered is that fewer and fewer colleges are using class rank in their admission process.

Here at Catholic High we have spent that last few weeks in intense ACT prep for all freshmen, sophomores and juniors, as a way to help "prep" those students to take the ACT. Years ago, the prevailing thought was that a student could not study for the ACT. That is actually not the case, and ACT gives students and parents multiple ways that students can prep for these exams. The entire curriculum at OCHS is centered on ACT standards, and, of course, students and parents can use a variety of tools that ACT has produced such as www.academy.act.org to get instructional videos

**Kurt Osborne,
Assistant
Principal**



and practice tests to improve ACT scores. This spring, sophomores and freshmen will have the opportunity to take the PRE-ACT in April, and in March all Juniors will have the chance to take the ACT through the ACT District Testing program.

Parents can use this opportunity to motivate students to take prepping for the ACT very seriously. Just as you wouldn't take the court or field without practicing, we need to ask our students to put in the time to be prepared for what could turn out to be a very big day in the lives of our kids.

All-School Read

Continued from page 2

story to foster global dialogue and connectivity.

Catholic High students and staff have each received a copy of Sepetys' novel. Everyone is reading the last 15 minutes of third block each day. Students have opportunities to win gift certificates and other prizes by dropping off answers to trivia questions about the book in the media center or by participating in other activities.

The school will finish the book before spring break and Sepetys will be visiting April 14. She will first speak to the entire school, with time for a Q&A session. She will then spend some time with several AP history classes, discussing how she researches her material. Finally, she will have lunch with the student book club and cover any final questions.



Owensboro Police Department's Sgt. Courtney Yerington presents at a recent program on internet safety in Catholic High's Soenneker Hall. The program, sponsored by OCS counselors, K-12, included such internet safety topics as cyber bullying, online sexting, online solicitation, and other appropriate and inappropriate postings. For further information on these and other internet safety topics, visit www.missingkids.org/NetSmartz.

Guidance Department news

Students should continue to take challenging courses

As students register for your fall classes, here are five good reasons to 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:

1. English: four years
2. Mathematics: four years (algebra and higher level math)
3. Natural Sciences: three years, with lab experience
4. 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

Scott Lowe
Senior
Counselor



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.



Representatives from the various building and trades organizations made a visit to Catholic High interested seniors and juniors last month. They were here to explain the various job opportunities and apprenticeship opportunities that are available to high school students after graduation.

Important news, notes, and dates for parents

PRE-REGISTRATION HELD

Owensboro Catholic has started pre-registration of classes for next year's sophomores, juniors and seniors, Mr. Kurt Osborne, Assistant Principal, said.

Pre-registration meetings will be held March 13, during extended homeroom periods, Mr. Osborne said.

During pre-registration, students will be expected to work out their class lists for the upcoming school year. They are required to get approval from their present teachers for most courses. This approval comes in the form of teachers' signatures on the pre-registration form.

The purpose of this is 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 requires parents to also sign the students' pre-registration forms.

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.

Pre-registration helps 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.

MID-QUARTER GRADE CHECK

As we approach the middle of the second quarter, parents are reminded to keep an eye on their student's grades. Parents are always able to monitor grades through the parent portal of I-Now by using the following link:

<https://528468.stiinformationnow.com/informationnow/login.aspx?returnurl=%2i nformationnow>.

OCHS did not mail progress reports this quarter, so it is vital that parents stay up to date with their child's progress. If you would prefer a printed copy, or if you need a user name and password you may call the school at 270-684-3215.

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 seri-

ous 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 6 as the end of third quarter.

Pastors normally distribute third quarter report cards but will be out of town for a diocesan function, so report cards will be mailed home on or about March 12.

FEES RECENTLY BILLED

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

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 per-

son writing the check.

Senior parents are reminded that all bills including SCRIP must be paid by Monday, April 20 (tentative), and families must be current in their tuition payment in order for their seniors to meet their requirements for graduation.

TECHNICAL SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Each year OCHS seniors are able to register for classes offered at Owensboro Community and Technical College taking technical school classes.

Some of the technical programs offered are :Agriculture Technology, Computer Information Technology, Early Childhood Education, Construction Technology, Health Education(nursing), MIT:Engineering and Electrical Technology, Industrial Maintenance Technology, Automotive Technology, Diesel Technology and Welding.

OCTC will visit at the end of March to meet with students about programs they might be interested in taking. Students must have a minimum ACT score of 17 to be enrolled in OCTC Technical School programs. Another option is to take the Compass Test offered at OCTC to determine eligibility prior to admittance to the programs or classes. For information about the Compass test, contact Connie McFarland, Scott Lowe or Kurt Osborne or call OCTC directly to set up an appointment for Compass testing at OCTC. Students must also be on track to graduate in order to enroll for college credit in either program.

For more information about programs offered at OCTC, contact the office at OCHS or contact OCTC directly.

ACES Apparel Return Policy

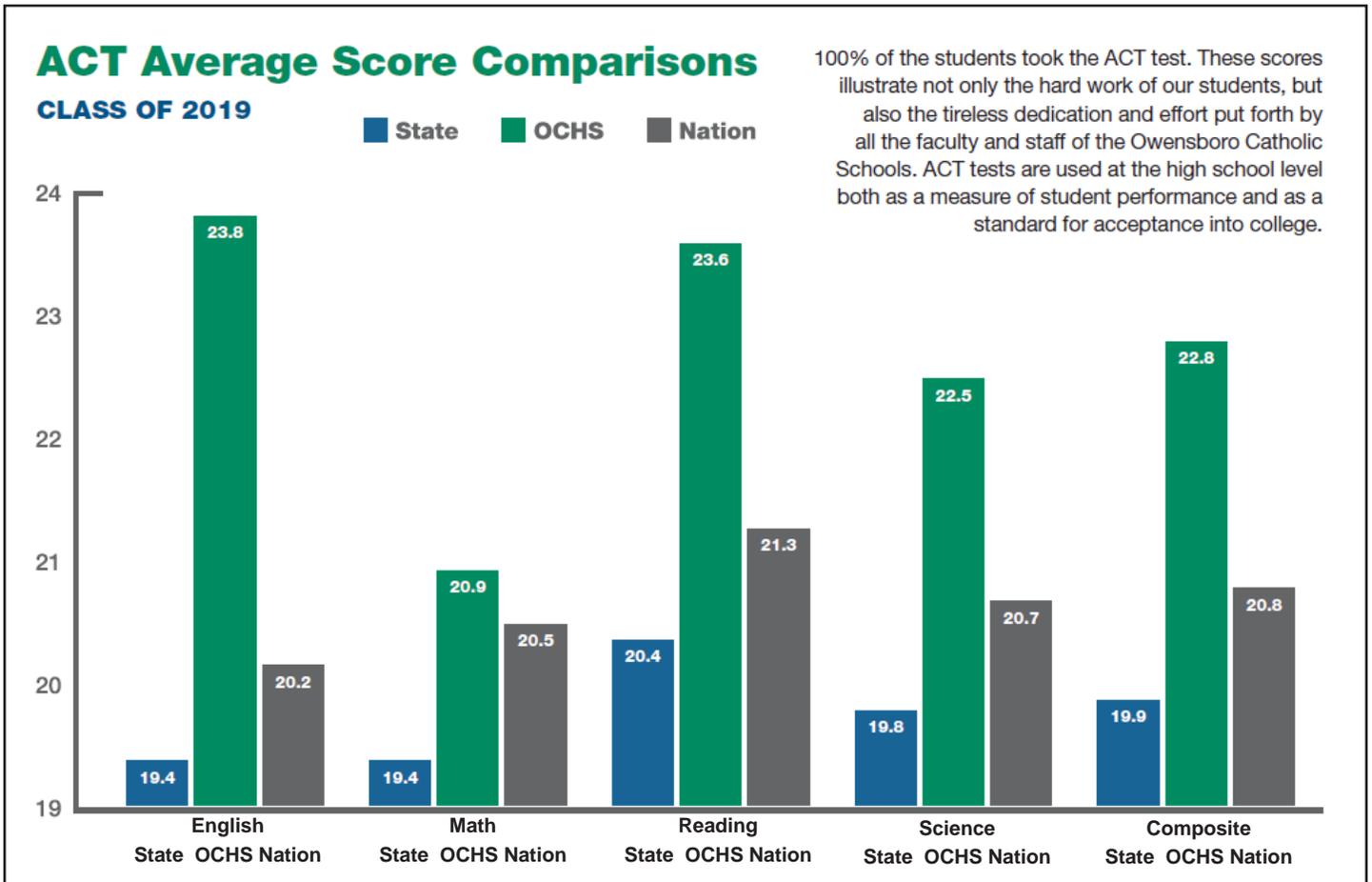
Any item purchased in the Aces Apparel store can be returned for Aces Apparel credit.

This credit can be used on any item in the Apparel store, but cannot be used to purchase SCRIP certificates/gift cards.

Academic Excellence

When we say Owensboro Catholic Schools are academically excellent, we have many measures on which to stake this claim.

On the average, Catholic school students perform above the national norm for the particular tests chosen. Owensboro Catholic Schools go well beyond that measure as evidenced in the accompanying charts.



Each year, OCHS administers a series of standardized tests in an effort to prepare students for the ACT and SAT, which are the standard choices for admission and scholarship for colleges and universities.

OCHS Testing Schedule:

- Freshmen – Pre-ACT
- Sophomores – Pre-ACT
- Juniors – ACT District Choice & PSAT
- Seniors – ACT & SAT

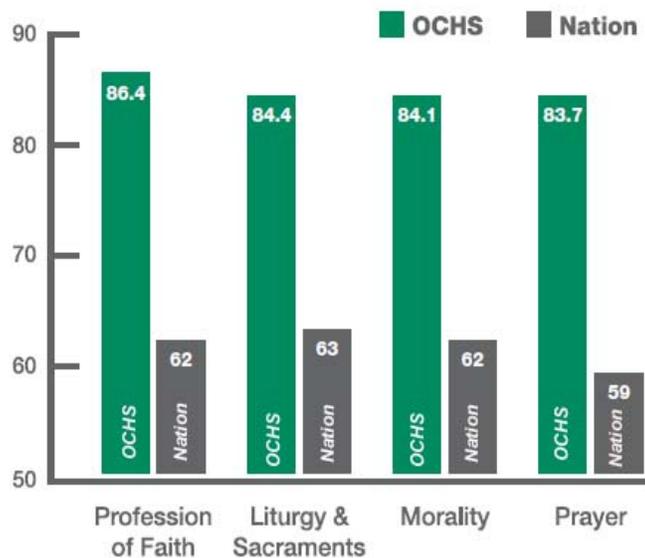


Preparing Leaders, Achievers, Believers

ACRE Average Scores

CLASS OF 2019

The ACRE (Assessment of Catechesis Religious Education) test is an assessment of religious education, proficiency, and practices given by the Owensboro Catholic Schools to students in grades 5, 8, and 11.



Advanced Placement (AP) and Concurrent Enrollment Courses

The following AP classes are offered at Owensboro Catholic High: English Literature AP, US History AP, European History AP, General Biology AP, AP Environmental Science, Calculus AP, French AP and Spanish AP. Students are required to take the AP Exam of the course for which they are enrolled.

OCHS also offers concurrent enrollment classes with Brescia University. These classes will be taught on OCHS campus by OCHS faculty and will count for both high school and college credit through Brescia University. Concurrent enrollment classes are offered in Writing I and II, US History I and II, World History I and II, and College Algebra and Trigonometry.



Owensboro Catholic Schools

1524 W. Parrish Ave.
Owensboro, KY 42301
270-686-8896

Co-Curriculars/Athletics

- Academic Team
- Acettes
- Annual Staff
- Archery
- Art Club
- Band
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Bass Fishing
- Book Club
- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Emerald Productions
- Fast-Pitch Softball
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- Flag Corp
- Football
- Interntational Club
- Golf
- Habitat for Humanity
- Kentucky United Nations Assembly
- Kentucky Youth Assembly
- National Honor Society
- Peddler Staff
- Pep Club
- Right To Life
- Student Council
- Scrubs
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming and Diving
- Tennis
- Thespians
- Tight Knit Club
- Track And Field
- Volleyball
- Y Club

Owensboro Catholic High School

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"I'm recalling weighing our options for a Catholic education and then receiving five different hand written letters from students encouraging our girls to come to Owensboro Catholic. Ever so many people reached out to sing OC's praises. Our girls have flourished in the OC environment. They felt accepted and loved from day one and have made friendships that will see them through life. Thank you, Owensboro Catholic. You have provided our daughters an environment where they can thrive and excel academically, athletically, socially and spiritually."
Kevin and Karen Morris, OCS Parents

Class of 2019 Highlights

- ***115 Diplomas Received***
- ***38% earned the Honors Diploma***
- ***48% earned the College Prep Diploma***
- ***14% earned the Standard Diploma***
- ***97% will continue education***
- ***69% will attend 4-year college***
- ***29% will attend 2-year college***
- ***3% will enter the workforce***
- ***68% were offered scholarships at a total of \$3.7 million (in addition to KEES money)***