

# Catholic High Parentlines

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

Owensboro Catholic High School

April 2019

## Seven dangerous apps for kids

In a mailing to all its member schools recently, Catholic Mutual reminds us of the dangers of technology for our children, especially in relation to smartphones: "Smartphones and tablets have allowed predators access to children in their own homes. Additionally, children can be exposed to cyber-bullying and sexually inappropriate content. New apps are constantly being created, so it's important to monitor what your child downloads. It's important to know what each app does, whether it has any benefit, and whether it can expose your child to danger."

The article specifically lists seven dangerous apps and discusses their dangers:

1. **Whisper.** "Whisper allows you to post secrets anonymously and allows you to chat with other users in your geographic area." It is dangerous because kids frequently use it to communicate with strangers, thinking their secrets are safe with strangers.
2. **YikYak.** "All YikYak users are anonymous, they don't create a profile or an account, but they can post comments that are accessible to the nearest 500 people (within a 1-5 mile radius). In fact, a psychiatrist called YikYak the most dangerous app he'd ever seen because it 'can turn a school into a chat room where everyone can post his or her comments anonymously. Untruthful, mean, character-assassinating

short messages are immediately seen by all users in a specific geographic area." Catholic Mutual says the big danger in the app is that it allows users to anonymously say untruthful, mean things and send the message to everyone in that geographic area, maliciously slandering teachers, staff, and other students.

3. **Kik.** "Kik is a free app-based alternative texting service that allows texts/pictures to be sent without being logged in the phone history. Similar apps are Viber, WhatsApp, and Text-Now." The danger here is the ability of kids to communicate with strangers with no record—and vice versa.
4. **Snapchat.** "Snapchat allows users to capture an image or a video and make it available to friends who can then share with possible unintended users. Pictures and videos automatically disappear forever unless the user saves it to their memories. Additionally, Snapchat has a map screen where others can see the user's exact location in real time." Dangerously, Snapchat not only leads kids to think they can send inappropriate pictures without consequences, but it also allows predators to know the exact location the child-user.
5. **Vine.** "Vine allows users to watch and post six second videos." Since pornographic videos frequently appear in the app's feed, users can search for such pornographic videos. And predators can use the app to search for and find the child-user's location.
6. **ChatRoulette and Omegle.** "These apps allow you to video chat with strangers." The first danger of these apps is pretty obvious. But even more so, predators can post fake videos of other teens and receive information on the child-user's locations.
7. **Poof.** "Poof hides other apps on your phone. You can select which apps you would like to hide and their icons will no longer show up on your smartphone screen." Of course, as parents, we are more concerned about the safety of our

Gates Settle,  
Principal



children than we are about their privacy. We need to check our children's phones regularly and establish rules.

The Catholic Mutual article also lists 10 social media rules for teens that might help us in establishing our own family's rules:

- Never post or send anything on social media that you wouldn't want the whole world to see.
- Never talk negatively about others in text messages or on social media.
- If you are part of a conversation where someone breaks rule #2, leave the conversation.
- Never bully others on social media.
- Never post or send photos of yourself in any state of undress.
- Always ask permission before posting photos of others.
- Never post memes that are pornographic, racist, or otherwise hurtful to others.
- Never have an argument via text or on social media—work out your differences in person.
- Do not impersonate others on social media.
- Remember the golden rule when using social media. If you wouldn't like someone writing something about you, don't write it about others.

Of course, we all know that technology changes so fast—especially when it relates to our kids—that this may all be outdated tomorrow. But what will not change is our need to keep up with what is on our kids' phones and tablets and what those apps do.

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## Senior retreat, a time to assess relationship wiith the Lord

As the senior class begins their last few months at Owensboro Catholic High School, one of the many events that they look forward to is senior retreat. When asked why, they list many reasons for their

enthusiasm: getting away with friends, fun and relaxation, and let's not forget the all-important getting out of classes for three days. Although there is certainly nothing wrong with any of their answers, I usually

**Sherry Orth,  
Religion Chair**



find myself attempting to broaden their perspectives.

The word retreat actually means to withdraw. When talking with the seniors, I tell them it is a time to take a step back and to assess their current relationships with the Lord.

Although it is okay to want to have fun with their friends and get out of school, these are not the most important reasons to attend retreat. I point out that after this school year, their parents, pastors, Owensboro Catholic High School and the OCS system will no longer be there to remind them to get up and go to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, nor will they be there to provide opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as well as other occasions of prayer. In other words, it will be entirely up to them to search out opportunities to strengthen their faith lives. Senior retreat provides them with a wonderful chance to gauge where they are and where they need to be on their faith journey.

Senior retreat is also a wonderful way to utilize the very beautiful Gasper River Youth Camp. Gasper River is a 168 acre facility owned by the Catholic Diocese of Owensboro located just eight miles northwest of Bowling Green. The goal of the camp is to help people grow in their faith and then take what they have learned back to their communities to put into practice.

We at Owensboro Catholic host four retreats: two girls and two boys. The retreats always begin on Wednesday morning and end Friday afternoon at the close of the school day. Cost is \$125.00 per student, which includes two nights lodging and seven meals. However, as I always tell the seniors, we never want money to be the reason to miss retreat: see me about any financial concerns.



**Catholic High's Religion Department holds four senior retreats each year at the diocese's Gasper River Catholic Camp and Retreat Center at Bowling Green: one boys' and one girls' each semester. Spring senior retreatants include, top photo, Neal Zoglmann, Matt Johnson, Griffin Rudy, Beau Ingram, Lucas Welborn, Jace Kessler, Noah Todd, Sam Wilson, Ya Ya Gray, Brandon Atherton, Austin Stallings, Sam Polio, Von Williams, Tim Settles, Robert Leesman, Nick Mills, Zachary Hardesty, Caleb Wimsatt, and Jayden Hall. Faculty facilitators were Ginny Grant, Scott Lowe, Lisa Higdon, and Jeff Fritz. Pictured bottom are Sarah Bemboom, Aliyah Berry, Mary Dixon, Sarah Englert, Laura Eyre, Jade Flaherty, Ashley Fulkerson, Amelia Fusco, Alyssa Gatten, Caitlin Gillihan, Grace Goedde, Emily Halem, Abby Haley, Aubrey Hancock, Caroline Head, Madelyn Hemen, Mayme Jacob, Genarose Jones, Hannah Latham, Anna Lovekamp, Madeline McFadden, Grace Millay, Mary Claire Mills, Amber Payne, Hannah Payne, Mary Scales, Sydney Smith, Meredith Stiff, and Hannah Wood. Faculty facilitators were Lisa Higdon, George Randolph, Tiffany Harrington, and Cynda Wood.**



## Catholic High teachers to present at national conference

So many of our teachers do amazing things both in and out of the classroom. From tutoring to practice, many of what they do tend to go unnoticed. However, two of our teachers have received a recognition that needs to be celebrated. Two of our Social Studies teachers, Mrs. Cynda Wood and Ms. Bretnea Turner, have been selected to make a presentation at the 2019 Advanced Placement (AP) National Conference in Orlando, Florida, in July. The program has two days of a main conference that are full of sections covering either parts of the exam, content topics, teaching strategies, testing strategies, or anything else relating to the AP program.

Both Mrs. Wood and Ms. Turner have been attending the AP conferences for several years, and both are certified “readers” of AP test essays, and they commented on how they always feel that there is never enough content for the histories, including World, European, and US history. Mrs. Wood and Ms. Turner talked about possibly applying to speak at the conference for one of the sections with a focus on content. They agreed that there probably needed to be a teaching strategy that went along with it, so the two decided to use an interactive activity that both use a variation of in their classes. Essentially, it’s living history. Teachers take a specific event and immerse students in the time period. Using documents, profiles of specific historical characters, and context for the time period, they either simulate an event or have students make decisions about something that happened in history. Mrs. Wood and Ms. Turner do this for various activities including trials, writing of documents, meetings between countries, and many others. Examples of lessons include the Berlin Conference of 1884 and the partition of Africa, Enlightenment coffeehouses, a French Revolutionary tribunal, feudalism, the trial of Andrew Jackson, and a Monroe Doctrine simulation. Teachers can use living history lessons to illustrate the complexity of historic situations.

In order to present at such a prestigious conference, potential presenters had to submit a formal proposal to College Board for selection. That proposal went to a board to determine if it would be beneficial to be presented at the Annual Conference. Ms.

Turner said “applying to present at the conference was a little nerve-racking, considering we have never presented this topic to anyone else, and at times, the other presenters have significant prestige. Many have been involved with AP for most of their careers, are published, or are college professors. So we were excited when we found out that our topic was accepted, and we will get to speak at this year’s conference!”

Mrs. Wood commented that even though this is a method for use in AP classes, both she and Ms. Turner have plans to utilize this project in some of their other social studies classes. “AP conferences allow us to see a variety of strategies that can be beneficial to all students, not just those within the AP program” she stated. In re-

**Kurt Osborne,  
Assistant  
Principal**



gards to the honor of presenting at the conference, Mrs. Wood went on to say, “After teaching AP US History for 7 years, attending the annual conference for several years, and participating in the reading of exams for 2 years, it is exciting to be able to give back to the AP Community with my experience.”



**Catholic High social studies teachers Cynda Wood (left) and Bretnea Turner have been selected to make a presentation at the 2019 Advanced Placement (AP) National Conference in Orlando, Florida, in July. Both Mrs. Wood and Ms. Turner have been attending the AP conferences for several years, and both are certified “readers” of AP test essays.**

# Guidance Department news

## HONORS PROGRAM TO BE HELD

Owensboro Catholic High School's annual honors program will be held the evening of Wednesday, May 1, at 6:30 pm in the small gym.

Mr. Scott Lowe, Senior Guidance Counselor, commented, "We especially like having the honors program in the evening because it allows more parents to see their sons and daughters honored."

Students to be honored include those receiving departmental awards from each academic department, seniors receiving academic letters based on the first semester,

students receiving leadership awards, and seniors receiving scholarships.

Lowe said the program's attendance is by invitation only. Parents whose children are to be honored will receive an invitation by mail.

## SENDING SENIORS' FINAL TRANSCRIPTS

In May, Lowe will administer a survey to seniors in order to determine, among other things, what post-secondary institution they will attend. The response given on that survey will determine where a stu-

dent's final transcript is mailed.

As a result of the survey, it is not necessary for graduating seniors to notify the Main Office during the summer that a final transcript needs to be sent to his or her post-secondary institution.

A senior's first final transcript is mailed free of charge; however, a \$3.00 fee is assessed for each transcript request thereafter.

Because grades from all students must be received by the Main Office and entered into the grade program before transcripts can be run, final transcripts will most likely be mailed mid June.

**2018-2019**

### Nomination Form for Diocese of Owensboro Catholic School Educator of the Year

The Catholic Schools Office and Principals Association are again asking for nominations for Outstanding Catholic School Educator of the Year.

The winner will be announced at the dinner following the annual Professional Development Day.

Anyone, with the exception of an immediate family member, may nominate an educator for the award. All information concerning nominees will be kept confidential, including the name of the person submitting the nomination.

The educator must currently be employed in the Diocese of Owensboro and must have taught for a minimum of five years in the Diocesan Schools.

The outstanding Catholic School Educator must be a role model as an outstanding human being; have a major influence in the lives of students; show concern with the faith development as well as the physical, mental and emotional development of students; and encourage students to improve their abilities and talents.

The deadline for nominations is **July 1, 2019**. A committee will serve as judges.

All nomination forms should be mailed to the *Catholic Schools Office, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301-2130*.

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Subjects, Grades Taught \_\_\_\_\_

On an accompanying sheet of paper, please comment on your nominee's performance in the following categories:

1) Why should this person be honored as Outstanding Catholic School Educator of the Year?

2) Describe this person's commitment as a educator.

3) How has this person helped students become better people?

4) How is this person a Christian role model for the students? Give an example.

5) Is the educator active in the community and Church, apart from the school-related activities? If so, give details of his or her involvement.

6) How well does the nominee relate with professional colleagues and parents of the students?

**Nominated by:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to educator \_\_\_\_\_

## FEE ASSESSED FOR ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES

Students taking Advanced Placement courses for next year are advised that they will be assessed a fee of \$100.00 for the course. This fee will cover the additional materials used in the classes as well as to pay for the test given to students upon completion of the course.

This fee is non-refundable if a student chooses to drop an AP course.

## KEES SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

The next submission of grade point averages to the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program will be made in June. Students should thereafter receive a preliminary award notice from the Department of Education.

# Important news, notes, and dates for parents

## EXAM DATES SET

Freshmen, sophomores and juniors will take their exams according to the following schedule:

Tues., May 14	Exams
Wed., May 15	Exams
Thurs., May 16	Exams
Fri., May 17	Exams

## EXAM SCHEDULE

8:20 - 9:10	Review for exam
9:10 - 9:15	Break
9:15 - 10:45	Exam
10:50 - 10:55	Homeroom
10:55 - 11:30	1st Lunch
11:35 - 12:25	Review for exam
12:25 - 12:30	Break
12:30 - 2:00	Exam

### 2nd Lunch

11:00 - 11:30	Review for exam
11:30 - 12:05	2nd Lunch
12:10 - 12:25	Review for exam
12:30 - 2:00	Exam

Exam days are regular school days in the expectation of students being at school by 8:15 am. Students will have the review in the same classroom where the next exam will take place. Students must be present and on time for the review prior to the exam in order to be allowed to take the exam. Students will remain in the classroom until the exam period is over. Those finished early will not be dismissed.

Students must be in uniform to take exams.

The last day of school for freshmen, sophomores and juniors will be Friday, May 17 (tentative).

Seniors were given a permission slip, stating the dates and times they are not required to be in attendance, for end of year activities for parents to sign and return to school.

## EXAM POLICY STRESSED

As underclassmen prepare to take semester exams, parents should make themselves familiar with the school's exam policies, Mr. Gates Settle, Principal, said.

This is the policy as stated in the school's student/parent handbook planner:

Students who miss exams will be permitted to take them late with no penalty

only if the following conditions are both met:

1. The student or student's parent/guardian calls the Principal's office in advance of the missed exam(s) so that teachers can be notified.

2. The absence is excused. Excused absences are given during exams only upon receipt of doctors' excuses or discretionary permission of the Principal or Dean of Students.

Mr. Scott Lowe, Senior Guidance Counselor, said that any student not meeting both of these conditions will not be permitted to take the missed exam(s) and will receive a score of zero for that exam(s).

For second semester exams, the teach-

er will send the exam to the office for administration and grading. Students must take missed exams within one week - unless prior permission is granted by the Principal.

## STUDENTS' FINAL REPORT CARDS TO BE MAILED HOME

Report cards for students--including graduating seniors--will be mailed home late June Mr. Scott Lowe, Senior Guidance Counselor, said.

Report cards are also mailed home at the end of second quarter. At the end of the first and third quarters, pastors come to the school to distribute cards to their student-parishioners.



**The Owensboro Catholic Band Program recently hosted their annual All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner in the Catholic High Cafeteria. Proceeds from the event benefited band students in grades six through twelve. Money raised from the event went to school instrument upkeep and repairs, new sheet music, and transportation for Winterguard and Winter Percussion. Students serving were Mary Grace Johnson, Willow Matthews, and Alexis Gehring. Parents in line were Gary and Cami Fulkerson.**



# Phonathon calling to begin April 29

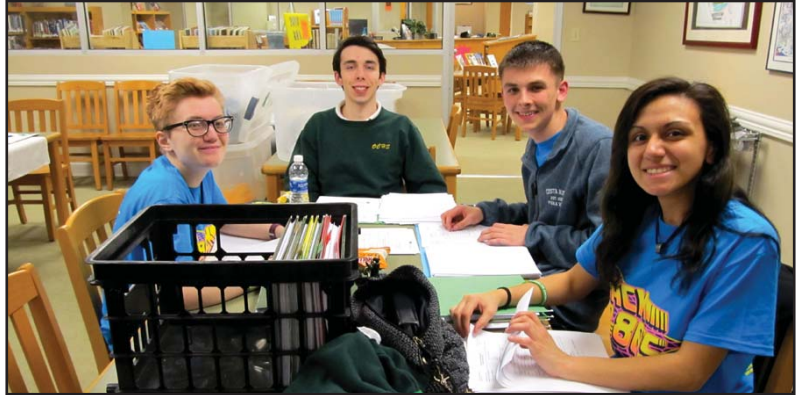
## *How Phonathon money is used*

Phonathon donors support three critical areas of need at Catholic High. The dollars are invested in tuition assistance, capital or academic needs, and the high school endowment. Of course, some contributions come with restrictions, which we also honor. Once the contributions made with restrictions are pulled from the totals and expenses are paid, one third of the total income is dedicated to helping students who could not otherwise afford an Owensboro Catholic High School education. Need is based on an application to the Private School Aid Service in Westlake, Ohio.

Then another third is devoted to capital and other academic needs not funded by the budget. This part of your generous contributions has allowed Catholic High to remain academically competitive in the face of continually tighter budgets. This portion of the Phonathon income has allowed us to do many things at the high school that would not have otherwise happened, from air conditioning the two gyms and cafeteria, to new buses and vans, to new and secure outside doors, to building a new library-media center, to building the new performance hall in Soenneker. And in addition to even that, it has especially helped us continue to be competitive in the area of computers and other technology throughout the school, year-in and year-out. This third of the money is the part we save for several years until we can afford to complete major capital projects, such as the new media center and auditorium/theatre.

The final third of the Phonathon income is devoted to the high school endowment. And that endowment has grown to the point that it has allowed us to implement a competitive pay scale for coaches and extra-curricular sponsors.

Phonathon is critical to the success of the mission at Catholic High. Without it, the school, its programs, and its students would suffer. Thank you for what you and your generosity have meant to our programs and our students. We ask that you please help us maintain and even exceed our current level.



**Top photo, Catholic High National Honor Society members, left to right, Cambron Johnson, Paul Pfeifer, Grant Toler, and Josafina Garcia work on filing before and after an evening of last year's Phonathon calling. Middle photo, left to right, Lyndsey Hobelmann, Emily Haleman, and Crystal Huang, also members of NHS, pose for a photo as they prepare call sheets before the evening's calling gets underway. And bottom photo, left to right, NHS members Jade Flaherty and Amber Payne look up for a minute during their evening's work of organizing call sheets for callers. This year's Phonathon calling campaign begins on April 29. NHS members assist every year with calling nights and make a big difference in how much gets done.**

# SCRUBS' drug and alcohol/prom activities

The decision to use drugs or alcohol has consequences. In the weeks before prom, SCRUBS members have tried to educate and remind students that they can make great memories and have fun during prom weekend without drinking or using drugs. SCRUBS provided activities and messages during Prom Week that promote safety and good decision-making.

This year's prom is Saturday, April 27. SCRUBS' theme for the week was, "Be the Beauty, Not the Beast." During lunches on April 24, we invited sophomores, juniors and seniors to sign a pledge to remain drug-and-alcohol-free during prom weekend. If we make a difference in one person's life during prom weekend, the many hours spent on planning and implementing our activities will have been worth it.

As parents, you too have a great influence over your kids. According to a survey from MADD, teens whose parents view underage drinking as totally unacceptable are 80 percent less likely to drink, compared to their peers whose parents are more lenient about it. Tell your kids you love them and to have fun, but make sure they know what you expect of them during prom weekend.

We ask you to join our faculty and staff in praying for a safe prom weekend for all. We want each student to have a memorable time and return home safely afterwards.

Our activities this week:

## Monday 4-22

- Education about Social Media
- "Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover"
- We watched animated Beauty & the Beast video during lunches
- Dress day: Fairy tale book Character

## Tuesday 4-23

- Education about Healthy Relationships
- "Tale as Old as Time"
- We watched Beauty & the Beast video during lunches
- Dress Day: Decades Dress

## Wednesday 4-24

- Education about Respect
- "Pardon My French"
- We had "Prom Promise" signing 1st & 2nd lunches
- Dress Day: From France (stripes, berets)

## Thursday 4-25

- Education about JUULing
- "Try the Gray Stuff, It's Delicious"
- Spring Fling
- Dress Day: Neon with Jeans, Sweats, or Shorts

## Friday 4-26

- Education about Binge Drinking
- "Don't Be a Gaston"
- Mass Day
- Dress Day: Yellow Shirt with Uniform Bottoms

Our guest speaker to discuss dangers of Juul (e-cig) use: Tuesday, April 30.

## Signing "Prom Promise"



*Top, seniors, left to right, Lucas Welborn, Madelyn Hempfen, Sarah Bemboom, and Anna Lovekamp read the Prom Promise before signing last spring. Middle, senior Elizabeth Ford chats with her grandmother and former OCHS counselor Bev Howard after signing hers before last spring's prom. And bottom, senior Faith Hogg signs hers at last spring's signing.*



**Owensboro Catholic High School**

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*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 .*

**High school, college, dual, Advanced Placement credits explained**

***Earlier this year, administrators Tom Lilly (speaking), Gates Settle, Kurt Osborne and teachers Ashley Thomas, Bretnea Turner, and Cynda Wood hosted an evening of parent information in the school's media center concerning college credit earned in high school and the advantages and disadvantages of the different potential routes for earning that credit. For more information, call Assistant Principal Kurt Osborne (684-3215).***