Catholic High Parentlines

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

Owensboro Catholic High School

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The Gift of Life

I have always tried to refrain from using personal examples, but I think this one is worth telling.

My 90-year-old mother, Gilda, has been living alone since my dad passed away three years ago. She does her own cooking, cleans her own house, and navigates two flights of steps--and even sometimes drives into town to the grocery and a few other places.

A little over a month ago, some medication created some fluid accumulation around her heart that put her in the hospital. Doctors suggested a pericardial tap, which was very risky for a 90-year-old, but they

Mary Fentress Kenny: Marilyn Pace's example inspired her

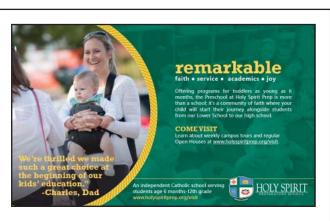
Mary Fentress Kenny graduated from Catholic High in 2001. She went on to earn middle school education certification and began her teaching career in Orlando, where she taught middle school science at a public school. She now works at an independent Catholic school in Atlanta. Mary has been

the lead middle school teacher and now serves as the Director of the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Center for Gifted and Talented Students. Mary loves going to work each day, knowing that she is making a difference in young lives--whether she is helping middle schoolers sort out friend problems or teaching

a new skill or point of view.

When asked about her memories of Catholic High and the impact of the school on her life, Mary responds with no hesitation: "I have so many wonderful memories of OCHS. It may sound cliché, but it really was a like a second

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Mary Fentress Kenny and her one-year-old son Davis in an ad for Holy Spirit Preparatory School in Atlanta, where she serves as Director of the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Center for Gifted and Talented Students.

Gates Settle, Principal



didn't act like it was impossible. My mother said that she was ready to go to Heaven or get better because the way she was feeling was no way to live and that she wanted to do the procedure.

Within 20 minutes after they took her to do the procedure, the doctor very abruptly told us that they had barely started when she coded. They were able to bring her back, but she coded again. They were able to keep her breathing and called for the emergency surgical team. They told us they had to have surgery for her to have a chance but that this surgery would be difficult for an 18-year-old marine to survive, but we had no choice.

We didn't have much hope for her. Even though one thinks their parents will live forever, the thought of losing her were very real. All those things I wished I had said and asked about went through my mind. We waited very nervously, and all I could think about was what I had last said to her and all those things I hadn't said.

The surgeon finally came out looking fairly somber, but he finally smiled and said, "She is one strong lady with a very strong heart, and I really think she is going to survive this." We were shocked but overjoyed, but there was still a long way for her to go. After several difficult days in ICU, she was improving but still very weak and somewhat incoherent from the trauma she had been through. Every day seemed better yet exhausting, but I would never trade that time with her for anything. The conversations she was able to have were much more meaningful to me and I was certainly much

September 2017

ACRE: Our students are growing every day in their faith and relationships with God.

"Catholic school students learn that excellence is a response to God's blessings. Academic excellence is not a gospel value in and of itself. The Sermon on the Mount doesn't say 'Blessed are you who get all A's.' Education must have an altruistic orientation. Students learn so as to help others, and make a difference in the world around them."

The National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) has, for several years, given a test to high school students across the nation. The test is called Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education (ACRE).

This test was given to all OCHS juniors this past year. Ms. Orth, the chair of the Religion Department, shared the results of the test with you in the last issue of "Catholic High Parentlines." She concluded her article by saying, "We are very pleased to report that once again our students scored above the national norm in all categories." I might add, they scored well above the national norm. That is the most valuable indicator we have in judging our effectiveness here at OCHS. We are always conscious of promoting our Catholic identity and the results of the ACRE give us an A+.

What I want to do in this short article is to give you an inside look into the ACRE. There are six areas (domains) in the test: knowledge of the faith, liturgical life, moral formation, prayer, communal life and missionary spirit. "Perceptions about your parish" is a sub section of communal life. I know the results of this section will make our pastors very proud to support OCHS. These were the statements where our students excelled: (1) I belong to a teen-friendly parish, and (2) The pastor really cares about me. The one statement where we were average was, "I participate in youth activities in my parish." I feel the reason for this being lower than the other items is that our students are so involved in the many activities here at school. A very large percent of our students are involved in religious, academic and athletic opportunities here at OCHS, and they don't have a lot of time to be involved in the parish. This is an area that we continue to be concerned about. We want the pastors to know that we do encourage our students to get involved in their parish. I think it is very reassuring to know that our students are proud of their

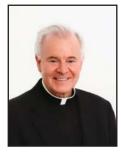
parishes and pastors.

Catholic identity is another area tested. Some of the statements are: (1) I believe that Jesus is the Son of God. (2) I believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God. (3)Being a Catholic is important to me. (4) The Catholic faith affects my everyday life. (5) I have learned enough about the Catholic faith to explain it to others. (6) My faith helps me understand what God's call is for me in the world.

This component of the test is very important for all Catholic schools. The NCEA has always emphasized the Catholic identity of the school. If this is not the most important component for the school, it should be. If the Catholic identity is not maintained, then we are only a private school for those who can afford it.

The largest domain of the ACRE is knowledge of the faith. This covers the subject matter of our religion classes. Our students did extremely well in this domain. This gives the teacher great feedback in terms of evaluating the subject matter they are teaching. It tells them that the content of their classes is what the NCEA recommends.

I have one final domain I want to cover and that is moral formation. This domain is probably the one with most parental interest. I can't begin to estimate how Fr. Ed Bradley, Campus Minister



many times I hear, "Don't they teach this at OCHS?" Or, "Why don't they teach this at OCHS?" I have heard alumni ask, "Why weren't we taught that at OCHS?" I usually respond, "You were taught that at OCHS. You just weren't listening; or, you weren't ready to hear the answer." These are the key areas covered in the moral formation domain: (1) source of human dignity; (2) church teaching on sexual morality; (3) sin that breaks relationship with God; (4) meaning of grace; (5) definition of sin; (6) church teachings on faith and morals; and (7) the great commandment. Our students have their lowest score (87%) under the great commandment and their highest score (99%) under sin that breaks relationship with God.

Our religion department at OCHS is alive and well and going strong. And our students are growing every day in their faith and relationships with God.

Welcome to new staff members Hall and Redmon

Jennifer Hall will be teaching Spanish I and II at Catholic High this year. She previously taught at Madisonville North Hopkins High School, after earning her Bachelor of Arts degree from Murray State University, where she graduated Cum Laude. Of her new position, she says, "While I never doubted accepting this teaching role, I have been blown away by the amount of support shown by everyone here at OCHS. I look forward to much more." And she has a six-year-old and a two-year-old.

In her 17th year of teaching in the Diocese, LoriAnn Redmon comes from Whitesville Trinity, from which she also graduated in '87. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences and Sociology at Brescia in '91. At Trinity, she sponsored National Honor Society for 10 years and coached cheerleaders for four. LoriAnn and her husband Kris own their own trucking company. Her mother (Barbara Payne Huskisson), a Catholic High alum, started her teaching career at Catholic and retired from Trinity a few years ago. LoriAnn says she "most looks forward to advancing biology at Catholic and getting to know the students."



Jennifer Hall



LoriAnn Redmon

Families make the difference

I'm very excited about the 2017-18 school year. After 29 years in the public schools teaching Social Studies and now two years at Catholic High, I'm still in awe of the wonderful education that the students here receive. My daughter Brooke is a 2017 alum of OCHS and loved her experience. Owensboro Catholic is a wonderful school,

Financial help with uniforms is available

Financial help acquiring student school uniforms and shoes for the school year is available. Please contact Connie McFarland for details: connie.mcfarland@owensborocatholic.org or 270-684-3215. and I'm truly blessed to be here.

What makes Owensboro Catholic High School such a wonderful job? It's an easy answer for me. It is the students that come from wonderful families. These families leave them here to receive an education and it's a good one. I'm very impressed with the teaching that goes on at Catholic High.

We need your child to be in attendance each day. The student handbook says that a student who misses eight days (excused or unexcused) within a nine week period may be called to an Attendance Review Board. The Attendance Review Board is made up of administrators.

Some changes to this 2017-18 hand-book:

1. Attendance Policy

Students who are absent ten times during the school year, not verified by doctor's note, will receive a letter requiring either a doctor's note for subsequent absences to be excused or a parent meeting to address the absences. (Last year it was five per seTim Riley, Dean of Students

mester.) **2. Grading Scale** A-90-100 B-82-89.9 C-75-81.9 D-70-74.9 F-69.9 and below

There is a new emphasis on students having their handbook at all times when they are out of class. Also the administration is placing an emphasis on students keeping their phones in their lockers during the school day.

Mary Fentress Kenny, OC '01: "I am a life-long learner"

Continued from page 1

family. I think the faculty had the biggest impact on my life. There are so many little things that added up to something bigger for me. Mr. Hagan and Mrs. Hicks instilled in me a love of literature and reading. They had the gift of turning a classic text into something relatable and interesting. Mr. Osborne's sarcasm and humor brought history to life, and his passion for working with students always made class exciting. Mr. Payne, Ms. Perry, and Mrs. Noel made science fun and inspired me to find a career in science. Mrs. Pace turned French class into my favorite part of the day. She set high expectations and helped all of her students succeed. I can look back now and say that it was her example that led me to become a teacher."

Continuing with her recollections of her high school years, Mary says that, aside from people, the event that she remembers most is each year's day of recollection. She recalls looking forward to that day just to be out of uniform, but she says she can appreciate the meaning and significance of that out-of-uniform day: "It taught me to always reflect on my life and be thankful. It is so simple, yet so powerful."

Those teachers she mentions above are almost certain to be proud of her compliments. But they are probably even more proud of what she has to say about learning: "I am a lifelong learner. My job allows me to continuously learn new things. I get to read new novels each year with my students, design unit plans, and keep up with technology. My hope is that I never become too comfortable with what I am teaching and forget how fun it is to learn."



Mary Fentress Kenny (OC 2001) poses with her family: husband Jonathan, sons Jackson (4) and Davis (1).



Guidance Department news

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 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, October 24th. 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 Wednesday, October 4.

JUNIORS TO TAKE PSAT TEST

Juniors will have the opportunity to take the PSAT on Wednesday, October 25. This is the only time the PSAT will be offered at OCHS this year. PSAT is the practice test for the SAT assessment. It will give your child feedback about academic strengths and weaknesses, allow your child to enter scholarship competitions such as the National Merit Scholarship, and seek information from colleges.

The test will begin at 8 am in the large gym at OCHS. This cost is \$16.00. Register in the main office by bringing a check for \$16.00 made out to OCHS before the deadline, Wednesday, October 4. All juniors are strongly recommended to take the PSAT.

TIPS FOR TAKING THE ACT MATH TEST

- Pace yourself
- If you use a calculator, use it wisely.
- Use good judgment in deciding when, and when not, to use a calculator. For example, for some problems you may

wish to do scratch work to clarify your thoughts on the question before you begin using a calculator to do computations. For many problems, you may not want to use a calculator. Go to

Settle: Gift of Life

Continued from page 1

more grateful for them.

However, another issue arose, and the doctors told us she could not be operated on because she would not survive it but that a less risky procedure was possible. We agreed to the procedure, but it just seemed there were too many obstacles going against her to make it. This time before she left, I made sure we talked about a few more things. I made sure to tell her I loved her, kissed her goodbye, and told her everything would be okay, knowing that I probably wouldn't see her alive again.

Yet, once again, to our surprise, she came through it, and we were told this should take care of the problem! And again, we were lucky to get more time with Mom. She started her difficult recovery period again and continued to fight the pain, exhaustion, hallucinations, and frustration--and our-roundthe-clock sitting continued. Another chance had been given for us to keep her longer, and we all felt blessed.

Looking back over this experience, there were some interesting things that took place from almost the time we entered the hospital that are worth sharing. It started with many of the nurses' comments. They were amazed at her age, and called her everything from tough, to spunky, to remarkable. One of them even whispered to me, "She is my favorite patient ever. I have never seen anyone like her!"

I also got to see my mom like I had never seen her, which was sometimes difficult. For example, when she was in so much pain, she prayed to God to let her go since she was so miserable and uncomfortable. We held hands and cried together and prayed for comfort. I saw her courage and her strong will--fighting huge odds to live, joking while in pain, http://www.act.org/aap/taking/calculator.html for details.

- Solve the problem
- Locate your solution among the an-

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and trying to make US feel better.

I got to see her sarcasm while never losing her sense of humor. She denied agreeing to a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) because I told her if she had chosen this earlier, she would not still be talking to me. She said, "Well, as horrible as it was and as miserable as I felt, I guess it's worth getting some extra time!"

She told nurses that ended their shifts that she wouldn't miss them. When asked her birthday, she said that they should know by now since she had told them enough. And, our personal favorite, telling us, "Everyone in the family is out of the will, except for Ethan!" Ethan is my youngest son, who is special needs and is non-verbal and non-mobile! She also indicated that she spoke to angels in her near death experience. She said she saw them and said, "The first thing I did was ask them for a beer!" My mom doesn't even drink, but we did find out later that my sister and a nurse were talking when Mom was sedated about needing a beer! We can now laugh about these things because she has gone back home, with some assistance, of course, until she runs us out of her house!

We often talk about the gift of life in many different ways but mostly from a prolife perspective and with the birth of new babies. However, it has certainly taken on a new and special meaning for me--it has been given not once, not twice, but maybe even a few more times, to my 90-year-old role model mom.

As she was preparing to be released from the hospital after a month-long roller coaster ride with life and death, she said something that I will always try to put into practice: "Whether God gives me three weeks, three months, or three years, I am going to enjoy and take advantage of whatever time I have left on this earth because there is nothing so precious as the "gift of life!"

Important news, notes, and dates for parents

PROGRESS REPORTS COMING

At approximately the halfway point in each nine-week grading period, OCHS will issue progress reports to all students in their classes. Progress reports for the first grading period will be mailed Sept. 8.

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 will mail a progress report home to the parent that is similar to a report card. Students and parents can always access grades, or get a more detailed analysis of grades by logging on to the Parent Portal of I-Now.

While these progress reports are extremely important for all students, they are particularly important for freshmen. This can be a difficult time for some freshmen. Many find it difficult to make the transition to a secondary school, and to the block schedule. Parents of freshmen, then, should be especially aware of the progress reports.

Although progress reports are issued four times a year, perhaps the ones issued during the first quarter are the most important. If a student experiences academic failure during the first quarter, it makes it that much more difficult for the student to have a successful school year

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 or email the teacher to discuss your child's progress.

First quarter report cards will be mailed home October 19.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES SCHEDULED ON-LINE

Parent-Teacher conferences have been scheduled for the evening of September 13

from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Parents should schedule appointments online using Sign Up Genius. The appointments are scheduled on a first come basis so schedule as soon as possible. Last date to sign up is Sept. 12.

Please go to the link below to view the on-line sign-up sheet and to sign up:

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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 September 13.

EIGHTH GRADE VISITATION

Any eighth grader interested in attending OCHS next year is invited to spend a half of a school day at Catholic High. Students will spend time with OCHS students touring the school, meeting faculty and administration.

Friday, October 27 is the date scheduled for the eighth graders from Owensboro Catholic Middle, Holy Name and St. Ann's students to visit. Any other interested 8th grader is welcome. The visit will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 11:30 a.m.

If your child is not in the OCS system call OCHS for more details about your child making the visit.

Guidance Department news

Continued from page 4

swer choices

- Make sure you answer the question
- Make sure your answer is reasonable
- Check your work

COLLEGE VISITS

For Seniors & Second Semester Juniors

Owensboro Catholic High School understands the importance of the college visit in order for students to make informed choices about their post secondary education. College visitation days, taken during school time, are counted as excused absences when the following guidelines are followed. Those students who do not wish to have an absence on their record are encouraged to visit colleges on the weekends or on scheduled in-service days.

1. Students and\or parents are responsible for setting up the college visitation appointment by contacting the school's Admissions Office. Some colleges allow appointments to be set up on the school's website. Admissions Office phone numbers can also be found on the school's website.

2. It is recommended that contact be made through the Admissions Office of the college or university at least two weeks in advance so that the Admissions Office has time to set up necessary appointments.

3. Prior to a college visit, and in order for the absence to be excused, students must bring a letter signed by their parents to the OCHS Attendance Office stating the date and college to be visited.

4. Students are required to check into the Attendance Office immediately following the college visit with a note from the Admissions Office, on the college letterhead, verifying the visit.

5. Some college appointments will take only part of a day, especially to colleges in Owensboro, and the students will be excused for only part of the day.

6. Students invited for scholarship interviews are to follow the regular college visitation day policy.

Note: College placement tests should be scheduled outside normal school hours.

Parent-Teacher Conferences effective

Parent-Teacher conferences can be as helpful in high school as they were in grade school. They put you in touch with your teen's world away from home and help you establish a relationship with his or her teachers.

Here are some ways to make these meetings more effective:

- Find out what your high schooler will be expected to do in each class (homework policy, tests, group projects).
- Ask how to get in touch with the teacher if you have questions.
- Mention any problems at home that may affect your teen's learn-

ing: divorce, illness, etc.

• Discuss questions you may have about such topics as your child's attitude in class or his or her friends.

This fall's Parent-Teacher conferences at Catholic High will be held Wednesday, September 13, from 4:00-7:00 PM. Parents may sign up for times to meet with teachers using the following link: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080945ACAB2DA20-ochs

Sign-ups will be open until Tuesday, September 12, at noon.

For more information on the upcoming P-T conferences, see page 5.



OCHS teacher Ben Hardesty meets with a mother at a recent Parent-Teacher conference,

Parent satisfaction highest in private schools

Private school parents are significantly more satisfied with the schools their children attend than are parents from other sectors, including public charter schools and public district schools. That finding comes from two new studies released by Education Next, a scholarly journal on school reform published by the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and the Harvard Program on Education Policy and Governance at the Harvard Kennedy School.

The first study looked at results from a survey, commissioned by Education Next in May and June of 2016, of a nationally representative sample of 1,571 parents with children in school. The second study analyzed results from a survey of over 17,000 families conducted in 2012 by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The second study's larger sample size allowed for a deeper dive into population subgroups.

Read more about both studies in the January Issue of CAPE Outlook. http:// www.capenet.org/pdf/Outlook421.pdf

Notice concerning 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, come to the OCHS main office and sign the registry.

Public notice

According to the "Rules and Regulations of the Federal Register" (Vol. 47, No. 103), schools that contain friable asbestos material shall notify directly the parents of its pupils. OCHS is complying via our official information mode--the school newsletter "Parentlines." OCHS is inspected regularly by Metro Lab of Louisville. It is also inspected twice a year by the plant manager. In inspections, material suspected and known to be asbestos was and is located in one of the boiler rooms, in some pipe joint fittings, and is sealed in some floor tile throughout the building. The material in question surrounds a water tank that is part of the heating system, surrounds pipe joints in the new wing, and is found in minute quantities sealed within floor tile. The school's management plan is available for review in the office of the principal of the school and in the administrative office of the superintendent of the schools of the diocese.

George Randolph: A remarkable coaching career

Continued from page 8

by the way, one slowpitch championship. His teams won 17 regional championships in 22 years, including 42 consecutive victories in the 3rd Region Tournament. His teams won 67 of their 95 state tournament games.

During his years as Head Coach, he saw three of his players named All-American, 37 named All-State, and 34 move on to play college ball.

Randolph's won-loss record stands at 678 victories and 220 losses (.775), the winningest record in Kentucky high school fastpitch softball history.

Coach George's current Principal Gates Settle had this to say about him as Randolph announced his retirement from softball: "Coach Randolph has been an outstanding example for his players and for all the students of OCHS. His commitment, dedication, and love for Catholic High are evident in and out of the classroom. The success he and his players and coaches have achieved is arguably one of the most impressive feats in all high school sports in the state. A huge thanks to 'Coach George' for his service to OCHS and Lady Aces Softball!"

Former Principal Harold Staples says that Randolph is one of those people he is most proud of having hired: "No one at Catholic High loves the school or our kids more, works harder, or is more dedicated to the mission. And that's not just winning state championships. It is helping our kids learn to be successful on the field and in the classroom. No one is more committed to that mission than George."

His Religion Department Chair Sherry Orth says that after knowing Randolph for over 40 years, she "... can honestly say that I can't think of anyone that has a greater love for OCHS and its students than he does. It goes without saying that he has had a remarkable coaching career! In my opinion, however, what makes George so special is his strong devotion to God, his family, and the whole Catholic High family. George Randolph is just a good, good, man!"

George, the Lord blessed us, parents, students, staff—all of members of the family—the day you walked in the front door to apply for a job. Thanks for all you have done to further the Church's mission at Catholic High. For the end of th



Owensboro Catholic High School Owensboro Catholic Schools 1524 West Parrish Avenue Owensboro, KY 42301-3533

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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.

After 22 years, Randolph steps down

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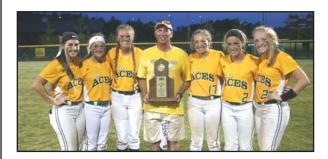


George Randolph

Softball Tournament semifinal game in Owensboro in June, Head Coach George Randolph told his players that he was retiring. After 22 years as Head Softball Coach, he was stepping down from the most successful athletic program at

Catholic High and the most successful softball program in the state. He told his last softball team, "It's been very exciting to be able to end it with a team like this. I'm glad you got to experience success at state. We were only inches away from something special." Not that a fourth place finish in the state isn't special. It is.

And Randolph's twentyplus years leading his teams to five state championships and four state runner-up finishes is special almost beyond true comprehension. And oh, **Continued on page 7**



Head Softball Coach, Religion teacher, and Catholic High alumnus George Randolph with senior team members after being named Third Region Coach of the Year. Randolph announced his retirement recently after his team's fourth place finish in the state tournament. Randolph retired after 22 years at the helm of the most successful team in OC history and in the history of KHSAA fastpitch softball.