

Catholic High Parentlines

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

Owensboro Catholic High School

September 2018

What's inside

- p. 2 Sherry Orth: Building up the Kingdom
- p. 3 Tim Riley: Pre-arranged absences
- p. 4 Guidance Department news
AP scholars excel
- p. 5 News, notes, dates for parents
- p. 6 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- p. 7 Sisters of Charity project
- p. 8 Thank-you from Buddy Ball

Eddie Miller named OCMS Dean/ Assistant Principal



Eddie Miller

After 12 years at Catholic High, nine of which were as Fine Arts Department Chair, Eddie Miller has been named Dean of Students/Assistant Principal at Owensboro Catholic Middle School. In announcing his appointment, OCMS Principal Sara Guth said of Miller, "We are very excited to welcome Mr. Eddie Miller as Dean of Students/Assistant Principal at OCMS. Mr. Miller brings with him a wide range of experiences that will be a great asset to our faculty, staff and students." She went on to say, "He is a faith-filled person with a genuine desire to build positive relationships with both students and parents."

Before his hiring at Catholic High, Miller retired as a sergeant, after 21 years at the Owensboro Police Department, where he worked five years in patrol and 16 years in

Continued on page 3

Back to school and Opening Mass

I have been so fortunate to have had the opportunity to fulfill what I believe to be my calling by getting to work in the school business for so many years. Although I could have retired several years ago, I couldn't see myself not doing what I have enjoyed so much and was not ready to give it all up, and then the opportunity at Catholic High came to me. I have mentioned several times in this column, that after my 28 years in public schools, my decision to come to OCHS was one of the best professional and personal decisions I ever made. This decision is constantly reinforced because of the things that I see that go on each day here. There is no way to explain all the differences, but one of them really hit me just the other day in our Opening Mass.

Each year as the first day of school draws near, there is a little melancholy that appears when we all (students and staff alike) realize that another summer is coming to an end. However, that all starts changing pretty quickly when students see each other at schedule pick up, school activities and when practices begin and the first days of school start. There is a general level of excitement and camaraderie on any day here at OCHS. But in my opinion, there are about four to five times during the year

**Gates Settle,
Principal**



when those levels are even more elevated, and one of those times is the beginning of the school year. The chatter and wide eyes of students seeing each other in this setting is one that always invigorates and reenergizes everyone, including the adults!

However, what really puts it all in perspective and just adds another exclamation point as to why this is such a great place happens in the Opening Mass. To see all the students and staff come together to participate in the MOST important thing we do here is so special. There is closeness and a bond that I believe develops when students are praying together, singing together and receiving the Eucharist together. There is no other place in town where this happens, and this is what and why everyone should always know that they have made the right decision on choosing OCHS!



With senior girls up front, the staff and student body celebrated Opening Mass recently.

Building up the Kingdom!

I often tell my students, especially my seniors, that I believe that there are basically two kinds of people in the world: those that build up the kingdom of God on earth and those that tear it down. I ask my students, "How do you want to be remembered, and have you spent your few years on earth as a builder or as a destroyer of the kingdom?" Unfortunately, one has only to look at the world in which we live to realize that it would not be difficult for any of us to fall into the latter group. Worldly desires distract us, and we often find ourselves judging others based on their appearance, success, the amount of money they earn, and yes, even on how holy or unholy we think they are. So this begs these questions: how did we come to be the way that we are, and how can we avoid the trap of becoming a destroyer of the Kingdom?

Let's face it, how we relate to others and how we treat them is largely influenced by what we think of ourselves and how we have been influenced by our parents, peers, and society in general. One of my favorite poems is "Children live what they learn."

It has great parenting advice for those of us raising children. In a way it warns us about the potential pitfalls of how we can negatively influence them. In a broader sense, it rings true for all people, and if taken into consideration, it follows Jesus' command to love one another.

I remind my students that we in the Church are most fortunate, especially those of us being recipients of a Catholic education. After all, we have been taught! Yet sadly, even within the Church, we find ourselves treating others in a less than dignified way. We judge them as unworthy or not as holy as we think they should be. What's even worse is that we Lord it over them! Jesus was pretty hard on those holding this attitude. I believe he referred to them as "blind guides" and "whitewashed tombs." He accused them of locking the kingdom of heaven before human beings. Jesus does not mince words when he tells us, "Anyone who raises himself up will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be raised up".

After all, we know by reason of our

**Sherry Orth,
Religion Chair**



creation that we are made in the image and likeness of God and, therefore, have an intrinsic dignity. What we often fail to keep in mind is that every other human being also has that same dignity. Shouldn't we treat them accordingly, and do we really have an excuse to treat them any other way? The answer, of course, is "No." Regrettably, however, living this out is easier said than done! It takes prayer, prayer, prayer, and a whole lot of patience!

So as our seniors begin a new and final year with us at Catholic High, our focus will be on being builders of the kingdom, not destroyers!

Three new faculty members join Owensboro Catholic High School staff



**Edgar
Oronia**



**Matt
Madej**



**Alison
McFarland**

Edgar Oronia joins the Catholic High Foreign Language Department as a Spanish teacher. He has a Bachelor's in K-12 Spanish Education from Murray State University. He did student teaching at Reidland Intermediate and Reidland Middle School. Besides teaching Spanish at OCHS, he plans to sponsor the Y Club and the International Club. When asked what he looks

forward to this year, he replies, "I am really looking forward to the Yankees winning the World Series!"

Matt Madej comes to Catholic High with a Bachelor's in Social Studies Education from Ohio Dominican University and a Master's in History from the University of Kentucky. He has taught at Ohio Domini-

can, St. Dominic High in Missouri, St. Rita in Louisville, North Oldham High in Goshen, Ky., and at Owensboro High, where he helped start and coached in the lacrosse programs. At OCHS, he will be teaching Social Studies. When asked what he might be looking forward to this year, he replied, "I'm excited to be back in the Catholic schools. I'm a product of public

schools and enjoy the experience, but there's something special about being in Catholic schools and surrounded by the Faith that only people who have been in them understand."

Alison McFarland has three Bachelor's degrees. Her first Bachelor's is a double major from Campbellsville University in English and History. Then she has two from the University of Kentucky, one in Art and one in Art Education. She is teaching Art classes and Art and Humanities classes at Catholic High. And she is sponsoring the OCHS Art Club. Obviously excited about the year, her classes, and the Art Club, she says, "I am looking forward to working with the students, helping them discover the joy of learning. I hope to help them open doors for themselves and discover art in a new way."

Pre-arranged absence forms

When a student must be absent from school for reasons other than illness, it is required that parents/students contact the Attendance Office in advance, with a note, to prearrange the absence in order to determine whether the time out of school is excused or unexcused.

The student will be given a pre-arranged absence form that must be signed by parents, teachers and the Dean of Student Activities.

Prior notice is required for the following reason:

- A medical or dental appointment

that cannot be scheduled outside of school time

- The funeral of a family member or close friend
- A specific family function

The school reserves the right to limit the number of pre-arranged absences. Students receiving excused pre-arranged absences must be in good standing in regards to academics, attendance and disciplines.

You can find Pre-Arranged Absence Form and Policy statement in the student agenda book on page 13.

If you have any questions concerning

**Tim Riley,
Dean of Students**



pre-arranged absences, please contact the Attendance Office at (270) 684-6088.

Catholic High teacher Miller named new Dean/Assistant Principal at Catholic Middle

Continued from page 1

crime prevention, 13 of those years as D.A.R.E. Officer.

Miller has a bachelor's, a master's of arts in teaching, a master's of education in instructional leadership, a Rank I, and a secondary certificate in instructional leadership. He is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and of the Knights of Columbus.

Catholic High Principal Gates Settle praised Miller and his contribution to the school: "Mr. Miller has been quite an asset to OCHS in the time he taught here. He was very effective in the classroom because he was not only strong in his content area, but he was also very passionate about what he taught. He also was a very popular teacher among students and staff due to his willingness to help out and cooperate wherever and whenever needed and always having interaction with students. While we are very happy and excited for Mr. Miller to achieve one of his career goals, we will miss his being a part of OCHS on a daily basis; however, he will still be a part of us by helping to prepare future OCHS students!"

Of his move to administration at the middle school and of his leaving the high school, Miller said, "Leaving Catholic

High was the hardest decision I've ever had to make. Over the years I've made a lot of friends I consider family, and I'll certainly miss them. I would like to thank Harold Staples and Gates Settle for all the opportunities each have given me during

my time at the high school. I am very excited and feel blessed to have been given this opportunity to work with Mrs. Guth and the faculty and staff of Owensboro Catholic Middle School."



Eddie Miller, newly appointed Dean/Assistant Principal at Owensboro Catholic Middle School, poses with his grandchildren, Braylen and Emma Boarman, before taking them to school at Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus on the first day of school, August 8. Braylen is seven and in the second grade. Emma is nine and in the third grade.

Guidance Department news

JUNIORS TO TAKE PSAT TEST

Juniors will have the opportunity to take the PSAT on Wednesday, October 24. 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 \$17.00. Register in the main office by bringing a check for \$17.00 made out to OCHS before the deadline, Wednesday, October 5. 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 <http://www.act.org/aap/taking/calculator.html> for details.

- Solve the problem.
- Locate your solution among the answer choices.
- Make sure you answer the question.
- Make sure your answer is reasonable.
- Check your work.

COLLEGE VISITS: For Seniors and 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 records 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.

Advanced Placement students excel



Ben Strehl



Xavier Evans



Emily Haleman



Rachel Smith



Crystal Huang



Mary Beth Mullican



Lyndsey Hobelman



Rebecca Devins

This past year, AP (Advanced Placement) students at Catholic High tested in several subjects and did an outstanding job. In order to receive college credit, a student must score a 3 or higher on the AP Exam. For the 2107-18 school year, OCHS students scored a 3 or higher on 64% of all AP exams taken, with a record number 63 students testing in Advanced Placement. This pass rate is extremely high and continues the upward trend we have experienced over the past few years. Our AP teachers and students have worked

extremely hard to achieve this great success.

The distinction of AP Scholar is granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams

The distinction of AP Scholar with Honor is granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Continued on page 5

Important news, notes, and dates for parents

PROGRESS REPORTS COMING

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 discus-

sion, 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 distributed to students by pastors October 19.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES SCHEDULED ON-LINE

Parent-Teacher conferences have been scheduled for the evening of September 19 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. 18.

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 September 19.

For more on Parent-Teacher conferences, see page 6.

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, November 2 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 9:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m.

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

AP scholars

Continued from page 4

The distinction of AP Scholar with Distinction is granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on 5 or more of these exams.

In addition, several OCHS students were recognized by the College Board as an AP Scholar.

2018 AP Scholar:

- Rebecca Devins
- Xavier Evans
- Emily Halem
- Rachel Smith
- Benjamin Strehl

2018 AP Scholar with Honor:

- Crystal Huang
- Mary Beth Mullican

2018 AP Scholar with Distinction:

- Lyndsey Hobelmann

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.

Duplicate mailings

If you are receiving duplicate copies of this parent newsletter, or if your address is incorrect in any way, please notify the Catholic High main office as soon as possible at 270-684-3215.

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 19, 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 18, at noon.

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

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.



Top photo, teacher Jill Chappell (left) chats with mother Sherry Durham about her son Keaton, a student in one of Chappell's classes, at a recent Parent-Teacher Conference at the school. Bottom photo, teacher Patty Kaelin (left) talks with Christy Kanipe concerning her daughter Dailey, a student in one of Kaelin's classes. This fall's Parent-Teacher Conferences at Catholic High will be held Wednesday, September 19, from 4:00-7:00 PM.

Project to honor role of Sisters of Charity at Catholic High

By Elizabeth Field

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.



Elizabeth Field (Corr), OC '63

Do you remember being taught by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCN)? Do you remember their focus on Christian attitudes, values and behaviors? We can attribute to the Sisters a big part of helping to form us in our Christian attitudes, values and behaviors!

Some 1963 OCHS graduates have initiated a project to honor the Sisters' significant legacy to each of us and to our world. This project will exemplify their motto "The love of Christ impels us."

This project will provide a permanent memorial and plaque at Owensboro Catholic High so that the current and future students, parents and faculty can honor the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth's roots from which has come this effective educational institution.

With this in mind, a brief bit of history, and reason for this project, might be helpful. The SCN Community was the first to staff Owensboro Catholic High when the small St. Frances Academy transformed into a Catholic regional high school. When OCHS opened in the fall of 1951, the SCNs were the ones to serve as educators and administrators. In 2015, Sr. Eula Johnson, SCN was the last Sister of Charity of Nazareth to leave Owensboro and service in the Owensboro Diocese.

The religious "footprint" the Sisters left now reaches back to many generations of Owensboro citizens. OCHS graduates continue to be leaders helping to form a more just society, living as dedicated and conscientious citizens, bringing compassion to all layers of our society! We have started this project to honor the Sisters' role at OCHS in the past and to honor their legacy going forward.

Here is how you can support this ef-

fort:

- Our artist and sculptor is Mr. Raymond Graf. Please check out the Louisville Cathedral on the web to see his rendition of Mother Catherine Spalding, foundress in 1812. A bust of Mother Catherine is approximately \$4000. A foundation will be an added expense.
- A plaque describing the SCN contribution will cost an estimated \$4 per square inch.
- To support this important and historical memorial send donations to OCHS, 1524 W Parrish Ave, Owensboro, KY 42301. Please make checks out to: Owensboro Catholic, Att: Tracy Miller (tracy.miller@owensborocatholic.org); "Sisters of Charity Monument Fund," in the subject line. This donation is tax deductible.

Updates will be made periodically with new information and/or total donation amount.

Steering Committee Members:

Sr. Marie Becker, SCN: Nazareth, KY 40048/ 502-348-1500/ mbecker@scnky.org

Sr. Mary Margaret Cooper, SCN: Nazareth, KY 40048/502-348-1500/ mcooper-scn38@gmail.com

Nola Mullen Courtney: 248 Arlington Ct., Eddyville, Ky. 42038/ 270-522-9703/ cmcourtney@att.net

Mary Lee Pruden Fitzsimmons: 801 South 52nd Street Apt. 607 Omaha 68106/ marylfitz@cox.net

Sr. Mary Eula Johnson, SCN: Nazareth,



An artist's rendering of the proposed memorial to the Sisters of Charity, who founded and served so many years at Owensboro Catholic High School. Some graduates of the class of '63 have spearheaded the project.

KY 40048/ 502-348-1500/ johnson-scn@scnky.org

Joan Perry: 3318 E. Surrey Dr., Owensboro, 42301/ 270-685-3787/ Joan_perry@att.net

Elizabeth Field (Corr), Chair: 38207 Cross Creek Dr., Willoughby, OH 44094/440-510-8690/jimliz@oh.rr.com

Thank you for your interest and support of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, KY and Owensboro Catholic High School!

Owensboro Catholic High School

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

Education with a difference

270-684-3215

Non-Profit

U.S. Postage Paid
 Owensboro, KY
 42301
 Permit No. 74

Return Service Requested***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 .

Two Rivers Buddy Ball says thanks

Hi OCHS Family,

My name is Billy Shain, President of Two Rivers Buddy Ball. First let me start out with a huge THANK YOU for allowing our special needs program to use your facilities again this year. This season, it rained every Monday we were scheduled for soccer. We were so grateful we were able to use a gym instead of having to call off each of those days. Consistency is a big deal for special needs kids. Next, let me say a few things about Coach Andy and the kids that volunteer from OCHS. Andy is great with the special needs kids. He has a way of asking the kids to do things that are totally out of their comfort zone and this allows them to open up to the ability to enjoy soccer. He is always ready with a smile and makes sure that the kids have fun while learning. The students at OCHS are unlike most kids I see. I drive a school bus for Daviess County and wish all the students at county schools would show the same compassion, leadership and love for others that your students do. Part of that comes from their parents, and the rest of it is because of the staff and leaders you have there at OCHS. They mirror what they are taught. Our program may have success, but it is only as strong as the ones that play the pivotal part of being in the foreground: OCHS, Andy and the kids at OCHS. Thank you for another great spring soccer session. God Bless.

Billy Shain, League President

Two Rivers Buddy Ball

Chasing the Dream, NOT the Competition