

Catholic High Parentlines

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

Owensboro Catholic High School

September 2020

Students rise to our level of expectations

Many years ago, when I was in college training to be a teacher, one of my favorite professors, Dr. Carl Kreisler, used a phrase I have never forgotten when working with kids: "More often than not, students will rise to the level of the expectations that we have for them." His theory was based on his many years educational experiences, and I have always tried to remember it during my time as a teacher, coach and administrator.

This year has been a year like no other for any of us, but it has been especially challenging for those of us in OCS, as we have tried to apply all the recommended and required health guidelines to make sure we could start, and most importantly, stay in school.

As everyone now knows, going to school in person was vital to our system's sustainability, so we had to make sure that everyone understood the guidelines very clearly. However, as anyone who has ever worked with kids knows, plans in theory don't always turn out as expected. So in applying Dr. Kreisler's theory, we tried to make the expectations as understandable as possible before school started so there would not be any misunderstanding about

the what, when and why it had to be this way.

We were cautiously optimistic and excited about getting back to school, but there were a lot of questions we all asked ourselves, such as: What will school look like? How are students going to wear masks all day? How hard will it be for them to not socialize as much? We now know the answers to these questions and even though we have only been in school for about two and a half weeks, the answer is, "Wow! I don't know if anyone expected what we have seen."

While the school experience is very different than a normal start, I could not be more pleased, proud and encouraged by the behavior and the attention to the guidelines by all the students at OCHS. I have witnessed not only a total buy-in by students, but also by our staff and obviously by our parents, since I know that support has come from home.

As of this writing, we have not had one student transmission of COVID at school, and that is a testimonial to what everyone here is doing each day. Yes, there have been cases outside of school but through working with the health de-

**Gates Settle,
Principal**



partment and following our plan and making some sacrifices, we are showing that we can make this work at school.

Again, we all know it is very early, but patience, some sacrifice and a continued compliance to the guidelines we have in place are crucial. We need everyone's cooperation, support and prayers as we progress further into the '20-21 school year with hopes that we will be back to normal soon.

As I learned a long time ago from a very respected and intelligent professor, more often than not, students will rise to the level of the expectations that we have for them, and with putting that theory into practice, the students of OCHS have proven it true!

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 an official information mode--the principal's newsletter to parents. 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.