

Catholic High Parentlines

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

Owensboro Catholic High School

October 2017

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Ann Flaherty, new Superintendent of the Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Schools, knows that "... Catholic schools learn, serve, lead, and SUCCEED!"



By Mel Howard

Ann Flaherty, Superintendent of the Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Schools

If you were a student in OCMS or OCHS between 1992 and 2012, you knew Ann Flaherty as an OCHS guidance counselor, OCHS Assistant Principal, or OCMS Principal. You can recall Mrs. Flaherty was and is still a good listener, a generous admirer, advocate, booster, friend, and apostle for Catholic Education. Mrs. Flaherty went "by the book" when dealing with school rules--and went with her heart and mind when dealing with a student, teacher, or

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Your grandkids are in the right place

As another Grandparents' Mass has come and gone, I always take away from it the importance of family, not only to us as individuals, but also as a connection to the past, the present, and the future of Owensboro Catholic High School. Before the Mass, I try to reinforce the decision and sacrifices that many grandparents and parents have made and continue to make to send their children and grandchildren to OCHS.

Since I am in the rare position to have had connections in both city and county schools, I have some experiences and a perspective that many do not. When I share this with everyone, I never say anything negative or try to put down our public schools because we do have good, successful public schools. However, what I do try to emphasize is that the students at OCHS get so much more due to what they are ex-

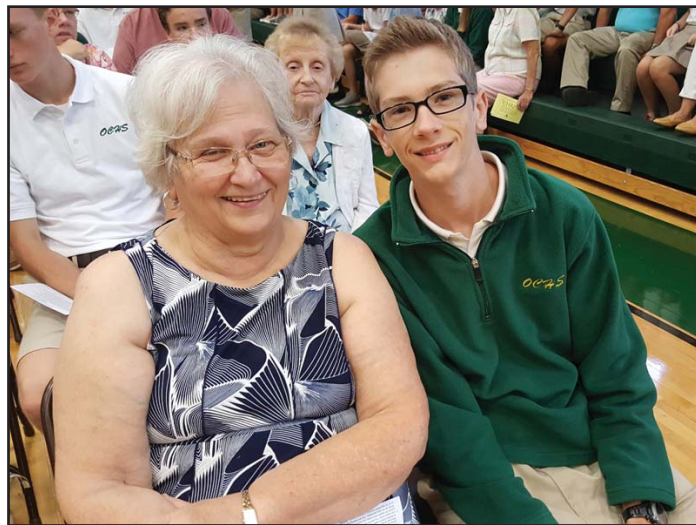
Gates Settle, Principal



posed to each day--faith, scripture, and an environment that supports being a Christian.

I have heard so many grandparents from OCHS over the years talk about the closeness of their classes and how many of their friendships they still have today were formed during their years at Catholic High. I believe that going through these forma-

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Catholic High junior Kevin Ralph sits with his grandmother Carol Ralph before the beginning of Grandparents' Mass last month in the William Martin O'Bryan gymnasium.

Parentlines publication change coming

With this issue, we are publishing Parentlines on paper and electronically. We will do that for at least another month. But in the near future, we will begin publishing Parentlines exclusively electronically, on-line. If you do not receive the newsletter in your e-mail at that point, we will ask you to notify Sheila Abel (sheila.abel@owensborocatholic.org) so that we can make sure to get your e-mail address in our mailing database.

Catholic Schools: “A good investment”

I think that it pretty much goes without saying that in order to make good investments there will have to be some sacrifices made along the way. Of course, the prudent investor will only invest in areas that will appreciate in value rather than depreciate. How often do we say to our children, anything worth having is worth working or saving for?

No doubt our children are the most wonderful gifts that we have. They are not only the future world, but more importantly, they are the future Church. Therefore, they are our greatest assets. It is for this reason that I, and so many others teach in the Catholic School System. It is our belief that Catholic Schools are a good investment for the future and that they will yield a lifetime of benefits. Pope John Paul II stated, “I sense that the moment has come to commit all the Church’s energies to a new evangelization. What better way to evangelize than

to our future Catholic mothers, fathers, doctors, lawyers, judges, social workers, and teachers?”

We are all aware that parents are the first and most important teachers, but let’s face it, school age children spend the majority of the day with their peers in a school setting or in extra-curricular activities. As a result, I believe it is the job of the school system to promote and carry on the Catholic values taught at home. Catholic schools free our children from the secularism that bombards every aspect of their daily lives. They surround our children with the Gospel values that our world is so clearly lacking in.

I am well aware of the sacrifices that families make in choosing Catholic education, because I not only teach in the system, I too entrusted my children to its care. It is my belief that the benefits will by far outweigh the sacrifices that Catholic School

**Sherry Orth,
Religion Chair**



parents make. Nevertheless, at times I, too, get discouraged, and I look to scripture for comfort. For Jesus said, “Do not lay up for yourselves an earthly treasure. Moths and rust corrode; thieves break in and steal. Make it your practice instead to store up heavenly treasure, which neither moths nor rust corrode or thieves break in and steal. Remember, where your treasure is, there your heart is also.” Thank you parents, for sharing your greatest treasure.

Settle: Grandparents’ Mass

Continued from page 1

tive years, which in my opinion may be tougher than at any point in modern history, is so much better when each day is nurtured, supported, and guided by the light of God. Yes, teens are teens, and they will make mistakes and do teenager things. But knowing that with all the pressures and exposure to so many bad influences that they face, they are also exposed on a daily basis to all that is right should make all parents and grandparents feel better about the kids’ education.

As I say each year and will continue to say to our grandparents and parents; your kids are in the right place, and while it’s not cheap and it is a sacrifice, I really believe it is the best educational decision one could make. As one much respected OCHS grandparent told me, “The best investment my parents made was sending me to OCHS. The best investment I ever made was sending my children. And the best investment my kids made was sending my grandchildren here!” I think that says it all.



Ann and Tom Meyer enjoy a few minutes with grandchildren Anna Lee Meyer (sophomore) and Andrew Meyer (junior) before Grandparents’ Mass begins in the William Martin O’Bryan gym at Catholic High last month. Grandparents’ Mass and a luncheon afterward is an annual tradition at the school each September.

ACT scores can tell us much more

The ACT scores for the class of 2017 are in and Owensboro Catholic High School again has surpassed state and national averages with a composite ACT score of 22.8. Great scores like these don't just happen. There are so many people that play critical roles in the success of our students. First and foremost, our faculty deserves thanks as they work hard to prepare, teach, give feedback to, motivate and monitor our students. Our students do a great job of cooperating with their teachers with their positive attitude, attention and strong work ethic. Parental support is critical and has always been a huge factor in our student's success. Our pastors, parents and parishio-

ners help provide the resources needed to run our Catholic school system. But most importantly, everything we accomplish is through the grace of God.

While these scores are great, I sometimes get asked the question "but what does it mean?" Or as the students will sometimes say, "how can I use this in the real world?" ACT predicts success for students in college courses based upon their college readiness benchmark scores. ACT has done much research in this area and is able to predict success in a first year college credit-bearing course in English, College Algebra, Biology, and the Social Sciences based upon a student's score on each



**Kurt Osborne,
Assistant
Principal**

content test of the ACT exam. ACT defines a high probability of success as students meeting the benchmark on the ACT having approximately a 50% chance of earning a B or better and approximately a 75% chance of earning a C or better in the corresponding course. Using the scores on your son or daughter's ACT score report and the following table will help you determine if your student's chance for success in a first year college credit-bearing course is highly probable.

As you can tell by the chart, our students once again excel in this area, exceeding state averages on all college readiness benchmarks. Our student's strong study habits and taking preparation for the ACT and college to heart have resulted in higher scores on the ACT and being better prepared for college courses.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the entire OCS team for the excellent composite score of a 22.8 earned by last year's senior class.

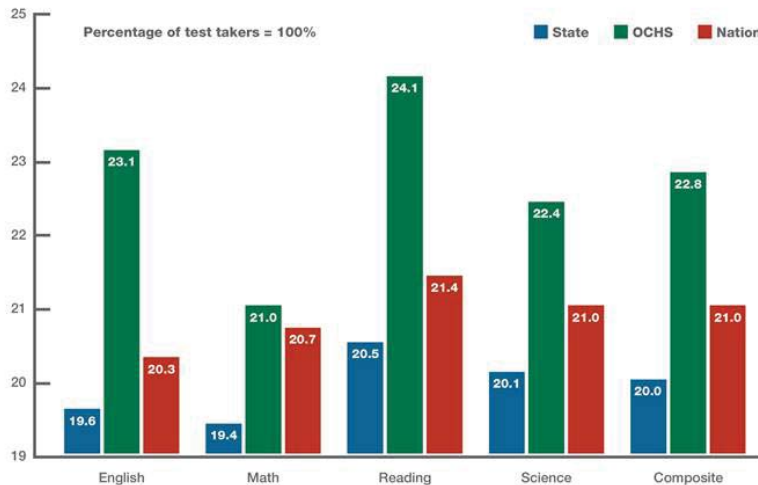
Are seniors ready for college?

Through research with postsecondary institutions nationwide, ACT has established college readiness benchmark scores for designated college courses.

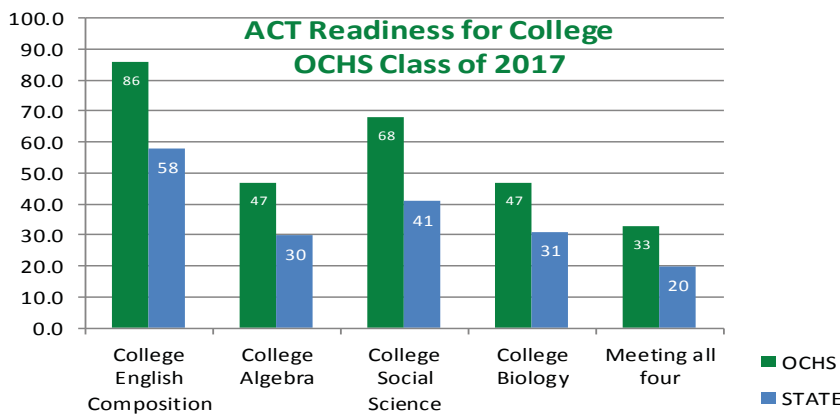
A benchmark score is the minimum score needed on an ACT subject area test to indicate a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college course.

- English Comp.: 18 on ACT English
- College Algebra: 22 on ACT Math
- Social Science: 22 on ACT Reading
- Biology: 23 on ACT Science

ACT Average Score Comparisons OCHS Class of 2017



ACT Readiness for College OCHS Class of 2017



Three seniors attend summer Governor's School programs

The Governor's School for the Arts is a three-week summer program for rising seniors. Representing our district at the GSA in vocal music this year was Christopher Price. Christopher was chosen out of 1700 candidates for one of 33 slots available.



Christopher Price

I attended the Governor's School for the Arts, an all-arts high school, in Danville, Kentucky. The Governor's School is a highly competitive program made up of students coming from all the cities and counties in Kentucky.

I auditioned for the voice program and was accepted. I originally thought the "voice" program was going to be a place where they taught popular styles of American folk songs.

But the voice program is essentially an opera program for young singers, and I knew plenty about opera. However, it was there that I had my third vocal teacher, performed my own solo song, and learned how to sing in different languages.

Having strong roots in gospel music, it was still quite familiar to me since I also have been learning from my others teachers' classical music. When the program was said and done, I came out wanting to pursue paths in the arts.

I am deeply grateful for my three weeks at Centre College, but sometimes we had to do things I thought were really hard. We were tasked with learning German. I'm terrible at German. We worked with the different songs and dynamics within each one day and had to practice breath support and various other exercises to keep our throats in shape.

When we performed on the second day in front of everyone, I had never felt so vulnerable. It occurred to me only later that a lot of the other singers probably felt the same way.

The experience gave me the confidence and skills I needed to succeed. But even more importantly, I made new friends and was inspired by arts educators who all became the earliest members of a continually growing arts family that, to this day, supports my dreams and goals.

The Governor's Scholars Program is a five-week program over the summer for rising seniors. In order to get accepted, prospective juniors must have high academic achievement, including standardized test scores, and be active in the community. In addition, students must write an essay to be accepted into the program. The program itself consists of various classes and other school activities. Students completing the program are eligible for scholarships to any in-state public university.



Xavier Evans

My name is Xavier Evans, and I attended the Governor's Scholars Program (GSP) at Northern Kentucky University this past summer. For five weeks, I had the chance to learn, grow, and spend time with some of the brightest high schoolers from across the state of Ken-

tucky. While there, my focus area of study was Journalism and Mass Media. I had the opportunity to serve as campus photographer, visit broadcast and news stations, and take pictures at several events in the area. I also had a general studies class that was geared towards the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) world and what it means to be an innovator.

GSP instills in its participants so much more than academic knowledge, though. Outside of the classroom, GSP gave me the chance to connect and form friendships with kids from every county in the state. These friendships were built on countless volleyball games, swing dancing classes, karaoke nights, awesome field trips, and so many more activities around campus. There was never a dull or dreadful moment at GSP. Every hour of the day was spent in fun and educational interaction with my fellow scholars, teachers, or the staff on campus. The community formed at GSP was truly remarkable, and the friendships that I formed will certainly last a lifetime.

GSP enriched my views on education and the Commonwealth of Kentucky as a whole more than I ever imagined it would. At GSP there are no grades given for the courses that you take. I was able to see the beauty in learning for the sake of learning instead of learning to earn a certain grade. I have carried this over into my everyday life at school, and it has given me tremendous excitement to expand my academic



Ben Strehl

To describe my five weeks at the Governor's Scholars Program as life-changing would be an understatement. I made friendships I will cherish forever, enjoyed several new experiences, and grew as a person and a leader. I cannot recommend this program enough. It is a

wonderful experience that I am certain has and will make a lasting impact on the future of Kentucky and the world at large.

You may be asking yourself, "What is the Governor's Scholars Program?" The Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program, or GSP, is a five-week assembly of one thousand of the brightest rising seniors in Kentucky. These students are sent to three different colleges for these five weeks and take a variety of courses. These courses include a Focus Area, a General Studies course, and a student-led discussion known as Seminar.

I was sent to Murray State University and was assigned the Philosophy Focus Area. As a student who is mostly interested in math and science, philosophy was a relatively unknown subject to me. However, I came to have an appreciation for logical reasoning and ethical thought as I pored over the works of Plato, Socrates, and other classical philosophers. My General Studies course was focused on traditions, and my class experienced traditions through activities like quilt-making and participating in a kazoo band. In my Seminar, I discussed several topics with classmates such as how our backgrounds influence who we become, political issues, and other topics that can sometimes be difficult for teenagers to discuss. Seminar helped me to be more confident and have an appreciation for different ways of thinking.

These thought-provoking courses

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Flaherty: New Superintendent for the diocese

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parent's concerns or issues with classes, policies, or people at school. Above all, you may recall many times when Ms. Flaherty offered heart prayers in meetings or school assemblies thanking God for His graces and His steady guidance for Catholic Schools. Prayer came from her soul, her spirit, and her faith life. She considered support of all Catholic Schools an apostolate, her mission as an education professional, and this is one of the biggest reasons Mrs. Flaherty accepted the position of Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Owensboro, effective August 1, 2017: "This is what God has called me to do," Ms. Flaherty said, "I have always wanted to be a Catholic School teacher."

An article on the Owensboro Diocesan website dated August 3, 2017, by Tina Casey, quoted Mrs. Flaherty: "It is a joy to be a part of and share with students the rich history of the Catholic Church--the multitude of scientists, mathematicians, artists, composers, philosophers, theologians, and the courageous saints that stood firm in their faith," she continued.

"Out of gratitude to God and to all those that contributed to strengthening the Church's foundation, I have humbly accepted the call to continue to serve and work with the Catholic educators across the diocese that give so much in so many ways to teach and model the faith to students and their families."

As Assistant Superintendent for the diocesan schools, from August 2012 until August 2017, Mrs. Flaherty worked with Superintendent Jim Mattingly, who retired July 31, 2017, to solidify the educational standards of all our diocesan Catholic Schools and help to clarify them for Catholic educators across the diocese. "I especially enjoy," Mrs. Flaherty said, "helping school principals and local school faith leaders in their tasks as classroom teacher or school principal. Knowing these people of strong faith helps my faith grow. I am continually amazed at how God positions us all to find an open door to His light, His grace, His plan for our lives, and then gives us a way to respond to His Call."

"I want to be a part of this apostolate, this mission of Catholic Schools Educa-

tion in Western Kentucky because as the 2018 Catholic Schools Week theme states, 'In Catholic schools, we are all learners, servants and leaders. These shared qualities are what make Catholic schools work. They are what make Catholic schools succeed.' This is where I encounter Jesus and as a result of my work in Catholic Schools, I have grown in my own faith as I get to know the many faith persons, heroes, really, who staff and work in our diocese's Catholic Schools."

"God got my attention," Ms. Flaherty

said, "I have been influenced by people of great faith who teach, support and lead Catholic Schools. And so when Bishop William Medley and Chancellor Kevin Kauffeld asked me to consider this superintendent job, I took time to pray and discern God's will. Out of gratitude for what God has given me and my family through all of these 33 years of teaching and school leadership, I accepted the superintendent's role in our diocese to continue to serve the Church and families in our Catholic School communities."



Ann Flaherty, left, then Assistant Principal at Catholic High, discusses school policy with a member of a visiting accreditation team. From Assistant Principal at OCHS, Flaherty moved to Principal at Catholic Middle. From there she moved to Assistant Superintendent for the diocese. In that role, bottom, she visits a class at Whitesville Trinity High School. From that position, Flaherty has moved on to the position of Superintendent for the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Owensboro.



Important news, notes, and dates for parents

STUDENTS RECEIVE FIRST QUARTER REPORT CARDS

On Thursday, October 19, students first-quarter report cards will be mailed home. Mr. Gates Settle, Principal, said. The report cards are mailed home at the end of the first, second and fourth quarters.

Pastors will hand out report cards to their student parishioners at the end of the third quarter.

POLICY FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

Mr. Gates Settle, Principal, praises the OCHS rule, which says that transfer students and freshmen from schools not in our feeder system will be enrolled at Owensboro Catholic on a probationary basis for one quarter.

After that quarter, the probation may be lifted or it may be extended by the school's administration. The decision to lift or extend the probation is made jointly by Mr. Gates Settle, Principal, Tim Riley,

Dean of Student Activities and other committee members. "This decision is based on the student's first quarter grades, as well as attendance, discipline and social acclimation with a lot of teacher input," said Mr. Settle.

Mr. Settle feels that the rule is necessary. He said that there is a concerted effort by the administration to consult with each teacher the student has and to decide if the student is to remain on probation. We always want and try to give the student the benefit of the doubt in order for them to be a part of OCHS and more often than not, it usually works out!

"Being on probation basically means that a student is on a trial basis to see if this is the place for them and to also make sure they are willing to follow the rules, policies and procedures that help keep our school safe, comfortable and challenging for everyone," Mr. Settle said.

Xavier Evans: Governor's Scholars Program

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horizons. GSP also showed me that Kentucky is awesome! Before last summer, I viewed Kentucky as a mediocre state with little potential to make something great of itself. However, being around the brightest kids in the state for five weeks gave me a new hope for the future of our state and so much pride in its people and its beliefs.

Although I don't know what college path I will pursue next year, I know that whatever I decide to do I will give it my best. I know that the knowledge and skills I acquired at GSP will help me succeed in my future endeavors, and I cannot wait to see them all unfold.

Ben Strehl: Governor's Scholars Program

Continued from page 4

were only made better by the incredible people who were my classmates. I became close with several of my fellow Governor's Scholars and plan to maintain contact with them for the rest of my life. I know that these people were a good influence on me, and I hope I was able to return the favor. They are a large part of the reason I would absolutely recommend that anyone who is thinking of applying for the Governor's Scholars Program do so. It is an incredible experience that I am so grateful to have been a part of.



Top photo, Business teacher Patty Kaelin (left) meets with parent Christy Kanipe (mother of Dailey and Caroline) at recent parent-teacher conferences. Bottom photo, Religion teacher Tony Kraus meets with Juanita Garcia (mother of Josafina).

Guidance Department News

College Application Process

When applying for admission to college or any post-secondary school, follow these steps.

Get the application in early so that you can educate yourself about the deadline for admission.

Every post-secondary school has a website, and many allow you to apply on-line. Visit school websites to see if you can do so. But even if you do apply on-line, your school will still need an official transcript. So bring Mr. Lowe the correct postage so that your transcript can be mailed.

So, we ask you to educate yourself about your deadlines and get those applications turned in early.

AP Scholars named

The following members of the Owensboro Catholic High School Class of 2017 were named as AP Scholars by the College Board. Any student who scores a 3 or higher on at least three Advanced Placement exams is named an AP Scholar.

Ashleigh Deno
Allison Ford
Samuel Gibson
Lauren Goodwin
Iona Palmer
Jordan Wood

Being named an AP Scholar by the College Board is just another example of the great deal of collaborative hard work and dedication made by these students and their teachers.

It is a true team effort by the Owensboro Catholic community. These six students represent just a few examples of the efforts made by everyone involved in the Catholic High Family.

Grandparents' Mass talk

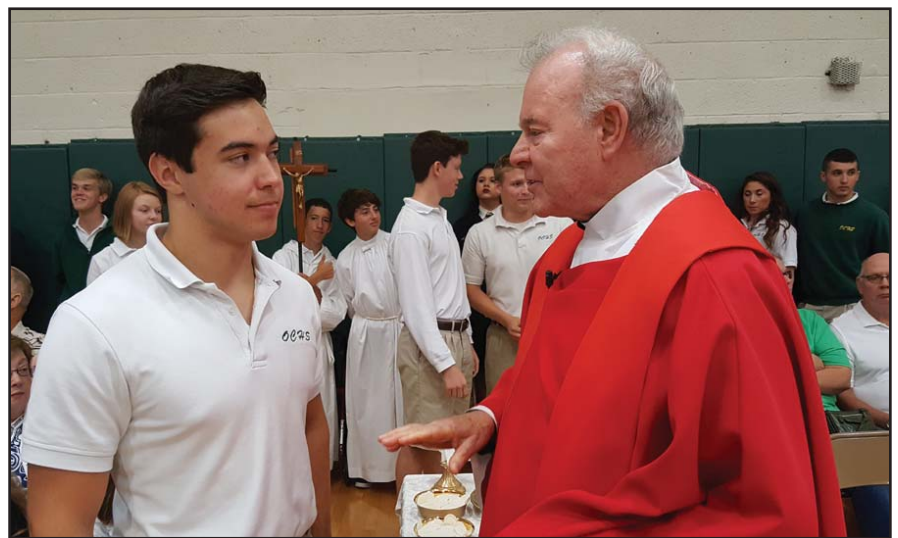
By Ben Strehl, OCHS Senior

Hello everyone, my name is Ben Strehl and I am a senior here at Catholic High. We are here today to honor our grandparents because of the sacrifices they make that allow us to attend this wonderful school. What do our grandparents mean to us? Surely, they are much more than just our parents' parents. They are storytellers. They are wells of wisdom and experience. They are windows for looking into the past. Despite all these roles, or perhaps because of them, I think we sometimes forget that grandparents are still people living in the present. We forget that at one time, they've experienced almost everything we have in their own present. We forget that they went to high school, applied for college, played sports, got jobs, and maybe had their hearts broken a few times.

Classmates, I challenge you to have a conversation with your grandparents not just as your grandparents, but as people. Talk to them like you would to a

friend at school. Tell them about the little things you do every day--you might be surprised to find some similarities, even if they were high schoolers back in prehistory--you know, before Twitter. If you start having these types of conversations with your grandparents, I can promise you will have a relationship you never thought you could have with them. It's important to spend time like this with our grandparents because you never know how much time you'll have with someone. We should cherish every moment we get with our grandparents because our time on Earth is only temporary.

In conclusion, we should make the most of all the time we have with our grandparents, and with each other. We should love and cherish them because they care for us so dearly. We should honor and respect them because they help make us who we are. But most importantly, we should befriend them because a grandparent is the best friend a kid could ask for.



Ben Strehl, spoke to the student body and to attending grandparents at Catholic High's annual Grandparents' Mass last month. Here he confers for a moment with Chaplain and Campus Minister Fr. Ed Bradley just before Mass begins.

Owensboro Catholic High School

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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 .

Twenty things you didn't know about Gates Settle

By Angela and Isaac Settle

1. 1980s WKU badminton champion
2. Hit a hole-in-one in 2015. Witnesses were David Blanford, Eddie Miller, Kurt Osborne
3. His dad, Delbert Settle, made a hole-in-one on the same hole years before
4. Loves his mom's vegetable soup
5. Visits Island Dairy Freeze at least once a month
6. Coached basketball (in either high school or middle school) between 1984 and 1997
7. Loves to boat on the Green River—has since he was a small child
8. Drinks his milk out of beer glasses
9. Has a special-needs child, Ethan
10. Hates flying on airplanes
11. Avid runner since college
12. Had a pitbull named Princess
13. Hates mowing the lawn and washing his car
14. From Calhoun, KY
15. Likes rainy days, also the hotter the better
16. Loves Seinfeld, his favorite show ever, and watches almost every day
17. Has been to multiple baseball world series
18. Was a lifeguard at Windy Hollow in high school
19. Worked at Charles Chip plant in Calhoun during the summers while in college
20. Avid snacker—especially on "long" road trips to Calhoun

