

# Catholic High Parentlines

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

Owensboro Catholic High School

November 2019

## “I have the strength for everything...”

During the Senior Retreats, I get the opportunity to speak about some very personal things regarding some challenges in my life with hopes that when the seniors are faced with challenges, they will be able to handle them in a positive way.

I usually begin by talking about the difficulty of being a teenager in today's world, which usually gets their attention because it is something to which they can relate. I let them know that in my opinion, I am not sure that there has ever been a more difficult time in modern history to be a teenager than it is in today's world. I know that some would disagree and say how tough it used to be, and that today's teens are soft and most of them are just spoiled, but I think they face so many more challenges from so many different directions, that it can be difficult for them to navigate through daily life in a healthy way.

Today's teens are expected to be the best at everything they do: great students, great role models, leaders among their peers, popular, and the best on your teams. There is also the pressure to secure scholarships due to the high cost of a college education. To be eligible for academic scholarships, many have to prepare to take the ACT multiple times, and some spend extra time with tutors, all the while taking the most demanding classes. There is also the resume of the high school student that demands being in the right clubs and organizations and being involved in the community and church. And, for those who are interested in athletic scholarships, the amount of time that must be dedicated to travel ball and practices has now evolved into a year-round commitment for some sports.

I am not saying that any of these things are wrong or bad, and in many ways, these activities help young people to start understanding and preparing them

for the demands of adulthood. However, it just seems as if there is just so much more demand for the students' time than there has ever been. And, we haven't even mentioned trying to work in part time jobs, which all of us used to think was as important as anything to prepare them for the future.

In addition to all the demands, these generations of teens are now dealing with some things that we never had to think about—such as the social media craze, juggling and whatever else will come along to drive adults crazy. This adds an even higher level of stress for students because there is now the possibility of being stigmatized on social media in the matter of a few minutes over something over which they have no control. There is also the added peer pressure to participate in unhealthy habits such as Juggling, which is rapidly becoming one of the most addictive health hazards facing teens today.

With all these high expectations and added stressors, today's teenagers, more than ever before, have higher anxiety levels, higher use of substance abuse, higher levels of depression and, most alarming, an increased suicide rate, so it is up to us to try to help them the best that we can to avoid these potential problems.

Up to this point, this may sound like a pretty bleak article on the state of being a teen in today's world; however, it is just the opposite. Because of all those things that teenagers of today must deal with and face, the GREAT news is that our students are provided with what they need each day here at OCHS to be able to not only meet the challenges of their teenage years, but to thrive and be comfortable and enjoy them. Our students are in an environment that allows them the opportunity to have their faith reinforced each day. Through numerous activities like daily prayer, scripture readings, weekly Masses, and

Gates Settle,  
Principal



the support of a staff who has always and will always have the students' best interest at heart, they are being well equipped to face whatever challenges life has for them.

One of those many activities mentioned earlier are the Senior Retreats. As I finish up my retreat talks with seniors about my story and my challenges, my hope is always that all of them may have heard something that will help them at some point in their lives when things are difficult. I always remind them that, as you get older, you can try to do things on your own, or as scripture reminds us, you can include God in your lives to be with you at all times.

“I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me.” Phillipians 4:13.

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# Required and elective Theology Department courses

I was recently asked, "Do you work at Catholic High?" My response was, "No, I have fun at Catholic High." I tried to then explain what I meant. I have the privilege (And I do consider it a privilege) of teaching the Catholic faith to students at OCHS. Teaching the faith is not something I consider work. It's something I enjoy doing and something I think is fun.

Our theology curriculum includes required core courses, each specific to a certain grade level. Those courses include but are not limited to scripture, sacraments, Church history, theology, ecclesiology (study of the Church) and moral theology. Additionally, we currently offer two elective courses, which are designed to take the content of the core courses and help students apply it to living their Catholic faith, especially as they go forth from OCHS.

As we review our curriculum in the coming weeks and months, I will keep you updated of any changes to our core classes. For now, I want to tell you more about our two electives, both of which I teach. My approach to these classes is influenced by my own ministry as a priest and specifically by my role as vocation director for the Diocese of Owensboro and by my previous ministry as campus minister and chaplain at the Newman Center at Murray State Uni-

versity.

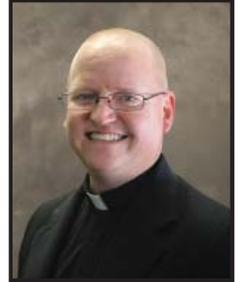
As vocation director, part of my mission is to encourage youth and young adults to give their lives to Christ in response to the universal vocation to holiness and to their personal vocation of Holy Matrimony, Holy Orders, consecrated life, or single missionary life. As a campus minister and chaplain, I witnessed young adults trying to live their Catholic faith in sometimes hostile environments, often finding it easier to give up their faith and give in to the culture. And from these pastoral experiences as a part of my priesthood, I designed the following two theology electives:

## 1. Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ

C.S. Lewis said, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." (Mere Christianity, Bk. III, chap. 10, "Hope"). The purpose of this course is to help students understand the universal vocation to holiness and the personal vocations of married life, single life, priestly life, and consecrated life.

This course will also include apologetics, Theology of the Body, and will discuss how to maintain and live our Catholic faith

**Fr. Jason McClure,  
Theology Chair**



on a college campus and in the world.

### Outline:

- I. Does God Exist?
- II. If God exists, is Jesus who he says he is? Is Jesus Lord and God?
- III. If Jesus is who he says he is, did he rise from the dead?
- IV. If Jesus rose from the dead, did he establish a Church? If so, which Church?
- V. If God exists, and Jesus is who he says he is, then we are left with two options:
  - A. We follow the Call of Jesus Christ
  - B. We choose not to
- VI. Following Christ is the only reasonable option
- VII. The universal vocation to holiness (Go to heaven and become a saint.)

**Continued on page 6**



**From the back of the Fr. Danny Goff Chapel at Catholic High, Theology teachers Kristin Dorth (near), Lisa Higdon (middle), an George Randolph (far), lead their classes in the Rosary recently. All Theology teachers took their classes to the chapel for two days. In that two days of rotating-day block schedule, every student in the school said the Rosary.**

## Monitoring our curriculum for our students' success

For years I have been working with students on college applications, financial aid, and other aspects of helping students achieve their dreams of college. I felt like I had a handle on the entire process, but, having a senior this year, I really got an education! What I and most parents don't realize until they experience their child's senior year is the work and time involved in tying up all of the loose ends during that last year so that post-secondary education can become a reality. College visits, college applications, scholarship applications, FAFSA forms, housing applications--the list doesn't seem to end.

At Owensboro Catholic High School, one of our goals is to prepare all of our students for post-secondary education. Our faculty work hard to teach content needed to be successful in a college classroom. Our guidance department makes regular visits to classes throughout our students' high school careers to speak about how to prepare themselves for college.

Being successful on a college campus requires a variety of skills. Academics, of course, ranks close to the top of that skills list. We keep a close watch on ACT scores and review our curriculum annually and revise as needed. We have added concurrent enrollment classes for those students who want to get a head start on their college course load. Anecdotally, we check periodically with returning alumni about how well they do in their college classes.

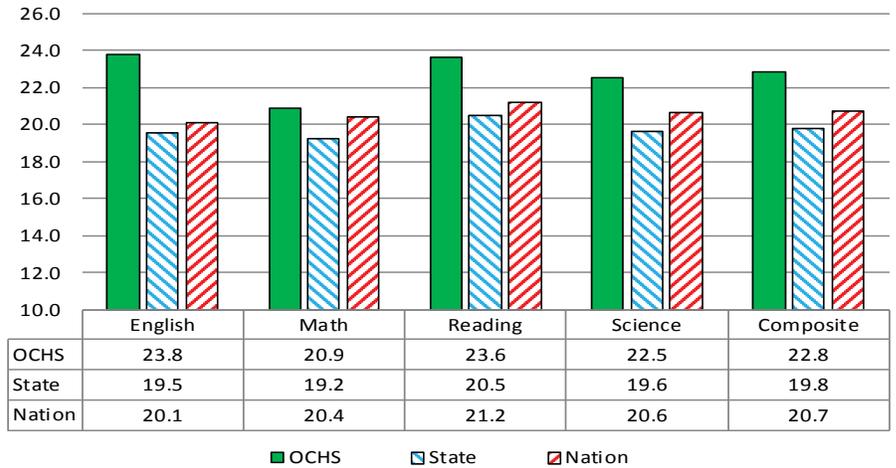
Through asking our graduates about our strengths and weaknesses and listening carefully, we have been able to determine where changes need to be made. We want to know from those that are living the college experience about what we are doing that helps them, and what we may need to adjust to make for a smoother transition. We have heard from many students that English professors in many of the state's colleges feel our graduates have learned to write well. Other past students relate that Anatomy and Physiology, Humanities and Psychology classes taken on a college campus are so similar to what has been taught at Catholic High that not a lot of effort was needed to be successful in these courses. These are but a few of the comments that have been shared with our faculty over the past several years.

We want the best for our children both as parents and as faculty. Working as a team, communicating respectfully, we can continue to provide the best possible education for our students. And when we finally achieve the goal of helping our students to take the next step in their education, we can step back and know we did all we could to make the dream of a college education possible.

**Kurt Osborne,  
Assistant  
Principal**



### ACT: Catholic High Class of 2020



## Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Memorial to be part of historical wall

The Owensboro Catholic High School Memorial Project to honor the teaching Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, has taken on a new dimension.

The initial vision was a stand-alone bust and plaque, but a newer vision has been developed that will incorporate the story of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth into a historical walkway that will start just inside the breezeway of the school next to a new chapel. It will be the first dedicated space on the historical wall.

The new vision has become part of an additional capital project at the high school, and the SCN Steering Committee has been working with school

officials to finalize the plan, according to Chairperson Mrs. Elizabeth Field (Corr).

Ms. Field said she thought the plan would surpass their original idea and the committee would supply information to the high school alumni association as the capital renovation committee worked out more details.

While the actual renovations at Catholic High are being facilitated by a construction committee, decisions regarding the Sisters of Charity Project will still be made by the current standing committee. The fund has generated \$5690 and is still on deposit with OCHS.

# Guidance Department news

## GET THE FACTS ABOUT PAYING FOR COLLEGE

One of the most challenging and frightening parts of planning for college is paying for it. But it doesn't have to be. According to a study by the National Center for Education Statistics, 91 percent of students and their families don't accurately estimate the cost of college. Families tend to overestimate the cost, especially when it comes to public colleges and universities.

The best way to make something less frightening is to gather information from a reputable source. The federal Department of Education's website, Student Aid on the Web, can do just that. At [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov), students can find information on the entire federal student aid process, including information on the federal aid programs, tax credits, student and parent repayment options and links to private scholarship sites, as well as the online free application for federal student aid (the FAFSA). The website also provides other general college planning information.

The Department of Education has a variety of resources and programs to help you plan for college. If you don't have access to the Internet, call the Federal Student Aid Center (1-800-433-3243) to find out about the free booklets and brochures for students. Your counselor or public library may also have these publications

available.

## JUNIOR YEAR

Junior year is the most important year as students prepare for their senior year. First, when I send transcripts to college admissions offices for seniors, those admissions offices will see the cumulative GPA of a student's last three years of high school. It's important for juniors to maintain or improve their GPA's. Second, most juniors will take the ACT test and those scores will also appear on their transcript. Third, colleges and universities also use those GPA and ACT scores as criteria for scholarship consideration. So it's important for juniors to prepare for the ACT and maintain or improve their GPA. Lastly, if a senior wants to enroll in dual credit classes, the participating college /university will also use those scores as criteria for entrance into their classes.

## SENIORITIS

It is the time of year that sometimes seniors will contract a virus that can get worse if not treated: it's called senioritis and can be contagious to all seniors. To combat this virus, I am warning seniors to make sure to do the following to help with the prevention of this becoming widespread.

1. Always turn your work in on time. This will help prevent any "zero's" from in-

**Scott Lowe**  
Senior  
Counselor



fecting your INOW.

2. Prepare for all quizzes and tests. This will help prevent those nasty "F's" from "congesting" your grades.
3. Sleep/rest: This will help you better fight off any of those runny and itchy eyes that will fog up your homework.
4. Smile and be positive: this will help produce good endorphins that will help with the aches and pains associated with senioritis.
5. Do not procrastinate: putting off what can be done today will only give you the "red hot stress fever." This will only slow you down.
6. Always ask for help: Don't go it alone. Family, friends and teachers can be the chicken soup you need to get you through.

If you can follow these rules, you can help to prevent the spread of this virus.



**Catholic High's Thespians performed the play "The Hope and Heartache Diner" November 16 and 17. The author, Lindsay Price (top left), visited the cast of the drama before an afternoon practice recently. She discussed with the student-actors her vision when she wrote the story and offered suggestions for delivering an awesome show.**

# Important news, notes, and dates for parents

## MID QUARTER GRADE CHECK

As we approach the middle of the second quarter, parents are reminded to keep an eye on their student's grades. Parents are always able to monitor grades through the parent portal of I-Now by using the following link:

<https://528468.stiinformationnow.com/informationnow/login.aspx?returnurl=%2informationnow>.

OCHS will not mail progress reports this quarter, so it is vital that parents stay up to date with their child's progress. If you would prefer a printed copy, or if you need a user name and password you may call the school at 270-684-3215.

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 and leave your name and number, and the teacher with whom you wish to talk will return your call.

## EXAM POLICY

The OCHS administration accepts few excuses from students who miss semester exams. Kurt Osborne, Academic Dean, is reminding parents and students of the school's policy in regard to semester exams.

If a student is going to miss an exam for any reason other than illness, parents must first contact the Principal's office in advance of the missed exam. No exams will be administered early. If a student misses an exam, they may make up the exam with the teacher, or OCHS will administer make up exams on Friday December 20th and Friday December 27th at 8:30 AM.

Parents are reminded that no one will be exempt from 1st semester exams,

and that these exams count for 20% of the overall semester grade.

Meanwhile, the administration has released this schedule for first semester exams:

Frid., Dec. 13--Exams

Mon., Dec. 16--Exams

Tues., Dec. 17--Exams

Wed., Dec. 18--Exams

## EXAM SCHEDULE

8:20 - 9:10 Review for exam

9:10 - 9:15 Break

9:15 - 10:45 Exam

10:50 - 10:55 Homeroom

10:55 - 11:30 1st Lunch

11:35 - 12:25 Review for exam

12:25 - 12:30 Break

12:30 - 2:00 Exam

### 2nd Lunch

11:00 - 11:30 Review for exam

11:30 - 12:05 2nd Lunch

12:10 - 12:25 Review for exam

12:30 - 2:00 Exam

Students will have the review period in the same classroom where the next exam will take place. Students must be present and on time for the review period prior to the exam in order to be allowed to take the exam. Students will remain in the classroom until the exam period is over.

All students will be dismissed at 2:00 on exam days.

Students must be in uniform to take exams.

With the completion of exams on Wednesday, Dec. 18, students will be released for the holidays, and the first semester will be completed.

Second-semester classes will begin when the students return from the holidays.

In returning to school on Thursday Jan. 2, students will go to Homeroom first. At that time, they will receive their second semester schedules.

Students who fail a course or wish to make a schedule change should see Mr. Lowe as soon as possible after returning from Christmas break. Schedule changes are only permitted for the first

four days of the new semester, or at the end of the 3rd.

## STUDENTS FAILING REQUIRED CLASSES SHOULD SEE COUNSELOR

Students who fail a first-semester class required for graduation or college admission should see Mr. Scott Lowe, Senior Counselor.

Mr. Lowe will review the student's transcript and determine what academic situation the student is in.

But Mr. Lowe said that there is no guarantee that he will be able to move all students into classes they need to be in. For example, if a class is filled, a student who has a failure might not be able to move into that class even though he might need the credit.

Students may have to recover credits with the Triplett School.

## *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.*

# Fr. Jason: Theology classes at Catholic High

*Continued from page 2*

VIII. The personal vocations of Holy Matrimony, Holy Orders, consecrated life, and single missionary life. (We look at the theology of these vocations and what they mean when lived out in the life of the Church.)

IX. Discerning God's Will

X. Preparing for living your Catholic Faith on a college campus, in the workplace, and in the world

## 2. Ecumenical and Interreligious Issues

Basically, this is a course in Catholic apologetics. The goal is to equip students with the ability to articulate and defend the Catholic faith in a way that respects those with opposing views, while never compromising the truths of Catholicism.

This is a project-based class. Students in this class build an "Apologetics Manual." The hope is that this manual will serve as a resource for students long after this class has concluded. Whether they are in college, in a career, or just in social gatherings, their faith is sure to be challenged or questioned. Their apologetics manual will be another tool in their toolbox to assist them in responding to the most common questions about and objections to their Catholic faith.

### Outline:

- I. How do we know that God exists?
- II. If God exists, how do we know which of the major world religions has it right?

We survey the general beliefs/themes of these major world religions as we seek to understand why we are Christians: (Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity)

- III. Why Catholic? If Christianity is true, why are there so many different denominations? Which is correct?
- IV. Why do Catholics believe/do that? Here we respond to questions, objections, and challenges to beliefs and practices within our Catholic faith.

### Apologetics Manual Chapters:

- Belief in God
- World Religions
- Christianity

- Jesus Christ
- The Bible
- The Church
- The Sacraments
- Catholic Morality
- Sin and Salvation
- Mary and the Saints
- The Pope
- Other Topics

As we plan for the future, we hope to include more elective classes in the theology curriculum. These classes are just one more reason that sending your children to OCHS is an investment in their universal vocation of going to heaven and becoming a saint. I teach at OCHS because it's fun. But more importantly, I do it because I hope it will help keep these students connected to Christ through his Church.



**Top photo, Fr. Brian Roby, Pastor at St. Mary of the Woods in Whitesville and formerly Religion Chair at Catholic High, introduces Jason Evert, speaker at a chastity program in the new Mike Horn Community Center in Whitesville. Bottom, Evert speaks to students from Catholic High, St. Mary of the Woods School, Trinity High School, and other schools at the program on Sept. 5. Evert has spoken to more than one million people about the virtue of chastity. He is a best-selling author of more than ten books, including *Theology of the Body for Teens*, and *How to Find Your Soulmate without Losing Your Soul*. Evert earned a Master's degree in Theology, as well as undergraduate degrees in Counseling and Theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville. He is a frequent guest on radio programs, and his television appearances include Fox News, the BBC, MSNBC, and EWTN.**

## 2019 Marching Aces: “The Sky’s the Limit”

The Owensboro Catholic Marching Aces had an outstanding year for the 2019 marching season. The band has qualified for the Kentucky Music Educators’ Association State Championships every year since 2004.

This year the band reached the

finals at State for the second time in school history and finished fourth in Class A.

The band also competed in the Mid-States Championships (bands from Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio) and was named Reserve Grand Champion

in Class A, placing second out of 27 bands.

The band is directed by Ed and Katie Hauser, who are in their 24th year as band directors in the Owensboro Catholic Schools system.



*Pictured above are the 2019 Owensboro Catholic Marching Aces. The band recently competed in the Kentucky State Championship and the Mid-States Championship competition, finishing fourth in state Class A and Mid-States Reserve State Champion, second out of 27 bands. Front Row: Emma Staples, Nick Hines, Claire Schultz, Isabelle Gehring, Jacob Higdon, Thomas Gonzalez, Sam Hines, Brandon Moore, Javier Garcia, Holly Wilkerson, Jessica Higdon, Bryson Brown, Willow Matthews, Mary Grace Johnson, Jack Calhoun. Middle Row: Carter Osborne, Johnathan Ford, Kendall Johnson, Spencer Osborne, James Haynes, Jake Hines, Konner Harl, Robert Hayden, Jaden Berke, Ross Fleming, Cecilia Broxon, Brandon Fulkerson, Jonah Bennett, Davis Brocato, Connor Moore. Back Row: Jessenia Garcia, Monica Castlen, Allison Bennett, RC Porter, Bailey Harris, Molly Trogden, Ashlyn Farina, Alexis Gehring, Bailey Padgett, Anna Claire Bennett, Kennedy Warren, Isabella Bennett, Gracelynn Seaton, Audrey Schultz, Georgia Farina, Gracie Blincoe. Not pictured are directors Ed and Katie Hauser. The band’s show theme this season was “The Sky’s the Limit.”*

**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 .*



***When the eighth grade from Henderson Holy Name School visited Catholic High earlier this month, all faculty and students who are alumni of Holy Name School were asked to meet with the visiting students. Pictured here are Catholic High students and three faculty members who graduated from the school--with the exception of five other students not pictured. And three of those not pictured were on their way to the state volleyball tournament.***