CLEVELAND CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Vibrant in the City – Learning to Lead – Preparing to Serve
Contents

President’s Notes 4
Advancement Notes 6
Living Faith 8
Principal’s Notes 10
Teacher Impact 12
Central Catholic Family 14
School News 18
Sports 20
Alumni News 22
Ironmen Items 30
Providence, Preparation and Hard Work Yield CCC’s Progress

Campus Enrollment Pushing Capacity of 600

The official Cleveland Central Catholic enrollment report to the state for October 2012 was 562, which marked a 20-year high for our school. While that was a pleasant surprise to some, this fall’s total jumped another 5% as the school enrolled 592 students. This continues a general trend that has evolved over the past decade. Central Catholic’s official fall enrollment in 2003 was just 383. As of this writing, CCC’s enrollment has risen a remarkable 54% over the past ten years.

Other than the grace of God, there is no single reason that explains this impressive turnaround. It is the combination of many factors that has catapulted Central Catholic’s dynamic rebound. Much credit must go to the leadership of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland for its ongoing commitment to ensure that Catholic education remains an important part of its urban ministry.

Over 95% of CCC students reside in the city of Cleveland and virtually all students qualify for financial assistance. Yet, over 99% of those in the Central Catholic Class of 2013 graduated – a rate that has risen from 85% in 2008. These are motivated young people!

Many of them are directly reacting to the outstanding faculty and staff members we have at CCC. Our students respond to the care and compassion they experience in our community. In or outside of the classroom, teaching and learning take place in an environment of trust and mutual respect. The lessons imparted help our young people grow into responsible young adults with solid Christian values. The success of our school’s mission has always depended on the passionate commitment of our adults.

Beyond that, CCC has been blessed with many friends who provide encouragement, vision and support. Our school has an engaged and productive Advisory Board, which has helped guide CCC through some hard times and continues to help advance our mission. These Catholic education advocates provide counsel and support, connect Central Catholic with corporate and foundation partners, and help promote our school to others. We are grateful for their promise to serve our school as ambassadors to the broader community.

Some will point to the creation – and subsequent expansion – of school voucher programs as a reason why CCC’s enrollment has increased. This is certainly true, although I would argue the voucher programs are helping many families select the option they would prefer anyway. In other words, Catholic education happily becomes an affordable option through the use of vouchers. Many of our students qualify for one of four state-funded voucher programs: The Jon Peterson Scholarship (for special needs), the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutorial Program, the EdChoice Program, and the Autism Scholarship. These programs help hundreds of CCC families pay a portion of their tuition, which vary in amounts from program to program.

Finally, CCC has alumni, friends and families who support our students. They attend events, support the Central Catholic Fund, and volunteer at school functions. Through their actions, our students learn how to build a true community of faith – one they will treasure for a lifetime. Working together, we live the Gospel values we have been taught. This is how we continue to grow and serve others in love.

Cleveland Central Catholic has made much progress over the past decade, but there is also much work to do to ensure this valuable asset for the next generation. I invite you to take some action to be involved in the life of our wonderful school. Volunteer, attend an event or game, or write a check. Anything you do to benefit Cleveland Central Catholic strengthens our whole community.

Leo P. Hyland  www.centralcatholichs.org
Advisory Board

CCC Alum John Peca '70 Named Chairman of Advisory Board

Long-time member John A. Peca has been named the Chair of the Cleveland Central Catholic Advisory Board. The purpose of the school's Advisory Board is to provide guidance, counsel and resource to the school's leadership team. Mr. Peca's two-year term became effective on July 1, 2013.

CCC President Leo P. Hyland said the timing of this transition coincides nicely with the school's plans to secure the future of CCC as a beacon of hope for Catholic co-educational promise in the city. Mr. Hyland also praised the leadership of outgoing board chair Frank Zombek and the other board members for their excellent support of CCC's mission. "Our community is truly blessed with an outstanding advisory board – and very fortunate to have strong leaders such as Frank Zombek and John Peca.”

Upon accepting this opportunity, Mr. Peca echoed his gratitude for Mr. Zombek's steady leadership over the past three years. Peca pointed out that Mr. Zombek helped guide CCC through an uncertain period, highlighted by the grand opening of the new Ben S. Stefanski Stadium, the creation of a five-year strategic plan, increased enrollment, and the upgrading of the school's website.

"These are exciting times for our school,” asserted the new chair. “The enrollment this year is the highest in over 20 years and for the first time in recent memory we have a waiting list on all four grade levels. These are dreams made true by incredible support from the Diocese of Cleveland and our generous neighbors and supporters. It was not that long ago when there was serious doubt in my mind that CCC could survive. Not only did we survive but we now stand at the beginning of a new era that has been the dream of everyone ever connected to the school.”

While there is much to celebrate at CCC this fall, Mr. Peca is realistic about the remaining fiscal challenges facing the school. "The focus of the Advisory Board over the next two years will be to maintain the standard of excellence we have established in our academic performance, address necessary capital repairs to our facilities and to lay the groundwork for a capital campaign that will drive us toward our Golden Anniversary (in 2019) and continue in our mission in the center of our city.”

2nd Annual 
RECOGNITION awards dinner

On this special evening, we come together as a community to recognize and celebrate several award winners for their contributions to the mission of Cleveland Central Catholic. Please plan on joining us!

Saturday, November 16, 2013
6:30 – 8:30 pm
CCC Wasmer Ironman Center
RSVP by November 12
Valet Parking
$25 per person

Among recipients – Faculty Awards: Lin Sinclair, Joe Kilburg, Chris Lottig
This past summer, several Central Catholic students, under the supervision of teachers Erin Kraly and Danielle Timko, continued the work of the garden club and planted a highly productive organic, mixed-use garden (flowers, herbs and vegetables) set in raised boxes in their community garden located near the school on East 67th Street.

The garden program was made possible by a generous, multi-year grant from Fairmount Minerals Foundation. The partnership with the foundation allows CCC students the opportunity to participate in urban agriculture, discover their untapped capabilities in the area of urban land stewardship, preservation of open space, cultivating community through working together, and understanding the importance of protecting their land, air and water. Integrated into the summer program is a hands-on life science class in horticulture. Horticulture science provides the opportunity to earn a half-year science credit.

“This class provides hands-on, cross-curricular learning. Our classroom is outdoors, with the exception of a thunderstorm,” says Danielle. “We tell our students that our garden is the classroom. We tell them to bring an enthusiastic attitude along with sunglasses, sunscreen, closed shoes, hats and plenty of water!”

They definitely responded enthusiastically to a new and creative project that was suggested by art teacher Erin Kraly. With her eye on helping students connect with the food they are harvesting, Erin showed the students how to make their own cooking spices from herbs. The students dried the leaves of a variety of herbs, mixed the herbs with other spices, and filled decoratively labeled jars designed by the Art Club. They even created their own club logo. The students tested their entrepreneurial skills at the school’s annual Welcome Back Day where they displayed and sold their garden goods in support of both the garden and art clubs.
Cleveland Central Catholic hosted a May luncheon to recognize friends and volunteers of the school community. Guests were treated to a lunch prepared by Family and Consumer Science students. CCC students were on hand to visit with the guests, and share their thoughts about their experience at Cleveland Central Catholic. The school is deeply grateful to everyone who supported these programs, and investing in another successful year.

Annual Donor Recognition Luncheon

Student Senate representative Shelby Roberts ’14, handed a check to Mark Tripodi, Executive Director, Cornerstone of Hope during the Awards Assembly in early June to recognize the valuable work provided by his organization. Cornerstone of Hope is dedicated to providing support, education, and hope for the grieving. Guided by Christian values of compassion and service, Cornerstone welcomes and serves all seeking support.

Students Raise $1,000 for Cornerstone of Hope

Student Senate representative Shelby Roberts ’14, handed a check to Mark Tripodi, Executive Director, Cornerstone of Hope during the Awards Assembly in early June to recognize the valuable work provided by his organization. Cornerstone of Hope is dedicated to providing support, education, and hope for the grieving. Guided by Christian values of compassion and service, Cornerstone welcomes and serves all seeking support.

University Hospitals Promote Healthy Living for Students

University Hospitals supported the efforts of student senate moderators Erin Kraly and Aaron Eatman by sponsoring a school drive focused on the promotion of healthy living. University Hospitals donated travel-size bags which included deodorant, a toothbrush and toothpaste, and shampoo to help over 100 freshmen kick off the school year. University Hospitals has supported service school projects that focus on activities and education that make a healthy difference.

Students from left to right: T. Bennett, Montel McRay, Jolyssa Muniz, William Hullum, Nina Harris, Freshly Fernandez, Hector Colon and Sha’ Spears.
Katherine Lewicki ’14 received the first St. Stan’s Class of ’61 Scholarship Award while a junior at Cleveland Central Catholic. Katherine is involved in her parish, St. Stanislaus, and civic engagements that explore her Polish heritage. To further explore her heritage, Katherine planned to save money for a summer trip to Poland. Between saving her paycheck and receiving support from the Polonia Foundation, and through a fundraising breakfast held at Katherine’s church, Katherine was able to spend her summer at a language institute in Krakow, Poland and tells her story here.

Tell us about your trip.

I travelled throughout Poland settling first in Warsaw where I stayed with a friend for my first week in Europe. I then moved on to Lublin, Poland. I spent time walking the university campus of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL). I travelled between cities mostly by bus, allowing me to explore the various regions of Poland. In southern Poland, I spent time in the town of Zakopane which lies in the valley of the Tatra Mountains bordering Slovakia. I ended my travels in Poland resting in a city near the Baltic Sea. After my classes were completed, I traveled to Rome and stayed at the Dom Polski Jana Pawla II (Polish Home of John Paul II). I learned about the religious, cultural and historical ties between the peoples and countries of Poland and Italy. While in Italy, I toured the Sistine Chapel and discovered the wonders of the Vatican. I also visited the Chiesa del Domine Quo Vadis which is a small church in the southeast of Rome. Here, according to legend, St. Peter met Jesus and asked him where he was going. Jesus answered that he was going to Rome to be crucified again. There are two footprints on a marble slab at the center of the church looked upon as the miraculous sign that Jesus left of his presence. The original, however, is kept in a nearby basilica.

What was the purpose of your trip?

The purpose of my trip was to learn Polish over the summer months. My father’s family emigrated from Europe to America in the 1950s and settled in Cleveland. So, given my Polish heritage, I wanted to fully immerse myself in the language and culture of the country. At eighteen I was also discovering Europe for the first time. I lived with host families while studying Polish at the Glossa Polish Language School in Krakow. I was the youngest among the students, and one of the only three Americans studying. I met people from France, Germany and Belgium who were learning the Polish language but were fluent in English.

Can you describe your typical day as a student in Poland?

My classes were held daily for three intensive hours. We had social activities which included tours of different cultural districts of the city of Krakow, attended movies and lectures. The group visited the Nowa Huta district in Krakow that was built by the Communist party. The district had a post-Communism bleakness about it but the Polish community is beginning to redevelop the city. At the end of the five-week term I received a diploma.

Did you enjoy the food?

My host family would prepare daily breakfast and dinner for me. The meals consisted of traditional Polish cuisine, such as chicken cutlets, pierogi, soups – cold and hot – and a drink called Kompot (known as compote in the States) which consists of homemade fruit and sugar. A Polish food that was new to me and now my favorite food are nalesniki or crepes with fruit.
How did the trip change you?

I left in early June, right after school ended, and took a bus to Chicago to stay with a friend who lives in the Ukranian Village. I was anxious about traveling alone to Poland. I flew into Warsaw. When my plane landed and I was on Polish soil I was in shock and awe. It dawned on me that I had a little over two months to be on my own without a good understanding of the language. I became comfortable traveling alone. I was less anxious once I settled into my daily school routine. The people were well-mannered, kind and helpful. The trip made me more open to exploring new cultures, and it gave me a better sense of independence. I feel more responsible. I learned to trust my instincts and cope on my own, without my family. I did check in with my mother on a daily basis to keep her connected.

How can your experience be shared with CCC students?

Avoid having regrets about not doing something that you want to experience. You can’t wait for something to happen – you have to work to make your dream a reality.

Don’t be afraid to try new things. I am so happy that I was able to experience a new culture, learn a new language, and make new friends that I will remain in contact with. I got to experience the Polish culture first hand, and through my own perspective and lens. I am currently applying for dual citizenship. Upon graduation from CCC, I plan to return to Poland to study at the Jagiellonian University. As a final note, I would like to extend my special thanks and gratitude to Father Eric, Pastor of St. Stanislaus, along with the parishioners of both St. Stanislaus and St. Casimir’s whose efforts supported me on this journey.
Our Extended Family

We often refer to our school as the Cleveland Central Catholic family. What does this really mean for our students? Family members support one another. Family members do not always get along but do work through their conflicts. In a family, even when experiencing ups and downs, love and care are always present.

Because it is our desire to provide a caring and nurturing environment for our students, we have expanded our advisory period to include monthly mentoring meetings. Last month each teacher met with 12-15 students individually to review their academic performance and behavior profiles. This experience is designed to provide students with an adult to connect with regularly. In addition to the meetings regarding academics and behavior, the teachers will also assist students with study skills, social skills and career planning.

These activities not only support our school improvement goal of metacognition which places the focus this year on study skills, it also provides students with an opportunity to connect with caring adults throughout their high school experience. It helps students to know what it means to be part of the Cleveland Central Catholic family.

May our good God bless you as an extended family member of our school community and for your generous commitment to the Cleveland Central Catholic family and all of its members.

One with you in Christ’s peace,

Sister Allison Marie Gusdanovic, S.S.D.
Learning to Lead, Preparing to Serve

Cleveland Central Catholic High School is a community of faith that is vibrant in the city and more! We are an inclusive “family of families” that works together to bring young women and men to Christ while also positioning them for success in life. The faith formation and academic preparation our students receive at Cleveland Central Catholic helps prepare them for a bright future.

Vital Stats

85%
of graduating class admitted to a college or university

$1.7 Million
was offered in scholarships to the Class of 2013

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE CENTRAL CATHOLIC FUND

Use the enclosed contribution envelope or visit centralcatholichs.org. Each dollar raised for the Central Catholic Fund is used for tuition assistance for our students. Your generosity is their hope!
In congratulating Joann Hynes, Ph.D. as one of the outstanding educators of Northeast Ohio with a Crystal Apple Award for 2012-2013, the Plain Dealer recognized something that decades of Cleveland Central Catholic students already knew – that “Mama” Hynes has been, and continues to be, without peer in her devotion to student success.

The official presentation took place at the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus, witnessed by the assembled student body when Coach John Lundy read the testimony acknowledging her nomination submitted by his son, Desmond Lundy. At other formal occasions, Dr. Hynes, robed in academic attire, serves as sergeant at arms to lead processions marking academic convocations or commencements.

But more often, Mama Hynes is not dressed in academic attire and is serving chicken soup or rigatoni to hungry athletes: this along with the non-stop individualized assistance to any student in need. After earning her B.S. degree from Notre Dame College with teaching certificates in physical education and biology, she came to Central in 1973-1974 and pursued a Master’s Degree in the late 1980s. “I went to Baldwin Wallace and worked on a degree in education with a specialty in students with special needs. This has been the most rewarding part of my teaching. I work to make sure that students who learn differently than the majority have the chance to be exposed to higher level math and science classes,” says Dr. Hynes. Unsettled by the whole idea of required testing for student graduation during the 1990s, she tried to do something about it. Equipped with her 2003 CSU doctorate in Urban Education with a specialty in policies, she keeps trying to change how state tests judge students. “I truly feel that graduation should be the job of the professionals in the school,” she adds.

Before becoming a cheerleader for special needs, Dr. Hynes literally lived Central history. As Joann Kasayka, she grew up in Holy Family Parish, a feeder school for Our Lady of Lourdes High School. Both brothers, the late Andy ’63 and Bobby ’67 went there, making it a natural choice. Sisters Roseann and Maryann attended Hoban and Byzantine. Mr. & Mrs. Kasayka were active in the Dads Club at Lourdes, so the family attended festivals, picnics and Sunday afternoon football games at Rhodes High School field.

Young Joann paid close attention to the cheerleaders and then come home to practice.
“I got to be that cheerleader!” is her response to a query about what was most fun in high school – along with being on the homecoming court.

A future CCC Athletic Hall of Famer looms large in her life story. “Vance Parks ’68 is my own personal hero. While we were travelling to a basketball game at Chanel during my sophomore year the bus was in an accident. I was hurt pretty badly by glass and had a concussion. Vance, superman that he was, carried me out of the bus to a place where I was taken care of until the ambulance came,” she recalls.

Remembering her senior year when news of consolidating schools began to brew, she recalls, “To those of us who were in school when the merger went down it was terrible...putting four rival schools together. I remember Father Fiala lecturing us and telling us we were no longer OLL but Lourdes Central Catholic. That is what my diploma reads. I can remember him trying to get us to sing a new Alma Mater that we refused to sing. Instead we went outside to the grotto of the Blessed Virgin and sang the OLL Alma Mater, after we got our diplomas.”

When she joined the staff in 1973-1974, Mrs. Hynes taught at all four campuses of that merged school, working side by side with her former instructors Dean Kinley, George Gackowski, Dale Lamirand, Dick McPhie and John Forrestal. She credits Patricia Lange, a.k.a. Sr. Mary John Anthony, SND, with teaching her how to teach math. Starting with health and physical education as her subjects, she coached cheerleading. When her mother, Evelyn Kasayka, became secretary at the Tremont Campus, the two became a dynamic duo at games until the venerable Mrs. Kasayka retired.

In the 1980s Mrs. Hynes moved on to physical science and algebra while travelling between Scranton and Forman. She recalls, “Those years were very special and again we grew as family because we had to fight for our existence. It seems odd that in the 1960s I was fighting against the merger and in the 1980s I was fighting for the school.”

In the 1990s while teaching math and science, her role in sports became that of academic coach, with much time spent at Forman. “I keep students in line and eligible,” she says. When husband Elmer passed away in 1999, “the students carried my spirits with them...they took care of me...the spirit of family was never stronger.”

With the Central Catholic family and her own family like intersecting sets, Mama Hynes recalls how her own sons Jason and Jeff “grew up under the bleachers. All of our kids did,” referring to CCC’s coaching and teaching staff. “It truly was a family affair.” Jason Hynes is married to Christine, and Jeff and his wife Amanda have just had their first child, Jacob. No doubt “the best little guy in the world” is the apple of her eye, as Mama Hynes adds “Grandma” to her titles.
Campuses Create Unique Central Family Tree

Science Wing Space Saved for New CCC

Now a comfortable conglomeration of CCC and founding school graduates, Cleveland Central Catholic alumni have the makings of a step family, related through common roots, yet identifying with diverse branches. The family tree of the Central Catholic family is unique, as unique as the school’s founding father, Rev. John L. Fiala, wanted it to be. While he might not have imagined the growth pattern and form that describe the current school, his vision for urban co-ed Catholic high school students planted a seed for change that has continued into its 45th year.

At some point in the first decade, the yearbook staff asked faculty members how long they had been at Central. The memorable William J. Kelley, a.k.a. Señor to countless Spanish students, identified himself then as one of the “founding fathers” who had bridged the gap from one of the four small parish high schools into the newly conceived Cleveland Central Catholic. Before this, he had served in the Peace Corps and came to St. Stanislaus High School to work in the second semester, beginning January 1969.

It started the day he signed his contract, literally speaking. As he officially joined the staff at Saints High, Principal Sr. Dolores, C.S.F.N. told him that the merger of four schools – Our Lady of Lourdes, St. John Cantius, St. Michael and St. Stanislaus – would be formally announced that day! A graduate of St. Ignatius High School, where he now teaches, Mr. Kelley was unfamiliar with these parish schools and the neighborhoods, but had a chance to experience the flavor of Saints, the nickname for St. Stans High School, for one semester. He got involved in the musical production, focusing on set design. He recalls the shop in the basement where the wood was stored under a false floor in the basin of the would-be swimming pool. One clear glimpse into that time: a student journalist devoted to The Spire, wishing that St. Stans and its top-notch newspaper would continue.

To develop a new curriculum, Fr. Fiala conducted “Teach-Ins” where combined faculty
developed the curriculum for the new school. “Everything had to be creative,” says Kelley. There was a great ferment in education at the time, and Central was at the cusp of it. Fr. Fiala wanted each faculty member to teach a course designed to showcase the teacher’s interests. Kelley describes it as “a very creative atmosphere in which to start teaching” and remarks that there was not a lot of resistance to thinking in new ways. As a young teacher, however, he was not aware of all cross currents, but witnessed some tension as the staffs transitioned to a new school.

Lots of renovations were accomplished in a short time frame, from June 1 to September 1, but the facilities were not ready for the traditional start of the school year. A temporary schedule, with core subjects and simpler even than the four schools originally had used, was created for the first six weeks or so. Kelley recalls that there were no doors on any classrooms at Scranton, the former St. Michael’s, on the first day of school! They had not yet arrived.

Over the years, other witnesses attest to the excitement of the “new” school. Mark Sabo ’72 began his high school career at St. Michael’s High School, the oldest of the merging schools. The parish school, housed in a landmark Scranton Road structure, began adding high school classes early in the 20th century, ahead of the other three founding schools. So St. Mike’s had started with a look that was decades older, giving the renovations so much more impact when the students began the next year at the new CCC. Besides that, their school now included the expanded classroom space of the other buildings. On the other side of town, the central offices (no pun intended) moved from Our Lady of Lourdes, on East 55th and Broadway, a few blocks to St. Stans, now tagged the Forman Campus. Bill Divis, science teacher and later counselor, has been a great oral historian over the years, often telling the story of moving Fr. Fiala’s magnet board to his new office at Forman. A giant display board loaded with magnets of varied colors and lengths, it showed the flexible modular scheduling of the new master schedule of the unique four-campus school in progress.
To maximize the combined space of the four buildings with flexible modular scheduling, each campus focused on specialized facilities for academic departments. Students might spend two days at one campus and three days at another, with different classes in each building. Along with basic subjects, Tremont would include vocational courses, Scranton would include dramatics and journalism and Broadway would focus on business training. At Forman, the plan for art and science focus necessitated construction of a science wing.

Originally designed to occupy the corner of East 67th and Forman, the octagonal science wing, with four labs and a lecture hall, was dropped to save costs. Science labs were installed or upgraded at the Broadway and Tremont Campuses instead. In 1976, Sr. Alberta and her art students used the empty corner land for the Tree of Faith, and painted the Bicentennial Wall behind it. In the 1980s and 1990s the lot provided convenient parking for mobile units that housed special education classes. The other end of the block, where East 67th joins Baxter Avenue, had always been a bus cage or parking lot. An architectural plan for the Forman Campus Science Wing was published in the 1970 Ingot yearbook, the only remnant of that idea as the school moved forward as a multi-campus institution.

To merge former rival schools into one impacted sports and activities, and at times students polarized into east and west sides. An early neighborhood cleanup included groups that started on both sides of town, meeting on the Clark Avenue Bridge, a vital link for the city and the school back in the 1970s. Over the years, travel between campuses during the day became a reality, and new routes, like the Harvard-Denison Bridge, came into use. With the construction of I-490, Central Catholic gained the distinction of having classrooms linked by an interstate highway!
Impacted by the city’s economy and the expense of maintaining old buildings, the campus system remained in place until 2003. Central left Broadway in the 1970s, and Tremont in the late 1980s. For more than a decade, the daily schedule for Scranton and Forman included bus runs as a routine, and Central settled into its mission of educating urban youth in a multicultural environment. As the new millennium approached, Central Catholic concluded that investment in a single site would determine its future. With an eye on Slavic Village redevelopment, the campuses combined at the Forman location in 2003. The multi-campus era ended, the mission remained, and the new face of Central Catholic emerged at this site: a neighborhood anchor, now visible from Broadway Avenue through Stefanski Stadium, the long-awaited home of the Ironmen.

Saved by some providential hand for its new purpose, the science wing space became the site of groundbreaking in 2005. With the ThirdFederal Education Center and Wasmer Ironman Center accessed by way of the Glickman Family Atrium, the corner of East 67th and Baxter leads into not only a new structural space, but a new era of CCC history. From four founding schools and the multi-campus era, Central Catholic has evolved into a single expanded location where its mission of educating urban youth can remain in focus.

In the meantime, the heritage of the founding schools has not been lost. Inspired by Jerry Hughes ’63 OLL, the first Grand Reunion, bringing back the graduates of those great parish schools, became a reality in 2004. While reconnecting with these earlier alumni, administrative secretary Judy Fields and Betty Bican ’63 OLL helped reconstruct the roots of CCC. Helped by alumni of various years who had planned class reunions, the three-day event became a milestone for alumni affairs and contacts. Hearing the story of this process at her own 50th reunion events, Irma Baker ’63 OLL said philosophically, “That’s when you became a school,” adding that Central Catholic was able to step back and recognize its own identity. Frequently on campus as a volunteer, Marge Horvat ’63 OLL said, “When I come into the building, it feels like home.” Founding school grads, like Central Catholic alumni who attended all the campuses, are part of a great family tree: one with many branches, now firmly planted in its Slavic Village neighborhood.
School News

Music Fills Halls of CCC
Art, Dramatics Reveal Student Talents

Two spring concerts gave evidence to Cleveland Central Catholic’s expanding music program. One evening included Motown and gospel choir vocals, and a May concert featured the instrumental music performance.

Products of the Art Club’s efforts appeared in first floor ceiling tiles, highlighting Central’s academic departments and clubs. The Drama Club performed for the third time down the street at Alliance of Poles, and seniors organized a fund-raising fashion show.

Clockwise from above: Julio Rivera, Ky’ana Scott and Teleza Reeves; Music teacher Mrs. Traci Jones; Drummers Salvatore Torrisi, Corey Gunther, Oche Heard and TreVon Clark; On trombones: Deion Brown and Nikolas Adamczewski; Inset: Jordan Thompson indicates “thumbs up” to instrumental music.
FROM LEFT: Je’Lisa Nowden-Perry ’13 models prom attire. Staff members of Representative Marcia L. Fudge award Halle Davis first place honors in painting at the Eleventh Congressional District Art Competition in May. Pendeza Wadisisi, Guillarmo Meza, Loren Swisher, Makayla Fagan and Oche Heard perform in the Drama Club spring play.

Art Club

Check out the new look on the first floor hall – an ongoing Art Club project.
Before the season started, the Cleveland Central Catholic football players claimed a larger territory than their home turf at Stefanski Stadium. Armed with brooms and trash bags on August 1, two groups marched through the Slavic Village neighborhood, collecting litter. Sporting team jerseys, the Ironman gathered fans and advertised upcoming games. Led by Coach John Lundy, one group started at Harvard, while another contingent covered the Fleet Avenue area under the guidance of Coach Jayce Bailey ’06. After a team photo at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, the Ironmen enjoyed lunch provided by Tiffany Bufford, mother of DuShawn Harris.

Earlier this summer on June 29, CCC’s skill players took top honors at the Chris Chambers C.A.T.C.H. 84 Tournament 7 on 7 Skills Camp at Bedford High School. Showing courage and sportsmanship and working as a unit, the Ironmen faced Brush, Shaw, Glenville, Collinwood, Westlake and John Hay. Senior wide receiver Kie’Sean Cooke made the game-winning catch, previewing his contributions in early season games.
To view more CCC game photos, go to Allen Clark’s website:
www.ironmanfilmworks.org

Competing in the 2013 state track tournament, junior Michael King represented Central in the 200- and 400-meter regional finals, with Sterling Stoner in the 800. Both had been integral to competitive relay teams. Teammate Brandon Brown shared a track medal with Jose Dybzinski ’16, who admired his schoolmate’s success in fulfilling the dream of being a track star.
Sports Stories Unite Inductees At Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony

Honoring accomplishments of athletes who attended Cleveland Central Catholic and its founding schools, the Athletic Hall of Fame 2013 Induction Ceremony covered a lot of ground. With dual presentations linked by a dinner on April 28, the Wasmer Ironman Center event gave due credit to icons of CCC sports history.

With honorees from three of its founding schools, Central Catholic found itself in a unique position: inductees had once played for rival schools, making former opponents now united in the same hall of fame at the merged CCC. Spotting one-time foes in the crowd, inductees pooled collective memories to create a lively picture of the good old days and an early history of parish high school sports.

Described as a player, protégé and lifelong friend of Central legend Len Janiak, Dave DiCarlo ’56 St. Stans played varsity football for four years, then returned as the Saints basketball coach. Connecting with many other inductees, he recalled either playing with or coaching against them in the 1960s. From the other side of town, Don Szymczak ’58 SJC, said it was “an honor to be inducted with my fellow Cantian players,” after his walk off home run in a classic 1-0 game highlighted a list of impressive stats. His 12 varsity letters duly noted, John Springer ’58 St. Stans entertained the crowded with memories of high school days in the neighborhood: with Jerry Tucholski and Dave Porter, he washed herses at Golubski’s. Knowing that “after three minutes, the polka music starts playing,” he ended saying, “Mr. Janiak is one of the reasons I’m here.”
Founding School Inductees

Dave DiCarlo ’56 St. Stans - Football, Football Coach
John Springer ’58 St Stans - Football, Basketball
Don Szymczak ’58 SJC - Baseball, Basketball
Ken Wisniewski ’59 St Stans - Football, Baseball
Dan Coleman ’60 OLL - (deceased) - Basketball
Rich Sunyak ’64 SJC - Basketball, Baseball
Charlie Oreskovic ’64 OLL - Basketball, Football
John Rivera ’64 OLL - Football, Wrestling, Track

Central Catholic Inductees

Ron Shannon ’73 - Football
Bruce Sebera ’74 - Football, Baseball
Trent Grooms ’76 - Basketball
Melvin Terrell ’80 (deceased) - Football, Track
Denise Zerucha ’82 - Softball, Basketball, Volleyball, Bowling
Jerry Fasko ’69 - ’83 - Football Coach
David Lasecki ’87 - Football, Baseball
Joe LaBella ’76 - ’87 (deceased) - Basketball Coach, Athletic Director

RIGHT, FROM TOP: Rick Sunyak ’64 SJC accepts his award at the festive Wasmer Ironman Center event. Son Chris Springer presents John Springer ’58 St. Stans, noting his father’s 12 varsity letters. A 2008 inductee, committee member Gene Bernhard ’68 SJC works behind the scene and at the event. INSET: Ken Wisniewski ’59 St. Stans. ABOVE LEFT: Only at CCC: Athletes from rival schools join ranks in one Hall of Fame: Charlie Oreskovic ’64 OLL and Dave DiCarlo ’56 St. Stans. LEFT: John Rivera ’64 OLL and classmate Dale "Bird" Ptak, who needed no notes to recall tales of the good old days when presenting his teammate.
Our Lady of Lourdes Crusaders formed strong friendships while building the school’s athletic program. Speaking about his late co-captain Dan Coleman ‘60 OLL, classmate Ed Fleming recalled Dan’s character and humility along with his command of the basketball court. When Dan put up 32 points to challenge visiting Canton Central Catholic, this new opponent was glad to leave the little neighborhood school. Coleman and his team drew crowds to the new gym at Lourdes, forging a tradition for later Crusaders in other sports.

Teammate Dale “The Bird” Ptak ‘64 OLL was there and didn’t need to write a speech. “I just have to remember (John) Rivera...he played every down. Wrestling was just getting started -- we didn’t know anything – but John at 134 weight could pin the whole team ... For track we didn’t have any equipment – we just ran around the block!” In introducing another classmate, Bird recalled. “Charlie (Oreskovic) played both ways – he never stepped off the (football) field. Tall enough to be mistaken for a coach while in high school, Charlie credited coaches who inspired, Joe Benes in particular. He also recalled a contest against Rich Sunyak ‘64 SJC on the basketball court. Connecting past and present, Sunyak said, “Individual awards are given to players lucky enough to be coached by great coaches and play on great teams ...Thanks for making me and my family part of the Central Catholic family.”

Teammate Bernie Sokolowski ‘73 introduced the CCC era with Ron Shannon, a great fullback who ground out yards. Ron starred on Coach McPhie’s “best frosh team in CCC history” as a freshman, playing both ways. Gridiron teammate Bruce Sebera ‘74 also played basketball and baseball. “He started his baseball career right over there, where your field is, in Little League,” noted Barney Sebera ‘74 when introducing his brother. Bruce said, “Now I have a new team to belong to – the CCC Hall of Fame.”

Introduced by his former coach Gary Rudolf, Trent
Inductee Ron Shannon ‘73 with teammate presenter Bernie Sokolowski ‘73


Brother Tom Fasko ‘75 presents former coach Jerry Fasko ‘65 OLL, right; FAR RIGHT: former coach Jim Serluco lists accomplishments of the late coach Joe LaBella (inset) with emcee John Simon ‘72.

Grooms ‘76 was described as “the first great basketball player at CCC.” After amazing improvements yearly during his high school career, he set records at Kent State. Because of her unwavering devotion, Trent’s late mother figured largely in stories of his success. Just as Grooms set a high bar for Central basketball, the late Melvin Terrell ‘80 started on CCC’s first winning football team. After getting a kidney from his father, he played in the U.S. Transplant Games, winning the bronze medal in shot put. Fellow Ironman John Malcolm recalled Terrell’s impact, saying “Never a football season goes by that I don’t think of him.”

Describing Denise Zerucha ‘82 as “one of the best athletes I’ve ever coached,” Joe Kilburg noted that she is the only Central Catholic athlete to have earned four letters in a single year: for volleyball, basketball, softball and bowling. Remarkng on Coach Kilburg and the beginning of Lady Ironmen sports, she said, “We gave it our all, and so did he.” His achievements on the diamond and gridiron duly cataloged, Dave Lasecki ‘87 credited his mentors, noting “the power of sports and influential coaching as life-changing experiences.”

Two coaches from Central’s early decades merited Hall of Fame status. Introducing his brother Jerry Fasko ‘65 OLL, Tom Fasko ‘75 gave witness to early CCC football history as a player and a coach, describing the staff with “camaraderie second to none.” “The coaches I worked with are lifelong friends,” said Jerry Fasko. In testimony for the late Joe LaBella, Jim Serluco spoke about his four decades in coaching, saying, “Coaches everywhere, in all sports, knew Joe.” Remarkng about coming “back home here” for the event, Serluco said, “When I run into someone from Central Catholic, I feel better…and you all know about that.”

Visit the school website www.centralcatholichs.org and look in “Documents Central” for the entire 2013 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony program.
June Golf Outing Sets Records

The Alumni Golf Outing on June 8 set three records: all-time high 132 golfers, number of $100 “hole” sponsors and over $5,000 raised by the Central Catholic Alumni Association. Nick Russo, Sr. ’71 (pictured above, right) provided a generous $500 event sponsorship from R.S. Industries, Inc. – Commercial Food & Baking Equipment Sales & Service.

Coincidentally, Nick and his son’s team shot the best score. Former coaches volunteered along with alumni to acquire door prizes and to serve beverages, lunch and dinner. The event takes place each year at Valleaire Golf Course on the second Saturday in June. Save the date and contact Tim Myslenski (myslenski@att.net) or Jerry Fasko (jfasko@yahoo.com) for details.

Carl Springer ’72, Nikki Johnson, Mike Johnson ’78, Fran Springer Johnson ’78

1972 Classmates Jerry Petkoff and Matt Kohn

1994 Classmates Chris Moran and Javier Smith (Offensive tackle #74 says, “He didn’t appreciate me until 20 years later.”)

Paul Zanella and Al Wetula ’86
1974 Classmates Kevin Holdash and Ken Matt
Tom Calton ’86 and Shane Deligatt
Sean O’Brien, Jr. and Joe Kilburg
Left: Jason Peters ’96; below: Tim Myslenski and Jarallah Amer ’96
In saying that “a huge crowd of celebrants enjoyed a beautiful day,” President Leo Hyland summarized the 3rd Annual Welcome Back on August 31. Among those attending, students, parents, neighbors and alumni found special meaning in the festivities.

Nancy Starner ’71 and Rita Wood Prinzo ’71 enjoyed being cheerleaders at the new CCC of the early 1970s. After a school tour, they felt like cheerleaders again when arriving at Stefanski Stadium. Another alum Richard Wisniewski ’53 St. Stans had played for Len Janiak back in the day, and wished he could line up on the field with his Panthers football squad. Art Club and Garden Club added spice to the day with sales of herbs grown in CCC’s garden along with decorated flower pots.

Special thanks to the Third Federal Foundation for sponsoring the day, and to Slavic Village Development. Pam Shelley organized a small army of adult helpers, while Mr. Antonio Camargo and the CCC Athletic Boosters fed legions of hungry guests. With a resounding 56-0 victory, the varsity Ironmen and a nice breeze carried the day.
Class of 1963 Our Lady of Lourdes
Leaves Crusader Legacy from 50th Reunion

Before and after their 50th reunion weekend in August, members of the Our Lady of Lourdes Class of 1963 assured their legacy as Crusaders forever. Remembering the past, a CD featured the church and the school as foundations for life, noting that the choral class recorded on a Christmas in Cleveland album back in 1962. For the reunion event, Dick Auner (below, next to easel) prepared a beautifully framed Crusader logo, along with names and signatures of class members. A 1963 OLL committee presented the framed displays to the CCC archives, reconnecting this founding school to Central Catholic with their gift.
1967 OLL
Larry Chabowski graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes High School in 1967, not 1966 as reported in the last Connection.

1970
Theodore P. Stryczny has retired after 39 years with East Ohio Gas Company and now is a hobbyist. His wife of 39 years, Marion Timm Stryczny ’73 is a successful quilter. He says, “We enjoyed her reunion recently,” adding, “It was well done.” As parents of Gwen, Audrey, Theodore and Joann, they also have five grandkids.

1973
Nancy Klima Engle works as a claims administrator. She and husband Michael reside in Independence and have two grown sons, Tom and Dan.

1974
Frank Lucas graduated from Johnson and Wales in 1986 and has an associates in applied science degree. He lists his occupation as cook, semi-retired.

1977
Derek Gilmore was impressed with the campus and Stefanski Stadium in a July visit. Forging old and new connections, he found his football team photo in the last edition of this publication.

1979
Larry Rodgers attended the University of Akron/PSI Institute, majored in digital electronics and graduated in 1985. He works as a distribution supervisor.

1981
Robert Mihalik visited in July, spotting Mrs. Hynes (above), who taught him along with sibs and cousins at Tremont and Scranton.

1983
Suzanne Krupansky majored in nursing at Kent State University and graduated in 1988.

1984
Mark Kassimer and wife Karen now live in Ashland and his job is tech support. Mark says he is “finally back in Ohio after 20 yrs of moving around the country building and operating waterparks” for “Wet-n-Wild” out of Las Vegas.

2005
Krista Piotrowski-Rizvi and husband Asad Rizvi have a six-months old child, Nooriya Zahra Rizvi. Employed in human resources at Sears, Krista earned her liberal arts degree from Cleveland State University in 2010.

2007
John Cameron Davis majored in recording arts at Cuyahoga Community College and works as a vacation specialist out of Oakland, CA. “Cam” visited CCC last spring and explained his entrepreneurial venture. “We replace the need for a travel agent. Potential travelers can come to my website to book vacations and save money. We offer monthly $69 cruises, daily discounts on food, fun activities, discounts in over 1,000 stores in your local mall, and over 700 vacations per year. You can reach me at jsdangles@gmail.com for more info., or call and it will be returned within the next 48 hours. Thanks! God Bless!”

2010
Kelton Latson was featured in “Author Alley” sponsored by Loganberry Books at the Larchmere Festival, one of 50 authors there to discuss their books. At the festival, CCC advancement assistant Pat Ayers spotted former teacher Marianne Sroka, who made the Central Catholic connection. Pat said, “I met him and he was such a nice young man, very polite and friendly and couldn’t say enough about CCC. I purchased his book, Kel’s Poetry Blues, for the CCC Library and he happily wrote a wonderful dedication to all. (Shown right) “To Cleveland Central Catholic HS – Thank you for all of your support from throughout all these years. From the teaching, staff and students, and especially my 2010 classmates, Thank you! Kelton Latson”

IN MEMORIAM
Patricia McCaulley Haney, SMHS (St. Michaels High School) ’47 passed away on August 24, 2012. Her husband, John Haney, called to tell us how much he loved the magazine – so bright and colorful.

Joe Bonomo ’64 OLL passed away this summer in Texas where he had lived following retirement from the Air Force. He enjoyed the first Grand Reunion in 2004. His sister Del Rita graduated from CCC in 1971.

December. Stopping in to visit CCC during her last spring break, she remarked, “I miss Central. The teachers, staff and all the organizations provided me with the foundation I needed to be successful. Thank you.”
Reunions

Reunion Events Held

1963 / St. Michael’s High School
Twenty-nine former classmates attended the reunion in July 2013 at Mavis Winkle’s Irish Pub in Independence.

1973 / Cleveland Central Catholic
Sixty former classmates attended a reunion in July. They also raised money for The Central Catholic Fund. Georgiana Schamberger Mindzora reports “I had a great time catching up with High School friends.”

Keith Turner ’83 Visits
Former CCC football player and Hall of Famer Keith Turner ’83 and family visited Cleveland in July. Former football coach Jerry Fasko ’65 OLL organized a social for former coaches and players in the Father Fiala Room which allows for a great view of Stefanski Stadium. Keith was amazed at the transformation of the campus. Keith has been coaching junior college football for over 25 years and is currently the head coach at Fond du Lac College in Minnesota.

1964 / St. John Cantius
WHAT: 50th Class Reunion
WHEN: September 5, 2014
WHERE: 100th Bomb Group Restaurant on Brookpark Road
CONTACT: Carole Pianka Semuniak – cccc8576@aol.com or 440-263-3656.
We need your help!
Send us your current contact information:
alumni@centralcatholichs.org

Calendar of Events

Incoming Class of 2018 – Scholarship/Placement Exam Dates
(All tests are Scholarship based) Parents and Administrators Q&A during test times

Tuesday, November 12 5:00 to 6:15 pm
Thursday, November 21 5:00 to 6:15 pm
Tuesday, December 10 5:00 to 6:15 pm
Tuesday, January 7 5:00 to 6:15 pm

For more information contact Admissions Coordinator, Ms. Carmella Reiger at admissions@centralcatholichs.org or (216) 651-2056

Celebration of the Eucharist with Most Reverend Bishop Richard Lennon
Monday, December 2 9:30 am at St. Stanislaus Church

Christmas Concert at CCC
Thursday, December 12 5:30 pm

Alumni Night at the Hoops
Friday, December 27
CCC vs. Lake Catholic High School
Junior Varsity 6:00 pm
Varsity 7:30 pm

Two First-Time CCC Events!
On Dec 27th the CCC 2007 Girls State Championship Team and Jantel Lavender will be inducted into the CCC Athletic Hall of Fame and on Jan 30th CCC will be retiring Earl Boykins' jersey. Follow CCC website for details.

SAVE THE DATES:
Calcutta Annual Auction Wednesday, March 19, 2014
Golf Outing June, 14, 2014 (tentative)
Grand Reunion Friday, Saturday, Sunday, June 20, 21, 22, 2014