Cleveland Central Catholic Celebrates 50th Anniversary!

Also inside:

A Portrait of Courage and Vision
Three religious congregations enhance CCC’s spiritual environment
CCC receives $1 million gift from Chase Family Foundation
CCC welcomes two new Advisory Board members
And more...
Mission

Cleveland Central Catholic High School is a coeducational school rooted in the Gospel values of Jesus Christ and focused on college and career readiness. Our mission is to challenge and encourage our students to excel academically, to deepen their faith in God, and to live a life of service, so that they may face the future with confidence and hope.
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www.centralcatholichs.org
From the President

Leo Hyland

“Central Catholic has come a long way over this half century, and we are enjoying the satisfaction of this achievement – even as we prepare for our exciting future.”

CCC’s Gratitude and a Positive Attitude

This school year we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the opening of Cleveland Central Catholic in 1969. Central Catholic has come a long way over this half century, and we are enjoying the satisfaction of this achievement – even as we prepare for our exciting future. One highlight of this special occasion is sharing our gratitude with God and all who have made this school’s success possible.

On Saturday, September 7, some 300 of Cleveland Central Catholic’s closest friends and advocates gathered together to reflect on our school’s past, celebrate its present, and envision an even brighter future. We were honored to have Bishop Nelson Perez celebrate Mass with us at the Shrine Church of Saint Stanislaus, right on our campus. Bishop Emeritus Anthony Pilla and Reverend Neil O’Connor joined in the Liturgy, and Bishop Roger Gries also attended the celebratory event that followed. On a gorgeous evening, we had a wonderful cross-section of all CCC constituents (students, parents, alumni, current and former faculty and staff members, current and former board members, donors, neighbors and friends, etc.) come together to thank God and salute CCC’s unique mission of urban Catholic education.

When I consider the many challenges that Cleveland Central Catholic has overcome, it is truly impressive that our amazing school continues to thrive. Certainly, this is due to the grace of God, but I also want to express my thanks to all those who have committed themselves to CCC’s mission in so many important ways. In particular, the school’s administration and faculty have shown such enormous faith and conviction that the school has weathered many storms and continues to serve our students and their families. The ability of the CCC Family to consistently pull together in a “can do” way is inspirational.

This positive attitude permeates our CCC community. We witness this in the extraordinary commitment of our faculty in serving our students’ many needs. We see it when our students are out in the community, working on service projects. We appreciate it when our volunteer board members work tirelessly to provide strategic direction, promote our school’s brand, and generate the precious resources we need to succeed each year. We especially embrace it when our seniors graduate, ready for college, military service, technical training or the work force.

As we turn the page into the next chapter of the amazing story of Cleveland Central Catholic, I invite each of us to renew our commitment to this important ministry. We need your prayers, your interest, your passion, your volunteer time, and your financial support. Cleveland Central Catholic is a very positive community – filled with hope and boldly moving forward. Please join us!

Leo Hyland
From the Principal

*Sister Allison Marie, SND*

Recently, I attended the Poetry Slam held at Cleveland Central Catholic where students presented poems that they have written. As each student came forward to present a poem, it became very clear that our students are eager and willing to share their gifts and talents in ways that are not immediately apparent when first meeting them.

The poems presented were filled with reflections on their own life experiences and areas of concern as members of our global society. The richness and depth was beyond what might be expected from high school students. One young man shared a poem that reflected on his relationship with his father and a second poem about how reconnecting with his father impacted his relationship with his mother. In sharing these poems it was evident that young people are seeking deep relationships with those who mean the most to them.

As I reflected on my experience as a spectator at the Poetry Slam, I noticed that the students affirmed one another at the conclusion of each poem presented. Although this was a competition with staff members judging the quality of the poem and its delivery, there was a genuine appreciation demonstrated for their fellow poets. Getting up in front of the group and presenting a poem means taking a risk to allow oneself to be vulnerable, to share one’s deepest feelings, and to trust that this vulnerability will be met with support and affirmation.

Our students and staff did not disappoint. Two staff members presented poems acting as bookends to the competition. In each poem presented by staff and students, it was easy to identify four of the five core values: courage, creativity, commitment and hope, both in the content of the poem and in its presentation. Once again, it made me realize how our students and staff truly embody the mission of Cleveland Central Catholic and that they are the true messengers of what we are about as a school.

It is my hope and my prayer that each day we will continue to focus on why we do what we do here at Cleveland Central Catholic. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school and its mission. May our good God bless you today and each day for your collaboration with us as we strive to live out the core values and the mission of Cleveland Central Catholic High School in all that we say and do.

One with you in the Peace of Christ,

*Sister Allison Marie, SND*
CCC Celebrates 50-Year Anniversary

At the start of the 1990s, masterful scheduling by Sister Karen Lyons, CSJ, made it work on the academic front. Single-choice offerings, like advanced math or Spanish IV, required students to travel to the other campus. The same was true for classes like Foods or Photography, which had a lab in only one building. Daily bus runs were built into the routine before school, at lunch time, and after school so students could attend classes for a half day on the opposite side of town. Getting to and from Cleveland Central Catholic was never easy, but it became more efficient.

Staff stability helped CCC settle into Forman and Scranton. Still, sports teams all vied for practice space in Saint Stanislaus Social Center gym. Lin Sinclair, who retired in 2013, remembers how a CCC institution evolved: “Study table came into existence because basketball practices could not start until 3:30 p.m. The coaches had other responsibilities until that time. Athletic Director Dean Kinley approached Joann Hynes, Maryhelen Bednarchik and Ellen Howard and asked if they would keep the athletes in their rooms until practice started so they could get some homework done.” At first athletes resented the loss of “free time” but eventually learned to focus on academic responsibilities. They also learned that, for some athletes, lunch was their last meal of the day. CCC’s dedicated staff started providing a snack during study table. Ramen noodles were a great favorite. Then, team meals were established on game days.

“We cooked a lot of pasta and chicken soup over the years which was originally subsidized by Joann’s mother (Evelyn Kasayka) and my father,” Ellen Fasko Howard ’66 OLL recalls. “Teams ate family style. Varsity players set up tables and lead prayer and JV served as the cleanup crew. No hats or electronics at the table! Team unity was built, nutritional needs were met while grades and social skills were improved.” This routine stayed in place until the 2000s.”

Principal Fr. Neil O’Connor shepherded the school from the late 1970s until his appointment as pastor of St. Columbkille Parish in 1992. Big changes in the Diocese of Cleveland included the closing of Erieview Catholic High School. With this closing, CCC inherited staff and physical property, including newer classroom desks and other furnishings. During these transitional years Sr. Patricia Finn, CSJ provided capable administrative leadership.

Adding to Cleveland Central Catholic’s presence in the city, CCC’s basketball teams enjoyed the arrival of Earl Boykins, who would go on to play in the NBA.

When she became the next principal, Janice Rocosalva created committees to formulate a mission statement, core values and a vision statement. Plus, she also formed a ROOTS committee, headed by administrator George Gackowski, to document the memories and tales of CCC through the years. The resulting document encapsulated the journey of CCC from four founding parish high schools to the dynamic, inner-city, co-ed Catholic high school it had become in the 1990s.

The Central Catholic community enjoyed some ongoing traditions that spanned the decade. Each school year began with a theme, established at an opening assembly and liturgy, for the whole student body at the Forman Campus. Homecoming parades included class floats and cars decorated for the route to Ripp Field at Chanel High School. An active Student Senate and class councils planned a calendar of student activities, such as the Battle...
team merited a district championship in Division III state tournament play. During the winter of 1993-94 Ironmen fans were busy with tournament playoff games with both boys and girls basketball teams becoming Division III district champs. In 1995 Delbert Cowsette, heavyweight on a small wrestling team, became Division II state champion, a prime example of CCC providing a venue for individual success. His teammate Dirul Nassar placed 5th in that state tournament. The school put a soccer team on the field in the early 1990s, and bowlers competed for a city championship in 1995. Extracurriculars, like sports at CCC, had ups and downs. The live musical productions of the early 1990s represented a periodic burst of energy, product of student talents combined with faculty efforts.

On an introspective side, campus and peer ministry groups emerged, along with SADD, Breaking the Ice and Helping Hand Clubs. Students served meals at St. Augustine Hunger Center while Academic Challenge and Chess Club focused student minds.

Near the decade’s end, experienced administrators Sr. Joanne Keppler, SND and Anastasia Dulick appeared on the scene. Miss Dulick initiated the annual Christmas program on the Scranton Campus. A local group, including some Central Catholic alumni, Ritmo y Raza, appeared at the 1998 assembly with costumes, music and dances of Puerto Rico. They were featured again the following February at Youth & The Church in the City at CCC’s Scranton Campus. More than 300 students, educators, and guests attended the half-day forum designed to challenge and engage young people in Bishop Anthony M. Pilla’s Church in the City initiative.

Development efforts, like a Phonathon, Alumni Night at Jacob’s Field, and an expanding newsletter, led to increased alumni contact. CCC established a partnership with The MetroHealth System, including career exploration and awards for student achievement. In 1997 an annual breakfast concert, featuring a choral performance and student art display, was initiated to recognize individuals and foundations that supported Cleveland Central Catholic.

All this time, BINGO games provided essential funds, having moved to an off-campus site. Traditional fundraisers, like the candy drive, gave way to development office efforts when the school’s stated mission coincided with the community’s apparent needs.

Changing demographics and economics of the student population provided an appealing case for grant funding. Looking at the big picture, the need for keeping Catholic education accessible to students living in Cleveland loomed ever larger. The question was how to leverage Central’s existing resources to best meet and grow this need.
On Sept. 7, CCC’s Advisory Board, administration, staff, alumni and friends officially celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the opening of Cleveland Central Catholic High School in 1969. More than 275 guests gathered to participate in a Mass and celebration under a tent on campus. The Liturgy was celebrated by Bishop Nelson Perez, with Bishop Emeritus Anthony Pilla and former CCC Principal Rev. Neil O’Connor joining in the service. Bishop Roger Gries attended the celebration event, too.

The Mass was a perfect way to begin the evening. Bishop Perez spoke eloquently about how Catholic education has played such an important role on this campus and throughout Cleveland for several generations. He also poignantly touched on how our society and city has changed – and how the Catholic Church has courageously responded. He spoke of how Cleveland Central Catholic is one positive outcome of the changes we have experienced. He also emphasized the importance of the Church continuing its commitment to the mission of Catholic education, particularly in the city, and how our mission is to carry out God’s will.

Bishop Pilla also spoke of the importance of CCC and reminded all that the “church” is us – the people who form it. Both men spoke of their affinity for CCC students and school, and the strong commitment of those who serve in the school’s mission. Bishop Perez also blessed all who serve in this mission.
Whenever the topic of Cleveland Central Catholic’s history is discussed, one name always comes up, Bishop Anthony Pilla. It would be remiss to write about the history of this school without reflecting back on the turbulent years when suburban flight was occurring in the city of Cleveland, church attendance was declining, and many corporate-minded parishioners and diocesan workers were calling for Cleveland Central Catholic’s closing in the name of “efficiency.”

As CCC President Leo Hyland exclaims, “This school would not be here today if it were not for the courage and vision of Bishop Anthony Pilla.” Thanks to his dedication, hard work and insight, Bishop Pilla was able to change the mindset of northeast Ohio Catholics to share the financial responsibility for this once struggling urban school.

However, Bishop Pilla is not one to accept the title of hero, much less superhero. “Catholics, as well as people of other faiths, were the heroes,” Bishop Pilla humbly reflects. “We needed to have all their help to save Cleveland Central Catholic.”

“The 1980s were a time when the city had problems. There was tremendous migration out of Cleveland’s ethnic neighborhoods, including Slavic Village, to the suburbs. The cost of education was going higher and higher because of lower enrollment and fewer religious available to staff classrooms,” Bishop Pilla remembers.

“Five pastors from inner-city parishes came in and talked to me one day. They described how hard it was to minister in the city. They admitted they didn’t know if they would have a parish in the city in a few years. I could understand their problem.”

Bishop Pilla says advisors recommended closing CCC rather than “throw good money after bad.” Many others did not want CCC to stay open because many students were not Catholic. These arguments simply did not resonate with Bishop Pilla. He stood his ground. “Many corporations don’t think the Church understands, but how many corporations have been around for 2,000 years?” he questions with a knowing grin.

“Our advisors were primarily businessmen. They looked at efficiency first. I had to remind them that is a corporate vision,” recalls Bishop Pilla with a smile. “The Church is less concerned about efficiency but to be there to help the people. I reminded them that I never heard Jesus talk about ‘those’ people. We are a Catholic school, and we are going to teach Catholic doctrine. Students want to learn about religion and values. I told them, ‘If we really care, we have to be there.’ That is ultimately why we decided to keep Cleveland Central Catholic open.”

“I was the pastor of the Cleveland Diocese and had to care for all the people. That’s how I was raised. My parents were immigrants. I knew how it felt to be a newcomer and poor.”

Bishop Anthony Pilla
He and a dedicated team of like-minded visionaries launched the “Church in the City” campaign. This campaign was designed to help change how people think in order to get them committed. “What we were doing in the city was good, but we needed funds from parishes to help,” Bishop Pilla says. “We explained the Church is a Diocesan Church. We are all brothers and sisters, and everyone is responsible for each other. At that time, the minorities felt the Church had abandoned them. The whole concept of Church in the City was you can live where you want to live, but we have to care about those who cannot move.

“We wrote a position paper that took nine drafts. Initially, people asked, ‘Why are you blaming us for living in the suburbs?’ I never intended to blame them but to describe the situation. It wasn’t easy and those were painful times. I was called a lot of names when I went to meetings and city councils. Still, it was the right thing to do as a Church. I was the pastor of the Cleveland Diocese and had to care for all the people. That’s how I was raised. My parents were immigrants. I knew how it felt to be a newcomer and poor. I got through this difficult time by saying Mass every day.”

Bishop Pilla says the Church in the City campaign caught on with a lot of young people. They agreed with the campaign and wanted to help.

He insists he was not alone in launching this highly successful campaign. “A Cleveland State University Urban Studies Professor helped as a consultant along with many others: Sister Rita Mary Harwood, Father Joe Kraker, Sister Carol Anne Smith, Karl Ertle, Rick Krivanka, and Father Walt Jenne were just a few.”

The Church in the City campaign also reached out to people of all faiths with a vision to help the poor.

The Church in the City campaign called for wealthier suburban churches being partnered with one or two urban churches so parishioners could teach each other. “From the beginning, we had more than 230 partnerships between the Church in the suburbs and the Church in the city,” Bishop Pilla explains.

*Continued on page 12*
It was remarkable. We held rotating joint council meetings between the churches and rotated Masses. Many parishioners admitted they did not know each other; they had preconceived beliefs. They came to realize that all parents want what is best for their children. We fit CCC into this campaign. We knew the families of the students who attended CCC could never afford this school. If Cleveland Central Catholic closed, we would not have a co-ed Catholic High School in the city and that would also have been wrong.

Another event that saved the school was the voucher program," Bishop Pilla says. "While there was a voucher program begun earlier for grade schools, Governor George Voinovich expanded the program to include high schools. Funds from the Catholic Diocese helped bridge the gap, but when the voucher funding came, that helped us cover the gap." The Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program now funds over 400 students at CCC.

"The voucher programs continue to play a big role in meeting CCCs financial costs," Hyland adds. "Today, more than 60% of our revenue comes from voucher programs. Of the 561 students enrolled today, at least 400 are on the Cleveland voucher program.

Other voucher programs available to our families include the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program, Ed Choice voucher for underperforming schools and the Autism Scholarship. I have to recognize CCC Principal Sister Allison Marie Gudsanovic, SND, who is ever vigilant in pursuing these and additional funding sources. Thanks to her tireless efforts and love for our students, we provide financial assistance to virtually all of our students."

Bishop Pilla reflects, “Sam Miller once told me, ‘Cleveland Central Catholic is the best bang for my buck. I can’t make a better investment.’ I never tried to sell people on CCC. I brought them to the high school and let them meet the people there. If the suburban Catholic churches and people of all faiths had not stepped up and supported CCC, this school would not be here today. It is faith in the mission that brought us together. That’s what the Church is.”

Bishop Pilla adds, “I think Cleveland Central Catholic is a wonderful success story. Today, this school is doing what everyone thought it could. Look at the 100% graduation rate and the 89% plus who go on to attend college. I credit this to an outstanding administration and staff, led by Leo Hyland, Sister Allison Marie, Principal, and Sister Erin Zubal, Assistant Principal. The students are thriving in the school’s Catholic environment. If you don’t have a moral standard, it’s very hard to receive a good education.

"Historically, our Catholic schools stand as one of the hallmarks of the American Dream. Unfortunately, since the 1960s, there has been a concerted effort to weaken the Church and its values," Bishop Pilla emphatically states. "Now, many societal pillars say there is no right or wrong. Everything is relative. More than 300 U.S. foundations, including the media, have poured billions into this disturbing ideology."

“I think what Bishop Pilla did was the most courageous and insightful event to occur in Catholic education in my lifetime,” Hyland concludes. “I am also proud of the faculty and staff working at CCC today. They model what being a good adult person looks like. They know they can make more money teaching in public schools, but they are here because of our mission, shared vision and love for our students and our community.”
The CCC Advisory Board, administration, teachers and students are blessed to have three religious congregations active at Cleveland Central Catholic: Sisters of Notre Dame, Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, and Sisters of the Humility of Mary. Their daily involvement on campus unquestionably enhances the spiritual environment enjoyed by all.

“Having three religious orders truly enriches the spiritual environment at CCC,” exclaims Sister Mary Seton Schlather, SND, English and publications teacher. “I doubt the students know we represent three different congregations. Each order has its own charism, so each brings a different perspective to the school – intangible but an underlying feeling/foundation/glimpse of God’s life – just as each faculty member and staff brings unique
gifts and talents. As the Little Prince says, ‘It is with the heart that one sees rightly.’ Each sister gives from her heart, nourished and nurtured in the spirituality of her congregation.”

Sister Mary Seton also assists Ms. Traci Jones with the band and serves as advisor for the yearbook and school newspaper. The CCC community can often spot her around campus, at sporting events and other functions, with a camera around her neck!

Sister Nicole Varnerin, SND, emphatically states, “Every person working at CCC adds to the school’s spiritual environment.”

Wearing several hats at the high school, Sr. Nicole checks in tardy students and works with chronically absent students and their families to help students succeed. She also teaches mathematics, often finding herself working with individual students to strengthen what they learn in class. In addition, Sister Nicole moderates the Robotics Club after school.

“Just by who I am and how I love, I am creating an environment where students feel comfortable and safe,” says Sister Nicole, who earned an engineering degree in college. “Sharing my faith at CCC is no different than other jobs I have held in the corporate sector. You don’t need to be overtly Catholic to share your faith. The biggest difference here is that we are encouraged to talk about God with each other and with our students. Even though many of our students are not Catholic, they know there is something different about my relationship with God, and sometimes, they seek me out. Mostly, I try to show and tell my students how much God loves them.”

Sister Mary Seton concurs, “Sharing my faith at CCC has not been a challenge. The students ask questions, and I answer them. It’s possible to have faith-filled conversations at any time with anyone in the building, and it often happens. A spiritual environment is a subtle thing. There is definitely an openness to things of the Spirit and of God. We can always work more at creating it. Prayer before 1st period over the PA is the start of our day, raising public awareness of God’s presence. Chapel visits occur by class, and different prayer styles are being taught in theology. We are also working to create openness to God’s way – to Christ as the Way, Truth and Life – among all our faculty. We also encourage service to others and kindness to others, and I see this occurring each day. Students pray for each other, which is wonderful!”

“...the presence of so many women religious keeps our Catholicity as a school in the forefront of our minds. The fact that we do have sisters here opens certain conversations with students and co-workers that may not have occurred in other environments.”

Sister Nicole Varnerin, SND
Sister Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND, Principal of CCC, states, “The sisters provide an important presence to our school community. Students and staff have a personal experience with women who have dedicated their lives to fulfilling God’s will as members of religious congregations.”

“Our students are inquisitive about the faith life of the sisters and are open to learning about our vocations,” she says. “I hope that I share my faith by word and example. As Saint Francis of Assisi once said, ‘Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.’”

Sister Erin Zubal, OSU, Assistant Principal at CCC, says, “At Cleveland Central Catholic, we welcome all faiths and are enriched by sharing diverse faith traditions. My prayer life is enhanced every day by the deep faith and devotion I see in our students and families. They witness to me what it means to be faith-filled. May my presence as a woman religious offer them the same witness that I see in them.”

Sister Erin explains that the three congregations of women religious work in tandem with “wonderful men and women who, in equal measure, have committed themselves to the ministry of education. I hope that our presence reminds people of the legacy of the men and women religious who paved the way for us. May our continued presence be a sign of hope to all those we serve,” she encourages.

Sister Allison Marie says Cleveland Central Catholic’s School Improvement Plan focuses on the new evangelization: coming to know Jesus and making Him known to others. “I think that our students appreciate the experiences we provide through liturgy, prayer experiences, retreats and in theology class.”

Sr. Madeline remarks, “As women religious, we have a shared mission to care for and bring more abundant life to God’s people at Cleveland Central Catholic. We are a beacon of hope for our students, families and neighborhood.”

“I believe our goal is to educate strong men and women by preparing them to be people of deep faith, integrity and justice,” Sister Erin adds. “Men and women who want to make this world and Church better. I believe our spiritual environment supports this goal and empowers us to walk the journey with them; calling us to witness the good and holy that lives in every student who walks these halls.”

“The sisters provide an important presence to our school community. Students and staff have a personal experience with women who have dedicated their lives to fulfilling God’s will as members of religious congregations.”

Sister Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND
Cleveland Central Catholic is pleased to welcome two alumni as new board members to its Advisory Board: John Malcolm ’82 and Al Wetula ’86.

Malcolm has been an IT professional for more than 25 years in various roles including development, project management, solution architecture and business development. He currently is the chief technology officer at Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM). In this newly created role, Malcolm is responsible for leading and managing all day-to-day aspects of information technology at CIM, as well as assembling a comprehensive, strategic vision for IT that aligns with and enhances its Blueprint: 100 strategic plan in preparation of CIM’s second century.

Prior to this position, Malcolm was the Director of Information Technology at Positive Education Program (PEP); Vice President of Government Solution for CoCENTRIX; and Vice President of Microsoft Dynamics HHS practice for Mid-America Consulting Group.

He is a 1982 graduate of Cleveland Central Catholic where he earned his three-year letter in football, track and bowling.

“CCC has been part of the foundation of who I am as a person,” says the proud CCC alumnus. “I have benefitted from my education, support and the lasting friendships I made at CCC. Volunteering on the Advisory Board to help our current generation of students is the least I can do in support of our community.”

He continues, “CCC is living proof of our mission: Christ-centered decision-making; academics focused on preparing students for the future with a 100% graduation rate and a nearly 90% college acceptance rate; and service-driven through community involvement. I am proud to tell people I am a Cleveland Central Catholic graduate!”

Like Malcolm, Wetula, a CPA and partner at the D’Amore Tatman Group LLC, is a 1986 graduate of Cleveland Central Catholic. His brother Carl graduated in 1985 and sister Christina in 1987.

“I attended all three campuses during my four years at CCC,” he reflects. “I also played football and baseball all four years.”

While a student at Cleveland State University, Wetula coached two years of varsity football at CCC with Al Hodakievic, a former teacher at CCC for 15 plus years, who is still a close friend today. Wetula also coached one year of varsity baseball for the Ironmen.

“My experiences at CCC as a student and coach were exceptional and truly some of the best times of my life,” the CCC alum insists. “I cannot say enough about the guidance I received from my many teachers. They were second parents to me and kept me in line. I was honored and fortunate to be inducted into the CCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017.”

“John Simon ’72 reached out to me about joining the board,” Wetula explains. “I felt honored to be asked and thought this could be an opportunity to get more involved with my alma mater, so I accepted the invitation.”

He continues, “I have always had a great impression of the school. This has not changed. I have seen the expansion and growth, along with the commitment by all to keep the school thriving in any way possible. The school has made great strides over the years. I have met and seen how polite the students are, and how eager they are to learn, graduate, and move on to the next level of education. The enhanced facilities and commitment by the board and alumni over the past few years have strengthened the overall ability for CCC students to succeed. Joining the Advisory Board will provide me the opportunity to help continue moving the school forward.”
CCC students are thrilled to have the opportunity to take AP Chemistry during their senior year, preparing them even more for college. Bill Cumming, CCC’s AP Chemistry teacher, is an endorsed AP Chemistry Consultant with both the College Board and National Math and Science Initiative, and has taught AP Chemistry for most of his 40-year teaching career.

Cumming began his teaching career in Okotoks, AB Canada where he started the AP Program at his school in 1982. In Alberta, he served as an Item Writer and Head Marker for the Provincial Diploma Exams. He also served on the American Chemical Society High School Examination Committee from 1998 to 2005 and has been an Item Writer for the Educational Testing Service (ETS) for inclusion on AP and SAT exams since 1998. Cumming has been a Reader and Table Leader at the AP Chemistry Exam Grading since 1999.

At CCC, AP Chemistry is offered during period 6/6B Monday through Friday with an extra class period (5/5B) on Tuesday and Thursday, which is commonly used as a lab period.

“At present, there are 12 seniors in the class, and they all excelled in Chemistry I,” Cumming says. “The main prerequisite I have is a willingness to work hard and persevere when the going gets tough – and to think for themselves.”

The math prerequisite is successful completion of Algebra II and enrollment in either Pre-Calculus or Calculus. This year, most AP Chemistry students are in Calculus.

“For me, the most important reason for having this class is to give students an opportunity to push themselves out of their comfort zone and develop strategies and methods to deal with learning new material at a more sophisticated level,” Cumming describes. “It is excellent preparation for college, regardless of the course of study they follow. The class demands that students gather factual information, evaluate it, and then use it to support assertions and conclusions.”

Cumming adds, “I had all of these students in Chemistry I last year, and they are in AP Chemistry partly due to my encouragement as well as their desire to take the most challenging classes available. While they all know it will ‘look good’ on their college transcript, that is not the main reason. Almost all enjoyed Chemistry I, were good at it, and want to continue as they expect success.”
CCC receives $1 million gift from The Chase Family Foundation

Cleveland Central Catholic recently received a $1 million gift from The Chase Family Foundation. This generous donation will be used to fund projects outlined in the CCC Master Campus Plan and includes the naming rights for the “Carol Ann Chase Lobby” (named after George Chase’s deceased wife), in the to-be-renovated Saint Stanislaus Social Center.

George Chase ’61, President of The Chase Family Foundation, attended Immaculate Heart of Mary Elementary School on Lansing Avenue prior to attending Saint Stanislaus High School, one of the four founding schools of CCC. It was at Saint Stanislaus where George met his future wife, Carol Majewski ’61. He fondly recalls with a smile, “I met Carol on Baxter
Avenue one afternoon, as school was letting out. I was driving a 1951 Ford beater with no insurance. Carol was with a classmate who was driving a 1958 white Chevy Impala convertible. Well, he walked up and opened his own door while Carol walked around to the passenger door. I called out to the guy, ‘Hey, you open a door for a lady,’ and I opened her door. After that, we began to talk and eventually date.”

George and Carol were married at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in May 1964, when they were 20 years old. “It was just before we turned 21, so we needed our parents’ signatures to allow the marriage,” George remembers with a chuckle.

After their marriage, George immediately went to work as a lab technician with Pittsburgh Plate Glass. His job involved developing paint resins for the automotive industry. During high school Carol worked as a part-time accounting clerk at Dan Dee Pretzel and Potato Chip Company. By graduation, she had been appointed head bookkeeper for seven separate corporations within the Dan Dee corporate umbrella. After they married, Carol began working part-time as a teller at Central National Bank.

“I never considered attending college,” George admits. “I went right to work. During the first year of marriage, I was working nights, and Carol was petrified staying alone. So, I left Pittsburgh Plate Glass and went to work at Ferro Corporation in their plastic color lab. They produced custom formulas for plastic coloring. However, smaller orders often took from three to 11 weeks to fulfill. Many customers were not satisfied with the long lead time. I came up with the idea to satisfy these smaller orders directly in the lab, however, Ferro did not follow through on that suggestion.”

Well, George saw a business niche as an opportunity to begin his own company. He and Carol founded Allied Color Industries, Inc. in 1968, to manufacture colorants for the plastics industry. “We were 26 years old. Carol and I had saved $2,500 and borrowed another $2,400 from Central National Bank where Carol was working at the time. Our used furniture and junk car served as collateral on the loan,” he describes. “Together, we made it work. Carol had the finance and bookkeeping experience, and I had the technical knowledge. We complemented each other.”

“Carol split her time as a mother, housekeeper, wife, and business partner. Many nights, after dinner was made and served, cleaned up after, and the kids were put to bed, she began her business ‘day’ working late into the night,” George recalls. “We lived in a two-family home, owned one car, and had no money, and no formal education. We rented a storefront where we ran the business. Our lab was set up in the back, offices in front,”

“Together, we made it work. Carol had the finance and bookkeeping experience, and I had the technical knowledge. We complemented each other.”

George Chase '61
and the basement was where we blended and processed our pigment dispersions.”

He continues, “I worked every Saturday and most Sundays the first three years. Eventually, I cut back to work Mondays through Saturdays. While our friends were going on picnics on a beautiful summer afternoon, we had to work to get an order out that our customer needed first thing Monday morning. Each week, we’d buy a pound of ham, loaf of bread, and six bottles of Pepsi on a credit card, and that’s how we survived. Carol was a very integral part of the business. We did everything together from cleaning the toilets to developing pigment formulas for the plastic industry.”

“I will never forget early on one of our biggest potential customers was Rubbermaid,” George adds. “I tried to match their largest volume color, and after 25 unsuccessful formulas, I was frustrated. Carol said, ‘Let me take a shot at it.’ Well, five days later, the color she formulated was approved, and they placed a 2,500-pound order.”

George and Carol had four children. Michael, David (deceased), Cheryl, and George Jr.

In 1987, the family business was sold to the M.A. Hanna Company, a Fortune 300 specialty-chemical company. “I stayed with Hanna for eight years, but Carol said she was tired of waiting for me so I retired,” George explains with a smile. The couple spent time between their two homes in Lake Tahoe, Nevada and the Cleveland area. When their youngest son was entering high school, they returned permanently where he attended St. Ignatius High School.

Six months after returning to Cleveland, George was asked to take a look at a small business that was selling colorants for landscape mulch. He founded Chromascape Inc., to acquire the mulch-coloring business, and later, a carbon-black specialty dispersion company and a decorative concrete business. Chromascape Inc. was sold to a private equity firm in 2018.

Tragedy struck the Chase family when their son David was killed in 2005 in an automobile accident. Eight months and two days later, Carol died following a brave battle with cancer. George’s continued love and devotion to his spouse of 42 years are evident with the generous gifts The Chase Family Foundation has given to CCC in his wife’s memory. In 2013, the high school received a $100,000 gift from the Foundation to fund the Carol Ann Chase Women In Business Scholarship Fund. Likewise, a recent $1 million gift will fund renovations to the Social Center, including naming of the “Carol Ann Chase Lobby.”

“She wouldn’t have wanted this recognition, but our kids and I am glad her life and memory might make a difference in the lives of young people who have dreams.”

George Chase ’61
houses as we could in order to expand. This campus houses an elementary school, church and high school. While it worked when the property was built in a pedestrian era, it does not work today. Our needs have changed,” says George.

“In my opinion, CCC today serves an important function in that it takes kids from the inner city and gives them a path to succeed in life,” George explains. “The school gives these kids opportunities they may not get elsewhere, and encourages high hopes for a meaningful and productive life.”

George sees similarities between his former school and CCC today. “You walk through the school, and it still smells the same; the kids are still kids. They are funny, mischievous, loud but hopefully, respectful and good hearted.”

Leo Hyland, President of CCC, has this to say, “George was instrumental in helping create CCC’s future vision. He served on our board when conversations first began about CCC’s Campus Master Plan in December 2014. He also served as co-chair of the successful Beacon of Hope Campaign. I love his spirit, his passion, his drive and his kindness. George understands and embraces the powerful work being done here at CCC and how our students thrive because of it.”

The CCC Advisory Board, administration, faculty, staff and entire Cleveland Central Catholic community extend their overwhelming appreciation and gratitude to George Chase for his generous gift and continued commitment to CCC. Thank you, George!

If you are interested in making a gift to CCC, please contact Leo Hyland at 216.641.2001 or lhyland@ccc-hs.org.
Welcome Back Day

On Saturday, August 31st, Cleveland Central Catholic celebrated the annual Welcome Back Day game. All guests in attendance were treated to complimentary hot dogs, chips and refreshments, courtesy of the Third Federal Foundation. Although the Ironman football team lost to rival Holy Name, everyone had an enjoyable afternoon.
Student artists create mural for Third Federal Savings & Loan

In the spring of 2018, Third Federal Savings & Loan commissioned many of CCC’s art students and former teacher Adriel Meyer to complete a tree mural to commemorate the Savings and Loan’s 80th anniversary. After the students painted the tree on the canvases, Third Federal sent the pieces to their various departments and branch offices (including Florida!), and associates used their thumbprints to put leaves on the tree. Next, they worked with a third-party company to mount the pieces as a permanent fixture. The tree now hangs on the first floor of Third Federal’s Corporate Campus building.

Students respond to alum’s anonymous $1 million gift

In October 2018, Cleveland Central Catholic received an anonymous $1 million gift from a member of the class of 1971. We asked our students what they would say to that donor?

Jayden Williams ‘20

“Thank you! We appreciate that a lot of people still think about this community. That is big with me.”

Mackenzie Rametta ‘20

“Thank you. Know this will be used for good things and help the students a lot.”

Michael Duong ‘20

“Thank you for thinking about CCC after you graduated, and thank you for giving back to the school. It seems like you did very well, and I want to congratulate you.”

Madeleine Wadesisi ‘21

“That million dollars could have gone to anyone, and that you gave it to CCC is appreciated a lot.”

Tyler Hensley-Edelman ‘20

“Thank you for the donation. That is amazing. That you wanted to remain anonymous is humble of you. Your donation will help students for years to come.”
CCC’s Link Crew welcomed the newest Ironmen to our family - the class of 2023 and our incoming transfer students. Our new students were clapped in along a red carpet by faculty, staff and Link Crew leaders! This is the third year that CCC has had the Link Crew program in place.

The Link Crew program matches current students with incoming freshman and transfer students. The goal is to help students feel comfortable during the first year of high school. It's built on the belief that students can help students succeed.

The students spent a few hours on campus, concluding with a cookout. It’s going to be a great year!
Ironman track team qualified for State in 4x200m relay

In June, the Ironman track team qualified in the 4x200m relay for the State meet in Columbus. The relay consisting of QuJuan McGlothin ‘19, Kenan Johnstone ‘20, Kody Bell ‘19 and DeShaun Nettles ‘20, placed 8th in the prelims, running a 1:29.80 which allowed them to advance to the finals the next day. In the finals, the quartet ran a 1:30.72 to place them 8th overall in the state for Division 2. Great job, men!

Record Broken!

Congrats to Jesus Bermudez ‘21 who broke the Cleveland Central Catholic school record in cross country at the Division 2 District meet at Lorain County Community College. Jesus ran a 18:03 for the 5K distance. Great Job!
Ellen M. Abraham ’74 – Received the 2019 Case Western Reserve University Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award. Ellen is a School Psychologist, Rapid Response/Crisis Coordinator for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Delisa Vaughn ’15 graduated from Baldwin Wallace University with a Bachelor of Science, Psychology and Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

David Gil ’11 has been named to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2019 semester at Baldwin Wallace University. David is majoring in computer network security.

Annual alumni golf outing a success

Cleveland Central Catholic celebrated its annual alumni golf outing at Valleaire Golf Course on June 8th. CCC was represented with 130 alumni and friends on this beautiful 80-degree day (no rain!).

St. John Cantius alum Gene Bernhard ’68 won the 50/50 raffle and donated it back to CCC.

A fun time was had by all and culminated with a steak or chicken dinner.

Co-Sponsored by R.S. Industries, Inc. - Nick Russo Sr. (CCC ’71) and Surety Title Agency, Inc. - Peca Family (OLL ’62, ’66, CCC ’70)

Nick Russo and his team were the winners once again this year!
CCC hosts Football Reunion

On October 5th, Cleveland Central Catholic hosted a Football Reunion with more than 75 former Ironmen and Lady Ironmen in attendance!

The day began with a tailgate behind the homestand with hot dogs and hamburgers provided by grill master and Advisory Board member John Peca ’70. Coach John Lundy and Athletic Director Maggie Lash provided football jerseys for the retired players to wear as they cheered the team onto the field. At halftime, retired players were called onto the field by graduation year. After the game, there was a reception in the Wasmer Ironmen Center.

While the Ironmen lost to Villa Angela-St. Joseph, it was still a memorable afternoon. Special thanks to Jerry Fasko ’65 OLL, Kalvin Simmons ’83, Advisory Board member John Malcom ’82, Advisory Board member John Simon ’72, Assistant Athletic Director John Crawford ’84 and Ellen (Fasko) Howard ’66 OLL.
What Happened to the St. Michael’s Class of 1949?
by Joe Greytak – St. Michael’s Class of 1949

In 1949, 49 seniors said “goodbye” to St. Michael’s High School on Scranton Road as they were deemed “graduated.” But it was not the end of their association as schoolmates, for they got together in five years for their first class reunion. That reunion was considered very successful, so they repeated it after another five years had passed. And so they did every five years until they reached the celebration of their 50th year since graduation. Things had gone well over the years, but they recognized they were getting older and enjoyed the camaraderie at these reunions and based on that they collectively agreed to have a reunion every year. As so they did – successfully.

In the intervening years, the 49ers formalized many of the things remembered of their high school years. They discovered that St. Michael’s school was adopted by Cleveland Central Catholic, along with three other schools, and now St. Michael’s school lay vacant in Cleveland. Attempts to retrieve information about St. Michael’s like rosters, class pictures, etc. were unsuccessful. So over the years, the 49ers researched every avenue to gather and document their history as best they could.

Each year, at the reunions, the alumni were presented with bits and pieces of their history to share and reminisce about. Continued on page 31

Enter a chance to win a $100 gift card!
Fill out the CCC Alumni Update below, and your name will be entered to win!

www.centralcatholichs.org
In Memoriam

The Most Rev. Richard Gerard Lennon, bishop emeritus of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, died on Tuesday, October 29, 2019. Bishop Lennon was installed as the 10th bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio on May 15, 2006 after His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI named him to the leadership position over nearly 800,000 Catholics in eight counties of Northeast Ohio on April 4, 2006.

A native of the Boston area, Bishop Lennon was born in Arlington, Massachusetts, and attended Boston College before entering St. John’s Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts where he received an M.A. in Church history and a M.TH in sacramental theology.

On Dec. 28, 2016, Pope Francis granted Bishop Lennon early retirement status, accepting his resignation from the pastoral governance of the diocese. Bishop Lennon made the request for early retirement in a letter to the pope in late November citing his ongoing health challenges as the reason for his decision to retire.

We are grateful for Bishop Lennon’s 10 years of leadership and service to our Diocese. We especially recall and acknowledge the help he provided to Cleveland Central Catholic. In addition to his visits to campus, Bishop Lennon formally endorsed CCC’s Beacon of Hope Campaign. He also agreed to serve as an Honorary Chair for that important campaign, which raised over $5.7 million for our school.

Patricia “Pat” (nee Hradek) Ciha ’51 OLL passed away on Monday, September 2, 2019 at the age of 85. Beloved wife of the late Roland J. Ciha Sr. Loving mother of Roland J. Jr. (Christina), Ellen M., Patti Anne (deceased), Joseph J. (Susan) and Patricia M. Stabile (Robert T.). Devoted grandmother and great grandmother.

Martin Fink ’66 OLL passed away on April 4, 2019 at the age of 70. Martin proudly served as a Sergeant in the US Air Force during the Vietnam Era. He was a beloved brother of James Fink, Thomas (Mary Eileen) Fink, Marianne (Neal) Jacobs and David Fink.

LaVerne Leroux ’63 OLL passed away in December 2016.

Michael R. Partee ’16 passed away on September 18, 2019. Loving son, brother, grandson and nephew, cousin and friend.

John Serrao ’78 passed away on July 1, 2019. John was the devoted and loving father of Kristen (Mark); cherished grandfather of Scarlett and Sarah. His loving family included Marilyn Serrao, Gerri Irvin (Jay), Ben Jamiot (Cindy), Judy Jamiot and the late Dennis and Annie Jamiot. He was inducted into the CCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017. He served 35 years in law enforcement at the University Circle and East Cleveland Police Departments.

Blade “Joe” Tanko ’72, age 66, passed away October 2019. Beloved husband of Cynthia (nee Sabo). Dear father of Eric (Faith), Cheryl Snell (Kevin), Daniel (deceased) and Bryan (deceased). Steppfather of David (Melissa), Jonathan (Stacy) and Michael. Loving grandpa. Joe was a longtime volunteer at many CCC functions including several Hall of Fame dinners, golf outings, Welcome Back Days, among other events.

Rita Weintraut ’56 SJC - passed away on November 2, 2018.

The following Saint Stanislaus alumni died during 2019:

- Alan Kuczynski ’59
- Joseph Kramarz ’57
- Dolores Swierczynski ’56
- Dennis Kansy ’58
- Carol (Ruminski) Walk ’55
- Ruth (Draganic) Button ’69

Continued from page 30
**2019 - 2020 Calendar of Events**

**Boys Varsity Basketball Schedule 2019-20** Subject to Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>Great Lakes Classic</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>7:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>Massillon Jackson</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Douglas County</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>Lutheran East</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Dec. 10</td>
<td>St. Vincent-St. Mary</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Dec. 13</td>
<td>Warren John F. Kennedy</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Dec. 20</td>
<td>Lake Catholic</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Dec. 28</td>
<td>NEO Christmas Classic</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Jan. 3</td>
<td>Archbishop Hoban</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Jan. 10</td>
<td>Benedictine</td>
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<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Jan. 14</td>
<td>Garfield Heights</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Jan. 17</td>
<td>Villa Angela-St. Joseph</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Jan. 18</td>
<td>Saint Ignatius</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Jan. 21</td>
<td>Lorain High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Jan. 25</td>
<td>St. John’s Jesuit Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>CMI Invitational</td>
<td>Spire Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td>Lake Catholic</td>
<td>Away</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Saint Edward</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td>Archbishop Hoban</td>
<td>Home</td>
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<td>Brecksville Broadview Hts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Feb. 21</td>
<td>Villa Angela-St. Joseph</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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**Girls Varsity Basketball Schedule 2019-20** Subject to Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Cardinal Mooney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
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<td>Lutheran East</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Lutheran West</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Melanie Williams Tourney</td>
<td>Andrews Osborne Academy</td>
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<td>Thur.</td>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Melanie Williams Tourney</td>
<td>Andrews Osborne Academy</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Dec. 7</td>
<td>Melanie Williams Tourney</td>
<td>Andrews Osborne Academy</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>Garfield Heights</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Dec. 17</td>
<td>Lake Catholic</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Dec. 21</td>
<td>NEO Christmas Classic</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Dec. 23</td>
<td>Notre Dame Cathedral Latin</td>
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<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
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<td>Holy Name</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>12:00 p.m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon.</td>
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<td>Warren John F. Kennedy</td>
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<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Jan. 8</td>
<td>Revere Local</td>
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<td>Beaumont</td>
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<td>Maple Heights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>Brush</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Jan. 25</td>
<td>East Technical</td>
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<td>12:00 p.m</td>
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<td>Lake Ridge Academy</td>
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