CleanUp+Clams brings together students, parents, faculty and friends
Vibrant in the City . . . Learning to Lead – Preparing to Serve
Connection is published twice a year for Cleveland Central Catholic High School alumni, parents, faculty, administrators, and friends.

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CCC Partnerships Power Possibilities

In the Old Testament, there is the following proverb: Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it. (Proverbs 22:6) This was true thousands of years ago, and it is often true today. Our mission here at Cleveland Central Catholic has always been to help form young men and women, so they will “excel and deepen their faith to responsibly serve God, church and community.” But how is this done? And by whom?

The most obvious answer is, this is done every day by instilling values and modeling behaviors that teach and demonstrate a better way – the way of Jesus. Our school’s dedicated adults – including those in our CCC students’ families – believe in the important work they do with young people. Certainly our administrators, teachers, staff and coaches do all we can to provide a caring and top-notch educational experience that includes many spiritual and extra-curricular activities that help our young people learn and grow together.

These partnerships are critical to our success, as they are the foundation of a solid Catholic education. But to truly thrive as a school, we need to also extend ourselves (and our students) into the broader community. By doing so, our students learn the importance of putting their faith into action. So, we build partnerships that provide opportunities for service and bolster the impact on our students and our world. We see this, for example, when our students tutor youngsters at the local Boys and Girls Club, or when our Key Club members work with adults on projects and programs sponsored by Kiwanis International.

Some partnerships are more apparent than others, but all partnerships are important to our school. For example, we could not make financial ends meet without the leadership and support provided by the CCC Advisory Board and their many community connections. Many are familiar with the generous commitment of the Third Federal Foundation to CCC, but there are literally scores of other corporations, foundations, and organizations that routinely partner with us. They do so because they believe in our students and they understand the importance of our mission. We are grateful for their support.

Cleveland Central Catholic has made great progress over the past decade as a direct consequence of these partnerships, and we continue to seek out new partners to help improve our school. The good news about CCC is getting out, as we continue to surpass benchmarks in student enrollment, senior graduation rates, and college acceptance rates and scholarship dollars earned – among many other achievements.

As we prepare to celebrate and send off the Class of 2013, many are accepted into strong college programs. Some of those were choices fostered by CCC’s close partnership with the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges – and include scholarship dollars to member schools such as: Ashland University, Baldwin Wallace University, Hiram College, John Carroll University, University of Mount Union, Muskingum University, Notre Dame College, Ohio Dominican University, Ursuline College and Walsh University.

Other graduates have been accepted into fine schools like the Cleveland Institute of Art, Ohio State University, Borromeo Seminary, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Akron, and Bowling Green State University, among others. Some will continue their education at Cuyahoga Community College, technical or trade schools, or are contemplating military service. Whatever their pursuit, we know they are grounded and prepared.

Thanks to the many people and partners who support our students, our graduates are ready for their upcoming challenges. As you read the following pages, I invite you to think about how you can partner with Cleveland Central Catholic to ensure our mission remains successful.
Power of Family’s Love Drives Carol Ann Chase Scholarship

Women in Business Focus

In every Cleveland Central Catholic High School graduating class, there are some diligent students who will make their mark in the business world. Sometimes those interests and talents are already evident, other times they are just beginning to sprout. Thanks to the benevolence of one caring family, CCC will be able to encourage and nurture this blossoming of rising young business women for at least the next 20 years.

This generous commitment was made by George M. Chase, president of the The Chase Family Foundation and a graduate of St. Stanislaus High School. The Chase Family Foundation committed $100,000 to provide scholarship funding for the Carol Ann Chase Women in Business Scholarship, in loving memory of George’s wife. Carol was George’s partner and soul mate for over 48 years, before succumbing to pancreatic cancer on August 17, 2006.

According to Mr. Chase, the purpose of the family’s scholarship is clear: To encourage young women to set high personal and professional goals for themselves, and then, to believe they can achieve them. George expanded on the power of this purpose. “Young people today must understand that many of today’s successful entrepreneurs and professional people come from very humble beginnings. Being poor, or coming from a dysfunctional family, or being an immigrant or minority are just circumstances of life. These circumstances do not define who we are as people nor do they restrain us from achieving success in life. Faith, education, personal ambition, and hard work are the building blocks of success in life, however you define it.” This philosophy fits well with the mission and values of Cleveland Central Catholic.

“We are delighted that the Chase family has made this generous commitment to improve the future of some very fortunate Central Catholic students,” said Leo P. Hyland, the school’s president. “The example set by Carol Ann Chase is one our young women should happily emulate. She used her God-given talents, worked hard, built a business, raised a family and was concerned about others. This is someone who set goals and achieved them, while also conducting herself with a quiet dignity.”

Carol Ann Majewski was a young and rising business star, even as a teenager at St. Stanislaus High School. As a bright and driven young woman, she secured a part-time accounting clerk job with the Dan Dee Pretzel and Potato Chip Company at the tender age of 15. By graduation day, Carol had been appointed Head Bookkeeper for seven separate corporations within the Dan Dee corporate umbrella.

George and Carol met and began dating while schoolmates at St. Stanislaus High School. They graduated from St. Stan’s High School together in the Class of 1961. Three years later they were married. In 1968 they went into business together as Allied Color Industries, Inc., a manufacturer of colorants for the plastics industry.

The humble company, founded on a little money, lots of hope and prayer, and endless amounts of hard work was sold in 1987 to the M. A. Hanna Company – a Fortune 300 corporate giant located here in Cleveland.

Carol’s role in the success of the company cannot be overstated, according to George. She was a loyal partner, a prudent business woman, and a wise counselor to George. Even more, Carol was great wife and a wonderful mother – as they welcomed four children: Michael, David, Cheryl and George, Jr. Simply stated, she brought much joy, love and friendship to all who knew her.

“No matter how busy Carol was, nothing was more important to her than caring for her family,” George recently emphasized. “She made sure she was there every day, when her children came home from school to hear about their day.” The love she shared with them is now paid forward to help others she never met – although they are literally walking in her footsteps through the hallways and classrooms at Cleveland Central Catholic.

The first recipient of a scholarship award is CCC junior Shelby Roberts. Our prayer for her is to be inspired by the amazing and selfless story of George and Carol Chase – and that all future award winners see the power in paying that love forward. Cleveland Central Catholic is grateful to the Chase family and to all who partner with us to help fund the dreams and aspirations of our students.

If you are interested helping to fund our students’ experiences at Cleveland Central Catholic – through annual scholarships or endowment giving – please contact Leo Hyland at hylandleo@centralcatholics.org or by phone at (216) 641-2001.
Annual CleanUp+Clams

Garden-Focused Effort Beautifies Campus / Raises Funds

Cleveland Central Catholic High School is grateful to its corporate sponsors for ensuring the success of the 2012 CleanUp+Clams Event. Over 100 Central Catholic students, parents, faculty, staff and friends spent a fun and productive day beautifying the campus and celebrating with a clambake – all while raising nearly $50,000 for tuition assistance. Strong leadership by responsible partners such as these help keep Central Catholic a vibrant force in our city.
It was an experience I will never forget,” junior Gabrielle Thomas remarked as she reflected on her retreat experience. “The retreat helped me in a lot of ways and I’m glad I had the chance to go.” Gabrielle was among 19 students who attended the Loss and Recovery Retreat held at the Jesuit Retreat House. Retreat Director, Dr. John Ropar provided an introduction to loss, grief, and renewal using Gospel passages. The group then moved into the art therapy activity entitled, “Build your own island”, facilitated by art therapist, Misty Ramos. This activity helped students process coping behaviors related to grief and loss. Other activities included guided meditative prayer (lectio divina), a drum circle exercise and other meaningful music therapy led by Laura Serazin of Cornerstone of Hope. This retreat is part of a campus ministry program sponsored by The Jennifer Fund.
Cleveland Central
Catholic’s 10th Annual Calcutta Auction chaired by Mary Beth and John (Class of ’72) Simon drew nearly 300 guests and raised over $114,000 in tuition assistance for families in need. The 10th Calcutta Anniversary served as the capstone of the co-chairpersons who were instrumental in the formation of the Calcutta Auction and have worked tirelessly for its success for the benefit of the students. The Swagelok Foundation committed a $10,000 lead sponsorship, along with other corporate support. The main event of the auction centered on a live auction in which individuals, usually in teams, bid on college basketball teams in the NCAA “March Madness” tournament. The silent auction included bidding on student art work, a mission trip, prom and school activities, and providing help with school uniforms. Central Catholic Art Club students made the festive table decorations and designed props for the silent auction table. Once again the culinary talents of Bev Jarrett ’58 SJC and CCC staff member were displayed on each table in an array of home-baked cookies and pastries. Guests went home with a special molded chocolate bar with the CCC logo imprint created by Fantasy Chocolates. A table of enthusiastic and lucky bidders commented, “It was great fun and we’ll be back next year!”
Above: Principal Sister Allison Marie recognizes co-chair Mary Beth and John Simon ’72 for their work. Auctioneer Les Levin and Dave Milo look on.
‘God’s To Do List’ Sparks Mentoring

Homerooms Come Alive with Monthly Themes

What is God’s-to-do list?
This might sound like a strange question. But this question has been on the minds and hearts of our students, faculty, and staff throughout the year in light of our Catholic Identity school improvement goal: “All students will grow in their knowledge and application of Catholic social teaching principles of human dignity and the call to family.” Each month we have reflected on a theme from the book, God’s To-Do List. When we reflected on “Create,” as part of an extended homeroom period, students engaged in activities around this theme which included making origami, a tree of life poster, mobiles depicting creation, and a “Create” collage. Students also viewed a PowerPoint presentation that focused on the beauty of God’s creation and our response to it. In the month that focused on “Give” one teacher gave each student a dollar bill and asked the students to “pay it forward” and report back explaining who they gave the money to and why.

As students participated in these monthly reflections, their mini projects were displayed throughout the building, reminding us all of our call to fulfill God’s to-do list. In conversations with students it has become clear that these monthly activities have given them a deeper understanding of the school’s Catholic Identity, although they do not expressly use this language to describe the activities. One senior, Madison Skerkavich said, “We meet monthly in extended homeroom and participate in activities that bring us closer together and learn how to care for each other and perform acts of kindness as part of the Cleveland Central Catholic family.”

Isn’t that what our mission calls forth from us? Bishop Pilla once said, “This is a Catholic school, not because the students are Catholic but because we are.” If students can reflect on human dignity and the call to family and carry these principles into their future, we have participated well in the mission of forming these young people who face many challenges in their lives. If they grow and deepen their faith during their time at Cleveland Central Catholic, then God is blessing our mission and preparing our students to be the ethical leaders of the future.

This is a huge responsibility and I pray that our good God will continue to bless our students, faculty, and staff with the courage to respond in love to all persons as children of God. May our good God bless you today and each day for your generous support and prayers for our school community.
Sister Karen “Doing these lessons allows me to relate to the students on another level.”

CCC’s Interpretation of the Book – ‘God’s To Do List’

CREATE  September: God is the Creator. You can be a creator too.
BLESS  October: God blesses you. You can bless others.
GIVE  November: When you open the heart and let the love come out, you open your hand.
CALL  December: When your family, friends and community call on you, will you answer?
COMFORT  January: When you visit someone who is sick, you are God’s messenger.
FORGIVE  February: If God is capable of forgiving, so are you.
REPAIR  March: The world needs a repair person.
CARE  April: The ultimate kindness is to save a life.
WRESTLE & REST  May-June: God wrestling changes you forever. God knows, you need some rest.

This highly actionable book of quiet wisdom inspires people to be their own blessing! Dean of Students, Lori Sandel, introduced the book’s concepts to the students and faculty by creating an extended hour schedule to allow teachers to make time during homeroom to teach the monthly themes. Principal, Sr. Allison Marie, liked this idea because it incorporated a school improvement plan goal to focus on Central Catholic’s “Catholicity.” Mrs. Sandel contacted author, Dr. Ron Wolfson, to inform him that CCC students were active participants in his inspirational and yet practical guidebook on how to repair the world. He remarked, “Many thanks for sharing this terrific feedback! I’m so moved. Perhaps I can get to Cleveland one of these days and visit your school! That would be a blast!”

Jose Dybzinski ’16 author of the poem to the left.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6E__5ERn2w
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbj_AgeKj6w
Giving Thanks Unites CCC
Juniors Receive Class Rings in Combined Ceremony

Just before Thanksgiving, the entire student body assembled at the Shrine Church of Saint Stanislaus to give thanks as a community. For juniors, members of the class of 2014, the day held special meaning with the presentation of class rings.

During the school year, service activities required by theology classes put faith into action, along with participation in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. this spring. Theology classes used the Chapel of the Four Saints for Ash Wednesday and other Lenten rites. After Easter, the Shrine Church of Saint Stanislaus became a classroom for church structure and symbols of Catholic faith.
New Hand-Carved Crucifix Radiates School’s Catholic Identity

Multi-Cultural Carving from African Mahogany Reflects Community and Identity

One of the key goals in the Cleveland Central Catholic Strategic Plan emphasizes that the school will clarify and demonstrate its Catholic identity. On December 12, 2012, CCC took a major step forward in accomplishing that goal. A gracious, wood-carved crucifix was dedicated and blessed in a ceremony at Central Catholic on that date. The formal blessing was given by Reverend Eric S. Orzech, pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish and attended by CCC board members, faculty, staff and students. Student Council President and senior Madison Skerkavich spoke appreciatively on behalf of the CCC student body.

This powerful artwork represents the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for salvation. Central Catholic sophomore Yomaira Ammons said the beautiful sculpture touched her heart. “I really like it. I noticed it right away. It reminds me of what we say at my church ... that Jesus died for our sins.” She is not alone, as many students (and adults) have commented on its presence.

Crafted from African mahogany wood, the five-foot figure of Jesus is nearly life-size and the color will turn a reddish brown over time. The face of Jesus is intentionally a multi-cultural one, so as to reflect the students of the Cleveland

Central Catholic community. The body is a thin and youthful one, so that students might see themselves in Jesus, according to local artist Norbert Koehn, who sculpted the piece.

The placement of the crucifix in the school’s atrium announces to all who enter that the mission of Catholic education is grounded in faith. Lettering stenciled on the wall behind the cross speaks to the formation of CCC youth into Christian men and women who are being prepared to lead and serve God, church and community. It reads: Learning to Lead, Preparing to Serve.

CCC President Leo P. Hyland stated, “The Cleveland Central Catholic community is grateful to George and Mary Lu Wasm er, who commissioned the artwork and lettering from Mr. Koehn. It makes a strong statement about our school’s Catholic identity. We feel very blessed to view it every day.”
Unlocking the door for second semester gym classes each day, veteran Chris Lottig reconnects with lots of CCC history. Her keys for the St. Stans Social Center came from Len Janiak himself, back in 1976 when Miss Christine Pelegrin (her maiden name) joined the staff to teach health and physical education. In the decades that followed, she has taught PE, Advanced PE, Health and Family Health to generations of Ironmen. She coached J.V. volleyball for “one season, when no one else would coach it” and many seasons of softball. Highlights include a conference championship back in the 1980s and memorable trips to Mount Vernon for the equivalent of state softball playoffs. The Lottigs (Chris and husband Russ) would set up their trailer and host communal barbecues for players and fans alike.

Eventually her tasks included the duties of assistant athletic director, and she explains how that came to be: “Joe La Bella asked me to help him with girls sports. This was around 1980. Girls events were held at Tremont and he couldn’t do all the events and coach boys basketball, too. He was a friend so I helped him. He never fired me so I kept the job. That’s how it is around here. You do something and you just keep doing it.” Following that, she assisted later athletic directors Barb Salata, Dean Kinley and Marty Hyland.

Over the years, CCC athletics used various locations. Coach Lottig says, “Freshmen played football at Tremont. Those stands were torn down years ago. Baseball and softball were at Tremont, Clark fields by the city kennel. Softball was at Brookside and Morgana, and baseball at East Denison.”

Her long term of service mirrors CCC history. After teaching at Forman, during the 1980s she became part of a core staff at Tremont, a tightly-knit community of teachers and learners at a satellite campus of a shrinking Central. “Those were the days,” remarks a smiling Mrs. Lottig, inspiring a glimpse back at Tremont on the opposite page. Regardless of campus, her consistent teaching style, with unwavering high standards and a firm (but kind) and always upbeat manner, continued to serve CCC students as she held down the fort at the Scranton gym classes when CCC became a two-campus school. Along with biology teacher Joe Kilburg, she maintained a friendly yet disciplined atmosphere on the lower level there. In 2003 the campuses were consolidated at the Forman location, where her health classes provided essential content for a decade of freshman classes.

Using the letters in “SPORTS” Mrs. Lottig has created a “little device to help students with behaviors” needed for PE classes. Self-control, Participation, Order, Respect/Responsibility, Teamwork & Safety. Words to ensure a successful PE class that have impacted Central Catholic students of the past and present to be carried into the future. Her quiet strength, exemplary work ethic and kind nature have been a mainstay at CCC.

Editor’s note: Russ Lottig, husband of CCC’s Mrs. Lottig, has been no stranger to Central. At times he has done renovations on campus and has hired alumni to help. His code of conduct: “Be on time, follow directions, take responsibility.”
Veteran Joe Kilburg is full of stories. When he coached baseball and Chris Lottig coached softball, they would leave Scranton period 8, together prep the baseball and softball diamonds at nearby Clark fields, return to teach period 9 and then go back the fields to coach the games after school.

Clockwise from above: Freshmen huddle in Clark Field, early 1970s. Tremont gym with “NCC” (North Central Conference) sign still visible, also early 1970s. The original Cantius high school building became the Tremont campus of CCC in 1969. Two views of the familiar St. John Cantius parish church tower, now a landmark in a destination neighborhood that mixes old tradition with trendy shops and restaurants.
As the game-plan for the new Cleveland Central Catholic High School was taking shape, the school’s first athletic director, Len Janiak, was scratching his head. It was 1969, and rival players, coaches and boosters from four small parish high schools were expected to huddle-up, play catch and become a team. Furthermore, at the helm of all those teams were to be several young coaches with no head-coaching experience, and now CCC was forced to schedule bigger school opponents.

Once a professional football player himself, Coach Janiak had been a successful A.D. and coach at St. Stanislaus High School for the past 20 years. There were years when he coached football, basketball, baseball and golf during the same year. But at CCC he had been asked to become an administrator and mentor. Coach Janiak immediately became the most respected man in the CCC athletic community. In his calm, fatherly manner, he held together and taught boosters, coaches and players. In the early 1970s, many of the CCC sports programs instituted “The Len Janiak Award” to be presented to its most dedicated athlete. That coveted award is still given today. As athletic director Len hand-picked his successor in 1977 – first-year varsity basketball coach Joe LaBella. In October of 1979 at halftime of a CCC football game, Len was the first member elected to the CCC Athletic Hall of Fame. At a reception following the game, Len said he appreciated the award but hoped he wasn’t a distraction and would have rather had CCC win the game! The team had been 7-0. Len passed away in 1980.

Back in 1969, with football opening the high school sport season, the first head coach to field a CCC team was Larry Soeder. Larry had been a young teacher, administrator and assistant football coach at Our Lady of Lourdes High School. He had worked closely with Lourdes Director Rev. John Fiala, the architect of the merger, and fellow coach and Dean of Students George Gackowski to model the new school’s athletic image after the blue-collar steel industry in the valley enclosed by four founding schools’ campuses. They chose “The Ironmen” as the nickname, “blue, red and white” as the school colors, the “Boilermaker” as the symbol and “Fight-on for CCC” as the fight song. With the announcement of the merger earlier in the year, Larry and George, both in their early 20’s, had travelled the county’s elementary schools, with youthful enthusiasm advertising and promoting the new Central Catholic. Their efforts successfully recruited nearly 600 freshmen and the Ironmen had a great turnout for the new freshman football team.

Although the first CCC JV. and varsity football turnout was slim, the Ironmen who did play experienced life-long benefits from Coach Soeder’s leadership and inspiration, and Coach Gackowski’s enthusiasm and passion. The players still recall one incident during a team meeting when coach ‘Gac’ didn’t need a pointer “to make his point” and put his fist right through a standup blackboard! “I can still see the hole,” laughs one Ironman. During Coach Soeder’s short tenure he became extremely ill and his young family became the real Ironmen as a brain tumor took his life at age 28. His impact was never forgotten. His first football team’s class donated “The Victory Bell” to the school and many years later, in 1998, the first Ironmen Lettermen’s Club was formed in his honor by his players and fellow coaches. A memorial event was held soon after, and with his grown family present the renovated Ironmen football locker room was dedicated to him.
Larry’s first football staff consisted of Gac, Norm Piechalski ’60 St. Stan’s, and John Pergi with the varsity; Dean Kinley and Tim Myslenski coaching junior varsity; and Dick McPhie, Dale Lamirand ’65 OLL and Jerry Fasko ’65 OLL mentoring freshmen. Larry’s brother-in-law Fred Badar joined the coaching family during the second year. Perhaps inspired by Larry, all of his staff remained in education and coaching for many years. Of course Gac (or Mr. G) coached a few more years but continued at CCC as Dean of Students and Assistant Principal for over 30 years. Coach Piechalski went on to Lakewood High School as a lifetime coach and teacher. Coach Pergi continues to coach football in the Chicago area 45 years later. Coach Kinley served at CCC for more than 35 years as freshman football coach, teacher, manager of business, transportation and grounds, and finally athletic director, and was inducted into the CCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008. Coach Lamirand served as the head track coach and freshman football coach at CCC for four years and after leaving CCC coached CYO for several years. He coached his son, Dean, who became one of the first freshmen to start on a St. Ignatius football team. Coach My’s quick football mind enabled him to become a valuable play-caller and offense coordinator for CCC football – a job that spanned 25 years. Coach Fasko assisted Coaches Soeder and Stan Szczurek at CCC before becoming its head coach in 1976. After over 40 years of teaching and coaching, Coach Badar recently retired from Central Catholic.

In 1969, Coach McPhie’s first freshman class of Ironmen became CCC’s first winning team, their only loss in a close game versus huge St. Edwards. As time went on, “Big Coach” became a local legend as he dedicated his life to coaching football at several area schools including ten years at CCC and 25 years at Brunswick where he was part of several playoff teams including a few 10-0 seasons. He coached the line … ‘where the men play.’

The First Half

If the first 25 years of Ironmen football coaching could fit into four quarters of a football game, during the opening quarter the Ironmen learned spirit, camaraderie and character from Coach Soeder’s staff. The second period began with the hiring of Head Coach Stan Szczurek. A member of the 1957 state champion Benedictine Bengals, co-captain and All-American for the Purdue Boilermakers, a four-year pro with Browns and Giants, Coach Szczurek brought “maturity and distinction” to the program. Szczurek played on the 1964 Browns championship team. Also joining the staff were Jerry Gruss who became a lifetime baseball coach at Lakewood High School and former Lourdes star Joel Solomon ’68 who was coached by Soeder and Gac a few years earlier.
During the Sczurek regime, playing a ‘Pro 4-3 defense’ from a formal playbook, the Ironmen were taught the principles and techniques of playing sound defense and the young program began to grow up.

The Third Quarter

In 1976, during “halftime” of the era, coaches Fasko and Myslenski took over the program, installed the option offense and brought back friend and line coach Dick McPhie. The results were an ‘opening 3rd quarter’ which saw the Ironmen in successive years set a CCC record for victories, have its first winning season (6-3-1) and win its first North Central Conference championship. Rounding-out the “football family” with young coaches Al Hodakievic (Gac’s brother-in-law), Tom Fasko (Jerry’s ‘young’ brother), Ron Hodakievic (Al’s brother) and Rich Coleman (Faskos’ neighbor), the Ironmen continued hammering through the “last part of 3rd quarter”. The Ironmen became the class of the NCC: setting many CCC records in 1979 and earning three more conference titles in the next four years. The players wore solid navy uniforms and called themselves “the blueberry crunch-bunch”. The PD nicknamed them the “Baxter Road Boys” as they were ringing The Old Victory Bell and waking up the neighborhood.

As the era clock wound down in 1982 the Ironmen won their first nine games, accumulating more computer points than any other team in Northeast Ohio, and becoming one of the highest-ranked Division II teams in the state. A loss in the regional final game of the state playoffs ended the memorable run. Following the season, players’ awards were numerous and the Greater Cleveland Coaches Association named Jerry Fasko as its “Coach of the Year”.
One valuable characteristic of the era was the cooperation among the head coaches of the three major sports: Jerry Chase - Baseball; Joe LaBella - AD and Basketball; Jerry Fasko – Football. All three shared their athletes unselfishly, coached in each others’ programs and co-ran the two CYO centers hosted at the St. John Cantius (Tremont) and St. Stan’s Gyms ... and all three have been inducted into the CCC Athletic Hall of Fame.

The Fourth Quarter
With coaching cooperation continuing (CCC) and with characteristic “fourth quarter” Ironman endurance, Al Hodakievic took over the football program in 1983. Coach Al was already serving as head wrestling coach, helping with CYO and a few years later would join Jim Serluco's basketball staff adding assistant varsity basketball coach to his workload. With the help of assistants Myslenski and McPhie and later Mike Sokolowski ’79 and Darrell Jess, Coach Al commanded several winning football seasons. He also produced CCC’s first state champion in wrestler Delbert Cowsette ’95 and assisted on Jim Serluco's varsity basketball teams which put together four consecutive seasons without losing a conference game. Coach Al – “an ‘Iron-man’ for all seasons.”

The “clock ran down” on the first 25 years of football coaches in 1994 when Coach Al returned to coach at his Alma Mater Benedictine, replacing his former coach and Cleveland football legend Augie Bosu.

Overtime
Two years later at Benedictine Coach Al won a State Football Championship! Joe LaBella spent over 40 years coaching basketball, including 20 years as athletic director and over 20 years as an officer in the Greater Cleveland Basketball Coaches Association.

On the other side of town, more CCC-bred coaches were scoring points. Coach Tom Fasko eventually became the head coach at Brunswick High School and with the help of line coach Dick McPhie, scout Rich Coleman, and consultant Tim Myslenski won several Pioneer Championships. In 1995 he led the 13-1 Blue Devils to the Division I State Championship Game vs. perennial powerhouse St. Ignatius! They led at halftime in an exciting game but the “1995 National Champions” Wildcats wore them down in the second half.

Another younger brother in “the family”, Ron Hodakievic, coached many sports at CCC in both the boys and girls programs. He left to become a very successful offensive coordinator for his brother Jim at Bedford High School where he claims he brought “the Ironmen work ethic” to the football program. Coach Ron returned to Central Catholic twice as its head varsity basketball coach and in 2002 became the first coach to lead the Ironmen to a Final-Four appearance in the state tournament.

Coach Janiak planted the seed for the “CCC Football Coaches Tree.” Rooted in Iron, it sprouted with spirit, matured with distinction, flourished as a family, endured and eventually flowered into success!
Ironmen United Learn to Conquer Hand in Hand

Works Echo Words of Alma Mater Throughout the Year

Hoping their actions will bring the “wide acclaim” mentioned in the school’s Alma Mater, Ironmen individually and collectively worked “hand in hand” to inspire and conquer. To signify awareness of breast cancer and support efforts to find a cure, “the blue, the red, the white” turned pink last fall.

All year, the line “hope to serve with knowledge ... gained at C.C.C.” could signify increasing awareness, and then action, on behalf of others.

For example, as a participant in the Summer Internship Program at Cleveland Clinic, senior Sydney Sublett investigated a healthcare career through individualized mentorship. Later with a partner she presented her research product in the Health Horizons Program.

Back in October, AmariYah Israel, a program specialist from the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio, enlightened the faculty and staff with Safe Zone training.
Two CCC Key Club members, Cordaireus Hubbard and T'Shaun Sanders (pictured here with Councilman Anthony Brancatelli), received the Youth Leadership Award from the Boys and Girls Club of Cleveland.

Writing on the theme of perseverance, freshman Truc Tran won first place in A Day of Hope essay competition, sponsored by Boys Hope Girls Hope.

Pictured here in academic attire as the school year opened, Dr. Joann Hynes '69 OLL was honored later with the Crystal Apple Award, nominated by John (J.D.) Lundy III '09.
Halls Alive with Music

Program Expands with Instrumental Impact

An expanded Fine Arts Department curriculum featuring Instrumental Music and Gospel Choir impacted the rhythm of CCC life big time last fall. Faced with large groups having assorted talents, training and interest, music instructors Traci Jones and Sr. Mary Seton Schlather, SND channeled their resources into commendable performances in a few short months. At a seasonal concert, the full sounds of both vocal and instrumental music were among Central's Christmas blessings. In the few years since she came to CCC, Ms. Jones has worked tirelessly to fill CCC's halls with the sound of music.

Poetry Slam Winner

Junior Brittany Rodriguez won CCC's Poetry Slam top honors, performing to a full house of family, friends, students and teachers in the Father Fiala Room in March.
Grant to CCC Music in the City Ministry

In October, the Sisters of Notre Dame informed Cleveland Central Catholic that the Provincial Council awarded funding for the CCC Music in the City Ministry project. Praising the potential of the proposal, which assists the expanding instrumental music instruction at CCC, the Grants Review Committee noted the creative initiative of Sr. Mary Seton Schlather, SND, who applied for this funding. Sister’s work includes many behind-the-scenes details that support CCC’s budding musicians.

Community Becomes Classroom with Field Trips and Performances

Central Catholic students benefit from the Bridges program, providing workshop sessions with info about finances and preparation for college and careers. Busloads of students visit college campuses. Here is a sampling of some other off-campus learning experiences for CCC students:

September: Athletes see stage play Lombardi at Playhouse Square.
October: Seniors tour Cleveland’s Federal Reserve Bank.
November: Government students work at polls on election day, second largest contingent of all participating schools.
December: Student ambassadors at Browns Stadium help set up Providence House Annual “Deck the House” event; Juniors and others visit Hiram College for College Now program; Drama class & Drama Club see a performance of A Carol for Cleveland.
March: Art Club students wowed by the Cleveland Museum of Art’s latest exhibit: interactive Gallery One and the renovated museum itself.
April: Instrumental music students hear CityMusic at the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus; April is Minority Health Month. Representatives from University Hospitals, including nutritionist and diabetes specialists spent a day with the CCC students to discuss healthy eating habits and diabetes awareness.
This year: Juniors Cha’Nautica Hall and Katherine Lewicki participate in Look up to Cleveland.
Sports News

Bowlers Make Headlines
Lady Ironmen Collect Top Trophies

Week after week, for the entire bowling season, great news filled PA announcements on Monday mornings. With five bowling championships since 2004, this year’s top accolades went to the Lady Ironmen, who finished with a high baker series of 2550, high series total 2356 in scratch and 3352 in handicap. The team had the high individual game scratch 875 and handicap 1207. As trophies go, there were at least seven per girl! Aaron Eatman assisted Joe Kilburg in this, his last season as coach.

Beth Mackey (left) ranked fifth in the league with a 150 average in her fourth year. Kierra Obojski (center) was among a trio of Lady Ironmen who made a clean sweep of high games in the league with her 222. In her third year, with the third best league average of 163, Chanelle Dennard (right) had a high game of 223 and one of the top series totals of 542.

Inset, below: Antonio Vernon finished in the top 24 boys averages with 190.

Right: Michael Coutee was voted “Sportsman of the Year” by other schools in the league. Below: Among the trophies collected by Danyalis Cruz: 168.7 top average in league, high game 256 and top series 604.

John Rutledge
Winter Sports Awards

Boys Basketball

Chelvonte Montgomery #2
2nd Team All-Ohio
1st Team All NEO Inland District
1st Team All North Coast League
Team MVP

Antwon Lillard #22
3rd Team All NEO Inland District
1st Team All North Coast League

Giovanni Owensby
Len Janiak Award

Girls Basketball

Aliyah Thomas
1st Team All North Coast League

Taryn Mitchell
Len Janiak Award

Wrestling

Caleb Pope
District Qualifier, Team MVP

Matt Harrigan
Len Janiak Award

Bowling

Amy Mackey, Martin Kurtz
Len Janiak Awards

Varsity Girls

Won handicap (47-23) and
scratch (54-16) divisions of league

J.V. Girls

Tie 1st Place in handicap play
(51-19)

See more sports and school photography by Allen Clark, on: www.ironmanfilmworks.org
Recognition Awards Night

November Event
Honors Contributors

The Inaugural Cleveland Central Catholic Recognition Awards ceremony on November 17 honored seven individuals whose actions have promoted the mission of Catholic education at CCC. President Leo Hyland introduced the recipients, and pledged to “build on their legacies” to ensure a bright future for CCC students for generations to come. State Representative Marlene Piszczor Anielski ’79 added certificates commending the awardees.

Divided into its smaller, more intimate “alter ego”, the Wasmer Ironman Center was transformed into a starry, midnight blue venue by the Advancement Office. Ms. Traci Jones and Sr. Mary Seton Schlather, SND, added live piano music. The CCC Alumni Association and Third Federal Foundation co-sponsored the event.

Golf Outing Funds Create Visible Benefit

Locker rooms in the St. Stan’s Social Center got a facelift, thanks in part to funds raised at the last 2012 CCC Golf Outing sponsored by the Alumni Association. Last fall, in conjunction with a football game just a few steps away at Stefanski Field, President Leo Hyland took alumni faithful on a tour of the newly upgraded facilities.
Welcome Back Day!
Join us for a Campus Open House

All alumni, friends, and CCC families are invited to attend the 3rd Annual Welcome Back Day on Saturday, August 31, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm held at the Stefanski Stadium. Sponsored by Third Federal Savings, Welcome Back Day was created to open up our Slavic Village campus to our students, families, alumni and the broader community. Arrive by 12:30 p.m. and receive a complimentary meal of hot dogs, soft drink and chips – courtesy of Third Federal Savings. At 1:00 pm, the Ironmen will open their season against Warrensville Heights High School. Mark your calendars now and join us for this fun CCC tradition!

Track Highlight

Junior Michael King was featured as a Player of the Week in the Plain Dealer in April. He won the 200-meter dash in 24.02 seconds, and anchored the winning 4x100 and 4x400 relays at the Beachwood Invitational. In an April 19 interview on ESPN radio 990 AM, he verified that Central Catholic is “a great place with amazing people in it” along with sharing his “likes” and pre-game rituals. Along with track teammates, (especially Central’s perennially successful boys relay legs), Michael appeared in school on days after track meets, adorned with medals.

Save the date! Saturday, August 31, 2013

2013 CCC Golf Outing: June 8
(not June 15th, as scheduled earlier)

Golfers: “Scramble” format at Valleaire Golf Course, Hinckley, Ohio with lunch, drinks, steak dinner, gifts and prizes: $90. Tee Times from 10:15 am - 12:15 pm. Spread the word among classmates. Each year there are over 100 golfers. Try to assemble a foursome of CCC alum/friends. In any case, to reserve a spot contact Tim Myslenski at 216-789-1216 or myslenski@att.net

Volunteers: Help is needed with door prize and/or sponsor solicitation, outing setup, food prep or serving. Volunteers should contact Jerry Fasko 440-829-8827 or jfasko@yahoo.com

Sponsors: Sponsor a Hole ($100), donate a door prize, provide gifts for participants: your company’s logo golf balls, towels or other accessories. For info or questions, contact: Jerry Fasko 440-829-8827 jfasko@yahoo.com or John Simon 216-687-7659 simon1549@sbcglobal.net

CCC Alumni Association - Golf Committee

Attention Alumni: Send Updates
Go to www.centralcatholichs.org
> Alumni > Alumni Information Form

SNAPSHOT
Alumni

On-Campus Reunions Up

Increasing numbers of Ironman alumni find the “home field advantage” of Stefanski field. A home football game, paired with a nostalgic look at the remaining and expanded campus, creates the perfect recipe for a fun reunion. Last fall, two classes landed at the same restaurant after the game as well! Even outside homecoming weekend, the scent of the tailgate grill at home games draws in alumni like a magnet. Why not? They are IRONmen. And they are home.

Fourth Class Honors Sports Greats

Athletic Hall of Fame Adds 2013 Inductees

The Athletic Hall of Fame 2013 inductees were announced at Alumni Night at the Hoops in December. The list recognizes athletes from the founding schools that merged into Central, along with CCC era sports greats. See a full report of the April 28 double induction ceremony in an upcoming issue.

Below: Hall of Famers welcome new members at Alumni Night halftime.
Hall of Fame
Following the great tradition of induction events in 2004, 2008 and 2010, these athletes were honored in 2013:

**Founding School Inductees**
- Dave DiCarlo ’56 St. Stans
  - Football, Football Coach
- John Springer ’58 St. Stans
  - Football, Basketball
- Don Szymczak ’58 St. John Cantius
  - Baseball, Basketball
- Ken Wisnewski ’59 St. Stans
  - Football, Baseball
- Dan Coleman ’60 OLL (deceased)
  - Basketball
- Rich Sunyak ’64 St. John Cantius
  - Basketball, Football
- Charlie Oreskovic ’64 OLL
  - Basketball, Football
- John Rivera ’64 OLL
  - Football, Track

**Central Catholic Inductees**
- Ron Shannon ’73
  - Football
- Bruce Sebera ’74
  - Football, Baseball
- Trent Grooms ’76
  - Basketball
- Melvin Terrell ’80 (deceased)
  - Softball, Basketball, Volleyball, Bowling
- Denise Zerucha ’82
  - Football, Track
- Jerry Fesko ’89 – ’83
  - Football Coach
- David Lasecki ’87
  - Football, Baseball
- Joe LaBella ’76 – ’87 (deceased)
  - Basketball Coach, Athletic Director

**Upcoming Reunions**

**Class of 1963 – Lourdes**
50th Class reunion planned for the weekend of August 9, 2013. A weekend of activities includes Saturday mass, school tour, and dinner. Please contact Joan Miano (Zvolensky) at 419-798-4397 joanemiano@yahoo.com or Janice Evans (Sindelar) at 440-227-3264 cevans5420@windstream.net.

**Class of 1963 – St. Michaels**
50th Class reunion planned for Saturday, July 27, 2013 at Mavis Winkle’s Irish Pub on Rockside Road in Independence. Letters will be going out soon to classmates with all pertinent details. Please contact Georgette Ade Machar at gmac@qwest.net or Pat Nealis Neligan at neligan20@hotmail.com if you are interested in attending or helping with the reunion. In the meantime start getting together your memorabilia!

**Class of 1973**
40th Class reunion planned for Saturday, July 20, 2013. $25 ticket price includes appetizers, dinner and drink. Party place still to be decided.

Questions? Contact Laura (Krawczyk) Butler at 440-243-4854 or email laurabutler@oldaoak.org

**Class of 1983**
Darlene Calhoun is looking for other interested parties in forming a planning committee to help celebrate their 30th reunion. If interested, please contact Darlene at dcalhoun@aaec.com.

**Class of 1988**
Contact Cindy (Bodor) at vancecynthia@hotmail.com or Brian Fritz at bfritz2003@yahoo.com if you would like to form a committee to celebrate 25 years since you’ve walked the halls of Central Catholic.

1970 Yearbook Request
Fellow 70’s classmate, Stephen Valjato would like to secure a 1970 yearbook. If you can help Stephen, please email him at svaljato@nycrr.com.
Ironmen

1966 - OLL
Larry Chabowski met CCC government students, who “gave a good first impression and asked good questions” during training for poll workers. Years ago Larry worked maintenance at CCC while in college, remembering the four-campus progressive school and its founder, Fr. Fiala, who was a world-renowned horticulturalist.

1974
Jeanette Perchinske Sweetnich graduated from the Marymount Hospital School of Radiology to become a technologist. She resides in Seven Hills and has three children.

Carol Thorn attended tech school for cosmetology to work as a hairstylist. Now retired, she lives in Willoughby with husband John, but comments that they are “moving to be able to enjoy more time at our lake getaway on Catawba Island.”

1975
Therese Moore Williams graduated from Creative Images in 2002 with a focus on cosmetology. Now employed as Cosmetic Manager, she lives in Dayton with husband John.

1980
Ricardo Brown graduated from Ohio University with a major in communications. Currently he works as a commercial account manager.

1982
Cheryl Leigh Maki Boccia majored in accounting at CSU and is a CPA living in Fairview Park with husband Thomas and daughter Grace.

1984
Roch Sibits works as a chef/line cook and resides in Burton, Ohio.

1987
Tom Shewbridge is owner/author of www.amedicsworld.com. Tom is thankful for the enrichment he received from CCC. He is an Army veteran of Desert Storm/Desert Shield. While working as an EMS, he survived having a 4000 lb. van fall on him during a rescue. Recently, he has hung up his medic boots, due to the pain caused by the injury. Tom is trying to push forward and get support for his website.

1983
Keith Turner is Dean of Students and Athletic Director at a college in Minnesota. He majored in PE at Grambling University and has earned a master’s degree. His family includes wife Genie and three children.

1991
Scott Ochwat lives in Medina with wife Dawn. He does field service tech work.

2000
Melinda Silva was recently married to her childhood sweetheart, Tenneal Graves. Many CCC alumni were in attendance.

2005
Ashley Piorkowski graduated from Lake Erie College in 2009 with a major in marketing. She works as a senior claims adjuster.

2007
Paul Swisher ’07 (right), and Derrick Lockett ’99, teachers at Harvard Community School, visited the campus during a school shadowing day for future CCC students.

2010
Kenneth Brown attends the University of Toledo, majoring in communications.

2011
Peter Hernandez and Bill Pecek recently visited CCC. Pete is in the airforce and stationed in Okinawa. Billy runs his landscaping business as he trains for employment in a steel mill.

2012
Megan Creter ’12 and Class Salutatorian (left) was spotted on the Notre Dame College campus during New Student Weekend.
Ironmen in the News

CCC Alumni have appeared in varied print and broadcast media in recent months, with noteworthy roles and achievements.

In TIME Magazine: Robert Sommerfelt ’78 and Michele Stary Sommerfelt ’79 In the “Why Cleveland Rocked” article about President Barack Obama’s reelection, the Sommerfelt home was pictured, along with photos of Rob and Michele. Both were billed as “data captains” who logged info for Obama’s neighborhood campaigns in Cuyahoga County, key to his winning Ohio and a second term. The article appeared in the “Person of the Year” 2012 issue of TIME.

In Memoriam

Helen Valliere Holzman ’65 OLL passed away after a courageous battle with cancer in mid-March. She is survived by son Anthony and daughter-in-law Angie. She was a grandmother to five and a loving aunt and great-aunt to many. Helen stayed in touch with many of her classmates who sent prayers throughout Helen’s illness.

Bill Putka ’72 passed away in February. He is survived by his son, Colton and mother Jane, and was uncle and friend to many. His sister Jeannie ’73 attended Cleveland Central Catholic as well.

Jim Miller ’66 OLL entered eternal life on February 18, 2013. Jim was a member of the OHSAA and the NIAAA. He was a retired athletic director and teacher from Eastlake North High and retired after 35 years of service. Jim is survived by his wife of 42 years, Juanita and his children and grandchildren.

Prayers are sent to Sandi (Dloniak) ’64 OLL and Linda Dloniak ’66 OLL.

Terry Kilbane ’90 passed away December 5, 2012. Terry spent his career dedicated to his work as a Cleveland Policeman.
### Calendar of Events

**Saturday, June 8**
*(information on page 27)*

**Black and Gold Outing**
*Valleaire Golf Course, Hinckley, Ohio*

**Home Games**
*(all home games begin at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 31</td>
<td>vs. Warrensville Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>vs. Shaker Heights High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>vs. Trinity High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>vs. Lutheran East High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>vs. Holy Name High School</td>
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<td>October 26</td>
<td>vs. Villa Angela St. Joseph High School</td>
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**Winter Games**
*(information on page 27)*

**Welcome Back Day**
*Saturday, August 31*
*11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

**Cleanup+Clams**
*Saturday in October 2013*