



Catholic High *Parent Newsletter*

For the Parents and Guardians of The Catholic High School of Baltimore Students

Fall 2011



From Dr. Barbara D. Nazelrod '68, President

Dear Catholic High Parents and Guardians,

As you know by now, Catholic High is exciting, energetic, and vital in the lives of our students and their families. Catholic High events are total school community events, and I have been so touched by the outpouring of volunteerism this year. Numbers of parents, grandparents, and students have volunteered to work at Math Olympiad, and Open House, in addition to the many parents and guardians who are active in the Parent Guild and Fathers' Club. Success at any event, here or off campus, could not happen without so many members of our school community letting their light shine on behalf of Catholic High!

Parents, when you, as adult members of the community, model volunteerism for your daughters, you are providing them with a powerful learning opportunity. You show how much you value their lives as students of Catholic High in addition to demonstrating that your investment of time indicates that you believe in the financial investment of their education. And perhaps more importantly, you are modeling the importance of "giving back" in ways they will value for a lifetime.

As you read this newsletter and learn about future happenings at Catholic High, please know that we encourage your participation as a member of the Parents' Guild, Fathers' Club, Parent Ambassadors, Sports and Band Boosters, and Events Committee. There is no doubt that when you volunteer, it is a win - win situation: The school greatly benefits from your energy and labor and such a noticeable parent presence speaks volumes to prospective students and other guests. Your daughter, in addition, is given an opportunity to learn how much you value her and her education by your willingness to give time from your busy schedules to help Catholic High.

So my heartfelt thanks to all volunteers for your countless efforts on behalf of your daughter and all of the students of *The Catholic High School of Baltimore!*

May God continue to bless you and your families!

Dr. Barbara D. Nazelrod '68
President

From Mrs. Marti Meyd, Principal

Although the beginning of this school year presented several challenges such as earthquakes and floods, it has been smooth sailing for my transition to *The Catholic High School of Baltimore*. I have truly enjoyed meeting the entire school community and look forward to developing deeper connections as the year progresses.

This school year our focus continues to be on our mission statement that challenges us to academic excellence, responsible leadership, and Christian community service. We keep this statement at the forefront of all that we do every day to continue to empower young women.

In the area of academic excellence we know that student achievement is directly related to faculty performance, therefore we have developed a new method of professional growth. The faculty will utilize a yearlong procedure for professional growth that involves a self-evaluation component. We are blessed with a faculty that welcomes the opportunity to continue to grow professionally.

SAT results are another ongoing area of academic excellence where we are continually working. In the state of Maryland, SAT scores dropped by two points in critical reading and four points in writing. TCHS' scores rose three points in critical reading and two points in writing during the same period of time. This is a wonderful achievement given that SAT scores dropped nationally. We continue to develop strategies to assist student achievement on this test. Several new strategies implemented this year are the College Board online course, SAT word of the day, and creative ways to prepare our students to meet with success on this test. During advisory each student will be asked to create their own account on the College Board site. Encourage your daughter to show you this website and all of the information that is available to assist you in your search for a four-year college. Even ninth graders can begin to explore this site to make sure they are well prepared to make an appropriate college choice in senior year.

(cont. on page 3)



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Catholic High Parent Newsletter is published quarterly for parents and guardians of Catholic High students.

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Vice Principal

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*Director of Institutional
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Ms. Dori DiVenti

Editor

Mrs. Emily M. Vandergriff '01

From Mrs. Jan Bandzwolek, Vice Principal

Although it seems as if the school year has just begun, our girls have had the opportunity to participate in many wonderful activities and have so many memory-making events on the horizon. Hello Day was a wonderful experience for our freshmen as our seniors, their "Big Sisters," did an outstanding job of showering them with gifts and officially welcoming them to our school community. We had our first Pep Rally that was very spirited and recognized students who earned gold or silver honors the end of last school year at our Honors Assembly. We have also had the opportunity to celebrate two beautiful liturgies. As I am writing this, we are preparing for Harvest Ball which is always a much anticipated event for our juniors and seniors. Many more events are in the near future. Please be aware of the following important dates and events:

November 10 and 11 - Ring Balance Collection (Juniors)

Representatives from Balfour Company will be here at lunch to collect the balance owed on the school ring. Please be sure to plan for this as we may only present rings at the Ring Liturgy to those who have paid for the ring in full. If you have questions about your balance, please call Randy Bowers, our Balfour representative, at 410-321-4433.

November 10 and 11 - Commencement Stationery Orders and Cap and Gown Measurements (Seniors)

Stationery orders will be taken during lunch periods. This will be your only opportunity to order here at school. At the same time, seniors will be measured for their cap and gown. It is very important that all seniors be measured that day to insure proper fit. Please be aware that the charge for the cap and gown was included in your senior fees.

November 22 - Ring Liturgy (Juniors)

This is one of the highlights of your daughter's high school career. Please join us for liturgy and a reception to follow. This is a formal ceremony and we request appropriate dress and respectful behavior.

We are grateful for your help and support in enforcing our school policies. Two areas where we continue to ask for your help and support are with the issue of cell phones and the length of the kilt. Our school policy clearly states that cell phones are to be on silent and in a purse or book bag during the school day (7:45 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.). Schools must be concerned not only with the disruption that cell phones create, but the privacy issues and academic dishonesty issues that are created by these devices. I encourage you to go online and check your daughter's cell phone usage during school hours. Please remind her that there are serious disciplinary consequences for repeated violation of our cell phone policy.

Many of our girls are wearing kilts that are too short. We are addressing this issue individually, but remind you that you received a letter this past summer clearly outlining our expectations for the proper wearing of the school uniform. Kilts are expected to be approximately 2 inches above the knee. Please check your daughter's kilt and lower the hem, if necessary. In some instances, it may be necessary to purchase a new kilt.

I am always happy and available to speak with you if you have any concerns about our school policies.



Friday, November 11

7:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Martin's Valley Mansion

For tickets or more information contact

Ms. Kim Becker '02 at

kbecker@thecatholichighschool.org.

From Mrs. Kari McBride, Athletic Director

Thanks to everyone who supported our Booster Club Joe Corbi Fundraiser. Our next Booster Club event is the Spaghetti Dinner on November 18 in the O'Connell Dining Hall. Tickets are just \$8 for students and adults, \$7 for senior citizens, and \$5 for children under the age of 12.

Winter Sports try-outs begin on November 7. Our winter sports include Varsity and Junior Varsity Basketball, Varsity Indoor Track & Field, and Varsity Swimming. Cheerleading and Dance are also considered winter sports but try-outs were held last May. Please visit the school website for game schedules so you can catch our Cubs in action.

The annual Junior vs Senior Powder Puff game is on November 9 at Herring Run park at 3:30 p.m. Come cheer on your favorite class and enjoy a hot dog and drink from the Booster Club.

Congratulations to Gab Polsinelli, Senior Cheerleading Captain, for another successful year of organizing our *Cubs for the Cure* campaign to help raise funds to research breast cancer.

Congratulations to Ellie Gonzalez '14 who was chosen as the Baltimore Ravens *Athlete of the Week*. On October 16 Ellie was recognized on the field at M&T Bank Stadium for her outstanding performance on our cross country and track teams, as well as for her outstanding academic achievements.

From Mrs. Katie Laufersweiler-Hanf Coordinator of Spiritual Life

Adopt-a-Family - Thursday, November 3 - Tuesday, December 6

Thanksgiving Prayer Service - Thursday, November 17

Junior Ring Liturgy - Tuesday, November 22

Advent Reconciliation/Prayer Service - Thursday, December 1

First Half of Community Service Hours Due - Friday, January 13

Catholic Schools Week Liturgy - Tuesday, January 31

Please contact Mrs. Laufersweiler-Hanf at 410.732.6200 Ext. 492 regarding community service hours, prayer services, and liturgies.

From the Guidance Department

College Applications - Early Action and priority deadlines for four-year colleges are fast approaching. Please have your daughter check any deadlines for colleges to which she is planning to apply. And, of course, she should have asked two teachers for recommendations letters. If she has not done so, she should take care of that as soon as possible. Requests for transcripts to be sent to any college must be made in writing; appropriate forms are available in the guidance office.

FAFSA and College Financial Aid - We will be holding a College Financial Aid workshop in December. Please ignore the date that's listed in the school calendar. We have a verbal commitment from the director of the Financial Aid Department at Loyola to be our presenter for that event, but it will be on a different night than the one indicated on the calendar. Please watch your email inbox, our website, etc. for further information and the exact date.

Extended Time on Standardized Tests - In order to be approved for extended time testing or other accommodation for a standardized College Board (PSAT, SAT, AP) or ACT test, a student must have a diagnosed learning difficulty or disability, a formal application must be made, and approval in writing must be received. If you feel as though your daughter qualifies for such an accommodation, please contact Mr. Sposato in the guidance department for information about this process.

From Mrs. Marti Meyd, Principal (cont.)

When we looked at our academics last year we knew we needed to develop the opportunity for STEM students to participate in our Fine Arts program and rotate the classes missed by early dismissal athletics. Our new schedule has accomplished these goals. We also know change can be difficult and we are consistently monitoring ways to improve every aspect of the school experience including the schedule.

As you can see we are off to a wonderful school year. We thank you for choosing TCHS for your daughter. Your choice is the gift of a quality education that will empower her for a lifetime. I cannot think of a better gift to give your daughter!

Sincerely,

Marti Meyd
Principal

*From Ms. Dori DiVenti,
Director of Institutional Advancement*

Support *The Catholic High School of Baltimore*
Annual Fund 2011-2012



Empowering Women to Make a Difference

Can Effect the Transformation of our Society Through...



•Academic Excellence •Responsible Leadership •Christian Community Service

The Annual Fund is an important part of our operating budget. It helps maintain our tuition in the middle range of Catholic secondary school tuitions in the Baltimore area and also supports academic enrichment, technology, building improvements, and financial aid for a growing number of our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following individuals who have volunteered to Co-Chair the Annual Fund Parent Division:

Senior – Debra Antonio, P '12


Junior – Patricia Quinn Stabile '75, P '13

Sophomore – Michele VanDetta Lanasa '88, P '14


Freshman – Sandy Reese Jenkins '81, P '15 & Suzanne Leonardi Maria '85, P '15

Please consider helping us to empower women to make a difference by giving today. Here are the many ways to participate:


What Your Gift Can Do...




\$250 - a musical instrument for the Fine Arts Dept.



\$500 - 1 Handheld Android Tablet Device



\$1,000 - 12 e-textbooks



\$2,000 - set of home and away athletic uniforms

Online - make a secured gift online at www.thecatholichighschool.org

Check - make check payable to *The Catholic High School of Baltimore* and mail to 2800 Edison Highway, Baltimore, MD 21213, Attn: Annual Fund

Matching Gift - have your employer or your spouse's employer match your Annual Fund contribution

Honorarium/Memorials - make a gift in memory or honor of family or friends

Pledge - pledge your gift in the fall and make several payments by June 30

Gifts of Securities - contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 410.732.6200 ext. 243

Estate Planning - include TCHS in your will. Contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 410.732.6200 ext. 243.

Feel free to contact the Office of Institutional Advancement if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you for all that you do for *The Catholic High School of Baltimore!*

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season!

Sincerely,
Dori DiVenti
Director of Institutional Advancement

