

THE QUADRANGLE

FALL/WINTER 2024

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



TRIUMPH ON THE WATER

ALUMNUS WINS PG. 32
OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL

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"Celebrating our Teachers – Past and Present"

35TH ANNUAL



VIKING VICTORY AUCTION

CENTRAL CATHOLIC

Chaired by the Class of 1984

May 3, 2025

The Westin Pittsburgh

Since the first auction in 1990, the event has raised over \$6.5 million to benefit the young men of Central Catholic High School.

For more information or to join the Auction Committee please contact Haley VanWagenen:

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Welcome LETTERS

Dear Central Catholic High School Community,

WELCOME TO THE FALL/WINTER EDITION OF THE QUADRANGLE MAGAZINE, DEDICATED TO THE HISTORIC AND REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY, CURRENT STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI.

As I reflect on my own journey within this incredible community, I am reminded of how each of our stories contributes to the larger narrative of our school. Every triumph, challenge, and moment of growth becomes a part of the legacy we share. It is a reminder to all of us, in particular my fellow alumni that, *"Your Story is His Story."*

In the pages that follow, we delve into the narratives that define our community, celebrating the journeys of our students, alumni, faculty, and families. Each story is a testament to the Lasallian charism which we hold dear: *faith, scholarship, service, and brotherhood.*

As members of the Central Catholic High School community, the only all-boys school in Western Pennsylvania, we are part of a legacy that shapes not only who we are as students during our four years but also who we aspire to become as leaders in the world. For nearly one hundred years, the school's focus continues to be providing the best possible formative experience, handed down to us from St. John Baptist de LaSalle, for the young men who are fortunate enough to walk these hallowed halls. It is no surprise then that Central Catholic was recently **RECOGNIZED BY NICHE AS THE #1 BEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN THE PITTSBURGH AREA.**



Our individual experiences as students, alumni, faculty, and families contribute to a collective history that inspires future generations of Vikings.

This issue invites you to reflect on the power of this shared experience. From the friendships formed in the hallways to the lessons learned in and out of the classroom, each story is a thread in the rich tapestry of our history. Our values of faith, scholarship, service, and brotherhood guide us as we navigate life's ups and downs, reminding us that we are never alone on our paths. By sharing these amazing stories, we not only honor our past but also pave the way for a vibrant future filled with understanding and connection to this special place we call Central Catholic.

Thank you for being a vital part of our community. Your story matters, and together, we are writing a history worth celebrating.

May God bless you and your families.

With warm regards,

Matthew J. Stoessel, '95
President, Central Catholic High School

Dear Central Catholic Family,

Recently, I was talking with my dad about the unexpected things we "learned" during the pandemic, and he casually pointed out that I became a big "podcast guy" during that time. I'll admit it... he's absolutely right. As a former history teacher who fell in love with the subject as a student after learning about the ancient Greeks and Romans, I was struck by Stoicism's focus on steady habits and routines and it soon became a real anchor for me, especially in my faith life. In the succeeding years, I've come to see how the simple practice of good habits can bring about meaningful change.

At Central Catholic, one of my favorite "habits" is to wander. As the new guy on campus, I've discovered that wandering isn't the worst thing as it leads to the best kinds of impromptu invitations to connect with the community. Whether it's stepping into a classroom to watch a student presentation, helping with a scholarship application for college, or debating Friday night's projected margin of victory, wandering allows me to experience life at Central in an unscripted way.

Reflecting on our Lasallian charism, I'm often inspired by the "habits" of our founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle. His life was a journey marked by relentless faith, curiosity, and a passion for service. His work was also countercultural, especially for his time in 17th century France. In my own wanderings around Central Catholic, I see how the Founder's countercultural habits and the example of the Brothers are being carried on by our students. It makes Central Catholic stand out as when society "zigs," our Lasallian values "zag," pushing us to better ourselves and our communities around us.



It's inspiring to walk these halls, to see our countercultural mission at work, to witness traditions lived out daily, and to watch your sons grow into *Men of Faith, Scholarship, and Service* under the tutelage of dedicated Lasallian educators.

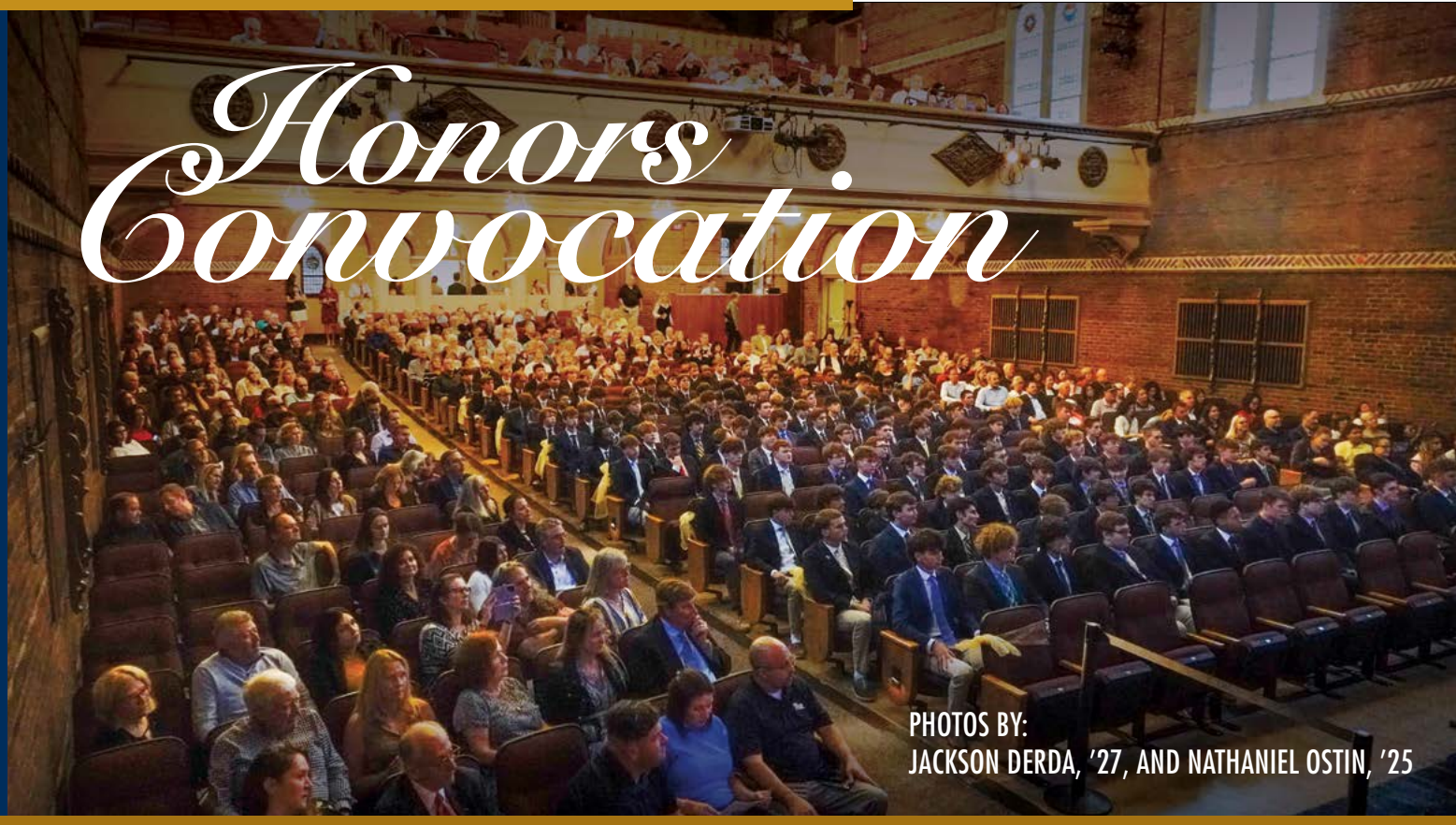
To our Central Catholic families, thank you for the privilege of working with your sons. You are their primary educators, and with your support, along with the community at Central Catholic, this generation of Vikings are building habits that will lead them to incredible success. Together, we're shaping an enduring legacy of faith, scholarship, and service and I appreciate your commitment to our unique Lasallian tradition.

Roll Vikes!

John "Jack" R. Wallace
Principal, Central Catholic High School

*St John Baptist de LaSalle ... Pray for us!
Live Jesus in our Hearts ... Forever!*

Honors Convocation



PHOTOS BY:
JACKSON DERDA, '27, AND NATHANIEL OSTIN, '25



CENTRAL CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL
had the pleasure of
celebrating the accomplishments
of our students who achieved
high academic success during
the 2023-24 school year at this
year's Honors Convocation.

**202 STUDENTS
RECEIVED
RECOGNITION FOR
THEIR SCHOLASTIC
EXCELLENCE.**

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



SCHOLARS SPAN THE WORLD

BY: PATRIZIA COSTA, PH.D AND KURT RETENAUER, '08

In June, Central Catholic High School's juniors and seniors in The Brother David S. Baginski, FSC Scholars Program traveled on a special 10-day study abroad to Central Europe. For some, it was their first time traveling outside the United States.

In preparation for the trip, the students enrolled in a literature course called *Mitteleuropa: The Center Lies East*, taught by Kurt Retenauer, '08. "Exploring authors such as Franz Kafka allowed students to see the implications and intent behind the Central European experience: what it means to be behind, or part of, the Iron Curtain, and how it shaped Central Europe as we know it today," said Retenauer. "Seeing the inspiration for many Central European authors and artists helped the course come to life as it culminated in the streets and sights that these authors walked and witnessed throughout Prague, Budapest, and Vienna."

Central Europe's history as a contested region and its years behind the Iron Curtain made it an ideal place to learn about transforming economies, evolving political systems, efforts at finding a place in the international community, and the resilience of local culture and identity."

"THE SCHOLARS TRIP TO CENTRAL EUROPE WAS AN ABSOLUTE BLAST. GETTING 'LOST' IN FOUR DIFFERENT EUROPEAN CAPITALS, EXPLORING NEW THINGS, AND EATING NEW FOODS WITH SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS WAS THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME. WE WALKED THE STREETS OF THE OLD CITY OF PRAGUE AT NIGHT, CLIMBED TO THE TOP OF THE CITADEL IN BUDAPEST, AND RODE BIKES THROUGH VIENNA."

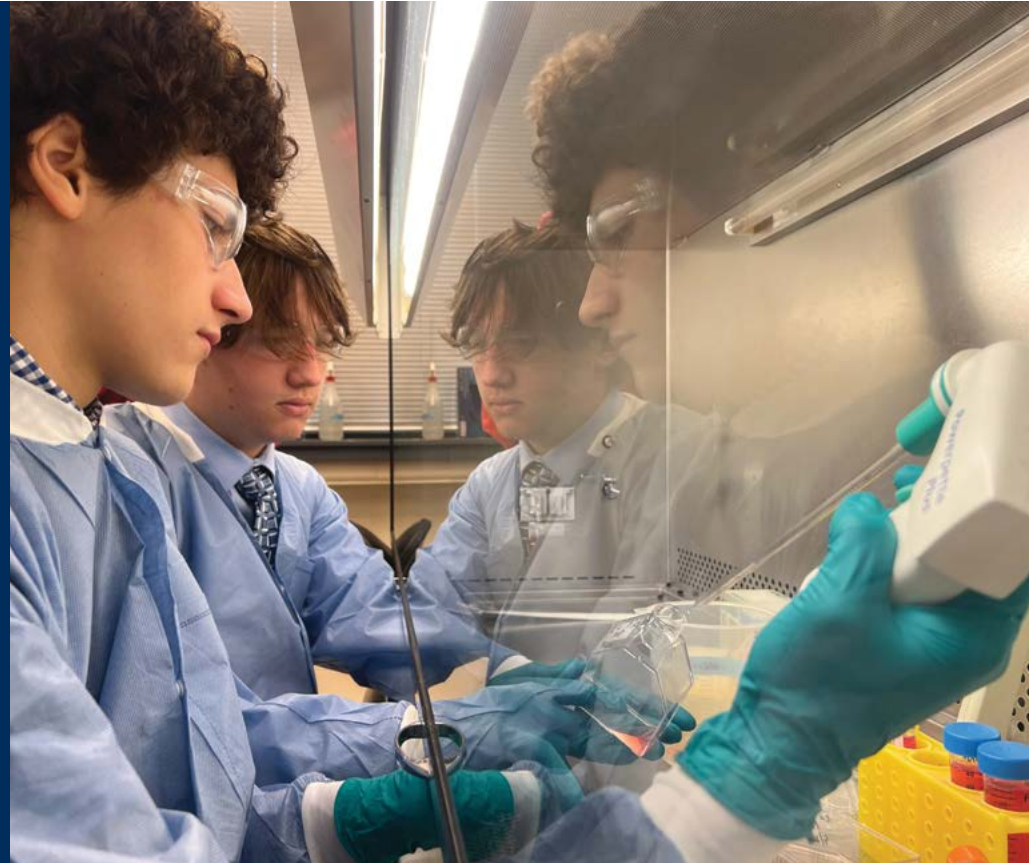


THOMAS WINGERTER, '25

"EXPERIENCING UNFAMILIAR CULTURES IN CENTRAL EUROPE EXPANDED MY UNDERSTANDING OF DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES AND VALUES, WHICH SHOWED ME THE RICHNESS OF CULTURE WORLDWIDE. EXPLORING THE CITIES AND STUDYING THE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES AND DIVERSITY MADE ME FEEL MORE APPRECIATION FOR TRADITIONS AND EXPERIENCES THAT DIFFER FROM THE ONES WE ARE USED TO."



BEN BALLA, '25



CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH

Science teacher Mark Krotec, '73, designed a field trip to Carnegie Mellon University's Biomedical Engineering Lab, for those taking Bioengineering and AP Biology, to engage in stem cell technology. The students were tasked with determining the effects of various concentrations of a steroidal anti-inflammatory drug on mammalian myoblastic stem cells. Students grew cultures of cells and investigated potential adverse effects on cell replication and differentiation.

RAFFLE

The results of this year's student activity raffle are in! We thank all of the participants and congratulate the winners, especially Stacey Shriber, who took home the grand prize of \$10,000! The total amount raised this year is \$97,800, exceeding the initial goal of \$85,000! The entire student body has received the reward of a "Principal's Holiday," a day off from school on February 10, 2025.



ADVISING ON DRUG AND ALCOHOL AVOIDANCE

The Greenfield Organized Against Drugs (GOAD) organization presented to three sophomore homerooms, led by retired physician Dr. Bernie Bernacki, '70, and his team of six others, about the science, psychological, and spiritual detriments of abusing drugs and alcohol.



CENTRAL MEN OF MERIT

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNIZES RYAN JAMESON, '25, WHO HAS BEEN NAMED A SEMIFINALIST IN THE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

Only 16,000 students become semifinalists and will move on to compete for 6,870 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million in the spring of 2025.

This prestigious academic competition recognizes high-performing high school students based on their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). 34,000 of 50,000 high-scoring students nationwide are named as commended students.



Ryan Jameson, '25
Semifinalist



Santino Balistreri, '25



Victor Ezaru, '25



Andrew Koes, '25



Nathan Radkowski, '25



Everett Sargent, '25

THE FOLLOWING 5 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN NAMED "COMMEDED STUDENTS":



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Every year, as the buildup to Thanksgiving begins, our students, faculty, and staff collect canned goods to benefit The Little Sisters of the Poor.

CENTRAL CATHOLIC RAISED \$16,623 WORTH OF MONEY AND CANNED GOODS FOR NURSING CARE RESIDENTS.



BLACK COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Central Catholic's Black Student Union members attended the 12th Annual Steel City HBCU College Fair, which brought 38 historically black colleges and universities to Pittsburgh. Junior and senior students had the opportunity to explore the wide range of higher education options.



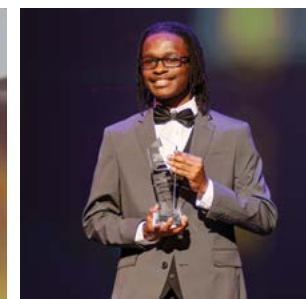
HOMECOMING 2024

The Junior/Senior Homecoming dance was attended by 275 formally dressed students, who socialized with friends, created memories, and celebrated school spirit. The dance was held in the Cathedral Room at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Participants enjoyed a meal, music, and dancing. Highlights included a photo booth for memories and a "Hoco Cocoa" bar to warm up! It was a fun night among classmates and showcased school pride.



TIME TO SHYNE!

Cornell Jones, '25, and Ray Porter, '26, received top honors at the annual Shyne Awards in Pittsburgh for their work in the community and being exceptional leaders among their peers. The Shyne Awards is a non-profit organization whose mission is to create public platforms to recognize the positive achievements of youth between the ages 13-24, including offering educational programs and events to assure the personal, social, and academic attainment of all youth.



ATHLETICS



THE CREW ON THE RIVER

THE CENTRAL CATHOLIC ROWING TEAM HAD A STRONG SHOWING AT THE "HEAD OF THE OHIO," HOSTED BY THE THREE RIVERS ROWING ASSOCIATION, DURING THE 2024 REGATTA.

The 3.2-mile event marked the beginning of the fall racing season. Central Catholic's 1V finished in second place.

Olympic Gold Medalist Michael Grady, '15 visited with the team to give words of support prior to the race.





CROSS COUNTRY

The Central Catholic Varsity Cross Country team placed third at the Bald Eagle Invitational at White Oak Park. The team was led by (LEFT TO RIGHT) William Berger, '26, Trey Trebilcock, '25, Nate Tunno, '27, Bruce Goodman, '26, William Vidic, '27, Alex Patino, '26, Colton Ginsberg, '28, Holden Neff, '28.

NEW ATHLETIC STAFFERS JOIN THE TEAM



BRADLEY BESTIC - HEAD BASEBALL COACH

On the heels of leading Seton LaSalle Catholic High School to back-to-back WPIAL Championships in the last two years, Bradley Bestic is excited to join Central Catholic as Head Baseball Coach.

Bestic is in his 14th year coaching, with previous stops at Vincentian Academy, Knoch High School, Saint Joseph High School, and Seton LaSalle Catholic High School. His prior experience includes serving as an assistant athletic director at Vincentian and athletic director at Saint Joseph.

Bestic's current full-time role is the Director of School Development for BigTeams, a company specializing in online athletic management tools for high schools. When he is not coaching, he spends time with his wife, Maura, and daughter Eliza.

ROLL VIKES!

NICE SHOT!

Bailey Donahue, '28, made a hole-in-one at Hannastown Golf Club. In a match against Greensburg Central Catholic, he hit the rare shot from 191 yards using a 7 iron.



WINNERS ON THE COURSE

The Central Catholic Varsity Golf team won Section 4 with a record of 10 wins and 2 losses. Overall, the team ended their season with 12 wins and 3 losses.

DILLON KAPP - ATHLETIC TRAINER

Dillon Kapp joins Central Catholic as the Head Athletic Trainer for the 2024-2025 school year. Prior to Central Catholic, he was an athletic trainer in the NFL, SEC, XFL and at Oakland Catholic High School. Dillon has a B.S. in Athletic Training from The Pennsylvania State University and a M.S. in Health Promotions from Mississippi State University.



DOM MEANS, '17 - HEAD WRESTLING COACH

Dom Means, a Squirrel Hill native, will take on his first season as Head Wrestling Coach at Central Catholic this year. He attended Gannon University, graduated with a degree in Marketing in 2022, and completed his MBA in 2023. He was a 2-time Division II All-American, placing 4th at 157lbs in the 2023 NCAA Wrestling Championships in his final season. He aims to keep up the recent success of the program and continue to create great citizens outside of the wrestling room. Dom works in sales at Green Apple Barter; his hobbies include long-distance running, concerts, watching sports, and collecting vinyl records.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



BREWED FOR BRILLIANCE

Since 2020, Brother Andre's Café has been more than just a place to enjoy fresh baked goods and gourmet coffee; it has become a cornerstone of community service and support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). In partnership with Central Catholic High School, this ministry continues to brew both delicious beverages and life-changing opportunities for many.

The mission of Move a Mountain Missions, which Brother Andre's Café is part of, is to provide meaningful work experience for individuals with IDD. Central Catholic's juniors engage in weekly activities, prayer, and volunteer efforts at the café, where they are given the chance to connect with employees and patrons. A favorite activity is the weekly bocce tournament, led by students, which brings joy to everyone involved. Students also attend Mass at Epiphany Church in Pittsburgh's Uptown neighborhood, where the Café is housed.

This partnership reflects the Lasallian values that are at the heart of a Central Catholic education: faith, service, compassion, and respect. It gives students an opportunity to practice these principles in real-world settings, building a deeper understanding of what it means to serve others with love and care.

Father Chris Donley, '97, co-founder of Brother Andre's Café, Pastor of Divine Mercy Parish, and chaplain of Central Catholic High School, has been an integral part of the program's success and intimately involved since its inception.

"WHEN WE TOOK OUR FIRST MISSION TRIP THROUGH MOVE A MOUNTAIN MISSIONS TO MUSTARD SEED COMMUNITIES WITH THE STUDENTS OF CENTRAL CATHOLIC IN THE SUMMER OF 2018, WE BEGAN TO DISCERN HOW TO SERVE THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US IN THE PITTSBURGH REGION. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, FELLOW ALUMNUS MIKE FITZGERALD, '79, CAME TO ME WITH AN IDEA THAT WE HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO DISCUSS. WE TOOK THIS AS A SIGN FROM GOD."

AND SO, BROTHER ANDRE'S CAFÉ BEGAN TO TAKE OFF.

With Mike's son, Patrick Fitzgerald, ready to sign on as their first hire, Brother Andre's Café was born. Fr. Chris regularly speaks with compassion about Central Catholic's influence on this ministry.

"MY TIME AT CENTRAL CATHOLIC TAUGHT ME A GREAT DEAL. AMONG THE MANY LESSONS I LEARNED WAS THE VALUE OF CHRIST-CENTERED SERVICE. BROTHER ANDRE'S CAFÉ HAS HIRED 13 IDD EMPLOYEES, AND WE ARE SLATED TO OPEN A SECOND LOCATION. I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR THE PARTNERSHIP WE HAVE FORGED WITH CENTRAL CATHOLIC AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE YEARS OF SERVING THE MOST VULNERABLE AT HOME AND ABROAD IN THE YEARS TO COME."



▶ FATHER CHRIS DONLEY, '97 AND PATRICK FITZGERALD

▶ PATRICK FITZGERALD

"I AM A PROUD CENTRAL CATHOLIC MAN, AND I DON'T KNOW IF THERE IS ANOTHER GRADUATE THAT EMBRACES THE CENTRAL CATHOLIC VALUES OF 'INTEGRITY, RESPECT, SERVICE, JUSTICE, AND PEACE' MORE PASSIONATELY THAN FATHER CHRIS DONLEY, '97," SAID MIKE FITZGERALD, '79. HIS LOVE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US, INCLUDING ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, HAS TRANSFORMED THE LIVES OF SO MANY IN AN INCREDIBLY POSITIVE WAY, INCLUDING MY SON PATRICK, WHO LIVES WITH AUTISM. MY WIFE, TERRI, AND I WILL NEVER FORGET WHAT HE DID FOR PATRICK AND FOR US!"

Central Catholic Campus Minister Dan Gallagher, the organization's other co-founder, has been a stalwart champion for the cause and continuously supports the initiatives that go a long way to bring about spiritual growth and sensitivity.

"IT HAS BEEN BEAUTIFUL TO SEE THIS SAME TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE UNFOLD AS OUR STUDENTS FROM CENTRAL CATHOLIC ENCOUNTER BROTHER ANDRE'S TEAM MEMBERS EACH WEEK," said Gallagher. "THE LOVE AND JOY OF CHRIST SHINES THROUGH THEM SO CLEARLY AND TOUCHES THE HEARTS OF OUR STUDENTS."

This partnership beautifully highlights how the principles taught within the walls of Central Catholic extend beyond academics.

At the beginning of the 2024-25 school year, Brother Andre's Café coffee became available in Central Catholic's dining hall, giving faculty, staff, and guests the opportunity to enjoy the café's delicious brews daily.

If you want to be part of this inspiring mission or simply enjoy some of Pittsburgh's best coffee, visit Brother Andre's Café at 164 Washington Place. They're open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. To learn more about this meaningful initiative, visit BrotherAndres.org.



▶ DAN GALLAGHER AND FATHER CHRIS DONLEY, '97

NEW FACULTY

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL WELCOMED THE NEW FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS TO CAMPUS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR!



BRADLEY DAVIS DEAN OF STUDENTS

Bradley Davis' professional background training is as a School Psychologist. He spent several years in this role, focusing on psychoeducational evaluations, consultation, and counseling prior to serving as Dean of Students at his previous school, South Hills Catholic Academy.

Thus far, Davis has loved his time at Central Catholic and looks forward to his future. Outside of work, he enjoys competing in ultra-distance running and triathlon events and spending time with friends and family.



MAGGIE HARRIS MATHEMATICS TEACHER

Maggie Harris grew up in the White Oak section of Pittsburgh and graduated from McKeesport High School. Harris later attended the University of Kentucky, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and then went to Duquesne University for a Masters in Secondary Mathematics Education. Throughout her 11 years of teaching, Harris has been an educator at Propel Braddock Hills High School, Queen of Angels Catholic School, Franklin Regional High School, and Fox Chapel High School.

SEAN GATTA VOCAL MUSIC TEACHER

Born and raised in Long Island, NY, Sean Gatta is "overjoyed" to step into the role of the Head of Choral Music & The Masque at Central Catholic! After teaching in public high school for five years, he, along with his wife Meg and their dachshund Mabel, made the move to Pittsburgh for this incredible job opportunity.

You can probably find him going to a musical, movie, or concert when he's not teaching or making music. His other interests include stand-up comedy, travel, and watching sports. Roll Vikes!



JENNIFER TOPRANI DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

Jennifer Toprani arrived at Central Catholic with 20 years of experience working with high school students to achieve their goals. She is a trained trauma therapist in sports psychology and a behavioral specialist who addresses the whole student during the transition to higher education. She is a native of Kentucky, attended the University of Alabama as an undergraduate, and is a huge college sports fan. "I am honored to have this opportunity to help each young man achieve their dream of becoming who God has called them to be."

Toprani enjoys spending time and traveling with her husband, Steve, and their three children (William, '27, Sophie, and Matthew, future Viking Class of 2035). Their favorite place to visit is Belgium.





A RIDE FOR BOB!

The Central Catholic Community came together at the Cadence Clubhouse in Allison Park to celebrate Mass and remember our former Physical Education and Health teacher, Mr. Robert "Bob" Anderson. Mr. Anderson was an avid bicyclist, and those who gathered shared stories and created an atmosphere of which he would have been proud. Following the celebration of the Eucharist, Mr. Anderson's legacy was highlighted when guests participated in a picnic, community walk, and bike ride around North Park Lake, where he frequently engaged in various types of recreation. It was a fitting tribute to his passion for cycling and created an emotional bond among all who participated in the memorial. Mr. Anderson will be deeply missed by students, faculty and staff.



MOTHERS' GUILD

FASHION ON DISPLAY

The Annual Mothers' Guild Fashion Show dazzled attendees with stunning designs, striking models, and a French-inspired theme that set the tone of the day. The goal of securing funds for campus security at Central Catholic High School was met, as over \$20,000 was raised. With each ticket sold, the event celebrated fashion but, more importantly, united the community in prioritizing the safety of the students, faculty, and staff.

"OUR FASHION SHOW CELEBRATES WOMEN, FAMILY, SERVICE, FASHION, AND SMALL, FEMALE-RUN BUSINESSES. IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF AND LEAVE A LASTING IMPACT," said Jamie Murphy, P'26, Vice President, Mothers' Guild and Fashion Show Chair. "I'VE HAD THE EXTRAORDINARY PRIVILEGE OF WORKING ALONGSIDE SOME OF THE MOST GENEROUS, TALENTED, AND FUN WOMEN WHOM I AM LUCKY TO CALL MY FRIENDS WHILE RAISING MONEY FOR OUR BELOVED CENTRAL CATHOLIC. AS THE SAYING GOES, **"TRADITION NEVER GRADUATES," AND THE MOTHERS' GUILD NEVER QUILTS!"**

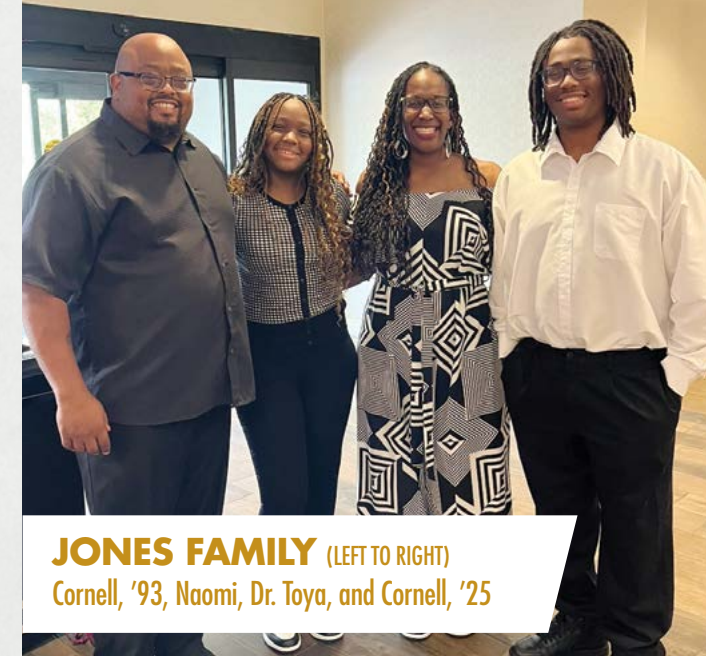
ADMISSIONS

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PROVIDES A UNIQUE COLLEGE-PREPARATORY EDUCATION, BALANCING A BREADTH OF EXPOSURE WITH AN IN-DEPTH PURSUIT OF A STUDENT'S STRONGEST INTERESTS.

Understanding the demands of college, we combine our college-preparatory, liberal arts education with a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curriculum that is among the best in Western Pennsylvania.



Parent Testimonials



JONES FAMILY (LEFT TO RIGHT)
Cornell, '93, Naomi, Dr. Toya, and Cornell, '25

“I chose Central Catholic because I knew it would be a challenging atmosphere that would help prepare my son for college and the "real world." I also knew that after graduating, he would be connected to powerful alumni. Central prepared me to be successful, and I wanted to ensure my son had the same preparation.

I always thought it was cool that my older brother graduated in 1986. Then I graduated in 1993. To have my son walking down the same halls that we walked and around the same Quadrangle that we walked was inspiring. I'm blessed to say that my nephew, Ray Porter, Jr., '26, is there too, and he is keeping the tradition alive. When my son was born, I knew where he would attend high school. During his freshman year, I told him that he will receive the best secondary education in Western Pennsylvania and be well prepared for college. I'm proud to say that he is currently a senior and I credit the support system at home and Central Catholic High School for being a significant part of his success.”

- CORNELL JONES, '93



OPEN HOUSE

Open House at Central Catholic is designed to welcome prospective students (of all ages) and their families to explore our campus and interact with faculty, staff, coaches, and current students. This is an opportunity to learn about our diverse classes, programs, and extracurricular activities. The event highlights our commitment to an academic environment where students can thrive.



Parent Testimonials



TUNNO FAMILY (LEFT TO RIGHT)
Elissa, Muiriel, Nate, '27, and Matt

Central Catholic has exceeded our high expectations for academic excellence and challenge. The school's diverse academic offerings and its rigorous yet supportive environment have provided just the right balance to encourage Nate's growth without overwhelming him. The extracurricular options have added a much-needed balance, supporting his physical development, competitive spirit, and social life. The wide range of activities has allowed Nate to find his niche, and the dedication of student-athletes and coaches has created an enjoyable, engaging environment that emphasizes both competition and sportsmanship. We're especially excited for Nate to begin the engineering program as a sophomore, which will further enhance his academic experience.

We believe this program will help him build professional skills to support his success in competitive university settings and beyond. On the spiritual side, Nate truly enjoyed participating in the Appalachian Mission Trip last summer. This experience not only deepened his faith but also strengthened his connections with classmates—an opportunity uniquely available at a service-oriented high school like Central Catholic.☺

- MATT TUNNO, P'27



VIKING FOR A DAY

Every fall, we welcome eighth-grade students from the Pittsburgh region to attend "Viking for a Day!" For a full school day, prospective students can experience our school community by shadowing, participating in engaging activities, and interacting with current students and faculty. This annual program not only showcases our academic programs but also gives a sense of what to expect as these young learners step into the exciting world of high school.



SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!

FINANCIAL AID AND MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS CAN MAKE A CENTRAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION ATTAINABLE FOR YOUR SON

Through the generosity of our alumni and supporters, Central Catholic provided over \$3 million in tuition assistance and merit scholarships for the 2024-2025 school year. The average aid awarded to qualifying families is \$6,900.

Central Catholic is accepting applications for the 2025-26 school year. Visit CENTRALCATHOLICHS.COM/APPLY to learn more and submit an application.



STATE OF THE SCHOOL REPORT

JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024

STUDENTS

NEARLY 100 YEARS OF EDUCATING young men from across Southwestern Pennsylvania.
Our student body consists of **700 STUDENTS**.



TUITION

2024-2025 TUITION - \$15,250
ACTUAL COST PER STUDENT - \$18,150
NEARLY 55% OF STUDENTS RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL AID.
AVERAGE FINANCIAL AID AWARD - \$6,900



ACADEMICS

150 DISTINCT CLASSES
- 29 HONORS COURSES
- 16 AP COURSES



FACULTY-STUDENT RATIO - 13:1

STUDENT LIFE:

19 ATHLETIC TEAMS
40 CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES
OVER 5,000 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE COMPLETED ANNUALLY



FAST FACTS

OVER 25,000 ALUMNI SINCE 1927

VALUABLE NETWORKING ENCOURAGES STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH

ASSISTANCE WITH EXPERIENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES, MENTORING, AND HELP WITH INTERNSHIPS AND JOBS

ADVANCEMENT REPORT

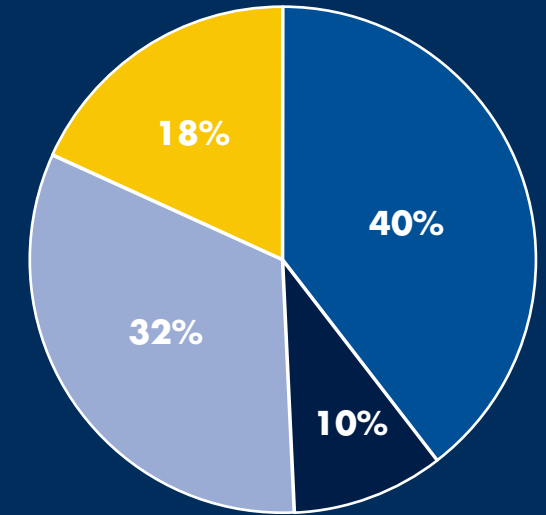
NUMBER OF DONORS
1,764

LASALLIAN SOCIETY MEMBERS
(annual giving totals \$1,000+)
371

ADVANCEMENT REPORT OF INCOME: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Annual (Unrestricted and Restricted)	\$1,239,585
Auction	\$312,500
EITC/OSTC (State Tax Credit Program)	\$1,027,006
New Endowment Contributions	\$569,192
Total	\$3,148,283

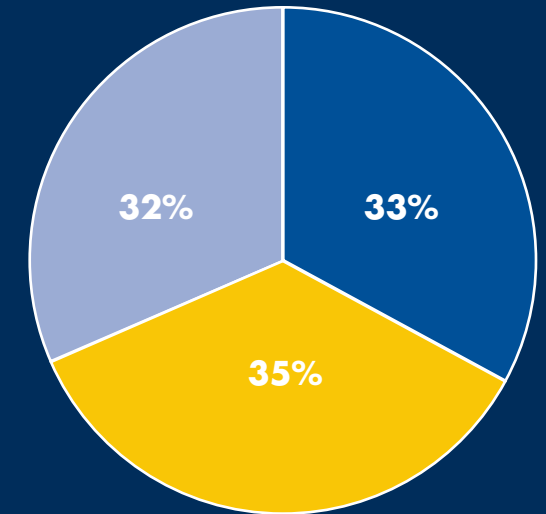
- Annual (Unrestricted and Restricted)
- Auction
- EITC State Program
- Endowment Contributions



SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID & MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS:

Annual Giving	\$1,009,000
Endowment Distribution	\$1,078,000
EITC/OSTC (State Tax Credit Program)	\$963,000
Total	\$3,050,000

- Annual Giving
- Endowment Distribution
- EITC/OSTC (State Tax Credit Program)





— YOUR STORY — IS HIS STORY



Today's Vikings are living out experiences that would feel familiar to you - challenging classes, exciting extracurriculars, and the deep sense of brotherhood that only Central Catholic can offer. The same values, lessons and traditions that shaped your journey are still at the heart of our school.

And now, you have the chance to pay it forward. Their stories are your stories, and together, we can keep that legacy alive.

Gifts of all sizes make an impact and 100% of your gift stays at Central Catholic. Use the enclosed envelope, scan the QR code, or go to www.centralcatholichs.com/give to make your gift and ensure that Central's story continues to be told, one chapter at a time.



Did you know you can decide how your PA tax dollars are used? Through the DCED's EITC/OSTC program, you can direct the money you owe the state to scholarships for Central Catholic students.

Hundreds of young Vikings receive need-based aid from tax dollars designated to Central Catholic through the Diocese of Pittsburgh's SOS Fund.

When you make a 2-year commitment, 90% of your gift is applied as credit to your tax liability.

"Supporting the EITC/OSTC scholarship fund has been one of the most fulfilling ways I give back to Central Catholic. Receiving tax credits to ensure that some of Pittsburgh's young men can have the same Central Catholic experience that I did, benefits both me and the students.

I'm truly proud to be part of such a simple, straightforward program that has a real impact on the future."



Greg McDonald, '94

Talk with your accountant or tax advisor to find out if you qualify to help a current student today!



TRIUMPH ON THE WATER

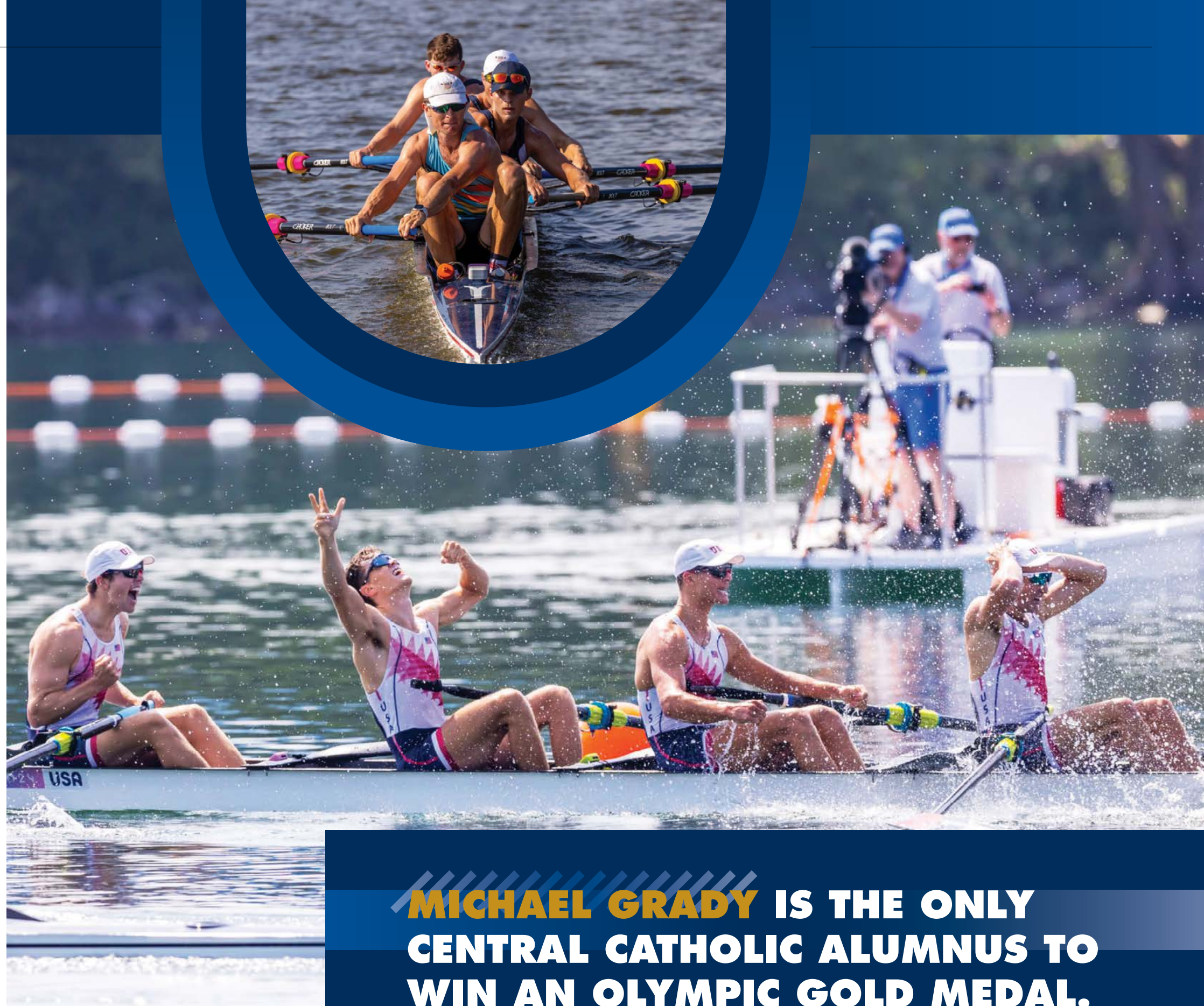
IT IS A MOMENT WRITTEN IN THE ANNALS OF SPORTS HISTORY. MICHAEL GRADY, '15, CLAIMED GOLD IN THE MEN'S FOUR AT THE 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS.

ALUMNUS WINS OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL

BY: BRIAN A. COOK SR., '98

The Seine River in Paris, the location of the battle on the water with global spectators cheering them on, was bustling during the action-packed race by Michael Grady and his teammates. The US Rowing team plowed through the water and stretched the limits of their bodies to reach Olympic gold. This is the second time Grady performed in the Olympics, having been on the team in the 2020 Tokyo Games, the year that Australia won the top prize. That was the defining moment that motivated him to push harder, should he ever return to the world stage. "TOKYO DEFINITELY PREPARED ME WELL," said Grady. "THERE ARE A FEW THINGS THAT IT TAUGHT ME. IT WAS HOW TO NAVIGATE A VILLAGE AND HOW TO EXPECT THE VENUE TO FEEL, MINUS THE CROWD." In 2020, COVID-19 was prevalent worldwide and hampered regular human interaction. "IT PREPARED ME WELL, BUT IT WASN'T REALLY A TRUE OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE UNTIL I GOT TO PARIS."

This time, his team trained even harder, put forth a valiant effort and brought home a gold medal to represent the United States of America on the highest stage! This is a true story of how the triumph of teamwork and relationships forged through hard work and shared goals pays off.



MICHAEL GRADY IS THE ONLY CENTRAL CATHOLIC ALUMNUS TO WIN AN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL.

BEFORE STANDING IN THE CENTER OF THE PODIUM, GRADY'S INITIAL JOURNEY TO OLYMPIAN BEGAN AT 4720 FIFTH AVENUE.

Central Catholic High School is where he developed and learned about the discipline and teamwork. "GROWING UP, I PLAYED PRETTY MUCH EVERY SPORT OFFERED TO ME: FOOTBALL, LACROSSE, BASKETBALL. I REALLY CAME INTO ROWING DURING MY FRESHMAN YEAR. **I OWE A LOT TO THE COACHES AT CENTRAL IN TERMS OF DEVELOPING ME.**"

Grady also credits his strong foundation to his parents. "THEY WERE THERE FROM DAY ONE TO THE END. WHETHER IT'S MY MOM WAKING UP AT 4:30 IN THE MORNING TO DRIVE ME DOWN TO THE BOAT HOUSE, OR MY DAD HELPING ME LEARN A LOT OF WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A HIGH-LEVEL ATHLETE, IT'S A LOT OF SUPPORT. AND I HOPE THEY CAN FEEL A SENSE OF REPRIEVE THAT EVERYTHING ENDED WELL."

During his time in high school, he was more than just a standout rower, he also immersed himself in academics. His formative experiences helped build character and physique with the idea of international competition in mind. Grady remembers the training regimen in the classroom and the leadership qualities he learned that inspired him and set

the stage for what was to come. "I THINK CENTRAL CATHOLIC PREPARES YOU FOR THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR LIFE, BEYOND THE TRUE FACILITIES OF WHAT MOST SCHOOLS CAN DO. IT SHAPES YOUR MIND, IT SHAPES YOUR APPROACH IN LIFE WITH A STRONG FAITH BACKING. **CENTRAL IS TRULY A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE.**"

The practices, the hours on the river, and the time on the rowing machine taught him a lot about perseverance. Central Catholic taught him about character and humility. "IT IS ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS MY PARENTS MADE FOR ME. **LOOKING BACK, IT'S CLEARLY THE BEST DECISION OF MY LIFE.**"



"I FEEL VERY GRATEFUL TO HAVE BEEN PART OF THE JOURNEYS OF ALL OF THE GUYS THAT I HAVE COACHED. BUT TO HAVE BEEN PART OF AN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL JOURNEY, IN SOME SMALL WAY, AT THE VERY BEGINNING, IS INCREDIBLY GRATIFYING."

- JAY HAMMOND, HEAD COACH CENTRAL CATHOLIC CREW

After Central Catholic, Grady attended Cornell University where he rowed in the school's top crew all four years. Grady's crews won the Goes Cup against Syracuse and the U.S. Naval Academy, the Madeira Cup and the James Wray Memorial Trophy against The University of Pennsylvania. Grady also raced for Cornell internationally, competing at the Henley Royal Regatta in the Visitors' Challenge Cup.

Grady first represented the United States in international rowing competitions while at Central Catholic. As a sophomore, he raced at the Junior World Championships in Trakai, Lithuania, as a member of the U.S. U19 team. During his high school years, he represented the United States in U19 world competition and then at Cornell at the U23 level. Following graduation from Cornell, Grady made the United States senior national team and, ultimately, the U.S. Olympic squad.

In Paris, the final race was very close, but Grady's crew held the lead almost from the start. Ultimately, the United States set a pace no other nation could match. The moment the U.S. crew crossed the finish line, it was not only a personal achievement but one for their country.



"I AM MOSTLY JUST IN AWE OF WHAT HE HAS DONE,"

says Central Catholic Crew Head Coach Jay Hammond.

There was a moment early on when Grady had the potential to be exceptional, well beyond his years at Central Catholic. "THE PHYSICAL STATURE STOOD OUT TO ME RIGHT AWAY; AS A ROWING COACH, YOU'RE LOOKING FOR LONG LEGS, LONG ARMS, AND A SHORT TORSO," said Hammond. "BUT YOU ARE REALLY LOOKING FOR A BIG VO2 MAX, THE ABILITY TO PROCESS OXYGEN AT A HIGH RATE. WE CAN JUST LOOK TO SEE THE BUILD. AND THEN WE USE THE ROWING MACHINE TO QUICKLY TEST WHAT THE POTENTIAL IS ON THE VO2 MAX."



WHAT IS VO2 MAX?

VO2 is the maximum volume (V) of oxygen (O2) your body can process. A VO2 max score is a little like horsepower in a car — it measures the capacity your body (engine) has to use oxygen when exercising. If you have a high VO2 max, you have a big engine.

IT SERVES AS A BASELINE MEASUREMENT OF ONE'S FITNESS LEVEL.

VO2 MAX HAS THREE PRIMARY COMPONENTS:

Lung capacity and heart volume: The more oxygen your lungs can intake and the more oxygenated blood your heart can pump, the higher your VO2 score.

Capillary delivery: The more oxygenated blood your circulatory system can transport to your muscles, the higher your VO2 score.

Muscle efficiency: The more your muscles can extract and use oxygen from your blood, the higher your VO2 score.

A LONG-TERM GOAL HAS BEEN ACHIEVED!



▶ (LEFT TO RIGHT): LIAM CORRIGAN, MICHAEL GRADY, JUSTIN BEST, AND NICK MEAD

AN ALMUNUS WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL BROUGHT IMMENSE PRIDE TO THE ENTIRE CENTRAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY.



"I'M PERSONALLY SO PROUD TO HAVE ONE OF OUR OWN GRADUATES AND CREW TEAM ALUMNI AS A GOLD MEDALIST.

THIS SHOWS THE VALUES OF HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION THAT OUR SCHOOL INSTILLS IN ALL OF US. MICHAEL GRADY IS A GREAT INSPIRATION FOR OUR SCHOOL AND ALL OF THE ATHLETES AT CENTRAL CATHOLIC!"

- JACOB HARVEY, '25, FOUR-YEAR MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL CATHOLIC CREW TEAM

"ON BEHALF OF CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, WE ARE THRILLED TO CELEBRATE ALMUNUS MICHAEL GRADY, '15, AND HIS ACHIEVEMENT OF WINNING A GOLD MEDAL AT THE OLYMPICS IN PARIS. GRADY EXEMPLIFIES THE SPIRIT OF DETERMINATION AND HARD WORK THAT CENTRAL CATHOLIC INSTILLS IN ALL THE MEN WHO HAVE WALKED THESE HALLOWED HALLS. HE IS A TRUE EXAMPLE TO OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY."

- MATTHEW J. STOESSEL, '95, PRESIDENT, CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



"WHAT A GREAT RACE! IT WAS AN EXCELLENT START, WITH A STRONG BASE PACE AND A BLAZING SPRINT TO HOLD OFF NEW ZEALAND AND THE BRITISH. I AM SO PROUD OF MIKE. STEEL CITY GRIT! HE AND HIS CREW HAVE PUT IN TREMENDOUS WORK, AND IT IS WONDERFUL TO SEE IT PAY OFF IN PARIS.

IT WAS A PLEASURE AND AN HONOR TO COACH MIKE IN HIGH SCHOOL. HE WAS A SCHOLASTIC NATIONAL CHAMPION AT CENTRAL CATHOLIC AND NOW HE IS AN OLYMPIC CHAMPION FOR THE USA! HIS SKILL, AND DRIVE WERE, AND ARE, TRULY EXCEPTIONAL. **WHAT A CAREER!"**

- JAY HAMMOND, HEAD COACH, CENTRAL CATHOLIC CREW

MAKE AN IMPACT THROUGH YOUR IRA

If you have a traditional individual retirement account (IRA) and are 70 1/2 years or older, consider supporting Central Catholic through an IRA charitable rollover gift.

These gifts allow you to contribute directly from your IRA while fulfilling part or all of your annual required minimum distribution (where applicable). The amount of the gift is excluded from your federal taxable income.

To qualify:

- you must be 70 1/2 years old
- the transfer must go directly to CCHS
- the total rollover amount must not exceed \$105,000/yr.
- gift must be received by Dec. 31

"I'm grateful for the Central education that put me on a path to success. Thanks to Central, I played professional baseball in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization from 1969- 1978. After my baseball career, I worked as a banker and then for Hefren-Tillotson/ Baird as a financial advisor for 26 years.



I support Central because I want to pay it forward. I contribute through an IRA distribution, and it's simpler than you might think. It's a smart, straightforward way to make a difference!

My hope is that, with alumni support, future Central graduates will be able to go forward in life with success."

Jim Sadowski, '69

ANNOUNCING
CENTRAL CATHOLIC'S
INAUGURAL
DAY OF GIVING!



ALL IN FOR
CENTRAL!

FEBRUARY 11, 2025



ATTENTION ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS!



WE'RE EXCITED TO LAUNCH OUR VERY FIRST DAY OF GIVING. A POWERFUL 24-HOUR EVENT TO ENCOURAGE OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY TO COME TOGETHER, SHOW SUPPORT, AND MAKE AN IMPACT FOR CENTRAL CATHOLIC STUDENTS.

THE VIKING MATCH ALUMNI CLASS GIVING COMPETITION WILL STILL BE HELD MAY 19-23.

ALUMNI

ANNUAL CIGAR AND BOURBON NIGHT

Over 200 Central Catholic alumni returned to campus to celebrate the annual "Jam on the Quad" event. Thanks to all who attended for a night of fine cigars, bourbons, and brotherhood!



LARRY GOLOFSKI (ON LEFT) and **MATT BURY, '08**, (CENTER) of The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association delivered a \$5,000 check to Central Catholic's Vice President of Institutional Advancement **Brandon Haburjak, '06**, (RIGHT) to benefit the Biology Program. We thank the Catholic Slovak Ladies Association for their generosity!

LEGACY FAMILIES



LEGACY OF CENTRAL CATHOLIC

The annual legacy photo of Central Catholic High School serves as a testament to the bond between generations of alumni and their families. This image captures the pride of those who have walked the halls of 4720 Fifth Avenue. It also symbolizes the values and traditions passed down to the sons, grandsons, brothers, and nephews of alumni. By honoring this legacy, we celebrate the achievements of those who have graduated from Central Catholic and inspire future Vikings.

LEGACY FAMILIES:

ROW 1

- GLEN EMBREE, '28
- JOSEPH MCGINLEY, '96
- CASH WILSON, '28
- MAXIMUS CIGANIK, '20
- JOE VILLELLA, '71
- RYAN CARR, '28
- ANTONIO ALBERT, '28
- PHILLIP BUCCI, '48 (D)

- NATHAN HANNAN, '28
- PAUL J. HANNAN, '41 (D)
- JOSHUA BROOKS, '92
- MICAH BROOKS, '28
- SULLIVAN GREER, '28
- LANDEN LAUGHERY, '28
- DAN LAUGHERY, '02
- KIAN MILLER, '28
- JOHN KENAAN, '64

ROW 2

- BARNEY MCGINLEY, '63
- MALCOLM MCGINLEY, '28
- GEORGE CIGANIK, '83
- JIM DONAHUE, '03
- JAMES DONAHUE, '28
- TYLER DONLEY HUFFMYER, '28

- EDSEL TROWERY, '19
- ETHAN TROWERY, '28
- KELLEN CARTER, '28
- BERNARD CARTER, '84
- RICH GREER, '62
- JACOB FRALEY, '28
- JIM LYNCH, '64

ROW 3

- BERNARD LEO MCGINLEY III, '93
- JOSHUA W. SMITH, '96
- FR. CHRIS DONLEY, '97
- TYLOR WATKINS, '20
- ANTHONY WATKINS, '25

- WILL WATKINS, '28
- JOHNATHAN WATSON, '28
- PATRICK KOST, '63
- COLLIN PETYAK, '28
- LEO IVORY, '28
- MICHAEL IVORY, '82

ROW 4

- MATTHEW PEYTON, '07
- JASON PEYTON, '28
- NEYKO MINTON, '28
- JUSTIN KUBAN, '01
- HOLDEN NEFF, '28
- GREG VARASSE, '99
- JACOB MATTHEWS, '28
- ERIK MATTHEWS, '24

ROW 5

- JACK THACIK, '28
- JOHN THACIK, '99
- DOMENIC TOLOMEO, '85
- FRANCESCO TOLOMEO, '28
- CHRISTOPHER PACELLIO, '04
- JACKSON PACELLIO, '28
- NICHOLAS PACELLIO, '76
- DONALD FRALEY, '96
- ROBERT LYNCH, '61

A BEACON OF HOPE



When Hurricane Helene unleashed devastation across the Southeast in September, communities were left reeling. Amid the chaos, first responders sprang into action, showcasing extraordinary courage and dedication. Among them was Central Catholic alumnus James McConnell '93, Division Chief of New Bern, North Carolina Fire-Rescue Training & Safety Division.

The Category 4 storm tore through North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Virginia, and Tennessee, claiming over 200 lives and displacing thousands. McConnell and his elite rescue team quickly mobilized, heading into hard-hit areas to bring relief. **"WE WERE ON-SITE BY SATURDAY AFTER THE DEVASTATION,"** McConnell shared. With 25 years of experience, even he was stunned by the destruction **"IT'S JUST SOMETHING I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE. IT WAS SOMETHING OUT OF THE MOVIES. WHAT THE DESTRUCTION DID, MOTHER NATURE, WATER, ALL MOVING THE EARTH AND WHATEVER ELSE GOT IN ITS WAY."**

McConnell's team, part of the Helo-Aquatic Rescue Team (HART), collaborated with units from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and South Carolina.

USING UH-72 LAKOTA HELICOPTERS, THEY RESCUED OVER 100 PEOPLE AND PETS, NAVIGATING TREACHEROUS TERRAIN WITH PRECISION.

"THIS WORK DEMANDS 100% ACCURACY," McConnell explained. **"ONE MISTAKE CAN COST A LIFE."**

Reflecting on his journey, McConnell credits Central Catholic with shaping his values and leadership. **"CENTRAL CATHOLIC WAS A PIVOTAL TIME FOR ME,"** he said. He attributes his commitment to service and discipline to his high school years and mentors like longtime Dean of Students James Wheeler, who inspired him to join the Marine Corps after graduation.



Through long days of relief operations, McConnell exemplified the Lasallian principles instilled in him during his time at Central Catholic.

"HELPING REUNITE SEPARATED FAMILIES WAS INCREDIBLY MOVING," he said.

"IT WAS GRATIFYING TO TAKE A PERSON FROM A BAD PLACE TO A SAFE PLACE AND REUNITE FAMILY MEMBERS. SEEING LOVED ONES, SUCH AS A HUSBAND AND WIFE SEPARATED FOR TWO DAYS, CRYING BECAUSE THEY GOT TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN REMINDED US WHY WE DO THIS WORK."

McConnell also emphasized the importance of teamwork in such high-stakes situations. **"WE WEREN'T JUST RESTORING PHYSICAL STRUCTURES— WE WERE HELPING TO HEAL ENTIRE COMMUNITIES,"** he said. His ability to foster collaboration and compassion drew directly from lessons learned on the soccer and baseball field, in the classroom, and within the Central Catholic community.

Now a seasoned first responder, McConnell continues to live out the school's mission of faith, service, and community, proving that the lessons learned at Central Catholic endure long after graduation.

JAMES MCCONNELL'S STORY IS A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF RESILIENCE, COMPASSION, AND THE ENDURING IMPACT OF A CENTRAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION.

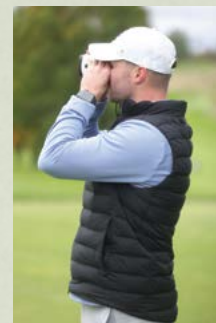
LETTERMEN'S CLUB



"THE LETTERMEN'S CLUB GOLF OUTING IS THE PERFECT DAY FOR CENTRAL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS TO COME TOGETHER AND ENJOY THE BROTHERHOOD WE HAVE FORMED."

- STEVEN MASSARO, '84, PRESIDENT, CENTRAL CATHOLIC LETTERMEN'S CLUB

Central Catholic High School's 32nd Annual Lettermen's Club Golf Outing brought together alumni, parents, and community members for a day of friendly competition on the course and to successfully raise funds to support student-athletes, programs, and initiatives. Through generous participation and sponsorship, we continue to strengthen our commitment to education by providing our students with the resources they need to thrive.



YOUNG ALUMNUS MAKING SIGNIFICANT MOVES

Jack Sabo, '23, returned to campus to participate in an exclusive interview with *The Quadrangle*, to discuss the transition from Central Catholic High School to Duke University. Following his freshman year, Sabo secured an internship with ColdSpark, a connection made through the Central Catholic alumni network.



Q. AS A RECENT GRADUATE, WHAT WAS THE TRANSITION FROM CENTRAL CATHOLIC TO COLLEGE LIKE FOR YOU PERSONALLY?

A. The transition from Central Catholic to Duke was very seamless, which reflects the strong academics I received in high school. Coming into a school like Duke, where you have a lot of talented students, I was a little worried. I thought: 'Am I going to be able to survive academically?' And instead of "surviving," Central Catholic prepared me to thrive in what is an intense and rigorous academic environment. I entered Duke with strong writing skills. Thanks to the AP curriculum and all of our awesome teachers at Central Catholic, I was able to focus on aspects of college life beyond academics. Central allowed me to flourish during my time in high school and I feel that I came out of my first year of college with a well-rounded experience.

Q. TELL US ABOUT THE COMPANY WHERE YOU INTERNEED AND GIVE US A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES.

A. I interned for a company called ColdSpark, which is a full-service political strategy and crisis communications consulting firm. I worked primarily with our political team, which is focused on basically everything when it comes to campaign consulting, which means pitching a digital strategy for a candidate. We do a lot with direct mail, so one of my favorite things I was able to do this summer is write and design pieces of direct mail that go straight to voters. It has been an interesting experience because direct mail focuses on the message, design principles, voter targeting which comes with data and fundraising implications.

One of the coolest things is that we'll sit around the table and we'll mull over what's the best message for our candidates to tell. We do a lot of polling and we'll crunch the numbers. It's been a great exercise in using the data analysis that I learned at Central Catholic from Mr. Hoss and the math department.

My prior experiences have been very beneficial in contributing to our strategy discussions and client meetings.

Q. HOW DID THE CENTRAL CATHOLIC ALUMNI NETWORK PLAY A ROLE IN EARNING YOUR POSITION?

A. I think simply, I wouldn't have gotten my internship without the Central Catholic alumni network. What I don't think a lot of young alumni realize is that it's there for you the day you graduate. One of the partners in my firm, Mike DeVanney, also graduated from Central Catholic in 1997. And when I was looking for something in the political space this summer, I knew I wanted a hands-on experience, especially because it's an election year. I was able to reach out to Brandon Haburjak, '06 in our Advancement department, and he connected me with DeVanney within two days. The rest is history. I think that speaks to the power of the Central Catholic alumni network, specifically to young alums who are eager to break into that job space.

Q. WHAT ARE SOME SKILLS THAT YOU HAVE DEVELOPED AT CENTRAL CATHOLIC THAT SERVED YOU WELL IN YOUR POSITION?

A. The skill that comes most easily to me is the art of the handshake. Central Catholic teaches you to look someone in the eye, introduce yourself, and engage in a meaningful conversation. That's a level of connection that I think many people can miss in life nowadays. I think Central excels at teaching students how to put themselves out there even when it's intimidating. I think the other thing that Central Catholic offered me, now that I'm a year removed, was all of the extracurricular opportunities for leadership development. At Central, I was fortunate to get involved in various organizations on and off campus. Those organizations helped me learn how to lead a team, how to understand and navigate various struggles, and how to leverage diverse perspectives toward a common goal.



▶ MIKE DEVANNEY, '97, AND JACK SABO, '23

Q. WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND CENTRAL CATHOLIC TO A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT?

A. Central Catholic embodies what it means to be a well-rounded person. When I think about Central Catholic High School educating the whole person, I think about the academic rigor in the classroom. It's second to none.



THE FOLLOWING
CLASSES HELD
REUNIONS
AT CENTRAL
CATHOLIC THIS
SUMMER AND FALL

2024

REUNION GATHERINGS

MEMBERS OF THE

*Class of 1949,
1952, AND 1954*

GATHERED TOGETHER AT
CENTRAL CATHOLIC TO
*celebrate their
70 - 75 year
reunions.*



The Class of 1979 45th Reunion!



The Class of 1984 40th Reunion!



The Class of 1959 65th Reunion!



The Class of 1964 60th Reunion!



The Class of 1994 30th Reunion!



The Class of 1999 25th Reunion!



The Class of 1969 55th Reunion!



The Class of 1974 50th Reunion!



The Class of 2014 10th Reunion!

**WE ARE SEEKING
VOLUNTEERS FOR THE
UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS
THAT FALL ON THE 0'S AND 5'S.**

CONTACT: WILL BOOKWALTER, '06
JBOOKWALTER@CENTRALCATHOLICHS.COM

NEWS FROM VIKING NATION

1960s { *Jack McGinley, '61*, was honored by the Academy of Trial Lawyers with the Joseph F Weis Distinguished Service Award for his contribution to the community at Duquesne, Mercy, and the PGH Foundation. He was also honored with the McNulty Service Award at Duquesne University's President's Dinner. ¹

John Carroll University announces *Howard Hanna, '65*, as the 2024 Alumni Medal Recipient, the highest honor bestowed by the University's Alumni Association. ²

Forensics teammates from the Class of 1967 gather for dinner (Bill Stewart, Chris Donahue, Paul Kruper, and Al Macchioni). ³

1970s { *Rev. Richard A. Infante, '71*, recently retired from active priestly ministry in the Diocese of Pittsburgh and published his second book titled: "Honeymoon and Other Pilgrimage Stories". ⁴

Dr. Tim Ryan, '75, (on right) was honored at the Culinary Institute of America's (CIA) 17th Annual Leadership Awards ceremony. Dr. Ryan, the CIA's longest-serving President, has transitioned to a new role as Chancellor. ⁵

Rich Fitzgerald, '77, was honored with the John McGrady Award at the Art Rooney Awards Dinner. ⁶

Congratulations to Augie Carlino, '78, on his upcoming retirement in March 2025. Augie has served as the President/CEO of Rivers of Steel Heritage Corp. for 35 years. ⁷

G. Marcus Cole, '79, Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Notre Dame's Law School, has been named as one of Indianapolis Business Journal's (IBJ Media's) Top 250 Most Influential Business Leaders in the state of Indiana for the second consecutive year. ⁸

1990s { *John Ficorilli, '93*, celebrated his 7th year as a Major League Baseball Authenticator, primarily at PNC Park in Pittsburgh. Ficorilli is responsible for confirming and guaranteeing the authenticity of in-game MLB merchandise and memorabilia. ⁹

Brian Cook, '98, Central Catholic's Director of Communications and Marketing, won a Mid-Atlantic Emmy Award for his role in a documentary titled: "Equity on Ice: The Willie O'Ree Academy," which aired on WQED Pittsburgh. Cook served as Narrator/Photographer/Contributing Producer for the piece. ¹⁰

2000s { *Congratulations, Ken Sinagra, CLU, ChSNC, '00*, Managing Director at Northwestern Mutual-Cranberry, for earning a spot as one of Forbes' Top Financial Security Professionals and making the Best-in-State list for 2024! ¹¹

Sean Kelly, '05, recognized as a member of the Howard Hanna Champions Club. ¹²

Liam Krahe, '08, has been named by GlobeSt.com as one of CRE's Aspiring Leaders of 2024. ¹³

2010s { *Cameron Herbst, '12*, enjoyed his white coat ceremony. He is a student in the University of Pittsburgh's Nursing PhD program. ¹⁴

Steele Mercer, '19, has advanced to Machinists Mate Nuclear First Class and has accepted a role as the USS Ronald Reagan's Machinery Division LPO. ¹⁵

Jimmy Meyers, '19, was named Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) All-American Scholar for a third consecutive year. ¹⁶

2020s { *Nolan Sapos, '20*, recently joined New Western as a licensed real estate agent. Sapos graduated cum laude in May from the University of Alabama with a degree in Business Management/Entrepreneurship. He passed his PA National and State real estate exams and accepted a position as a real estate investor disposition agent (#RS374635) with New Western located on Pittsburgh's North Shore. ¹⁷

Claudio Simone, '20, was recognized in the Business of Difference Making Quarterly® Summer 2024 Edition published by the Duquesne University Palumbo Donahue School of Business for his commencement address at graduation this past May. ¹⁸

Elliot Howsie, III, '22, has been selected as a Fall 2024 DREAM Scholar by the DREAM Foundation. ¹⁹

Daniel Donahue, '23, led John Carroll's Golf team this fall at the Jeff Roope Invitational against Wittenberg University. Donahue, a sophomore at the University, left the tournament in a three-way tie with a final score of 142 (-2). ²⁰



Marco Basso, '24, was awarded the Pittsburgh High School Ultimate League Scholarship!

At the end of the 2023-2024 school year, Marco was named as a finalist, and then, during summer break, it was announced that he was the sole recipient for Spring 2024. The award total amount is \$3,000 and is disbursed over three consecutive years. ²¹



WRITERS WANTED

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
is **SEEKING**
TALENTED WRITERS
to contribute exclusive content
for its official magazine,
THE QUADRANGLE

This volunteer opportunity is for those who wish to **write stories of reflection or contribute historical moments about Central Catholic** in the area of academics, sports, school community, alumni, and more about anything that positively impacts the school community.

Any writers who are interested in sharing unique perspectives and stories are **encouraged to apply** to be part of this ongoing exciting project.

CONTACT

Brian A. Cook Sr., '98, Director of Communications and Marketing
412.622.6181 | BCook@CentralCatholicHS.com.

2025 SPRING TRAINING LECOM PARK | BRADENTON, FL



Pittsburgh Pirates VS Detroit Tigers
Sunday, March 2, 2025



Tickets and party area will be located in the LaPensee Party Deck in left field. Ticket includes a 2.5-hour ball park buffet and drinks, beginning an hour prior to the start of the game.

Scan the QR code to the right to register online, or visit:
https://CentralCatholicHighSchool.formstack.com/forms/2025_pirates_spring_training



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(Made payable to Central Catholic)

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 Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

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Cash Enclosed

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	\$75	

Tickets will be available for pickup at will call with a photo ID.

DEADLINE: February 19, 2025

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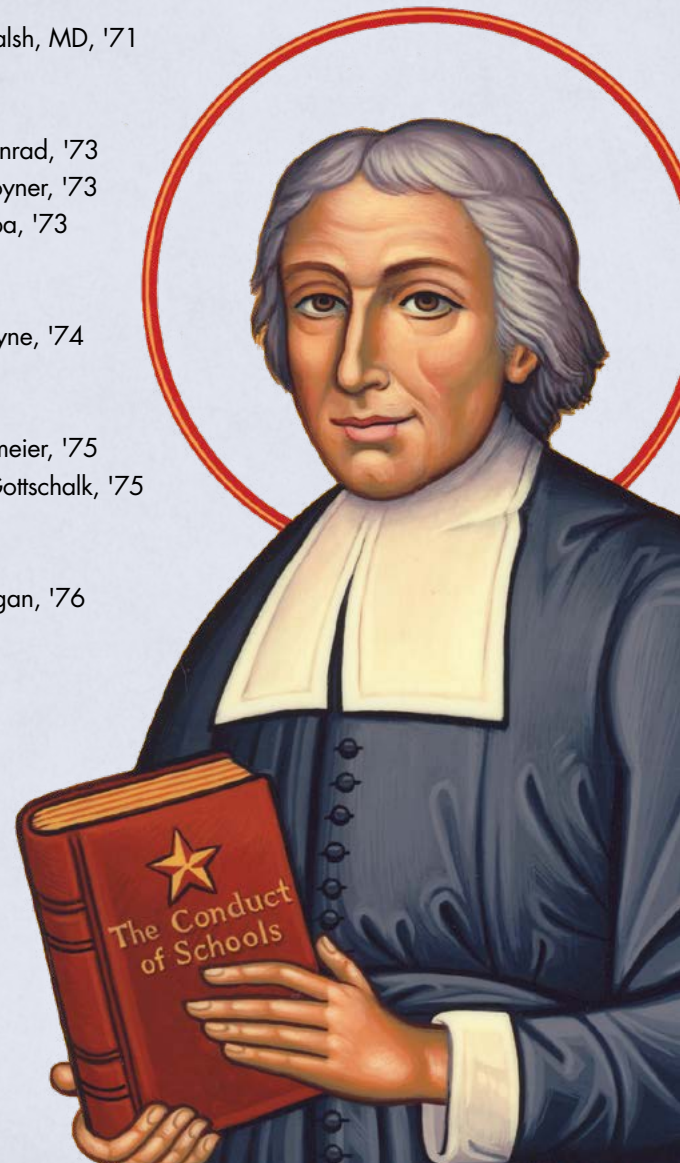
Email Brandon Haburjak at bhaburjak@centralcatholichs.com or
 Mail to: Central Catholic High School | Attn: Brandon Haburjak |

IN MEMORIAM

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THESE RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY.

- 1941**
Victor Erhart, Jr., '41
- 1943**
Joseph Rubino, '43
- 1945**
John Luke, Esq, '45
- 1947**
Edward Grant, '47
Clete Gilson, '47
- 1948**
Dr. Gerald Carr, '48
- 1949**
James Dean, '49
Eugene McGlynn, '49
Cormac Gorman, '49
William Trempus, '49
- 1950**
Christopher Reiling, Jr., '50
- 1951**
John Gaynord, '51
John Kuhn, '51
- 1952**
Regis Gottschalk, '52
- 1953**
James Dillon, '53
Carmen Morante, Jr., '53
Matthew Radinovic, '53
- 1954**
Anthony DiLullo, '54
Regis Wagner, '54
- 1955**
Donald Kraemer, '55
Carmen Santillo, '55
- 1956**
William Jacob, '56
Joseph Kraus, '56
- 1957**
Joseph Schmid, '57
- 1958**
John Camphire, '58
Kenneth Morris, '58
- 1959**
Robert Narr, '59
- 1960**
John Massaro, '60
Albert Vogel, '60
- 1961**
Louis Harkcom, '61
Edward Ziringer, '61
- 1962**
Ronald Maszak, '62
Joseph Retkowski, '62
Richard Spinola, '62
- 1964**
Frank Gentile, '64
- 1965**
Anthony Basinski, Esq, '65
- 1967**
Robert DeStefano, '67
John Osuch, '67

- 1968**
Joseph Byers, '68
Joseph Tuschak, '68
- 1969**
Peter Ponne, '69
- 1970**
James Byrnes, '70
Joseph Esquino, '70
- 1971**
Thomas Walsh, MD, '71
- 1973**
Thomas Conrad, '73
Stephen Coyner, '73
Alan Rahuba, '73
- 1974**
Donald Coyne, '74
- 1975**
Ralph Feldmeier, '75
Frederick Gottschalk, '75
- 1976**
Timothy Regan, '76



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Central Catholic High School, a college preparatory school for boys, is guided by the educational principles of St. John Baptist de La Salle.

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