

Crusader Connections

SPRING 2024



We Need You



Catholic High



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DEAR CATHOLIC HIGH FAMILY,

It is likely that by the time you read this letter, we will have sent our Senior students on to the next chapter in their journey of life and our underclassmen on to their summer activities. What a wonderful year it has been! As the cover of this edition insinuates, "We Need You"! We need your continued prayers for God to watch over the entire Catholic High Family. I am so grateful for each of you and the impact that we collectively have on our students and ultimately the community, as we watch our graduates/alumni make their impact on the world.

I am so thankful for the wonderful CHS Faculty and Staff who work tirelessly to help our students grow each year, not just academically and physically, but spiritually and morally as well. Our students are great, too! Our theme this year was 'The Bread of Life' as we focused on the gift of the Eucharist and what it means in our lives. During Easter week, we even celebrated with five of our students and some of their extended family members as they entered the Catholic Church or received their First Eucharist and Confirmation.

All of the Crusader Family is vital to the continued Catholic High Mission- *To develop responsible Christian individuals by providing the finest in Catholic education.* "We Need You" to continue your wonderful involvement and support! Thank you for always rising to the call. We celebrated the completion of our new Classroom Wing in early May; we are so grateful to all those who made it possible-- the donors, the architects, the construction crews, and everyone who shared their talents to make it possible. Please see page 12 for additional information if you have not already given to our *Building on Faith, Family & Tradition Capital Campaign.*

We always hope that the stories and information we include in each edition of the Crusader Connections helps to bring you the news about what is going on here on campus, but we also hope that it sparks a memory from your time as a student/parent from bygone days. Alumni, we continue to rely on you to send us updates on what is going on in your life, how God has blessed your path, and/or how Catholic High has influenced or shaped where you are today. Please visit our "We Want to Hear from You" form on our alumni webpage - pensacolachs.org/alumni. Parents of alumni, we

promise to keep you on the mail listing, but please encourage your Crusaders to update their contact information with us by going to the website so that we can reach them directly.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of Catholic High School! Please be assured of my continued prayers for the entire Catholic High Family!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sr. Kierstin Martin, A.S.C.J.
Principal



Students Received into the Catholic Church during Easter



Left to right-Richard Mason, Rhodes Chanslor, Kaela Saddler, and Olivia White. Not pictured: Bella Holes-Elwell, Molly O'Brien, and Abby Wells.

Freshmen Scripture teacher, Mrs. Karen Manning, led six CHS students in their journeys to become full members of the Catholic Church. Over a period of 18 weeks, Rhodes Chanslor, Bella Holmes-Elwell, Richard Mason, Molly O'Brien, Kaela Saddler, and Abby Wells met after school for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) classes. Senior CHS student, Olivia White, and Ms. Hannah Stefancik were also instrumental in helping to instruct these students. We were blessed to have Bishop William Wack administer the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation to four of our students during the Easter Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral. The other two students, who had already been baptized, were brought into full communion with the Catholic Church by Bishop Wack during the fifth Sunday of Lent. We congratulate Rhodes, Bella, Richard, Molly, Kaela, and Abby and joyfully welcome them as full members of the Catholic Church!

National Merit Finalist

Congratulations to Senior Mariana Contreras who has been named a National Merit Scholar for the 2023-2024 academic year! Mariana was notified in the



Fall of 2023 that she was a Semifinalist and worked closely with the Catholic High Guidance Office to submit a detailed scholarship application which included information about her academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstration of leadership abilities, employment, and honors/awards received. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists is determined each year by the scores received by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in the Fall of their Junior year. Those selected represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, and include the highest-scoring entrants in each state. Each year only 7,250 students are designated a National Merit Scholar. Congratulations, Mariana!

Mariana Contreras, Elizabeth Watson, Nate Flores, and Jackson Brewer



Math Team Shines in Spring Competitions

Congratulations to the Senior members of the CHS Math Team who competed in the Math Bowl on March 1 at Northwest Florida State College. The team finished second in their division with Nate Flores placing first overall. Mariana Contreras and Elizabeth Watson tied for seventh overall and Jackson Brewer rounded out the top ten.

On Friday, April 5, the Catholic High Math Team competed in the 50th Annual Nicolas S. Walker Math Tournament hosted by Milton High School. Twelve teams from the tri-county area completed math problems in Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus as part of Ciphering Matches to earn points for their team. The top three teams in each discipline were awarded prizes along with the overall winner. For the **15th consecutive year**, CHS earned 1st Overall and also placed 1st in the Algebra II and Pre-Calculus categories, as well as 3rd in Algebra 1 and Calculus.

The Calculus scores among the top three finishers with only one point separating each of the places. Congratulations to our teams listed below as well as the entire Math Faculty at Catholic High School led by Department Chair, Maria Green. Algebra II Teacher, Alex Forte, joined the students on Tournament Day. Teams: Algebra I – Mackinley Tilley, Erin Reilly, Harvey Laidlaw, Kate Aldridge; Algebra II – CJ McGowan, Kristin Gaubert, Maya Chavan, Ava Galinis; Geometry – McKenna Hindman, Ryan Fayard, Erin Reilly, Lane Grissett; Pre-Calculus – Clark Hubbert, Emma Thompson, Aidan Baker, Ace London, George Golubev; Calculus – Mariana Contreras, Emily Watson, Harper Hubbert, Nate Flores. Way to go, Crusader Math Team!



Crubotics

The CHS Robotics Team, also known as 'Crubotics,' once again competed in the Gulf Coast Regional MATE (Marine Advanced Technology Education) competition, hosted by Dauphin Island Sea Lab in April. Crubotics is 18 members strong and competed in two different classifications. The Ranger and Navigator teams spent a combined 1400 hours using the engineering process to plan, build and test two Remotely Operated Vehicles (underwater robots) to accomplish simulated real-world scenarios such as scientific observations, as well as, removal of obstacles and placement of simulated solar arrays and wind turbines. This year's theme was once again aligned to the "United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and inspiring our global community

to embrace environmental, social, and governance (ESG) efforts to create a sustainable future on our ocean planet". The Ranger team won second place in their division and members are already strategizing on what they can learn from this year's competition to apply to next year!



QuizSaders

The QuizSaders, the CHS Quiz Bowl Team, recently completed fierce academic battle with five other local teams in the Escambia County Spring Matches tournament. The QuizSaders made the playoffs and finished second overall. They had the highest point total of any team in the tournament and four individual QuizSaders were ranked in the top 20 scorers—Grant Ezzell (11th), Clark Hubbert (13th), Bobby Pennebaker (14th), and Nate Flores (17th). The team's overall record for the 2023-24 season in Escambia County competition was 11-9. While the team did not earn a qualification for the National Academic Quiz Tournament, they are looking forward to trying again next year. The team recently visited Sacred Heart Cathedral School to demonstrate how quiz bowl works and to allow 6th-8th graders to buzz in and answer questions actively. They are hoping to mentor feeder teams at Sacred Heart and some of the other local Middle Schools where there are some future QuizSaders!



Spring Academic Team Champions

All nine of the CHS Spring Teams were recognized for their academic achievements by the FHSAA. Below are the unweighted GPAs for each team and their rank in the State classification they competed:

Baseball 3.429 (8th)	Boys Lacrosse 3.442 (13th)	Girls Lacrosse 3.713 (5th)
Softball 3.426 (11th)	Boys Tennis 3.408 (27th)	Girls Tennis 3.755 (15th)
Boys Track & Field 3.334 (18th)	Girls Track & Field 3.573 (13th)	Weightlifting 3.236 (10th)

Catholic Schools Week



CHS had another enjoyable week-long celebration for 'Catholic Schools Week' during the last week of January. Campus Minister, Rebecca Carter, along with Sister Kierstin, and the rest of the Religion Department Faculty collaborated to create an agenda of activities that supported the national theme of 'United in Faith and Community.' Each day focused on a different aspect of the theme with special prayers, lessons, and fun activities. We were blessed to have Bishop William Wack, joined by eight other priests from the Diocese, celebrate Mass in thanksgiving for our wonderful schools in the western end of the Diocese. CHS students as well as student representatives and faculty from each of these schools participated in the Mass. We were also very excited to host our traditional 'Swap Day' during which parents attend school in place of their students. This event is a favorite of our parents and students as the parents have a good time coming "back to high school" and the students enjoy the "day off".

Student Council Elections for 2024-2025

During the Month of March elections were held for the 2024-25 Student Council Leaders:



- Cour Four:
 - President – Jack Barter
 - Vice-President – Emma Lacour
 - Secretary – Kate Johnson
 - Treasurer – Aidan Baker
- Seniors:
 - President – Julia Frosch
 - Vice-President – Olivia Ryan
 - Secretary – Melina Snyder
 - Treasurer – George Golubev
 - Reps – Charlize Donlan, Wyatt Hart, Eleanor Hayes, and Susanna Snyder
- Juniors:
 - President – Ben Brinson
 - Vice-President – Lennon Lusane
 - Secretary – Ella Cage
 - Treasurer – Mac Gilmer
 - Reps – Olivia Carlson, Lilyana Day, Jillian Lacour, and Lilah Messerly
- Sophomores:
 - President – Ryan Fayard
 - Vice-President – Julianne Adams
 - Secretary – Kate Aldridge
 - Treasurer – Spring Sheppard
 - Reps – Lily Campus, Vivian Cserep, Kyle Galloway, and Lane Grissett

Living Stations



On Wednesday of Holy Week, students performed *The Living Stations*, directed by Campus Minister, Mrs. Rebecca Carter. The performance was repeated seven times throughout the day so that all students could attend during their Religion Class. The performance included members of the Catholic High School student body reenacting the Stations of the Cross that commemorate Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man beginning with His condemnation and ending with Him being laid in the tomb. Eighty Crusaders took part in the performance including members of the Campus Music Ministry group who provided music during the presentation.



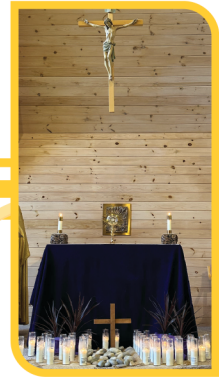
This year eleven rising Sophomores and three rising Juniors were added to the Student Ambassador ranks. Pictured front row – Lane Grissett, Abigail Barzacchini, Julianne Adams, Kate Aldridge, Addison Manning, Krissy Chatman and back row – Jayden Coleman, Ryan Fayard, Jamarion Purifoy, Vaughn Howard, Caden Jasso, Henry Boyle, Luke Juhas.



Catholic High students showing 'Selfless Love' by giving Blood during our Spring Drive.



The Crusader Dodgeball Tournament hosted by Student Council was held on April 17. In the first two matches, the Freshmen defeated the Juniors and the Seniors took down the Sophomores. In the final match, the Freshmen gave the Seniors a good challenge, but the Senior Class walked away with bragging rights as this year's Champions.



Catholic High wishes to thank all of the Priests who helped to lead our monthly Eucharist Processions and Adorations throughout the year!

Student Assembly Hears Catholic Evangelist



On April 25, Catholic High students, faculty, and staff were very blessed to hear from internationally renowned Catholic Evangelist, Chris Stefanick! With his nonprofit organization, Real Life Catholic, his life's mission is to help people find and live the lives they were made for in Jesus Christ and his Church - to realize the overlap of faith and everyday life. Chris started by playing the guitar and pulling several students up to "rock the mic." Sophomore student, Max Hubmann, won the cheer vote for his rendition of *La Bamba*. Chris then spent some time sharing some of his life's experiences and explaining some of the rules from his book, *9 Rules to Help You Rediscover and Live Joy Every Day*. He shared the first three and the last one: 1) Give Thanks - let the Lord know that you are grateful for your blessings every day, even when it has not necessarily been a good day; 2) Practice Silence - be sure to "unplug"

from the world often and listen to the Lord in the silence; 3) Love Yourself - it is important to love others, but you need to first start by loving yourself - make sure your self-talk is positive and don't listen to the "noise" of the world; and 9) Frame Your Mind with Faith - no one ever said that being a Christian would be easy, or that every day would be great, but if you make a practice of putting everything into perspective using your faith in Jesus Christ then it gets a little better! He has also published videos and podcasts on multiple entertainment platforms.

Pinata Party

The Spanish Club, moderated by Senora' Jimenez, held their annual Pinata Party on May 7. As close to Cinco de Mayo as it could be scheduled. Club members had a great time taking turns at breaking the pinata, a traditional party activity in Spanish-speaking cultures. Regardless of age, most people enjoy the challenge, and the treats, of a pinata!



The Junior Class hosted this year's Junior/Senior Prom in the Tolan Family Student Life Center and Eric Nickelsen SLC Courtyard on Saturday, April 13. The theme was 'At Last We See the Light'. Much fun was had by all! Thank you, Mrs. Chavez and the Prom Committee, for all of the hard work in helping to coordinate this wonderful event!

On-Campus Happenings

We are so proud of all of the Catholic High School athletes excellence on the field or court during this past Winter and few pictures from the action-packed seasons and high

State Champs

Congratulations to our students who are State Champions in their respective sports this year!



Desjon Robertson - Weightlifting Heavyweight Division

Both the **Boys and Girls Tennis Teams**, led by Coach Geoff Watts, earned their fourth consecutive District Championship which advanced them to Regional competition. The Boys finished as Regional Runner Ups and the Girls finished as Regional Champions for their fourth year in a row. The Girls continued play in the State Tournament and finished their team season in the Semifinals; Gabby Goyins finished as Singles State Champion. In Individual/Doubles play within the State Tournament, Senior Ben Ling and Sophomore Gannon Davis finished in the Semifinal round of Doubles competition. Ben also competed in the Individual Semifinals. It was another great year for Crusader Tennis – Congratulations!



Gabby Goyins - Individual Singles Class 1A

The **Weight Lifting Team** finished third in both Olympic and Traditional categories at District Competitions. Individual winners at District included First Place finishes in Unlimited – Desjon Robertson; 179 – Alex Steigler; 169 – Thomas Sanford; and 129 – Bryant Kyte. Four other students qualified "At Large" to compete at Regionals – Jon Flynn, Terius Mason, Aidan Murphy, and Patrick Theriot. At the Regional Competition, Desjon placed second, and Bryant, Jon, and Terius also qualified to advance to the State Competition. These four Crusaders represented CHS at the State meet with Desjon Robertson coming home with the State Champion medal in the Heavyweight Division! Congratulations, Desjon, and the entire CHS Weightlifting Team for a great season!



We are so grateful for our AD, all of the Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Administrators, and parents who make



Sports Highlights

and sports teams who have carried on the tradition of into the Spring. Congratulations, Crusaders! Here are a lights from our teams that had noteworthy seasons!

Both the **Boys Lacrosse Team**, led by Coach Garrett Purcell, and the **Girls Lacrosse Team**, led by Coach Chloe Weinmann, won their District Championships which qualified them to play in the Regional Quarterfinals. The Boys Team advanced to the Regional Semifinal, finishing their season with an overall record of 16-3. The Girls Team also competed in the regional semifinals and ended their season with a record of 20-3, their first 20-win season!



Zaden receives his State Medal

EIGHTH

The CHS **Track and Field Team** was once again led by Head Coach Troy Faucheaux. They competed in several local meets and came away with both team and individual medals. They competed in the District 2A meet in which the Boys were Runner-Ups and the Girls placed third. Twenty-one Crusaders qualified to compete at Regionals with 4 students earning the right to compete at the State meet which was held in Jacksonville on May 16. Zaden Purifoy placed 8th in the State 400 M Hurdles with a time of 56.92 seconds. Congratulations to Zaden and all of our Track Team for a great season!

The **Boys Soccer Team**, led by Coach Jack Martin, had a good season but were eliminated in District Tournament competition. The **Girls Soccer Team**, led by CHS first-year Coach Chase Griffin were District Run-Ups which qualified them for Regional competition. They advanced to the semifinal game where they lost to Jacksonville Episcopal. They ended the season with an overall record of 12-6-1. Way to go, Lady Crusaders!



Coach Holly Brown returned to lead the Lady Crusader **Softball Team** to another great year. They were eliminated in the semifinal round of the District tournament, but ended their season with an overall record of 10-12. We look forward to seeing you next year!



FHSAA 2A Track and Field State Qualifiers From L to R: Zaden Purifoy (FR) - 400 M Hurdles; Xander McLaughlin (SR) - 3200 M Run; Addison Manning (FR) - Long Jump; Natalie Jackson (FR) - 400 M Run



The CHS **Baseball Team** under the guidance of Coach Richard LaBounty as Head Coach had a sensational season! The team won the District Championship and advanced to the Regional Tournament where they lost in a close game to Bishop Snyder in the Semifinal game. Going into the last game, the Crusaders were ranked #1 in the State of Florida and #5 Nationally in the Baseball America Poll. They finished the season with a record of 27-2. Way to go Crusaders!!



Stand Out Crusader

Junior Julia Frosch, was named an All-American in Girls Lacrosse, Catholic High's first female to have this honor. She is also the school's first Academic All-American in Girls Lacrosse! Congratulations on your double 'Stand Out' accolades, Julia!



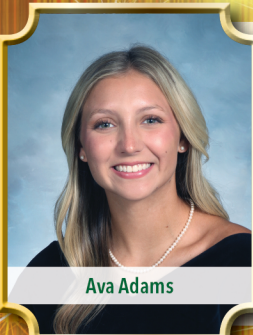
The **Boys Basketball Team** under Coach, Mike Dimick, had a good year and we look forward to seeing them next year. The **Girls Basketball Team**, under CHS first-year Coach Matt Hayes had a good year making their way to the second round in the District tournament where they were eliminated. They ended their season with an overall 10-16 record.

Make our athletic program the stellar program that it is. We could not do it without all of you - THANK YOU!



Sports Highlights

2023-2024 Hall of Fame



Ava Adams

It is a true honor to be a CHS Hall of Fame inductee. This school has allowed me to grow in many ways. I will forever be grateful for the people I met and the opportunities during my time here. Catholic High will always hold a special place in my heart. - Ava Adams

Being a Crusader is more than just being a student - it's being a part of a family who loves and cares for you. It has been a true privilege being inducted into the Catholic High School Hall of Fame. Thank you, CHS, for all of the teachers, memories, and knowledge that the last four years have given me. I will hold every person and memory in my heart - always! - Virginia Lee



Virginia Lee



Natalie Biggs

Catholic High has given me so many opportunities to better myself academically and spiritually while being surrounded by boundless love and support. My memories at Catholic will last a lifetime, and I will cherish all the relationships I built and wonderful people I was able to meet. I am so incredibly honored to be in the CHS Hall of Fame. - Natalie Biggs

It is an honor to be named as a member of the CHS Hall of Fame. I am beyond thankful for the relationships I have created with fellow students, faculty, and administration. The opportunities, people, and environment that CHS has given me are truly special. I am extremely proud to be a Crusader! - Cooper Meckler



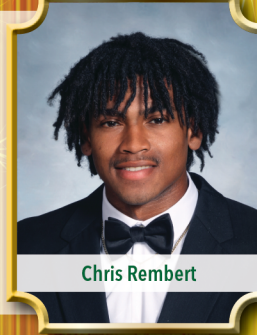
Cooper Meckler



Maria Bush

It is a great honor to have been chosen for the Hall of Fame! I am very grateful for the teachers who have helped me grow in my academics and faith, the friendships I have made, the lessons I have learned, and for all Catholic High has done for me. Catholic High will always be a special place for me that is filled with wonderful memories. - Maria Bush

Being named to the CHS Hall of Fame is an incredible honor. CHS is more than just a school to me; it's a treasure trove of memories and bonds I've formed with amazing teachers, staff, and students. A heartfelt thanks to each coach, educator, and peer who has been a part of my journey to where I stand now. - Chris Rembert



Chris Rembert



Mariana Contreras

I am extremely proud to represent such a diverse class with different talents that are sure to make a positive difference in the world. CHS teachers, administration, and students have gifted me with amazing, irreplaceable memories and valuable lessons that have helped prepare me for a bright future. I am so honored to have been selected as a member of the 2024 Hall of Fame, and I am beyond grateful to know that I have a second home at Catholic High! - Mariana Contreras

I am extremely grateful to be a Hall of Fame inductee. I have learned several important values from experiences and memories made at Catholic that I will never forget. I cannot thank the teachers and coaches enough for helping shape me into the person I am today. - Scott Sanderson



Scott Sanderson



Gabby Goyins

It is such an honor to have been selected for the Hall of Fame! During these past four years, I have had the privilege to learn from the best teachers, meet the greatest of friends, and have the best high school experience. Catholic High has pushed me to be a better person. I will cherish the memories and will always remember the impact this amazing school has had on my life! - Gabby Goyins

Catholic High School is so much more than a school, -- it is a community and a family. The administrators, teachers, staff, and even fellow students are happy to help you with anything. I am so grateful for the relationships I have grown throughout my four years at Catholic, and I am so honored to have been inducted into the Hall of Fame! - Julia Ulmer



Julia Ulmer

2024 Hall of Fame



Crusaders Participate in 'Night to Shine'

Over twenty Pensacola Catholic High School students participated in the Tim Tebow Foundation's "Night to Shine" Prom on February 9. Students from our sister school, Mother Clelia Morning Star High School, also attended and everyone had a fantastic time!

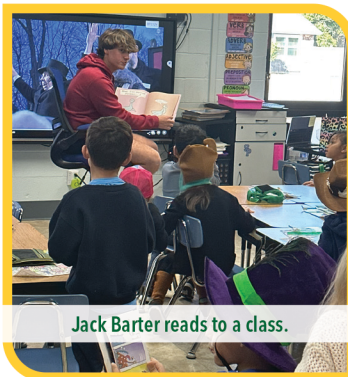
National Honor Society Helps the Easter Bunny

Two of Catholic High Schools Core Values are Commitment to Service and Selfless Love. Each year, members of the CHS National Honor Society demonstrate these values through their Spring service project through which they collect and fill Easter baskets with toys, candy, games, and stuffed animals. This year over 75 baskets were delivered to the Gulf Coast Kid's House, and distributed to children in various foster homes, hospitals, and treatment facilities. We know the Easter Bunny appreciated the extra help!



Another Kind of Swap Day

This year, four students from CHS spent their Catholic Schools Week 'Swap Day' helping out at St. Paul's Elementary School, their previous Middle School.



Jack Barter reads to a class.



Natalie Biggs, Scott Sanderson, and Jackson Kohr pose with St. Paul's Principal, Mrs. Blair Hodge, before leading a lesson in class. It was silly hat day at St. Paul's.



Crusader Exemplifies Core Values

You missed a treat if you did not see the WEAR 'Angels in Our Midst' segment on Senior Crusader, Ben Ling! The segment highlighted Ben's efforts to create a Pickleball Club at our Sister High School – Mother Clelia Morning Star High School. Back in November, Ben approached the administrators from both schools to get their blessings and then recruited some of his Tennis Team teammates to help. Holt Pair and Sam Locklear would assist in



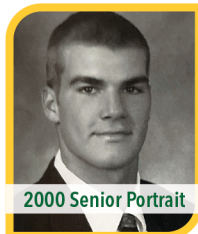
Morning Star Pickleball Club



running the program when Ben was unavailable, and his other teammates, Gannon Davis, Max Frederick, Daniel Smith, Cov Thomson, and Jackson Whittington, also helped with the club. They spent their afternoons teaching the Morning Star students how to play Pickleball and then helped to lead and score games. Ben even spent his own money to purchase t-shirts for all students 'in the club'. Thank you, Ben and teammates, for showing us what *Selfless Love and Commitment to Service*, two of Catholic High's Core Values, look like "in action"!

Sophomore, Olivia Carlson, was recently notified that she received Honorable Mention in the category of High School Fiction in the Emerald Coast Writers' annual Youth Writing and Art contest. Her piece, My Knight, will also be published! Congratulations, Olivia!

Coach Matt Adams Named to the CHS Alumni Hall of Fame



Every year we like to honor a CHS Alumni who has continued to embody the CHS Core Values of Selfless Love, Commitment to Excellence, Personal Integrity, and Commitment to Service long after leaving the halls of CHS.

The selection of the award recipient begins with the Alumni Committee bringing forward the names of several nominees and, once approved by school Administration, the committee selects the alumna or alumnus to be honored. Then usually comes the exciting part--trying to find the right time and place to honor the inductee at a public Catholic High event at which we can surprise him or her. This year, the announcement was made at the Annual Alumni Eucharistic Celebration and Fish Fry, a very fitting event for this year's recipient. Matt Adams from the Class of 2000 is this year's inductee to the Catholic High School Alumni Hall of Fame! It took quite a bit to get him into the Tolan Family Life Center during this year's Fish Fry because he was busy in one of his important roles at CHS, 'Head Fry Daddy,' in leading the 'frying of the fish' in the inclement weather that we experienced that night. He was very humbled to be added to list of honorees.

While at Catholic High Matt was an excellent student, active in the Chase Club and other service organizations. He was a 3-year Varsity Baseball player and a 4-year Varsity Football player who was also recognized as a Northwest Florida and State standout in Football. During his Senior year, he was named to the CHS Student Hall of Fame.

Matt received a Football scholarship to the University of Memphis. However, due to a significant injury, he had to forgo that opportunity. Instead, he returned to Pensacola and began working at his family's marina and attending the University of West Florida where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Business.

He became an Assistant Coach for the Catholic High Football team in the Fall of 2003 and then joined the faculty of Catholic High School during the 2004-2005 school year, teaching PE and serving as our Weightlifting Coach. He taught various subjects, in addition to PE, while he was a member of the teaching faculty including Marketing, Personal Finance, and Business Law. He was considered a favorite Homeroom Teacher by the students. In 2015, he joined the CHS administration when he was named Director of Facilities & Special Events and, in 2017, he was named our Head Varsity Football Coach. He has received the distinguished honor of being named "Coach of the Year" by the PNJ several times and has been a great example, in every way, in leading our students. But, most important of all, Matt has always--as a student, teacher, coach, and administrator--embodied the spirit, ideals and Core Values of CHS in all that he does. Generosity, loyalty, dedication, and giving 110% in all things are perhaps his most outstanding qualities--ones that he models daily to his peers, his fellow educators, his fellow coaches, and to all of our students and student-athletes. We are deeply grateful that he has chosen to dedicate his prodigious talents to the CHS community throughout his life!!

We thank Matt's wife, Miranda and three of his four children - Adyson & Tucker '25, and Sadie, who will be in the CHS Class of 2032, for helping us to pull off the surprise. Brandton '22 was not able to be present. Matt's parents, Mark & Karen Adams, who are longtime supporters and friends of Catholic High, were also present to celebrate his honor. Coach Adams, Congratulations on being the 36th inductee into the Catholic High School Alumni Hall of Fame!



Matt & Miranda with children left to right, Adyson, Brandton, Tucker & Sadie

Here's what we heard recently---

Earlier this year, Jon Akin CHS '95, was inducted into the Oglethorpe University Athletics Hall of Fame for the many accolades he has accomplished within the Men's Soccer Program as their Head Coach for the past 21 years. Congratulations, Jon!

Brothers Mike Ringers '03 and David Ringers '06 have both relocated to Alabama. Mike and his wife, Nicole, along with their two children, Sadie and Tristan, live in Madison. David and his wife, Angela, live in Mobile where they are both physical therapists.

Tyler Henry '12 married his wife Kendall in November 2021 and they welcomed their son, Leo Charles Henry in May 2023. They live in Pensacola where Tyler is a Farm Bureau Insurance Agent.

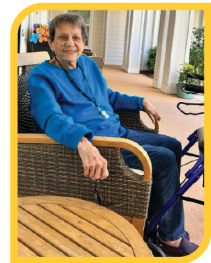


Senior Alumni Spotlight

The CHS Alumni Committee has requested a new article in which they will help us highlight an alumna/alumnus who has a unique story or connection to share with the rest of the Crusader Family. If you have a recommended subject for a future article, please email rlay@pensacolachs.org so that your suggestion can be taken to the committee.

The Start of a CHS Legacy Family

Gloria Ruggerio Szlaga, Class of 1944 will celebrate her 97th birthday in July. Her older sister, Theresa Ruggerio Stepp, was the only other CHS alumni from the group of seven siblings. Both sisters were married to career members of their respective military services, not spending much of their active years of service in this area, and their children did not attend CHS but their legacy lives through the extended Ruggerio family-- their nieces and nephews including the additional last names of Bond, Pace, Ramsey, Sodd, and Wanek, resulting in 21 graduates between 1952 - 2023, and four more to take place in the next three years. Third-generation names include the likes of Faulk, DeJesus, and Lyons. Gloria thoroughly enjoyed her military life and was very active in many volunteer activities wherever she and her husband, Andy Szlaga, were stationed. She was a certified Red Cross Volunteer, an active member of the Officers Wives Club, and President of the Navy Wives Club in Washington, DC. Her husband served as a Diplomat, and she accompanied him to greet many, including the King of Spain, and Arthur Fiedler (Conductor of Boston Pops). She also represented the Navy Wives at the Funeral of President John F. Kennedy. As a side note, after his military career, Andy was a member of the CHS Faculty for a brief period in the early 1970s. Aunt Gloria, as she is affectionately known by all generations of her nieces and nephews, is very proud of them, and glad to live in Pensacola as the CHS legacy continues.



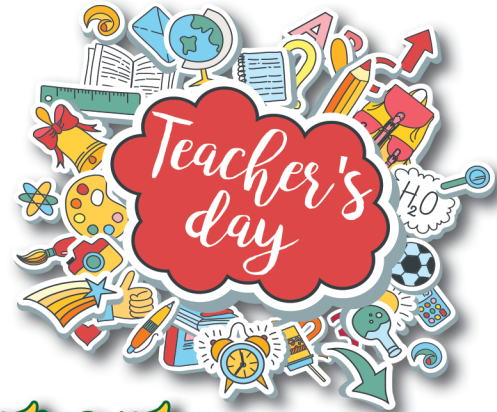
Alumni at CHS

During the Annual Catholic Schools Week celebration of Teacher Appreciation Day, the Alumni Committee from CHS presented "goodie bags" to the Faculty and Staff who graduated from Catholic High School and who returned to teach or serve at their Alma Mater. Pictured are Mary Featherman Kyte '98 - Guidance Director; Nina Webb Blay '78 - Recruitment & Admissions Director; and Peyton Lipscomb Finelli '09 - Guidance Advisor. Picture:



Other CHS Faculty/Staff Alumni are:

- Matt Adams '00 - Facilities and Events Director/Head Football Coach
- Roxanne Spivey Bonifay '70- Guidance Secretary
- Rebecca Holcomb Carter '92 - Campus Minister/Religion Teacher
- Christine Miller Day '80 - Religion Teacher
- Anne Marie Cancellare DeMatteo '92 - Staff Accountant
- Jim Edler '93 - Assistant Principal
- Keith Haynes '93 - Communications Director/Athletic Compliance
- Stephen Herring '78 - Maintenance
- Keri Waller Meredith '88 - Adaptive Education Director
- Hannah Stefancik '15 - Religion Teacher



Eucharistic Celebration & Fish Fry



It was great to see all of the Alumni who came out to participate in this year's Annual Eucharistic Celebration and Fish Fry held on Friday, March 15. The weather did not fully cooperate but in true Crusader fashion we had a good time anyway! Thank you to Bishop Wack for celebrating the Mass and to four of our Alumni Priests for concelebrating - Fr. Jim Dane '70, Fr. Pat Foley '64, Fr. John Licari '72, and Fr. Nick Schumm '96.

55th Reunion



The Class of 1969 recently celebrated their 55th Reunion. They had a 'Meet and Greet' on Friday evening at Calvert's in the Heights and on Saturday night danced to the tunes provided by Spitfire JD and enjoyed a delicious buffet provided by the Pensacola Yacht Club. On Sunday they met for brunch at South Market and began discussing the next reunion!

Planning a Reunion? Want to check in on your Class?

The Alumni page on the CHS Website is a great resource for finding information about plans for your Class Reunion and/or to find resources needed to help you plan your reunion. Go to pensacolachs.org/alumni and then click 'Alumni' on the menu bar to gain access to the 'Class and Reunion Information' page. Please contact our Director of Advancement, Rita Lay, if you have questions or need additional assistance - rlay@pensacolachs.org.

We want to hear from you! Scan Here!

It is always great to see all the wonderful places our Alumni have gone and all the wonderful things they are doing. Please update us using the webform on the CHS Alumni page at www.pensacolachs.org/alumni or use the QR code to the right to go directly to the webform on your phone.



Alumni Updates

Catholic High is so blessed to have such a wonderful Crusader Family that supports us in so many ways! Whether it be through volunteering at our various events, participating in diverse fundraising events hosted by our teams or clubs, participating in our Auction, donating to our Auction or Annual Gift Giving Campaign, or Pledging to our Capital Campaign—we are forever grateful!

We are so blessed!

On May 1, Bishop William Wack officiated at the Blessing/Dedication Ceremony for the New Classroom Wing that was recently completed. The Robert H. Kahn/Gallaway Family was on hand to cut the ribbon to the new wing they named in honor of Sr. Kierstin Martin. The Mougey and Harrell/Phillips families were also present as major donors who named the individual classrooms. The classrooms will be assigned to: English Teacher, Julie Remke, who is also the Student Council Moderator; History Teacher, Chris Gulig, who is also the National Honor Society Moderator; and Math Teacher, Maria Green, who also moderates the Student Ambassadors. Full use of the classrooms will begin in the Fall of the 2024-2025 school year.



We are so blessed to have had so many wonderful donors who have contributed to Catholic High School's Capital Campaigns. These campaigns have funded the improvements to our campus through the years to make it what it is today for our current students. In addition to the classrooms just completed, most recently, the donors to the *Building on Faith, Family & Tradition Campaign* have helped us to complete the upgrades to security throughout the campus, construct the new Tolan Family Student Life Center, Nickelsen Family Courtyard, Athletic Complex, build a new restroom building on the Football Field, and upgrade the windows and restrooms in the Music Building. We also have several other projects that were identified in our Master Growth Plan that are still queued to get started, but we need to secure additional funds before we can get started. That is why, **"We NEED you!"**

We have so many dreams yet to realize that are a part of our upgraded Master Growth Plan, including:

- Renovation of the STEM Innovation Center/Art Studio
- New Practice Fields
- Improvements to the Baseball/Softball Facility
- Addition of new Administration Offices
- Renovations to the Brent Library/Media Center
- Continued enhancements to Campus Security



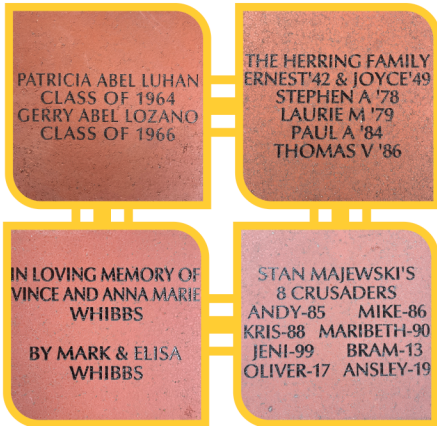
It is not just about the 'brick and mortar', but the facilities greatly help us better engage our students and enhance what goes on within the confines of our campus. These improvements will help us ensure that the tradition of excellence for which Catholic High is known will continue not only for our current students but for many generations to come. We are grateful to those who sacrificed in years past so we could benefit from their gifts. Our current Capital Campaign goal is \$6M. Please prayerfully consider a pledge to the *Building on Faith, Family & Tradition Campaign*, now so we can continue progress toward our improvements.

Please visit our Campaign Website at pensacolachs.org/capitalcampaign or use the QR code above. We have Naming Opportunities available now, and as projects are further detailed, we anticipate additional opportunities. Please let us know if there is a particular project to which you are interested in your pledge being dedicated. Links to make your pledge/payments are also available on the website. If you prefer to receive a paper pledge card, please contact our Director of Advancement, Rita Lay at 850-436-6400 x103 or rlay@pensacolachs.org.

CHS Alumni, we recently announced an Alumni Challenge via email, so check your Inbox! If we don't have your email, please email rlay@pensacolachs.org to update us and/or find information about the Alumni Challenge at pensacolachs.org/CC23Alumnichallenge.

Starry, Starry Knight Auction

This year's online event was once again a huge success. On behalf of Sister Kierstin, Auction Coordinator, Nina Blay, and Auction Co-Chairs Keri Medlock and Jennifer Cobb, we want to say "THANK YOU"! We are so grateful to our sponsors and enthusiastic bidders who helped us raise more than \$72,000. We are also grateful to the many merchandise sponsors and volunteers who worked behind the scenes! This is the largest parent-led fundraiser that we have every year and the proceeds enable us to continue our tradition of pursuing excellence and the highest quality education for our Crusaders!



Commemorative Bricks

We still have Commemorative Bricks available for placement in front of the Gym entrance. These bricks are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate family milestones and to honor or memorialize loved ones. Buy a brick engraved with the year you graduated, when your child(ren) graduated, in honor of your favorite teacher, in memory of fallen classmates, a special person in your life, etc. The \$250 clay bricks are 8" X 8" and will accommodate engraving of up to 6 lines with a maximum of 21 characters per line. Use the link pensacolachs.org/bricks to access the webform in order to pay for your commemorative brick(s). Once we have an order for five or more bricks, we will place the order with the brick company. All proceeds from the sales will go to the Building on Faith, Family & Tradition Capital Campaign.

If you have not done so already, please sign-up for ShopRaise, a third-party Shopping App that partners with over 1,000 national retailers to help non-profits earn income off of their donor's everyday purchases. Whether it's shopping for daily essentials like groceries, buying furniture, or even booking a trip, the ShopRaise app lets your everyday shopping turn into profit for Catholic High! To see how it works, watch the video available on our website by typing pensacolachs.org/shopraise in your browser. To access the Catholic High landing page to create your account and get started with ShopRaise, type shopraise.com/support/pensacolachs in your browser. Be sure to also download the ShopRaise mobile app so your shopping via your phone is also linked to Catholic High. Be sure to share this information with friends and family as anyone, anywhere, can support Catholic High through their purchases via the app. Let's see how quickly the everyday online shopping of our Crusader Family can add up to extra funds to support our wonderful school!



Annual Gift Giving Campaign

Thank you so much to all members of the Catholic High Family who support our Mission throughout the year(s) in our various campaigns and fund raisers. Our thirty-fifth Annual Campaign is still underway. You can donate securely online (even from your phone) via credit card or ACH transaction by going to pensacolachs.org/annualgift, or send your check and this completed form to the Office of Advancement at the school. This year's campaign will continue to run until June 30, 2024. Any donations received after this date will be applied to the 2024-2025 Annual Campaign that will officially kick-off in the Fall.

2023-2024 Annual Gift-Giving Campaign

Name _____

Address _____

My gift to the Annual Campaign is \$ _____

My gift is in memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Please make checks payable to Pensacola Catholic High School

Catholic High School is deeply grateful for your continued kindness and support!

Supporting CHS

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

Your prayers are requested for these members of the Catholic High family who have died since the publication of the Fall 2023 Crusader Connections.



Cecil F. Bell '48
(01/12/24 Pensacola) Brother of Joyce Bell Nelson '51



Theodore "Ted" Mueller, Jr. '55
(10/08/23 Pensacola) Brother of Beth Mueller O'Connor '58



Myrlin "Babe" Francis Rohan '56
(12/20/23 Perdido Beach, AL) Brother of Donald Rohan '60, David Rohan '66, and Bill Rohan '70



Francis "Frank" Glenn Wilson II '58
(4/4/24 Cantonment)



Agnes Ellen "Annie" Dubuisson Geri '59
(5/5/24 Lillian, AL) Wife of Eugene "Gene" Geri '57 and Mother of Ron Geri '78, Greg Geri '80, Mark Geri '82, Gina Geri Nichols '83, Kevin Geri '85, and Steve Geri '88



Gerald "Ted" Allen Macey '59
(4/4/23 Texarkana, TX) Brother of Kevin Macey '68



Michael Hauer Sarra '59
(2/28/24 Milton, FL) Brother of Betty Sarra Constatine '46 (d), and Vincent Sarra '51 (d)



Thomas Dillon Blake '62
(2/20/24 Wasilla, AK) Brother of Bobby Blake '61, Drew Blake '65, David Blake '67 (d), Mary Blake Hardin '71, Chris Blake '73, and Paul Blake '76



Michael Terry Kelson '62
(09/17/23 Orlando, FL)



Thomas "Tommy" Edwin Bosso '63
(03/20/24 Pensacola) Brother of Terry Bosso '61, Dennis Bosso '65, Mike Bosso '68, Rev. Stephen Bosso '70, David Bosso '72, and Kevin Bosso '74



Richard Michael Jones, Sr. '64
(9/22/23 Pensacola) Brother of Barbara Jones Ott '58



Laura Boehl Pierce '64
(1/13/24 Fort Worth, TX)



Joseph Benson Hill '66
(04/11/24 Fairhope, AL) Father of Teresa Hill '94 and Aaron Hill '96 and Brother of Dale Hill '65



Francis "Frank" G. Delgado '69
(01/03/24 Pensacola)



Arthur E. Ebert '70
(12/28/23 Alpharetta, GA) Father of Beth Ebert Umbaugh '89 and Chris Ebert '95 and Brother of Irvin Elbert '65 (d)



Cheryl Ann Endres Early '72
(03/25/23 Pensacola) Sister of Teresa Endres Rooks '74



Denise Dulion '77
(01/05/24 Pensacola) Sister of Jeanne Dulion Thorn '80 and Michael Dulion '89



Paul Anthony "Tony" Brice '78
(3/26/24 Pensacola) Brother of Helen Brice Caruso '67, Michael F. Brice '70, Kathryn Brice Kuklish '71, Stephen Brice '74 (d), and Patrick Brice '82 (d)



Stephanie Ann Schill McLean '79
(3/5/24 Lakeland, FL) Sister of Lawrence Schill '82 and Alexandra Schill Bach '84



Timothy Lindsey Emmanuel '80
(01/18/24 Pensacola) Brother of Angela Emmanuel Guillaume '61, Brunie Emmanuel '66, Joanne Emmanuel '68, Donna Emmanuel '69, and Michael Emmanuel '77

FAMILY

David Alfred Carroll

(3/16/24 Pensacola) Father of Emily Carroll '25

William Costello "Bill" Baker, Sr.

Father of Blaine Baker Payne '76 and William C. Baker, Jr. '77

Myra Jean Harper Blay

(4/18/24 Pensacola) Mother of Eric Blay '78, Danny Blay '79, and Peter Blay '81 and Grandmother of Jacquelyn Blay Forte '04, Allee' Blay Digby '05, and Charles Blay '08

Robert Bromert

(3/10/24 Pensacola) Father of Zachary Bromert '95 and Meghan Bromert '98

Joan McCall Flynn

(3/21/24 Pensacola) Mother of Deborah Flynn Heath '74, Michelle Flynn Arnold '82, and Stephanie Flynn Tilley '89

Norman Fritz, Sr.

(3/6/24 Pensacola) Father of Norman Fritz, Jr. '77 (d), John Fritz '78, Paul Fritz '81, David Fritz '83, and Nichole Fritz Warren '87

David Eugene Holcomb

(4/3/24 Pensacola) Father of Rebecca Holcomb Carter '92 and Christopher Holcomb '03

Nan Greenhut James

(3/29/24 Pensacola) Mother of Charles James '92

Susan Marie "Sue" Kennedy

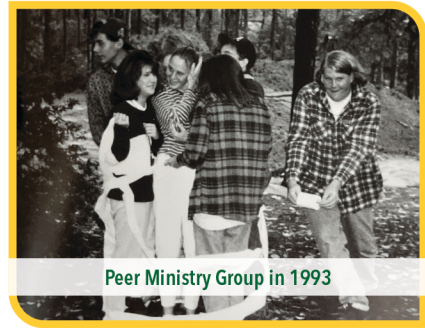
(4/25/24 Pensacola) Mother of Kevin Kennedy '17 and Katherine Kennedy '20

Frank B. Martin, III

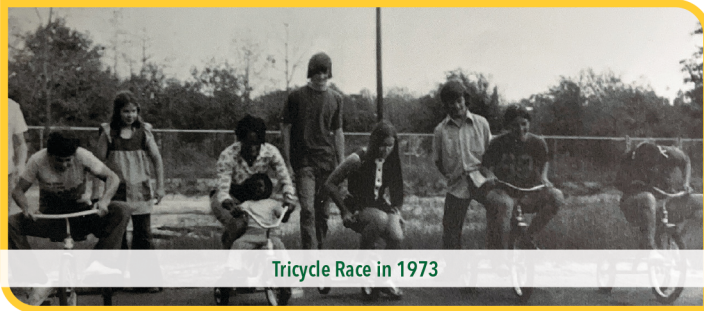
(1/12/24 Pensacola, FL) Husband of Anne Ames Martin '57 and Father of Frank "Britt" Martin, IV '79 and Temple Martin Hansen '82

In Memoriam

In the Spring 2023 edition of the Crusader Connections, we posted the pictures below to see if any of you were there or to see if they sparked a memory you wanted to share. It is always great to hear back from you, so keep those responses coming!



Peer Ministry Group in 1993



Tricycle Race in 1973



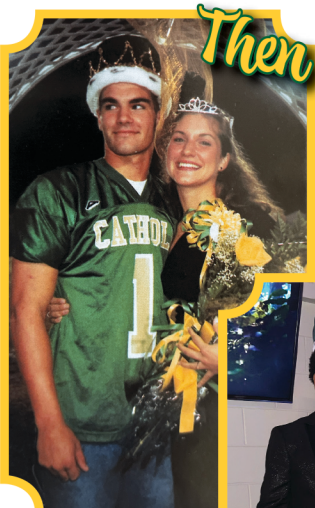
Girls Track from 1987. Grace Sullivan '87 responded to say she recognized some of her classmates in the track photo.

What about these photos - spark any memories? Do you know their origin?



If you know anything about this photos or have a memory to share, submit your email to rlay@pensacolachs.org.

Then and Now: Here are some fun "then and now" perspectives

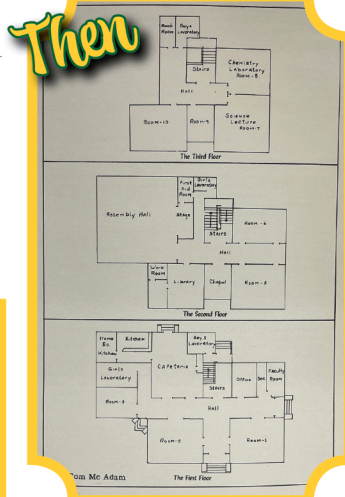


Chris Reubert + Ava Adams-Proxmire King + Queen 2024

Now

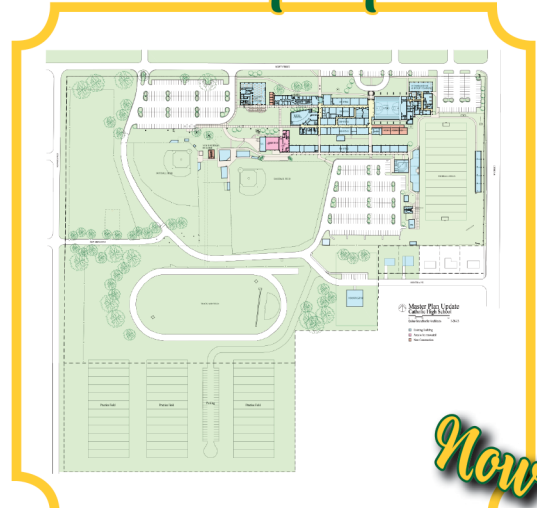


Alumni Hall of Famer. Coach Matt Adams and Colette LeBeau-Homecoming King + Queen 1999



Then

Map of the original school (1941-1958) located on the corner of Garden and Baylen Streets.



Now

Map of the current campus with the projects included on the updated Master Growth Plan.

To see a larger version, visit pensacolachs.org/captialcampaign

CHS Memorabilia

If you have articles with ties to Catholic High School and you are ready to pass them on, please consider donating them to the school- old uniforms, trophies, historical photos, class rings, etc. We are especially interested in Senior Mementoes from the Classes of 1953 through 1970 when there was no official yearbook but Senior classes put together books with Senior portraits. Items can be dropped off at the office during regular school hours with attention to the Office of Advancement.

CHS Memories



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SAVE THE DATES

GRANDPARENTS MASS - SEPT. 6 ALL SAINTS MASS/VETERANS RECOGNITION - NOV. 1
MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY - SEPT. 28 CHS MEMORIAL MASS - NOV. 4
HOMECOMING GAME/TAILGATE PARTY - OCT. 11 FUN WITH SANTA - DEC. 7



Pro Deo et Patria

OUR MISSION

To develop responsible Christian individuals by providing the finest in Catholic education.

OUR CORE VALUES

SELFLESS LOVE - We recognize and accept the uniqueness of every individual. God calls us to love one another.

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE - We strive for excellence in the spiritual, intellectual, and physical development of the whole individual.

PERSONAL INTEGRITY - We recognize the importance of being honest and Christ-like in making decisions and in the way we conduct ourselves.

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE - We believe that to serve others is to serve God and that serving God is the greatest thing that we can do in life.

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