

The Spire

Central Catholic's
Parent Newsletter

Fall 2009

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A Message from Brother Robert Schaefer, FSC



Dear Parents,

Pope Benedict XVI in his 2008 visit to the United States reaffirmed the mission of Catholic schools, "First and foremost, every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth." (*Address to Catholic Educators, April 17, 2008*) Since 1927 the De La Salle Christian Brothers and lay Lasallian educators have dutifully adhered to that mission. With the start of the new academic year, we recommit ourselves to making Central Catholic a place of encounter with the living God through our educational mission of formation in Gospel values and the Catholic faith. This Gospel-centered mission permeates the entire program of academics, activities, athletics and service. Thank you for entrusting your sons to us in this partnership of Christian formation! We look forward to working together in this important endeavor.

We are all set for an excellent school year! We continue to upgrade and improve our overall technology program. This year every teacher will receive a laptop computer to con-

tinue to integrate effective technology into the classroom. This represents a major commitment on our part to ensure that your sons will benefit from all that technology has to offer the educational program. In order to gain as much as we can from this investment, teacher training and development in the area of technology is essential. To that end, we have scheduled regular morning in-service programs for the faculty to enhance their skills and knowledge in the area of technology in the classroom. This programming has necessitated regular 2-hour delayed starts throughout the year. Those delayed start days are listed on the calendar. Some school districts will honor the delayed starts and others will provide regular transportation. The school will be open at regular time and students will be directed where they can gather prior to the start of classes at 10:00 a.m. Over the next number of years we will continue to develop our use of technology for the benefit of our students.

The timely information contained in this edition of *The Spire Parent Newsletter* will help you and your son prepare for an outstanding, grace-filled academic experience. Please read through the items carefully so you and your son will be ready for an outstanding school year.

The Brothers, faculty and staff thank you for choosing Central Catholic. Please join us in asking God's blessing on the 2009-2010 school year.

Live Jesus in our hearts forever!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brother Robert Schaefer FSC'.

Br. Robert Schaefer, F.S.C.
Principal

We're Moving!

For News Updates, Calendars, Faculty Contact Information, and much, much more, visit the (soon to be) all-new Central Catholic Website:

www.centralcatholicchs.com

Bookmark us today!

*New design will be unveiled in the coming weeks.

Welcome Mass & Picnic for New Families

The *Central Partners for Adolescent Development* (CPAD) and the Christian Brothers Community wish to welcome all Freshman and New Student Families to Central Catholic with a mass and picnic on **Sunday, August 23rd**. Mass will be at 11:00 a.m. in the McGonigle Theater followed by a cookout in the Quad. Come meet other families and begin your Central Catholic experience with the celebration of mass. Please RSVP to Br. Colman at ccoogan@centralcatholicchs.com or call the Guidance Department (412-208-3430) with your name and the number attending. This annual event is always a highlight of the start of the year! (The School Bookstore will also be open.)

Dress Code Reminder

As the school year begins, here's a general reminder of the school Dress Code. For more specific details, check the *Student/Parent Handbook*. Students are expected to be consistently neat, clean, and well groomed. Central Catholic has a dress code, but not a uniform. A dress shirt and tie, properly adjusted, are to be worn at all times. Sweaters and sports coats are optional throughout the entire school year. If a sweater is worn, it must be V-necked; no crew neck sweaters or sweatshirts are permitted. Students are to wear dress trousers at the waist line with a belt. Dress shoes and socks are to be worn at all times. Hiking boots, work boots, open-backed shoes and designer athletic shoes are not considered to be dress shoes. Earrings are not permitted. Students are to be clean shaven at all times.

Introducing Our New Faculty Members

This year we are pleased to welcome four new members to the teaching faculty of Central Catholic High School. Each comes with a variety of background and experiences and will contribute greatly to our school community.

Mr. Michael Traficante, '70 is new to the teaching profession having just completed his Master's and certification at Duquesne University in Chemistry/Education. Mr. Traficante did his student teaching at Central Catholic under the tutelage of Br. James Muffley during the second semester of last year. And while new to the teaching profession, Mr. Traficante brings over 30 years of experience from the professional chemical world having worked in various upper level management and production departments of Pittsburgh Plate Glass (PPG) paint division. His knowledge of "real world" chemistry will be a great benefit to the entire department.

Mr. David Vezendy, '95 returns to his alma mater after teaching and chairing the social studies department at Cumberland High School in Cumberland, Virginia. Mr. Vezendy is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh where he also excelled on the baseball team thanks to his experience under Coach Ciaramella at Central Catholic. In addition, he did graduate studies at Robert Morris University and has a master's degree from Longwood University in Virginia. Mr. Vezendy will be teaching sophomore World History and the Advanced Placement Economics course and will assist the baseball team.

Mr. Todd Saulle is the newest member of the English department and will be teaching World Literature and Writing the Essay. Mr. Saulle is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with an undergraduate degree in English and World History and a recent graduate of the Master's in Teaching program at Pitt. A member of the renowned University of Pittsburgh marching band, Mr. Saulle will lend his talent to assisting Mr. Wilson with the Central Catholic marching band.

Mr. Sean Crummie, '98 will be a part time member of the Central Catholic Math department for this school year. Upon graduation from Central Catholic, Mr. Crummie went on as a Scholar-Athlete at Yale University graduating in 2002. No stranger to Central Catholic, Mr. Crummie is also a member of the Athletic department, coaching the freshman basketball team.

A Special Welcome Back!

With the start of the new school year, Central Catholic is excited to welcome back **Br. Benedict Oliver, FSC**, as the Director of the Writing Center. No stranger to Central Catholic, Br. Benedict has served in a number of roles in our school's history dating back to 1961, including his time as principal from 1972-1977. Brother returns to Central Catholic having completed 4 years as president of Calvert Hall College High School in Baltimore where he oversaw much growth and development of the oldest Lasallian school in the United States. Brother Benedict is a true Catholic educator and dedicated Christian Brother and Central Catholic is most fortunate to have his presence in our community for the upcoming year.

Preparing for the College Application Process

Dear Senior Parents and Students:

Greetings! I am looking forward to working with your sons and assisting them in the college application and admission process. During the first quarter I intend to meet individually with each senior to discuss his career goals and what he is looking for in a college relative to size, location, area of study, extra-curricular activities and admission requirements. I want to ensure that all timelines are met, testing is complete, applications are submitted in a timely manner, and all financial aid documentation is in order.

Some parents and students may choose not to seek the advice of the College Placement Office. Others may ask for guidance but decide to pursue an alternative course of action. I view my job as a source of assistance for those who seek it. However, it is most important that this office be aware of every senior's college application activity. Please ensure that your son keeps our office informed of the status of every application submitted.

Please know that my door is always open and that I welcome hearing from you. Once the year is underway, you will be hearing more from my office regarding upcoming events and important information necessary in pursuing college application and admission. I will hold a presentation on the college application process the evening of **Wednesday, September 16**. I look forward to meeting each of you and to working with your son to place him at the best and most appropriate college for him.

Frank J. Kerber
Director of College Placement

Technological Advances

As Central moves forward into a full one-to-one learning environment over the next five years, it is crucial that our teachers are well-trained and prepared. During the 2009-2010 school year, our faculty members will receive many hours of required training geared completely toward teaching in a one-to-one learning environment. At the core of the program is project-based learning, an educational model where students are taught using true-to-life scenarios. Students are able to learn and remember more difficult concepts easily when they apply what they are learning to a real situation.

Throughout this year, our teachers will learn the essentials of teaching in a one-to-one environment. They will discover how to use one-to-one technologies to engage students, use paperless systems for providing students with class materials and giving tests and assignments, teach in a way that fosters students' 21st Century skills, and manage a one-to-one classroom. In order for us to provide the best education to the students of Central, all of these components are important. The excellence of our faculty is what makes an education at Central so valuable, and we will do everything to ensure that our faculty is prepared to instruct students in an ever-changing world.

Central is committed to providing a relevant education to its students that prepares them for the world into which they will enter. This 21st Century style of learning provides students with the skills they need to be successful in today's world.

Cafeteria Update

By now all families should have received information regarding the new prepaid campus account that will be available for students to use in the cafeteria this year. Each family will be able to load money onto an account for student use in the cafeteria. At the start of the year a biometric scan of each student's finger will be recorded for use in the program. Families are **not obligated** to enroll in the prepaid account but it is an option that helps parents manage student usage in the cafeteria more effectively. Again, information has already been provided but if you have further questions, please contact Mr. Bernot in Office C at 412-208-3423.

2009 Magazine Drive

Through a mailing later in August, you will receive more information concerning the annual Magazine Drive fundraiser. This is the only student fundraiser we have each year and the proceeds go to fund the student activity program. Ms. Shablousky, Magazine Drive Coordinator, has put together fun and exciting incentives and prizes for student participants. Thank you in advance for your support of this important event.

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A TRADITION OF FAITH, SCHOLARSHIP & SERVICE

Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

Mailing Address Line 5

Immunization Updates

As you may already know, the Allegheny County Health Department has now approved additional immunizations that are required for admission into schools. Students and families were notified if their records were not up to date. If you received a request from the school nurse regarding updated immunization records, please make sure this has been completed before the start of school. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Diethorn, School Nurse, at 412-208-3416

Back to School Night

Please note that our Parent Back to School Night is scheduled for **Thursday, September 10th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**. All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend this evening to meet teachers and learn about course objectives, requirements, and expectations. This annual program is always very successful and we hope you make every effort to attend. When your son receives his schedule at orientation, please review his schedule. You can download a schedule form from the website for your use that evening.

Orientation Schedule

Tuesday, August 18

Parent Orientation Night

6:30 PM

McGonigle Theater

(School Bookstore will be open)

Wednesday, August 26

Freshman Orientation

(lunch IS provided)

8:00 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.

Dress Code is required

Thursday, August 27

Sophomore/Junior Orientation

(lunch IS NOT provided)

8:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Senior Orientation

(lunch is NOT provided)

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Dress Code is required

During Orientation Days:

Students will receive a copy of the Handbook

Have I.D. Photos taken

Have finger scanned for cafeteria use

Receive academic schedule for the first semester

For future News, Announcements, Calendar Updates and more visit www.centralcatholicchs.com