The FFA Dozen in Indianapolis
Written by Carlos Estacio IV ’20 and Bailey Scheuber ’20

We are so fortunate to be among the 70,000 FFA members and guests who got to attend the 92nd Annual National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana last week. The 12 of us students spent 5 days attending leadership workshops, general sessions, and the career fair and expo. We are fortunate to have had the opportunity to tour the beautiful city of Indianapolis, hear the words from inspirational speaker Bob Goff and attend a Blueroom Session with Dr. Giola Massa from NASA who presented about growing plants in space and NASA’s large agronomy program. Another highlight of our trip was attending Mass led by a Father Rick who is a former FFA member, American Degree Recipient, and a former ag teacher. Father Rick grew up in agriculture and loved sharing his passion with others, knew when he was called to God to be a priest he felt like he was ‘home’. Thank you to Mrs. Andrea Cambra, Ms. Brand, and the CCHS agriculture department for making this trip possible.
**Modesto Serra Club Scholarship**

Cesar Antillon-Silva, this year’s recipient of the Modesto Serra Club Scholarship, spoke at the Club’s meeting last week, detailing his experience at CCHS and his goals for the future. Cesar is pictured here with club president, John Misiak, and member, Tim Flynn.

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**Central Catholic Students: #1 in Service**

CCHS students track their Christian Service Hours through an app called HelperHelper. HelperHelper put out a challenge to high schools around the United States to see which school could log the most service hours and WE won! Our students are always looking for ways to give back through Christian service. WE are so proud of our students!

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**Catholic Professional and Business Club**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 12, at 7:00am
Location: Mark Gallo Health and Fitness Center, Central Catholic High School. The speaker will be Mrs. Christine Watkins, an inspirational speaker and author, who holds a master’s degree in Theological Studies from the Jesuit School of Theology at the Graduate Theological Union and a master’s degree in Social Welfare from U.C. Berkeley’s School of Social Welfare. She is trained in Ignatian spirituality and discernment, with twenty years’ experience as a spiritual director, licensed counselor, retreat leader, and parish mission preacher. All are invited to attend; For questions, more information or reservations, call (209) 985-2615.
Scrip News

Regular Scrip Hours: 7:30am - 3:00pm
(Closed for lunch 12:30pm - 1:30pm)
If you have any questions, please contact Carol Fields (fields@cchsca.org)

Important Dates

Monday, November 11: Veterans’ Day—No School
Monday, November 11—Friday, November 15: International Week
Tuesday, November 12: Senior Parent Meeting in MGHFC at 6pm
Wednesday, November 13: Signing Day During Lunch in MGHFC
Friday, November 15: International Lunch
Saturday, November 16: Mini Dance Camp in MGHFC
Saturday, November 16: Boosters Fundraiser in Glynn Hall (6:30pm-9:30pm)
Wednesday, November 19: Winter Dance Performance at Gallo Center for the Arts
Thursday, November 20: Winter Dance Performance at Gallo Center for the Arts

50th Anniversary of the First Football Championship

On Friday, November 1, 2019 WE celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the First Football Championship. The 1969 Central Catholic Raiders won the Southern League title with a 20-18 victory over Hilmar on the final night of their first season in the league. WE celebrated this momentous occasion with a “Throwback” game and “Throwback” t-shirts. Players, Coaches, Spirit leaders, families and friends enjoyed a tailgate party before the game in the pool area of the Development building with a delicious barbeque from Buckhorn BBQ. A special thank you to Richard Loudermilk, ‘82, for providing this for our team. The team of 1969, Coach Frank Harper, Coach Stan Galas and Coach Mike Glines, Varsity Yell and Song Leaders were recognized for this victory immediately before the Varsity game with Oakdale. There was also a special tribute to David Patton who passed away in 1968. The David Patton Memorial field was dedicated in David’s name on September 1994.
**President’s Corner**

Our first full week of November is behind us and it seems like we have returned to early fall weather – today we are projected to hit the upper 70s and perhaps reach into the 80s over the weekend. Enjoy it as winter is truly around the corner.

Yesterday I met with our Building and Grounds committee reviewing current projects as well as upcoming projects that have surfaced in our deferred maintenance plan, fall campus tour and capital improvement schedule. We are taking steps to improve and update our phone system while also insuring our safety committee recommendations are being addressed – including expanded camera surveillance. We will keep you posted as we move forward. In addition, we discussed the status of the Vineyard Sports Complex project. It looks as if all the stars are lining up to submit the final necessary plans to the City for approval. God willing, we should be able to get into the ground soon with a goal of completing this phase by spring time. Again, we will keep you posted on our progress. I am happy to talk with you if you are interested in supporting our plans with a donation.

Finally, I would like to update you on personnel at CCHS. We began a long process in April of modernizing our business office. That modernization meant a lot of change and moving tasks done by people to new systems. Recently at both our finance committee and corporate board meeting we discussed the next phase of our business model including an adjustment to our staffing. As you know Jonathan Boulos has been instrumental in helping us modernize our systems including retaining financial services from St. Joseph’s Financial Services to help with paying the bills and doing our tuition billing in a cost-effective manner. He has shared with me since his first interview that, though he was invested in helping CCHS first, his ultimate interest was to help our entire Diocese be more effective in their ministry by having good business operations. We have taken huge steps and are now finished with the initial implementation, and though we have some fine-tuning to do, we have reached that steady state. The bulk of the remaining work in that office is centered around helping our teachers, staff, families, and students interact with our financial and HR systems. To do that work we have created the position of Operational Success Manager.

I am pleased to announce we have hired Mrs. Terrie Purto to fill this position. Terrie comes to us with over 18 years of experiences in education, public and private sectors. Terrie comes with passion and experience for education. Her experiences ranges from customer service to teaching and business manager at a local charter school. Terrie will be joining our team on November 12, 2019. Though Jonathan will be leaving CCHS as an employee and joining St. Joseph’s Financial Services – he will be no stranger to our school. Jonathan will continue guiding our business department operations and will be in communication with our boards and committees. I should mention we are not taking on any additional costs with this plan, so we are still keeping resources allocated towards our ministry.

We will be rolling out information that will help guide you during this change. Thanks again to Jonathan for his efforts. Please join me in welcoming Terrie to Raider Territory.

Jim Pecchenino ’72
PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

At Central Catholic there exists a collective responsibility of all stakeholders in the school community to participate in and contribute to the education of our children. It is up to the school to provide opportunities for that to happen. Our students come to us with many experiences, both unique to themselves, as well as those experiences that many share. Some students are faith-filled due to their particular upbringing, while others do not yet know God. The school, existing to fulfill the mission of the Church, is first and foremost a place where students and families experience God’s loving embrace through His people. If our school is safe, it is because we love our students and families. If our school feels like a family, it is because we express our love as one community in Christ. If our school provides a rigorous academic program combined with lots of extra and co-curricular activities, it is because we believe that is the way to help young people to become all that God has created them to be.

There is a quote that I have heard many times in the Remick Leadership Program, that “the schools don’t have missions, the mission has schools”. Therefore, Catholic schools are extensions of the Church. But our families are the Church. Therefore, schools are an extension of what the families want for their children and are endeavoring to give them at home – a foundation in virtuous ways of living that not only develops knowledge of God, but also builds the academic skills and knowledge that will allow them to use the goodness inside them to positively contribute to society.

If parents are the primary educators, it follows that the school must be responsive to the varied needs of families, especially those who struggle to provide a Catholic education for their children. Some parents struggle financially, while others might struggle to provide a spiritual home, or even simple familial structures that might help their children be all they can be. The school might be the only place many young people receive discipline and structure. At the same time, families, being the primary educators, have a responsibility to support the school in ways that they can, including ensuring their children arrive on time and ready to learn. In truth, we are all one family.

Parents as primary educators remind us of the importance of our families and other stakeholders in managing our schools. We don’t exist without parent’s willingness to pay tuition, and for some, the willingness to provide funds beyond tuition to help the school operate. It is to all of those families and other interested groups that we must articulate our vision, mission, and philosophy. It is upon those stakeholders that we depend for financial, spiritual, and political support for our efforts to improve our school.

Not only is it our duty to articulate our vision, but the leaders of the school have a sacred duty to protect and manage the school in ways that ensure its viability and vitality far into the future. When stakeholders can envision a future that is better than the present, they are more willing to support our efforts. They have to believe that their support, whether in the form of time, talent, or treasure, is valued and will be used optimally.

I want to end on a note of appreciation for our fantastic athletics program. CCHS athletes are currently participating in post-season competition in four different sports, including tennis, volleyball, cross country, and football. This is a testament to the efforts of our students, coaches, athletic director, trainers, and parents. What a family we are! I’ll see you tonight at Patton Field for the playoff game against Tracy High. Volleyball competes for the section championship against Nevada Union HS at Natomas HS tomorrow at 3pm. Cross Country will be up in Angels Camp tomorrow for sub-sections. Our tennis team competes for the section championship against Sierra HS of Manteca next Tuesday at 3pm at MJC Campus. Go Raiders!

Bruce Sawyer
Mraz Challenge Met

For the third year in a row, Dave and Gloria Mraz, parents of a CCHS Alumna, have challenged the CCHS Foundation to raise $100,000 for endowed scholarships, in which case they would match the $100,000. And for the third year in a row, Central Catholic donors have met that challenge! On the deadline of November 1, $104,910 had been donated by 40 individuals to specific endowed funds! This will add some $200,000 to our scholarship funds for the future. We are extremely grateful to Dave and Gloria and also to all those who took up the Challenge and made significant contributions so that a Catholic, college-prep education is available to a broad spectrum of students.

Faith, Friends & Cabernet

Fr. Sam West, the new pastor of St. Joseph’s Parish in Modesto, joined several students from his parish for lunch last week at Central Catholic. Principal Bruce Sawyer also joined.

Advice to High School Students from Current Staff & Faculty

CCHS Staff and Faculty were asked to share advice with our current students. Each week we will share a new response:

“Take one day at a time while developing the gifts given to you by God.”

Jim Pecchenino ‘72
CCHS President

International Student Luncheon

International Luncheon is the 15th of November. The Spanish Department is looking for adult volunteers to help with serving food and set-up. We are also looking for any students with special talents that can be showcased. Please contact Miss Castello at castello@cchsca.org or Mrs. Maldonado at maldonado@cchsca.org.
Winter Fine Arts Show
Ticket sales for our Winter Fine Arts Show "Spectrum 2019" on November 19th and 20th are on sale at galloarts.org. Tickets can be purchased online or at the box office. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Swilley (swilley@cchsca.org).