My New Favorite Team

As many of you may know, it is easy to get me to talk about our student-athletes, coaches and athletic programs. I love the idea of competition and I try to live my life with a team-first mentality. With sports currently on hold throughout the country, many feel they do not have much to cheer for. For me, I have found my new favorite team.

As we navigate through this process, I have developed more respect than ever for the Central Catholic academic system. Distance learning was not a term everyone understood at the beginning of 2020. Today it has become a way of life. Parents have become teachers, students need to be self-motivated and teachers have to be adaptable and creative. As I read and hear about what other districts and schools are doing, I cannot help but beam with pride about what is happening on (and off) our campus.

Many schools have taken the approach of either not grading assignments or not allowing grades earned to have an adverse effect on a student's grade. In theory, this could work but in reality, it could stunt the growth of an entire generation. I am a big believer in learning for the sake of knowledge but, remembering back to my own academic career, most students need some type of incentive. Be it acknowledgment, expectations, creating opportunities or competitiveness, grades matter. As I hear stories about kids not doing work that does not matter and teachers not wanting to grade assignments that don't matter, I can't help but appreciate our students and staff more than ever.

As a society, we should always be moving forward. Despite our circumstances, we need to find a way to advance. This is extremely important in life and our academic careers. If the goal of our educational institutions is to keep kids busy or rely on an enrichment approach, how prepared will our students be to move on to the next level? This set back could have long-lasting effects as some students may never catch up. CCHS has maintained a philosophy in distance learning to push our students to improve and prepare for what is next. These efforts will pay dividends for not only our students but our society for years to come.

My biggest goal in writing this is to commend our students and staff for their efforts and attitude. Our teachers have proven to be more dedicated than anyone could have expected. Many are logging more hours now than if they were in the classroom. It has also been inspiring to see teachers who were not familiar with technology work so hard to learn quickly for the benefit of our students. The WE attitude could be seen as teachers with higher comfort levels took the time to educate their colleagues. For me personally seeing Matt Yonker and Manuel Garcia in their classrooms every day brings me a sense of normalcy.

I also appreciate the way our students have not only adapted to but attacked this new challenge. Many I have talked to say it took a minute but once they figured out the new system, they are doing great. Too often it is easy to let self-pity set in about the things that we are not able to do during this time. To me, it feels like the CCHS student body has decided to use our current status as motivation to work even harder and focus more. While I am sympathetic about the events and activities they are missing, I am also optimistic about the way they have responded to this adverse situation. Everything in life is an opportunity and they are using this one to get stronger.

Balls are not in play and the scoreboards are not on but all the values I admire about sports are still on display in the CCHS community. WE are working to achieve our goals. WE are proving our dedication and commitment. WE are facing adversity and adapting to a new game plan. WE are getting stronger. I could not be any prouder to be a part of the Central Catholic Raider Team.

Billy Hylla
CCHS Athletic Director
BASH 2020 ONLINE AUCTION!
Please join us online to support Central Catholic High School. All money raised goes directly to the school to support our mission to witness to the Gospel while building an educational community that inspires the spiritual, academic and social development of young adults.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
Click here: https://www.cchsca.org/support/bash for instructions for both the silent and live auctions! A big thank you to all of our sponsors and donors and all who will be joining us for our auctions! WE could not do this without you!

Email Mitzi Lucas (Lucas@cchsca.org) if you have any questions.

Alumni Heroes

Debi Durossette Frazier, from the CCHS Class of 1976, is doing her part during this crisis as many grocery workers are across the country. She is making certain that all of the people in her community in Friday Harbor, Washington have food and essentials. Debi works as an Assistant Manager at the Roche Harbor Market and has done so for 17 years.
Scrip News: Thank Scriping Day

May 1, 2020 is the start of the new Scrip year. ShopWithScrip is having "Thank Scriping Day" on Thursday May 7, 2020. Take advantage of Scrip bonuses up to 20% on eGift cards and money added to reloadable cards. Thank Scriping Day is your 1-day opportunity to earn up to 20% on 70+ top brands (without even leaving home!) so you can earn even more on your everyday shopping, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day gifts, and so much more.

You must have an online account to take advantage of these special earnings on eGift cards and money added to reloadable cards. If you haven’t already, create an account today at ShopWithScrip.com or MyScripWallet.com on your phone. Email Carol Fields fields@cchsca.org for our enrollment code.

Have a question? Need help? Contact your coordinator: Carol Fields (fields@cchsca.org).

Buzz Bizzini Scholarship

Congratulations to Armando Palominos and Lauren Gary. Both Central Catholic seniors are the recipients of the Buzz Bizzini Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Bizzini was a World War II vet and an educator from the West Side who left a very generous bequest to Central Catholic High School to provide an annual scholarship for students going on to study in four-year institutions. Armando will enroll in Fresno State, looking forward to a career in law enforcement. Lauren is headed to Charleston Southern University where she will study medicine with the goal of becoming a nurse practitioner. We love that both are so motivated to serve others!
BASH 2020 online registration is now open and bidding in the silent auction starts on Sunday at noon and our Live Auction is on Saturday, May 9. I hope you will join us – registration and bidding information is in this issue and on the BASH page of our website.

With many of our current Central Catholic families facing financial hardships, we are having a call to action through the BASH Fund-a-Need to assist families affected by the Coronavirus.

Not unlike any other community, the Central Catholic family has faced challenges before. At every step, our tradition has inspired us to stand together, to be there for each other, and to use our God-given talents to be a light when there is darkness. For that reason, we have been able to conquer these challenges leading us to celebrate many triumphs together as a Catholic school community.

We are proud of so many CCHS family heroes who are serving on the front lines of this national crisis and are answering the call to be a light to others and to serve their world in such an important way.

Again, the BASH Fund a Need will provide tuition assistance to those impacted by a job loss or health challenges during this difficult time. Any remaining funds will be applied to the school's financial aid award pool. I hope you will participate in our BASH auctions and the Fund-A-Need at any level you can.

May God continue to bless you and your family,

Jim Pecchenino '72
MAY LIVESTREAM LITURGICAL ACTIVITIES

MONDAY ROSARY

FRIDAY MASS
Live-streamed every Friday through the end of semester at 11:45am. Dates: 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22
*Baccalaureate Mass TBD pending restrictions.

TO ACCESS LIVE-STREAMS, VISIT: facebook.com/CCHSRaiders/live

Volunteers who wish to assist with mass must contact Mr. Driver to register interest. Students: please complete the form sent via email to request dates to serve in the capacity of Reader or Altar Server. Masses are limited to no more than 10 people who are essential to the execution of the liturgy. No one sick, or around those who are sick, should volunteer. No one is to come to mass without prior approval of serving-capacity.
May 1, 2020

Dear Catholic School Community:

I pray that this note finds you healthy and well as we continue our stay-at-home order. Whether we are gathered together in a virtual classroom or participating in a streaming Mass, the past seven weeks have proven that our Catholic schools and families continue to be committed to academic excellence, faith formation, and community.

A few days ago Governor Newsom announced that the 2020-2021 school year may start as early as July to make up for learning lost this spring. As we have previously communicated, our Catholic schools were able to pivot quickly and adapt to distance learning almost overnight; thereby minimizing any potential loss. At this point in time, we are proceeding with the assumption that schools will return to their respective campuses in August, as originally scheduled.

As we look to returning in August, there are still many uncertainties surrounding the transition back to campus, some of which may be dictated by the state. As members of the California Association of Private School Organizations, we have been reassured that no formal consideration of protocols for the reopening of campuses has been launched at the state level, and that the views and concerns of the private school community will definitely be sought. The health and safety of our students and teachers continue to guide our decision-making, and we are exercising both creativity and caution as we vision our return. Please know that we are discussing contingency plans with health agencies and principals as well as collaborating with other dioceses throughout California. Social distancing, disinfecting protocols, hand washing, and technology are at the heart of our conversations as we draft plans to bring our students back to their beloved schools. Rest assured we will keep you updated as plans unfold.

Pope Francis tells us, “Hope opens new horizons, making us capable of dreaming what is not even imaginable.” As people of faith, may we be filled with the hope of the Risen Lord as we carefully plan and courageously dream for the future of our Catholic schools.

May you and yours be blessed,

Marian DeGroot Graham
Director for Catholic Schools