

# CCREVIEW

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL | WINTER 2021



*Community*



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

OC Review publications, the newsletters we send, our website, and the fundamental mission of our school are all grounded in the concept of COMMUNITY. This issue is no exception as we celebrate individual and collective achievements, experiences, and visions for the future of Oakland Catholic. In short, we proclaim the strengths of our community.

Simply defined, a community is a collection of individuals “living in the same place, or having a particular characteristic in common”. Nuanced examinations of any community, and particularly extensive and broad communities like that of Oakland Catholic, reveal various structures of diverse members coming together because of shared interests, shared values, common beliefs, unified actions, strong traditions, legacies, and powerful experiences.

Key ingredients to a successful community include trust, a willingness to learn, and a commitment to growth as a result of new knowledge. The cover story on page three illustrates Oakland Catholic’s recommitment to embracing these attributes. It provides a sense of the complexity and richness of our OC community. It offers a testament to Oakland Catholic’s unifying belief that only good comes from listening to and learning from another’s perspective.

As an educational institution and community of learners, we actively seek new awareness, better data, knowledge, and different ways to build a stronger future—together. Grounded in faith and spirituality, we are reminded of our calling to serve as each other’s keepers, to live as a community, and to follow the example set forth for us by the prophets, saints, and leaders—past and present—whose efforts promote the advancement of the greater good.

Thank you to all who continue to reach out, engage, listen, and learn, so that Oakland Catholic builds and strengthens a welcoming and inclusive community— one-unified in its pursuit of God’s kingdom here on earth.

**MARY CLAIRE KASUNIC**  
PRESIDENT



### OC REVIEW EDITOR IN CHIEF

KAREN MARNER  
VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT

### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MARY CLAIRE KASUNIC  
PRESIDENT

DEBBIE CEPONIS  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

### ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

KAREN MARNER  
VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT

KAREN FERRARI  
ADVANCEMENT & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

THERESA HILL  
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID

PATRICIA MONROE  
WELCOME CENTER COORDINATOR

COURTNEY MURCKO  
ADMISSIONS OFFICER

COLLEEN TOTTEN  
WELCOME CENTER COORDINATOR

DIANE TOTTEN  
DIRECTOR OF CONSTITUENT RELATIONS

MARY BETH WERNER  
ADVANCEMENT SERVICES MANAGER

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KELLY MCDONNELL, CHAIR  
LINN SWANSON, VICE CHAIR  
JOHN LEWIS, SECRETARY  
JOSEPH MASSARO III, TREASURER

THOMAS H. AYOOB III  
KRISTIN BOOSE-REPIN, ESQ.  
MARISA BRAGG  
SABINA CHIARA CORALUPPI  
TRACEY DEANGELO  
JOSEPH T. DOYLE  
WILLIAM GARRISON  
MARY CLAIRE KASUNIC  
PETER P. LEONE, JR.  
KELLEY COOPER MILLER  
SABRINA SAUNDERS MOSBY  
RHODORA FREYVOGEL NOETHLING  
JENNIFER SMITH PANNILL  
ROBYN SHEPHERD  
CONCETTA A. SILVAGGIO, ESQ.

# CC REVIEW

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL | WINTER 2021

## IN THIS ISSUE

### PAGE 3 COMMUNITY

As a school, Oakland Catholic has a built-in sense of community. As a faith-based school, Oakland Catholic is called and even obligated to build a community grounded on the gospel teachings of unconditional love, acceptance, justice, and mercy. As humans, we fall short of our calling at times, but as a strong community, guided by a mission and grounded in love, we acknowledge shortcomings, learn new ways to evolve, and move forward together as a diverse family united in, around, and for this all-girls, faith-based, college-preparatory experience that spans decades and remains unified in the mission.

### PAGE 18 STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Oakland Catholic students are extending themselves to achieve significant accomplishments!

**PAGE 2**  
President's Corner

**PAGE 10**  
Around OC

**Page 18**  
Student  
Accomplishments

**PAGE 22**  
Student Events

**PAGE 30**  
Admissions

**PAGE 36**  
OC Athletics

**PAGE 41**  
Advancement

**PAGE 49**  
Alumnae News

**PAGE 56**  
Alumnae Spotlights



24



30



36



## OUR MISSION

Oakland Catholic High School is a Christ-centered, college preparatory school for young women of diverse backgrounds. The Oakland Catholic community is committed to an environment that promotes spiritual formation, excellence in education, a wide range of activities and athletics, and service to others. Formed under the patronage of St. Joan of Arc, Oakland Catholic is dedicated to teaching young women to lead lives of faith, courage and commitment as they lay the foundation for their future as responsible and respected global leaders.

PHOTOS IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE COURTESY OF SIMPLY SISTERS PHOTOGRAPHY, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. GRAPHIC DESIGN BY JEN DELMONACO, CPI CREATIVE. PRINTING COORDINATED BY JOE LAPAGLIA, RAFF PRINTING.



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BELOW ARE JUST A FEW ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS IN WHICH PRESIDENT MARY CLAIRE KASUNIC HAS PARTICIPATED SINCE OUR LAST OC REVIEW.



## BUILDING COMMUNITY ACROSS ALL MEMBERS

President Kasunic welcomed OC Grandparents virtually this year at the OC Grandparents' Day Celebration on November 4, 2020. A Mass celebrated by OC's Chaplain, **Fr. Mike Ackerman** was recorded earlier in October and shared on the OC Grandparents' Day page on November 4. The website page included a flute prelude by **Maya Weaver, OCHS'21**, a slideshow of photos of OC students with their grandparents, and a message board that allowed our OC Grandparents to submit personal notes to their granddaughters.

During a challenging time when separation from those with whom we share close bonds is necessary, the virtual event made everyone feel present and connected as Mass was celebrated, photos were viewed, and notes of love were exchanged.



## COMMITMENT TO AN ANTIRACIST COMMUNITY

On December 10, the Advisory Council on Antiracism held its first meeting, virtually, of course. As noted in the cover story (page 3), the council is led by Board Director **Sabrina Saunders Mosby, OCHS'99** and comprised of nine alumnae, one parent, and the three school administrators. One of

several initiatives and endeavors that expand on the school's mission by ensuring that racism is never a part of a student's OC educational experience, the Advisory Council on Antiracism came about via numerous conversations held from June to November between President Kasunic and alumnae. The council is committed to Oakland Catholic and will actively engage in the school's ongoing process of improving, enhancing, and maintaining an inclusive curriculum and community for all students.

**Pictured above: President Mary Claire Kasunic with board director Sabrina Saunders Mosby, OCHS'99 at Phipps Conservatory last February where Sabrina served as keynote speaker for the Pittsburgh Magazine's Women and Business Event, recognizing women leading Pittsburgh into the future.**



## A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Several foundations have stepped up either for the first time or once again to support the work and mission of Oakland Catholic High School. We remain grateful for their recognition of our efforts to develop future leaders who are competent, confident, and faith-filled as they take on the challenges of a global world. A special thanks to the McGonigle Family Foundation, the Millbury Foundation, the Mary J. Donnelly Foundation, and the Kate M. Kelley Foundation who all recently contributed to Oakland Catholic in support of a submitted proposal or the OC Fund annual appeal.



## ST. JOAN OF ARC PRAYER CARD

Ruth M. Brannigan CHS'69 shared the following comments. "Ever since Bishop John J. Wright dedicated a St. Paul Cathedral altar to St. Joan of Arc I have been enamored by her. As OCHS's patron, she is a perfect representation of self-determination. When I saw this version of a St. Joan of Arc holy card, it was obvious that the image and prayer would have a positive impact with students in how it represents today and the future. In that vein I felt moved to share it. Back when I attended CHS, there were opportunities for success; but, not to the cutting-edge level found at OCHS. Yes, times have changed. Although we were prepared for success, today's students are being prepared for their current and future roles on the international stage." Ruth generously donated prayer cards for students, faculty, and staff, as well as enough for incoming freshmen for years to come.

# CELEBRATING OUR Community

WE ARE BY NATURE SOCIAL BEINGS. COMMUNITIES SERVE AS THE BACKBONE OF OUR EXISTENCE. THEY ARE PLACES AND GROUPS THAT WE SEEK FOR WELCOME, AID, REFUGE, AND CELEBRATION. THEY PROVIDE FRIENDSHIP, SHARED EXPERIENCES, COMFORT, UNITY, AND SUPPORT. OFTEN, THEY BECOME EXTENSIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS OF OUR INDIVIDUAL IDENTITIES, OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND OF OUR GOALS. THE MEMBERS OF A STRONG AND IMPACTFUL COMMUNITY ARE LIKE FAMILY.

As a school, Oakland Catholic has a built-in sense of community. As a faith-based school, Oakland Catholic is called and even obligated to build a community grounded on the gospel teachings of unconditional love, acceptance, justice, and mercy. As humans, we fall short of our calling at times, but as a strong community, guided by a mission and grounded in love, we acknowledge shortcomings, learn new ways to evolve, and move forward together as a diverse family united in, around, and for this all-girls, faith-based, college-preparatory experience that spans decades and is unified in its mission.

Obviously, not all communities look alike, and different communities revolve around a variety of ideals and objectives. However, if a community is strong, it will exhibit similar key elements: a welcome and inclusive environment, a level of understanding and competence with regard to its role in the larger world, leadership at various levels of membership, and positive action that unites the community in common goals. In addition, a strong community reflects, examines, analyzes, and adjusts if any of the above elements begins to deteriorate. With the 20/20 vision that the murky year of 2020 afforded us, Oakland Catholic has and continues to do just that, as we sustain the legacy of a strong community built by the thousands of women in the OC Alumnae network during their time at Oakland Catholic, Cathedral, Sacred Heart, and Mt. Mercy.



# A CALL TO INCLUSIVITY

Diversity is a tremendous asset to any community, particularly an educational community. Diversity brings individuals of different cultures, different ethnicities, different geographical experiences, different socio-economic backgrounds, different talents, and different views, together.

Diversity fuels greater awareness of the larger world around you. It motivates scholars to explore new ideas. It opens individuals' eyes to worlds they never knew existed. It highlights that not everyone's ways, approaches, lives, and opinions are exactly like yours, but underscores the importance of listening, learning, and finding the commonalities we share.

The recently established Dignity & Respect program is one way that Oakland Catholic is examining how we embrace diversity, how we support those who feel like they live on the fringe of this community, and how we dialogue with one another in order to enhance understanding.

Through shared experiences, the provision of time and space to genuinely listen to feelings and stories, and discussions about what needs to change, what needs to be enhanced, and what needs to be more clearly articulated, we stand together in support of one another.

The Dignity & Respect program reinforces our mission as a Catholic school community that welcomes everyone, denounces all forms of racism, and affords **respect** to each member of the community because each member possesses an inherent **dignity** as a child of God.

Overseen by parent and diversity consultant **Mr. Maurice Lucas**, the Dignity & Respect program is not a one-time or one-year endeavor.

Every year brings new students to Oakland Catholic, as well as new challenges. With a goal of ensuring that every student feels welcome and included in our school community, Oakland Catholic is committed to keeping conversation, training, and cultural competence at the forefront of our school environment—now, and for years to come.

We are excited to commit to this journey of fully engaging with the personal and spiritual aspect of our mission as we expand on new ways to become better versions of ourselves, both as individuals and as a school community. Individual and small group interaction is only part of the picture when it comes to cultural competence and greater understanding of different experiences and perspectives.

Conversations about inclusivity, diversity, and perspectives have been occurring at Oakland Catholic at different levels for the last decade. From an academic angle, Oakland Catholic revised and continues to redevelop curriculum to more accurately reflect a world view.

Over seven years ago, the English Department shifted from traditional British and American Lit to World Literature courses, and Social Studies redesigned curriculum from a primarily Eurocentric viewpoint to World History.



Instituted shortly thereafter, the Global Competence Initiative certificate program (GCI) further enriched the curriculum, aligning with our mission “to educate young women of diverse backgrounds to become competent, confident, and ethical global leaders.”

Cultural competence and global competence are essential to a college-preparatory education that prepares the next generation of leaders. As a strong community dedicated to ensuring an inclusive environment, Oakland Catholic is committed substantively to both.



# A CALL TO COMPETENCE

As noted above and in the mission statement, global awareness and understanding are clear objectives at Oakland Catholic. Evident in our establishment of the Dignity & Respect program, and integral to our Catholic school identity, is the recognition that each member of our community is created in the image and likeness of God.

But awareness of a larger world and recognition of the fact that dignity is inherent is different from global or cultural competence. Competence implies that effort was exerted beyond awareness; knowledge was not just acquired but sought; and a fuller appreciation and understanding has been woven into one's way of thinking—more importantly, into one's way of acting or behaving.

In December, Director of GCI **Matt Williams** and Associate Director **Alessandra Pazzaglia** coordinated an online version of Oakland Catholic's annual Travel Tales. Although the pandemic has prevented travel, it has also highlighted the need to better understand how the rest of the world lives and how we impact each other.

Sophomore, Junior, and Senior GCI Scholars, as well as English and Social Studies teachers **Mrs. Emily D'Amico**, **Ms. Maura Doyle**, and **Ms. Kelly Wall** created video presentations that were posted in advance to our website. An audience of faculty, parents, community leaders, and fellow classmates and GCI Scholars viewed the videos over the course of several days, and then attended a live Q&A Zoom session hosted by Ms. Pazzaglia. France, England, China, the Czech Republic, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, and Slovakia were all represented. Presenters moved beyond the usual photo montage of tourist attractions and made observations on cultural attributes, comparisons and contrasts with the American way of life, and how some of the differences noted were grounded in experiences and historical perspectives.

Last June, members of the Black Student Union met with **President Kasunic** and Director of Mission Integration **Dorrie Donahue** to talk about the need to clearly state our given stance on antiracism, but also to educate those students who are unaware of different cultural experiences so that understanding could be better achieved. Bulletin boards, engaged student leadership between the BSU and Student Council, and ongoing conversation have resulted since then. But this is just a beginning.

Competence is a goal that involves time, dedication, and lifelong learning. A strong community embraces the process and effort required to achieve competence, because competence encompasses awareness. Awareness leads to understanding, which encourages engagement. And, authentic engagement is the essence of a welcoming, loving, and inclusive community.



# A CALL TO LEADERSHIP

Communities are complex. Members share common values, beliefs, and goals, but they also house individual experiences, different opinions, and varying approaches to life. Without doubt, that diversity brings richness, but a strong sense of unity and leadership is required if it is to fuel dialogue, solidarity, and efforts toward the greater good.

Leadership doesn't just happen. It's developed, cultivated, and formed. It demands a willingness of the community to invest in the next generation of leaders, while supporting current leadership with the resources they might need to sustain a thriving community.

At Oakland Catholic High School, **Savanna Edmunds, OCHS'15**, the moderator of the Black Student Union, is fully engaged in developing the next generation of OC leaders via education, role modeling, and keeping BSU at the forefront of student leadership activities.

The annual BSU OC Christmas Drive garnered a multitude of gifts for families struggling at this time, underscoring the responsibility of Oakland Catholic to the larger community in which it resides. With the support of students, faculty, and staff, a van was packed to the brim with brightly wrapped presents for children and parents who might have otherwise experienced a less joyous Christmas morning. Whether it's working in tandem with Campus Ministry and Student Council, creating bulletin boards to bring awareness to the rich diversity of Oakland Catholic, or encouraging dialogue, pride, and opportunities to engage, the BSU responds to the call for leadership daily and in numerous ways.

Leadership in the creation of an inclusive school community does not reside solely with students. Alumnae, administrators, board directors, parents, faculty, and staff receive the

same call to support and grow the bonds of community. The thirteen members of the OCHS Advisory Council on Antiracism are doing just that by responding to President **Mary Claire Kasunic's** outreach to alumnae and parents who love and value this Oakland Catholic all-girls, college-preparatory experience, but acknowledge that it's not always as easily navigated by students of color, particularly if you are black.

Under the leadership of Board Director **Sabrina Saunders Mosby, OCHS'99**, with participation by fellow Board Director **Jennifer Smith Pannill, OCHS'98**, alumnae **Dominique Dobson Briggs, OCHS'99**, **Robbie Cain, OCHS'10**, **Savanna Edmunds, OCHS'15**, **Maisha Kelly Johnson, OCHS'95**, **Brenda Murphy, SPCHS'83**, **Nicole Richardson, OCHS'95**, **Heather Worthy Wilson, OCHS'98**, and parent **Dr. Cheryl Hall-Russell**, the Council meets monthly with President **Mary Claire Kasunic**, Principal **Marisa Bragg**, and Assistant Principal **Nicole Powell** to offer insight, perspective, and advice.

The group is excited to bring resources and information to school leadership with the goal of ensuring that every young woman who attends Oakland Catholic experiences a welcoming and inclusive community.



Campus Ministry consistently responds to the call to leadership through service. In imitation of Christ, the ultimate Servant-Leader, the OC Campus Ministry program overseen by Campus Minister **Megan Christ, OCHS'14** and complemented by the work of Director of Mission Integration **Dorrie Donahue**, provides opportunities for students to more fully understand the humility that is vital to strong leadership, via service to the Red Door, Good Samaritan Church in Ambridge, the FIAT mentoring program, and the after-school partnership between Oakland Catholic High School and St. Benedict the Moor Elementary School, among other endeavors.

In addition, Campus Ministry emphasizes the importance of faith, self-reflection, and meditation in this journey toward and of leadership. By coordinating Masses, adoration, and retreats—even in the current challenging times of extreme physical distance—Campus Ministry reminds both students and adults that God is present even in our darkest hours.



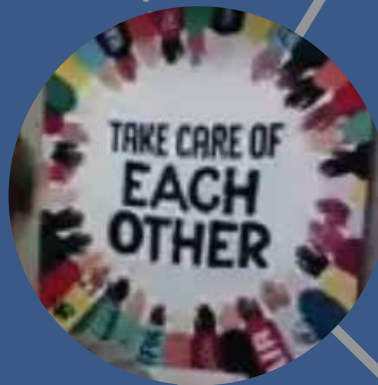
# A CALL TO ACTION

Action is such a constant at Oakland Catholic that it almost seems unnecessary to detail it beyond the simple statement that a strong community commits to acting upon the values, beliefs, and objectives that the group shares. To list all the actions performed by Oakland Catholic members for the benefit of the Oakland Catholic community would be an exhausting process – both to write and to read! With that said, it is important to note that the actions of a strong community are not simply activity for the sake of performance or for keeping busy.

The actions of a strong community are driven by the words of the community and reflect strategic thought, careful analysis of the best way to achieve a stated goal, and purposeful intention to ensure that action taken will advance the shared goals of the community. At Oakland Catholic, our actions are linked to the words in our mission statement, to the verbal expression of our faith and Catholic identity, to the tagline of spirituality, scholarship, and service.

With a renewed commitment to build upon the strengths that exist in our community, acknowledge areas where opportunities for improvement exist, and continually address the key components of inclusiveness, competence, and leadership, Oakland Catholic will respond to the call to action required by each of us charged with the task of leaving the world in a better situation than when we entered.

AS A STRONG COMMUNITY, THE HOPE AND OBJECTIVE IS THAT THE WORDS “WE ARE OC” RESONATE WITH EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY, ACROSS OUR BROAD NETWORK OF STUDENTS, ALUMNAE, FACULTY, STAFF, PARENTS, BOARD DIRECTORS, GRANDPARENTS, SUPPORTERS, AND FRIENDS.





AROUND

EVEN



# #stand together

Stand Together is another expression of the value OC places on community. A student-to-student initiative, the club inspires and equips youth to take-action against stigma associated with mental illness and substance use disorders. Students work to 'stand together' to increase education and awareness, increase social inclusion, and encourage adolescents to talk to an adult if they are concerned about their own or another student's mental health. OC's Stand Together team members receive official training to participate and are moderated by **Mrs. Checketts** and **Mr. MacDonald**. The team accepts 25-30 students per year. This past year, Stand Together team confronted stigma by sharing facts on mental health and substance use disorders as, a "food for thought" activity. While remote, the team supported peers by filming videos and giving shout outs about how everyone could "stand together" even when everyone was apart.



## GCI

Twenty-one freshmen and sophomores in OC's Global Competence Initiative met after school to discuss *Little Princes*, a memoir about child trafficking in Nepal. Students shared what they learned and brainstormed

ideas for how high school students can help decrease human trafficking both in the US and abroad.

WELCOME  
CLASS OF  
2024

116  
FRESHMEN

78  
FROM CITY OF  
PITTSBURGH

38  
FROM SUBURBS

49  
DIFFERENT  
ZIP CODES

31  
DIFFERENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

22  
LEGACY STUDENTS

6  
SIBLINGS AT OCHS



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES!



On November 19, 70 juniors and seniors were inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS). It is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to recognize those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since 1921. The ceremony took place virtually and included the presentation of new members and student reflections on the four pillars of NHS. **Maile Oravitz, OCHS'21** spoke about scholarship, **Tesslyn Helms, OCHS'21**, reflected on leadership, **Anne Snyder, OCHS'21** highlighted the significance of service, and **Jordan Scott, OCHS'21** detailed the pillar of character. Thank you to **Heather Day**, NHS Advisor, for organizing this important ceremony.

## CLASS OF 2021

Isabella Deiuliis  
Elizabeth English  
Olivia Giunta  
Sophia Mellis  
Isabel Volpe  
Jin Yan

Shea Deasy  
Angelina DeRiso  
Vivian Didomenico  
Francesca DiVito  
Ava Dufault  
Erin Estocin  
Morgan Filar  
Audrey Flanagan

Olivia Krummert  
Cameron Kulbieda  
Isabella Liu-Lopez  
Ella Logan  
Elizabeth Maier  
Brooke Mlecko  
Vanessa Moats  
Madison Mock

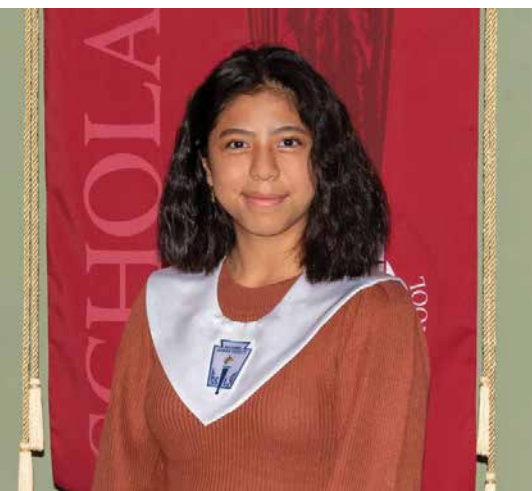
Kelly Prunzik  
Krya Rockovich  
Gianna Sacco  
Alexandra Samek  
Sofia Sanders  
Caroline Sarneso  
Gia Scaglione  
Alison Sinicki  
Juliana Stelltano  
Abigail Stephenson  
Brynn Sullivan  
Rachel Sweeny  
Phoebe Tebbs  
Mia Verdini  
Isabella Viator  
Catherine Weber  
Zixuan (Yolanda) Yang  
Marina Zdarko

## CLASS OF 2022

Carena Allen  
Ava Barkich  
Nora Brennan  
Therese Burgo  
Briana Caldwell  
Brianna Caldwell  
Caroline Caruso  
Claire Coldren  
Emily Cooper  
Chloe Cox

Elizabeth Ford  
Lily Giovannelli  
Emily Golightly  
Grace Heary  
Audrey Hill  
Naomi Jesionowski  
Jaidyn Jiles  
Harleen Kaur  
Makenna Kemper  
Mikayla Keyes

Haley Moreland  
Olivia Mustin  
Julia Nguyen  
Anna Niggemyer  
Hannah Niklason  
Vayda Pascarella  
Jane Pawlowicz  
Carola Petrucci  
Audrey Pohlod  
Sofia Porco



## TRAVEL TALES

OC's *Evening of Travel Tales* gave students and faculty who have traveled abroad the opportunity to share their unique experiences virtually with the Oakland Catholic community on December 3. Although this event is normally run as an in-person, two-hour event, this year's special edition was run as a two-part, virtual event.

For Part I, all were invited to view our student and faculty travelers' video submissions in which they share their globetrotting experiences under the 'Part I' tabs on the OC website. They had the opportunity to watch any or all of the virtual adventures between Sunday, November 29 and Thursday, December 3. In Part II of the Travel Tales, participants were invited to click on the 'Registration' tab at any time on the OC website to sign up and gain access to the live, virtual Q&A session with all of the presenters on Thursday, December 3 at 6:30pm. Visit [oaklandcatholic.org/admissions](https://oaklandcatholic.org/admissions) and click on "Travel Tales" to learn more and view videos.



## HERB PRESENTATION

**Ms. Andrea Jackson**, a teacher from Phipps Conservatory shared with OC students her expertise about botanical herbs, their medicinal, culinary, personal care and multiple other uses. The focus of the presentation was on the following common herbs: rosemary, sage, mint, thyme, lavender and calendula.

It was intriguing to hear stories from ancient times and other cultures relating to the herbs and the role they play in our lives. The presidents of the Garden Club are **Lia Burchianti** and **Sarah Berger**, both OC seniors.

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

In honor of all those who fought and continue to fight for civil rights, Oakland Catholic is proud to be a sponsor of WQED's special airings in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and throughout the month of January.



## CHILDHOOD LOST: THE ADULTIFICATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN GIRLS

Oakland Catholic was proud to be a sponsor of the WQED Pittsburgh documentary, "Childhood Lost: The Adultification of African American Girls", which aired on November 23 at 7:30pm. In our work to maintain and build an inclusive community, it is important that we promote multiple perspectives on life both in school and our community.

## SPEECH AND DEBATE

The Oakland Catholic Speech and Debate team is having an extremely successful season competing virtually this year in local, national, and international tournaments. The debate team, growing under the leadership of seniors, **Hannah Hoffmann**, **Olivia Smathers**, **Bernadette Azar** and **Elena Ziccarelli**, dominates the local circuit, having won the debate sweepstakes for small schools at two early tournaments hosted by North Allegheny and North Catholic High Schools. Standouts **Hannah Hoffman** and **Olivia Smathers** continue to add to their trophy case, with at least one of them making it into the final rounds of Lincoln Douglas Debate for most tournaments as **Hannah** placed first at the Moon Area High School Tournament and took 2nd place at the North Catholic Competition, the Henry Clay Sr. Jr. Speech and Debate Tournament in Kentucky, and M & M Lake Erie Invitational hosted by McDowell High School while **Olivia Smathers** placed 1st at the Henry Clay Sr. Jr. Invitational and at the local St. Joe's Tournament. Among our Novice Debaters, **Mia Flaherty** has also experienced early success by placing 3rd and going undefeated in Upper St. Clair's Novice Tournament and finishing in 4th place at the St Joe's Tournament.

Additionally, the team of **Hannah Hoffmann** and **Olivia Smathers** were invited to participate in the Chengdu Sister Cities Youth Debate Challenge whereby 16 schools from around the United State debated against their counterparts in China. The OC team broke into the final rounds to debate during the last two weekends in November, ultimately placing in the top half of the field and paving the way for future international competition.

Meanwhile under the leadership of junior, **Ella Maier**, the speech team also continues to grow and see early success. **Madeline Sclichter** continually makes it into the final rounds of each tournament she enters, winning awards for her excellent portrayal of both her Prose and Poetry selections. Highlights for **Madeline** include taking 1st place in Prose at the Novice at North Tournament hosted jointly by North Allegheny and North Catholic and placing 3rd in Prose at both the St Joe's and North Catholic Invitationals.

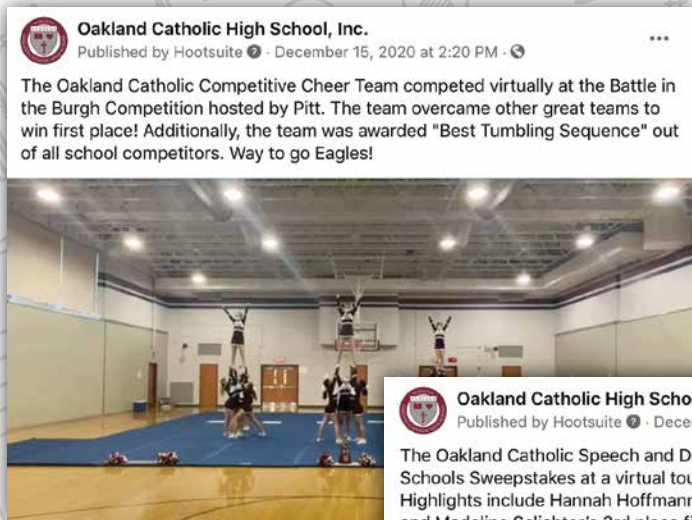


## MODEL UN

On Tuesday, October 27th, 18 Oakland Catholic students participated in the first virtual edition of the University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations Conference. While this year's conference looked a little different, our students excelled in their roles as delegates of Indonesia, United Kingdom, Turkey, Yemen, and Costa Rica. The girls debated issues of artificial intelligence, bioweapons, territorial disputes, universal healthcare, COVID-19 responses and more!

They wrote resolutions, position papers, gave speeches, and collaborated with students from 12 other high schools. It was a great kick-off of what's sure to be a jam-packed year of Model UN.

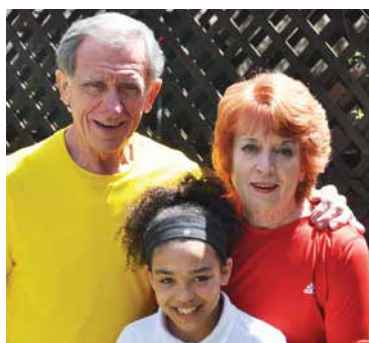
OC's Model United Nations Club had a great showing at Friday's European Union Conference where 180 students from 50 schools attended the event hosted by the University of Pittsburgh as 4 different delegations were awarded for having exceptional position papers in their 4 respective rooms. The pairings of **Brianna Lucadamo, OCHS'23** and **Vivian Bui, OCHS'23** and **Annie Snyder, OCHS'21** and **Erin Gurtner, OCHS'23** took 2nd place honors while the pairings of **Olivia Marangoni, OCHS'21** and **Dalila Weismantle, OCHS'21** and **Olivia Smathers, OCHS'21** and **Katie Carney, OCHS'24** took 1st place.



# Trending at OC

Great news travels fast, but only to those who are connected. So when the OC Speech and Debate Team took first place in the Small Schools Sweepstakes, Maria Sippel, OCHS'22 spoke at the 50th Annual World Affairs Institute for Student Leaders, OC's Black Student Union organized a successful present drive, the OC Competitive Cheer Team in the Battle in the Burgh Competition and won first place, or the Western PA #BIG 56 announced all-section teams for girls volleyball and Oakland Catholic had several accomplishments those on OC social media got the news as it happened. Add OC to your social. After all, this is your legacy at work – ONLY HERE!

Follow us on Twitter @OCHS\_Pittsburgh and Instagram @ochseagles, and find us on Facebook @OCHSPittsburgh. Share your photos and videos using #OCHSPittsburgh!



## GRANDPARENTS' DAY

As with most special events at Oakland Catholic this school year, Grandparents' Day was traditional in some ways yet reinvented in other ways. The virtual event held on November 4 hosted nearly 260 grandparents and their granddaughters. The attending grandparents, present from 12 coast-to-coast states, Canada, and Mexico, happily participated in this special day honoring them.

The event began with a stunning flute prelude, *Arioso*, performed by **Maya Weaver, OCHS'21**. During this musical introduction, a photo montage of our OC students and their grandparents was displayed. A beautiful Mass honoring all those present was celebrated by **Fr. Mike Ackerman** in our campus chapel, the *Rhodora J. Donahue Chapel in Honor of St. Joan of Arc*. Talented student musicians and readers graced us with their gifts throughout the liturgy including a breathtaking solo of *Ave Maria* by **Angela McKinzie, OCHS'21**. The occasion ended with a virtual tour of the OC campus so that grandparents from across the country could take a peek into their granddaughter's world at OC.

Finally, there was an option for special messages to be sent to our students. Prior to this unique day, grandparents received a commemorative gift of an OC mask, a prayer card, and a program. We enjoyed hosting so many loved ones and look forward to celebrating Grandparents' Day in 2021.

“We are so delighted that you are having an Oakland Catholic experience! Throughout your life, you will be able to look back and know how you became who you are and where you found deep values that buttressed those you learned at home. This school is a blessing for you and for all who are able to attend. We love you very much.”

“We truly enjoyed participating in Grandparents' Day at Oakland Catholic today. Being able to share in the Mass was very special. We also enjoyed the tour. What an amazing place for you to grow in Spirituality, Scholarship and Service. We are so very proud of you and love you very much.”

## REDEFINING [YOUTH] LEARNING - VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

On December 2, five Oakland Catholic GCI students—**Allison Edwards, OCHS'21**, **Briana Caldwell, OCHS'22**, **Lianna Rishel, OCHS'21**, **Carmen DePasquale, OCHS'21** and **Yolanda Yang, OCHS'22**—attended the *World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh's Redefining [Youth] Learning* virtual conference. This day-long event featured in-depth sessions on social justice and community activism, highlighting the work of local, regional and global youth leaders. It also provided students with opportunities to gain skills and motivation to take action. Conference presenters included multiple local youth activists, nonprofit heads, and PA state representative Ed Gainey. “The conference showed me how I can get involved more and provided me with resources to reach out in my community,” said OC conference attendee **Allison Edwards**.

## EURO CHALLENGE

On Friday, December 4th, twenty Oakland Catholic students participated in a virtual European Union Conference through the University of Pittsburgh's European Studies Center, where 180 students from 50 schools participated in a simulation of the European Commission debating and discussing COVID-19 and Migration. Four Oakland Catholic Delegations were awarded for having exceptional position papers in their respective rooms. The pairings of **Briella Lucadamo, OCHS'23** and **Vivian Bui, OCHS'23** and **Annie Snyder, OCHS'21** and **Erin Gurtner, OCHS'23** took 2nd place honors while the pairings of **Olivia Marangoni, OCHS'21** and **Dalila Weismantle, OCHS'21** and **Olivia Smathers, OCHS'21** and **Katie Carney, OCHS'24** took 1st place.

## JOHN MCGONIGLE INNOVATION LAB - FOOD TRUCK PROJECT

Students in **Mr. Jonathan MacDonald's** College Equivalency Mass Communication Process course have spent the first semester exploring the historical and economic significance of the media towards the development of American culture. In order to gain a new understanding of the theories and impact of mass communication explored in the class, students were tasked with designing and marketing a new food truck for the ever-growing Pittsburgh foodie scene.



Each team established and pitched its truck concept to the class, with a focus on diligently studying and identifying a neighborhood where the truck would attract the most consumers and generate income. After developing and producing advertisements to create a brand identity within the neighborhood's media outlets, the project culminated with a trip to the John McGonigle Innovation Lab, where students created merchandise that could be sold in their trucks.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

**Myla Madera, OCHS'24** dedicated a Blessing Box to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Wilkinsburg. She had the idea and with the help of her family, it was brought to life. Myla used her allowance to fill the initial box. The box will be used in the community for those to take what they need or leave what they can. Myla is excited to help her local community and will continue her service project through the holidays and beyond.

# CC ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## TWO OC STUDENTS WON FIRST PLACE IN CREATIVE ARTS CONTEST

Two OC students are City of Pittsburgh's Human Rights Speaks Creative Arts Contest Winners! **Madeleine Ng, OCHS'24** won first place in the Digital Art Category for grades 9-12. **Maya Giorgi, OCHS'22** won first place in the Physical Art category for grades 9-12.



Congratulations to OC's Environmental Club on their 1st place finish in the West View Water Authority 3rd Annual High School Video Contest! The club will receive \$1,000 to use on various projects in the new John McGonigle Innovation Lab including making fabric masks.



This summer, **Jane Pawlowicz, OCHS'22** participated in a virtual summer program; Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies - American Politics Academy. The program focused on American Politics and the United States governmental system. During the course, Jane listened and participated in lectures, hands on activities and networking!



## FOUR OC STUDENTS COMPLETE INTERNSHIP

OC students **Olivia Smathers, OCHS'21, Hannah Hoffman, OCHS'21, Angela McKinzie, OCHS'21** and **Julia Mollen, OCHS'21** spent the summer virtually working with alumna, **Kelley Cooper Miller, OCHS'91**. They completed an internship with The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth in Washington D.C. Their final presentation, conducted in a Zoom and attended by President Kasunic and representatives of different organizations impressed all present.



## TWO OC STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

Congratulations to **Anne Snyder, OCHS'21** and **Isabella Verdini, OCHS'21** who were named National Merit Semifinalists in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. "These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 Scholarships worth more than \$30 million to be offered next spring."



**Meghan Pohl, OCHS'23** kept herself busy this summer by completing a 3-credit "Intro to Business" class at Butler County Community College. She also participated in the Girls Who Code virtual Summer Immersion Program.



Congratulations to the 2021 National Merit Scholarship commended seniors: **Lydia Bell, Catherine Chung, Isabella Florian, Elizabeth Huffaker, Catherine Jezerc, Olivia Marangoni,** and **Lauren Roming!**



Congratulations to **Catherine Chung, OCHS'21** for her successful completion of two summer programs geared towards her goal of working in the medical profession. Catherine participated in the Georgetown School of Continuing Studies Medical Academy and Brown University Pre-College Medicine in Action.

Catherine recently participated in an interview by WQED regarding high school views on leadership.



### OC STUDENT SELECTED AS A FINALIST IN "FROM THE TOP'S SHOW"

Congratulations to **Isabel Cardenes, OCHS'21** on being selected as a finalist in From the Top's show! "From the Top is America's largest national platform celebrating the stories, talents, and character of young classically-trained musicians. Through live events, NPR and video broadcasts, scholarships, and arts education programs, we empower these extraordinary young people to engage and inspire music lovers of all ages."

### MEDALLION BALL

Because of the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic crisis, St. Lucy's Auxiliary for the Blind made the decision to move the 57th Annual Medallion Ball 2020 from November 27, 2020 to March 6, 2021.

Oakland Catholic High School recipients will be highlighted in the Summer 2021 issue of the OC Review.



### OC STUDENT COMPLETES US EQUESTRIAN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETE PROGRAM

Congratulations to **Alexandra Dixon, OCHS'23** on her completion of the US Equestrian Interscholastic Athlete Program. The program was developed to provide recognition for the accomplishments of young equestrians and encourage their future involvement in equestrian sport.

US Equestrian recognizes the dedication of equestrians through practice and training sessions and developed this program to honor individual achievements with a varsity letter in the student's chosen sport, regardless of the availability of an equestrian team or club through their school.

# CC ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## OC DEBATE TEAM MEMBER GOES UNDEFEATED

Another big day for Oakland Catholic debater, **Hannah Hoffmann, OCHS'21**, occurred on November 7, when she went undefeated in 4 rounds to claim 2nd place in Lincoln Douglas debate at the virtual tournament in Erie, PA. Congratulations Hannah on yet another incredible performance.

Hannah also took first place in Lincoln Douglas debate in the fall at the Moon Area High School Tournament, making her the first member of the team to automatically qualify for state competition in March. Hannah was able to qualify by coming in first or second place in three different tournaments, a major accomplishment so early in the season.



Freshman pianist, **Michaela William, OCHS'24** has been working hard at her craft. She perfected her arrangement of 'Amazing Grace' and proudly shared it with the OC community. This solo performance can be found on the OC website at [www.oaklandcatholic.org/student-life/virtual-performances/2020-christmas-music-offering](http://www.oaklandcatholic.org/student-life/virtual-performances/2020-christmas-music-offering).



## OC DEBATE TEAM KICKED OFF ITS SEASON

The Speech and Debate Team kicked off its season with a terrific start at the Bargain Belt Invitational that hosted 39 schools from three different states. All debaters who participated had winning records, while Lincoln Douglas debater **Hannah Hoffmann, OCHS'21** and the Public Forum Team of **Gwen Havern, OCHS'21** and **Arabella Sargent, OCHS'21** broke into elimination rounds for a great start to the season.



## OC LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATE SQUAD SWEEP TOP AWARDS

The Oakland Catholic Lincoln Douglas Debate Squad swept the top awards at the tournament hosted by Henry Clay High School in Kentucky. **Olivia Smathers, OCHS'21** took first place while **Hannah Hoffmann, OCHS'21** took second in the competition that saw competitors from 41 schools representing 14 different states.



The Class of 2021 has already begun to accumulate accolades as they approach graduation and college. Come May, the OC website will be replete with accomplishments. Early congratulations to **Colleen Moosman, OCHS'21**, who was accepted to both Pitt undergrad and law school.



For the second consecutive speech and debate tournament, **Hannah Hoffmann, OCHS'21** and **Madeline Schlichter, OCHS'23** won the Sweepstakes Trophy for being the top debate team in the small school category in January 2021.

At the tournament hosted by North Allegheny, both **Hannah Hoffmann, OCHS'21** and **Madeline Schlichter, OCHS'23** broke into the final rounds in their respective categories of Lincoln Douglas Debate and Poetry.



In January, WQED invited high school leaders from the region to participate in an exploration of their views on leadership at this momentous time in our nation's history. **Kayla Kinney, OCHS'21**, treasurer of the Black Student Union (BSU) was nominated by administrators and will be highlighted along with **Catherine Chung, OCHS'21** in the WQED production.



### **OC STUDENT CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE**

**Norah Ostin, OCHS'21** was chosen to participate in the Columbia University Engineering Experience. Each fall, Columbia Engineering offers a free selective program designed for high school seniors who are interested in learning about our unique engineering education. This fall, the Columbia Engineering Experience will be offered virtually. Admission into the program remains highly selective.

## **OOPS! OC REVIEW - SUMMER 2020**

*Is your name missing or was information listed incorrectly or omitted? Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the Annual Impact Report and information shared in each issue of the OC Review. If we made a mistake, please notify Karen at 412-682-6797 or [kferrari@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:kferrari@oaklandcatholic.org) and we will share the updated information in the next issue. Thank you for your ongoing interest and support to the students of Oakland Catholic High School.*

**Hoddy and Mary Anne Hanna** were incorrectly listed as Hanna Holdings on the EITC lists on pages 49 and 88.

**Lisa A. MacPhail, DMD** was unintentionally omitted from the Overall Giving by Society Millennium Club list for her gift of \$1,000 to the OC Fund on page 72.

**The Loretta Grecco Scholarship** was incorrectly listed as the Loretta Greco Scholarship in the Scholarship Opportunities section on page 86.

**Katie Henningsen, OCHS'19** was unintentionally omitted on the In Honor page for the gift she made to Oakland Catholic in Honor of George Rudolph on page 92.

# STUDENT EVENTS





## CELEBRATION OF READING

On September 2, the Class of 2024 participated in a 'Celebration of Reading.' Students had an opportunity to share why reading is important to them by participating in various academic and fun activities where they talked about books they have read during quarantine—like a great classic novel, paging through a cookbook or time they spent reading to a child. The important thing was that they had an opportunity to talk about the reading that we do, so that we can show that we value reading as a community.

## HALLOWEEN

Students, staff, and faculty were able to highlight their costumes in the annual Halloween celebrations held on respective silver and burgundy cohort days.

## SCHOOL OPENING CLASS CELEBRATIONS

**Alessandra Pazzaglia** and **Anna Beckler**, student council co-moderators, coordinated class celebrations in lieu of the opening school picnic this year. Students in each class had a chance to rotate through stations that included spike ball, cornhole, KanJam, rock paper scissors competition, face painting, trivia, hula hoops, positive post-its, minute to win it, relay races, tik tok challenge, friendship bracelet making and finished up the course with a special sundae station for freshmen!

## BSU OC CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Thank you for helping the BSU and Campus Ministry with the OC Christmas Drive! The students at OC came through with overwhelming amounts of gifts that were distributed to some Pittsburgh families in need this Christmas. As a special treat, our very own, **Emily Chinchilla**, played her guitar and sang for OC students all day today in the chapel for adoration. Faculty and staff were welcome to stop by to listen, pray and even go to Confession. A full van of gifts was delivered to St. Benedict the Moor to support Pittsburgh families.



# THE ARTS AT

## MOVIE MUSICALS CABARET

**Sonya Caceres**, Music Department Chair, directed the OC Music Department's Movie Musicals Cabaret on Wednesday, October 21. All were invited to attend the virtual cabaret from the comfort of their own living rooms.



## OC MUSICAL OFFERING

As Buddy the Elf enthusiastically declares, "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." Though this Christmas season wasn't filled with the usual hustle & bustle of holiday concerts and shows, we still followed Buddy's advice and sang our hearts out at OC!

To that end, the OC community was invited to gather in the comfort of their own living room, around their Christmas tree, or by their fireplace, to enjoy the beautiful sounds of Oakland Catholic's Christmas Music Offering.

As part of this Christmas Music Offering, students were given the option of submitting a solo performance piece and several participated.



## VISIONARY WOMEN

On September 23rd, 9th graders participated in a day of engaging activities with the theme of "Visionary Women." Students spent the day researching music inspired by the female scholars, philosophers and writers featured on the stained-glass windows which adorn the *Rhodora J. Donahue Chapel in Honor of St. Joan of Arc*, learning about inspirational women in the field of STEM and practicing the power of mindfulness and movement with **Mrs. Powell**.



**Meg Koroly**, art teacher, conducted a class where she taught students about the saints featured in the *Rhodora J. Donahue Chapel in Honor of St. Joan of Arc*. The students learned the history of the saints and had an opportunity to make circle buttons of their favorite saint.

## VIKING BAND KEEPS THE MUSIC GOING DESPITE COVID-19

Despite the threat of limited attendance at home games, a completely canceled fall athletics season or a potential move to online learning which means the cancellation of all in-person activities, the small but mighty Viking band, consisting of students from Central Catholic and Oakland Catholic, continued to practice in preparation for a season that may never come.



**“FOR MANY OF THE BAND MEMBERS, PARTICIPATING IN THE GROUP IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES TO THEM DURING THEIR TIME IN HIGH SCHOOL. HALTING BAND ACTIVITIES WOULD HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE, AS WELL AS DAMAGING TO THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM. I SAW NO REASON WHY WE COULDN’T MODIFY OUR ACTIVITIES AND PROCEDURES UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.”**

— MR. JOE WILSON, VIKING MARCHING BAND DIRECTOR  
AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT CHAIR

When another Viking band tradition, the Bloomfield Halloween parade, was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns, the Viking band didn’t let that stop them. The band donned their costumes and gathered on the practice field to play Halloween classics such as “Thriller,” and the Ghostbusters theme song. Despite the challenges that will come with the cold winter season, Mr. Wilson is optimistic about the future of the Viking band for the remainder of the school year.

The beat goes on. “There’s a certain solidarity in coming together as a group to make the best of things,” said Mr. Wilson. “The band normally moves from ‘marching band’ to ‘concert band’ after the football season, with indoor concerts being the norm at that point. I’m committed, though, to keeping up with outdoor playing only if safety dictates that it’s the better choice to do so. I’m proud of the willingness they’ve continued to show to do their best.”

*Permission obtained to reprint a portion of the original article featured in the Central Catholic High School Quadrangle Summer/Fall 2020 Publication from Chelsey Rovesti, Editor.*



## CAMPUS MINISTRY & MISSION INTEGRATION AT OC

### THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Thank you to our generous OC students and families in the collection of food items which supported St. Paul Cathedral's food pantry.



### FIAT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Fiat students engaged in a game of Kahoot during their Fiat lunch in November. They compared pop culture from the classes of 2014 and 2024 and had fun!



### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLY DAY MASS

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated by **Fr. Mike Ackerman**, Chaplain, with two Mass offerings in our chapel. The first was on Monday, December 7th at the conclusion of 9th period allowing students to participate in the celebration prior to leaving for the day and secondly on Tuesday, December 8th with a morning Mass.



### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PRESENTATION

On Friday, November 20, **Father Fernando Torres**, parochial vicar at St. Catherine's of Siena, zoomed in to give a presentation on Our Lady of Guadalupe.

His goal was to give the presentation in Spanish while showing how this image is the wonderful inculturation of the Catholic message for the Aztec people (the native Mexicans).



Director of Mission Integration **Dorrie Donahue** and Spanish Teacher **John Costello** held the presentation in the chapel where one of the original 20 prints of Our Lady of Guadalupe is currently on loan from the Bishop.

This is one of the experiences in the OC Spanish program that allows native speakers to connect with our students about their cultural experiences.

All the Spanish classes were able to participate in the presentation throughout the day, followed by questions and answers. Father Fernando spoke in Spanish; Dorrie and John translated when needed. It was an enriching day on many levels.

## CLASS RETREATS

The class retreats in September were a highlight this past fall for students. **Father Mike Ackerman**, OC Chaplain, talked about “Finding God in the Present Moment” and the girls rotated through sessions of Catholic Mindfulness, small group discussions, and Eucharistic Adoration. They even played a game of Family Feud where the Silver and Burgundy cohorts competed against one another. Each freshman Fiat group dressed up in a different movie theme.



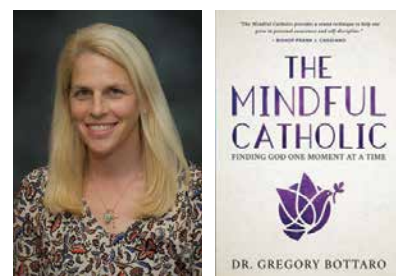
## SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Service activities included OC juniors and seniors volunteering at the Red Door Ministry, Divine Mercy Parish, making sandwiches and passing out lunches and winter clothing during our asynchronous days. The Red Door passes out 300 bagged lunches a day to our homeless population downtown. OC students volunteer to make sandwiches and assemble the lunch bags every Wednesday as a service opportunity. Twice a month, students also volunteer to pass out hot meals at Good Samaritan Church in Ambridge and help to make boxes of non-perishable items so that families will have groceries for the week.



## CATHOLIC MINDFULNESS AT WORK IN OAKLAND CATHOLIC

“I am so stressed!” Director of Mission Integration **Dorrie Donahue** has heard this phrase reiterated all too often in her office off the student dining area. Absorbed in their studies, sports and social media interactions, Oakland Catholic students reflect what has been trending around our nation—an increase in depression and anxiety. Not always, but frequently, this uptick in adolescent anxiety and depression can be linked to a decrease in test scores, classroom engagement, and overall sense of happiness.



Communal interaction, not social media likes and dislikes, is important to managing anxiety, depression, and detachment. The isolation that protects us during the current pandemic is definitely not helping us with the important work of being present—mind, body, and soul—with one another. Worries about the past, fearful concerns about the future, and parents concerned about the emotional and social health of their teenage daughters all cry out for awareness, education, and resources that go beyond simply “carrying on,” “bucking up,” and “pulling yourself up by the bootstraps.”

After reading Dr. Gregory Bottaro’s book, “The Mindful Catholic: Finding God One Moment at a Time,” Dorrie was struck by the blend of simplicity and depth in Dr. Bottaro’s approach. Catholic Mindfulness is the non-judgmental awareness of God in the present moment. Since God is ever-present, the here-and-now is the best time for us to connect with Him. Different from centering prayer or emptying your mind, this awareness of the value of the present helps a person to be open and develop a disposition for learning. “I have incorporated many aspects of Catholic Mindfulness into the student-directed prayer and their Endow classes (Education on the Nature and Dignity of Women). Students have commented on moving from the worrying mind to a mind that is engaged with the task at hand,” says Dorrie.

“**AFTER I APPLIED THE TIPS, I FEEL SAFE TO LEARN AND NOT SO FEARFUL OF FAILURE.**”  
— A CURRENT OC SOPHOMORE

Learning to trust, developing resilience in the face of obstacles out of their control, or just feeling safer because of a greater awareness of God’s presence and His protection are some of the benefits already shared by OC students who have embraced the approach. Along with additional events like last year’s Mindful Wellness Symposium and proposed initiatives for mental health resources, Oakland Catholic is striving to buck the national trend of an increase in youth anxiety and depression by leading students to emotional, spiritual and social health through Catholic Mindfulness and best practices in mental health.



# At Oakland Catholic, There are So Many Ways to Live Your Faith

At OC, the spiritual journey begins with a focus on prayer, joy, and a desire to improve the world by serving each other. There are ample opportunities to grow in your faith with service and mission trips locally and across the world. You can also participate in Kairos retreats, join classmates in service through Campus Ministry, and, of course, when your schedule allows, attend an early morning Mass in our Chapel.

# OC ADMISSIONS

The 2020-2021 Admissions process at Oakland Catholic has been busier than ever, with exciting virtual events like Eagle for a Day in the OC parking lot, and BAM! Workshops that gave 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls fun ways to interact with the Oakland Catholic experience.

## EAGLE FOR A DAY

8th grade girls interested in finding out more about what it means to be an OC Eagle attended one of two Eagle for a Day sessions—September 26 or October 17—which were offered in a Covid-friendly environment under the tents in the Oakland Catholic High School parking lot. The two hour event was great, as 8th graders met with faculty, OC ambassadors, and their future classmates.

## VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

The Virtual Open House took place on November 8. Prospective families had an opportunity to meet with department chairs, chat with OC leadership, and learn about the admissions and financial aid processes.





# Summer 2021 CAMPS

FOR GIRLS ENTERING 6<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

BECAUSE ACADEMICS + ATHLETICS MATTER

**ACADEMIC CAMPS**  
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS  
9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

**COST:** \$75 PER SESSION  
PICK 3: \$175 • ALL 6: \$400

**TUESDAY, JUNE 15 — ART IN MOTION**

Immerse yourself in a hands-on, creative experience. Work with clay, paints, design, and artistic expression, and leave with your own creation.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 17 — GO GLOBAL WITH OC**

Get a taste of the world beyond Pittsburgh as our foreign language teacher guides you through speaking, culture, and cooking activities.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 22 — INNOVATION LAB:  
CREATE WITH MACHINES**

Explore the laser cutter, Ultimaker, circuitry boards, and other high-tech machinery in the John McGonigle Innovation Lab, and manufacture a product or two of your own!

**THURSDAY, JUNE 24 — INNOVATION LAB:  
MAKING ROBOTS RUN**

Explore the circuits that drive all robots. Then, guide a robot around school on a scavenger hunt for parts you'll use to build something to take home at the end of the day.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 29 — IT'S SHOW TIME!**

Create and perform in a one-of-a-kind musical production. Spend the day participating in all parts of a theatrical production.

**THURSDAY, JULY 1 — A HERO'S JOURNEY**

Create your own hero, design her adventure, and tell her story! \*No previous writing experience needed.

**COST:** \$50 PER SESSION  
ALL 3: \$125

**SPORTS SKILL SESSIONS**  
WEDNESDAYS  
9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAYS**

**JUNE 16 — VOLLEYBALL • JUNE 23 — SOCCER • JUNE 30 — BASKETBALL**

## ZOOM CHAT SESSION

On January 20th, 8th grade girls interested in learning more about OC were encouraged to register for a Zoom Chat with OC Student Ambassadors. Our OC Ambassadors were live, talking about all things OC; classes, clubs, sports, and more! Each Zoom chat included three OC Student Ambassadors, ten interested 8th grade girls, one faculty moderator, information about life as an OC Eagle and answers to all questions! This was a great opportunity to chat in a small group to get the inside scoop on what it is like to be an OC Eagle from actual OC Eagles!



## PITTSBURGH EDFEST

OC co-hosted Pittsburgh's virtual EDFEST for families on January 23, 2021. Scholar Search Associates, a national leader in educational forums, invited Oakland Catholic to co-host this free virtual event where students in 4th-12th grades, and their parents, were able to explore and learn through fun and engaging sessions.

The Diocese of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Public Schools, and many other organizations joined Oakland Catholic in this day of learning and engagement. A full-day, and in-person event on campus is being planned for late summer.



OAKLANDCATHOLIC.ORG  
SCHOLARSEARCHASSOC.COM



KENTUCKY AVENUE SCHOOL



## VIDEO TOUR OF CAMPUS

An inability to bring visitors onto campus due to pandemic measures created an opportunity for President **Mary Claire Kasunic** and Director of Admissions & Financial Aid **Theresa Hill** to innovate by bringing campus into the living rooms of prospective families. With the assistance of some wonderful Sophomore Student Ambassadors, a drone video camera that traveled the empty hallways of the school on a Saturday morning, and the editing suite of StudioMe in East Liberty, the OC Video Tour of Campus was created in the fall and posted to our website.

If you want to witness how Oakland Catholic has adapted technology to maintain community engagement, take a tour of campus to hear how eloquently and genuinely our students present their school. Visit our Admissions page on the OC website and explore our campus from your home!

# CC FACULTY NEWS

## FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Heidi Rinkacs** and **Maura Doyle** participated in the Interdisciplinary Global Educators Working Group this past summer. It was a series of workshops held virtually by Pitt's Global Studies Center where a group of educators from different departments within one school created interdisciplinary curriculum. Global Studies provided support and funding for materials related to the unit.

Heidi and Maura both teach the same set of Honors Sophomores (in Honors World History II and Honors World Literature) and frequently work together through Model UN, so it was a perfect opportunity to further extend this collaboration between their two classes. They identified a few areas of World History and World Literature that are frequently neglected, most notably the continent of Africa, and designed a unit to fit that need, while still addressing global topics. They will be teaching about Nigeria through two novels by African authors — *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe and *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Their work was presented on September 9th, in a virtual showcase that was open to the public.

**Maura Doyle** presented the collaborative unit to the Board of Directors at their January 13, 2021 meeting. All commented on the high caliber of the instructors, the curriculum, and the expertise at OC.



## MEG KOROLY, GOLDEN APPLE AWARD RECIPIENT!

Congratulations to art instructor, **Mrs. Megan Koroly**! She is the recipient of the 2020 Golden Apple Award of the Diocese of Pittsburgh for outstanding teaching.



## GRADUWAY IMPACT AWARD

Congratulations to **Diane Totten**, Director of Constituent Relations, on winning the Graduway Impact Award for her Outstanding Network Growth and Engagement!



## THANKSGIVING PIES

OC's PTG dropped off delicious pies to all faculty and staff as a thank you for all of their hard work and dedication to the students and mission of Oakland Catholic especially during the pandemic! Thank you PTG!



## STAKEHOLDERS CANDY DELIVERY

A special delivery, by **Principal Bragg** and **Assistant Principal Powell**, of candy treats was made to faculty and staff in appreciation, after a very successful virtual Stakeholders' Evening on September 18.



## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Board members, faculty and staff received a special holiday box of goodies, including a sampling of **President Kasunic's** homemade gingersnaps, and an OC Cookie Recipe book, that was compiled from submitted recipes from faculty and staff.



## SPECIAL THANKS

Board Director **Rhodora Freyvogel Noethling** wrote notes of appreciation to teachers as a member of the Mission Integration Board Committee and Chair **Kelly McDonnell** wrote notes to staff members.



## FACULTY SHOUT OUT

Social Studies teacher **Mr. Dennis DeFilippo** was interviewed by the Diocese regarding how he conducted classes in the days after the mob protest at the Capitol Building. Director of Catholic Schools then asked Mr. DeFilippo and a colleague from Seton LaSalle to conduct a professional learning community for all Social Studies teachers across the diocese on the topic. Thank you Mr. D. for sharing your expertise with other professionals!





# With 16 Sports and 38 Clubs, You're Sure to Find Your Place Here.

From cross country to fencing, golf to crew, there is at least one sport for you, even if you're not the sporting type. Clubs? We have 38, from Environmental to Step, RadiOC Podcast to Ukulele, Model UN to Crocheting. Many students try as many as they can, and some just lock in on the one or two that fuel their passion. Not to worry. You'll find something you love at OC.



# SPORTS

## FALL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

All OC teams had the opportunity to participate in a Fall service project of festive decorations. All items collected were given to the Food Bank and Red Door organizations.

### BASKETBALL

The winter season was off to a rocky start with the 3-week shutdown, but the Basketball team has been able to overcome many obstacles. They are adapting well to playing games fully masked and are excited for the remainder of the season.



### COMPETITIVE CHEERLEADING

Competitive Cheerleading had a virtual season, successfully recording a couple of competitions for future submissions.



### CREW

Even though the Fall season wasn't as competitive as years past due to COVID, the crew team participated in two virtual races and continued their training season all Fall. They are eager to jump into their new boats this Spring!



### CROSS COUNTRY

Cross Country had an 8-0 season. Congratulations to **Tess Helms, OCHS'21** who finished 12th in the state and was named an all-state student athlete and made all-state in XC! Tess has made it to states all four years.

Congratulations on this huge accomplishment! The cross-country team finished 6th as a team at the WPIAL Championship! OC's top 5 runners included; **Tess Helms, OCHS'21, Ellie Maentz, OCHS'24, Bridget Shaver, OCHS'23, Mary Nagy, OCHS'23** and **Katie Smith, OCHS'24**. **Tess Helms** finished 10th overall, advancing to the PIAA meet for the 4th straight year! Congratulations Tess!



### FIELD HOCKEY

The WPIAL announced field hockey all-stars and honorable mentions for the 2020 season on Monday. Congratulations to Class AA all-star, **Fiona Elste, OCHS'23** and Honorable Mention winners; **Isabel Doshi, OCHS'23** and **Caroline Sarneso, OCHS'22**. Field Hockey finished their season 1-9.

## SOCCER

Congratulations to the OC Soccer team on a great season! They played their first WPIAL playoff game on Monday, October 26 against Belle Vernon and won, but lost against Mars in the Quarterfinals.

Shout out to our seniors who, for four years, have shown tremendous resilience, determination, and grit. But perhaps none more than this year while dealing with a global pandemic that sought to wreak havoc on their senior year. Varsity Soccer finished 9-4 and JV finished the season 1-3-1. The team finished in the final 8 of the 29 teams in Class 3A.

Congratulations to **Emily Cooper, OCHS'22**, **Gabi Folino, OCHS'23**, and **Hannah Henn, OCHS'21** for earning All-Section honors. Hannah also received All-WPIAL honors (her third selection to the All-WPIAL team). Congratulations again on a great season Eagles!

## SWIMMING/DIVING

The Swim/Dive team has done a great job of adapting to all the changes in pool locations and an all away-meet schedule this year. We have had many WPIAL placement times already, and one pool record broken by Freshman, Channing Brook at the Upper Saint Clair meet.

## STEP TEAM

The Step team was able to hold their season tryouts, but had to take a pause over the holidays before their competitions and performances begin. Their season resumed in January.



## GOLF

Varsity Golf finished 5-5 and JV finished 2-2. **Tara Loughran, OCHS'21** competed at Oakmont Country Club in the WPIAL Championship. She finished in a four-way tie for 5th place. Great season Tara! She eagled on her 18th hole at Oakmont Country Club to cap her senior season.



## VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to OC Volleyball players **Maddy Cigna, OCHS'23** and **Catherine Jezerc, OCHS'21** on their achievements as Trib Live's Players of the Week. Maddy was featured on September 21 and Catherine on September 28.

Congratulations to SWPA Volleyball Class 4A Feature Athlete **Elizabeth Ford, OCHS'22** for the week of October 7! OC volleyball players are well represented in the All-WPIAL Class 4A All-Star Teams! Congratulations to **Madison Cigna, OCHS'23, Elizabeth Ford, OCHS'22,** and **Catherine Jezerc, OCHS'21** on Second Team selections and **Ava Barkich, OCHS'22** for making Third Team.



Varsity Volleyball completed their season 12-0 and JV finished at 9-3. Volleyball won their Quarterfinal round against Pine Richland, but lost against Shaler in the Semi-finals. **Catherine Jezerc, OCHS'21** was named all-state in girls 4A volleyball. **Ava Barkich, OCHS'22, Elizabeth Ford, OCHS'22, Naomi Jeisonowski, OCHS'22, Catherine Jezerc, OCHS'21** and **Maddy Cigna, OCHS'23** were named Big 56 first team and **Flynn Anthony, OCHS'21,** and **Audrey Pohlod, OCHS'22** were named Big 56 second team.

**Emily Reeser** received the Big 56 Coach of the Year award. Great season OC Volleyball!



## TENNIS

The Tennis team finished their season taking the team to WPIALs! **Isabella Liu-Lopez** and **Amanda Santora** both competed in the WPIAL individual singles and doubles making it past the first rounds of each tournament, but falling short before the semi-finals.





## OC EAGLEWEAR

Need a gift for a former Oakland Catholic student? Want to represent your OC pride around town? You can shop at OC EagleWear, our online store for gear, gifts, and all types of OC items. Head to [store.oaklandcatholic.org](https://store.oaklandcatholic.org) today!



# ADVANCEMENT



**OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL** Our annual appeal, the Oakland Catholic Fund, is a vital component of support for Oakland Catholic High School. A gift to the Oakland Catholic Fund supports many aspects of the school, including enhancement of our curriculum, and increases to the tuition assistance made available to our students. All alumnae, parents, and friends of Oakland Catholic are invited to make a gift to the Oakland Catholic Fund. Show your support by making a gift online TODAY! **GiveToOC.com**. Together we can make a difference!

## PLANNED GIVING: THE ULTIMATE GIFT

While you are planning for the future needs of your family and reviewing your assets, please keep in mind the needs of Oakland Catholic so that FUTURE generations of OC students can be impacted by your thoughtfulness and generosity.

We would like to grow the membership of the OC Legacy Society. Membership includes friends of OC who, as loyal visionaries and generous benefactors, have included Oakland Catholic High School in their will or estate plan. We invite you to join the ranks. Our greatest hope for the OC Legacy Society is to grow our membership. We want to count you in! The final expression of your wishes for your loved ones and concern for your family and friend is recorded in a will. If you do not have a will, please contact your attorney and/or financial adviser to discuss this important matter and consider a gift to OC! If you already have Oakland Catholic High School in your estate plans, please let us know. If you have any questions, please contact **Karen Marner**, Vice President of Advancement at 412.682.6877.

## NAMED SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Oakland Catholic High School offers an array of scholarship opportunities, both merit and need-based. These scholarships have all been supported by either their respective donors or by gifts to the Oakland Catholic Fund. If you would like to discuss establishment of a named scholarship, please contact **Mary Claire Kasunic** at [mckasunic@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:mckasunic@oaklandcatholic.org).

### SCHOLARSHIPS:

Alumnae Scholarship  
Bishop's Scholarship  
Deborah L. Rice Scholarship  
Domenic Silvaggio, Sr. Scholarship  
Eagle Scholarship  
Fine Arts Recognition Award  
George Rudolph Scholarship  
Impact Scholarship  
JOA Scholarship  
Katherine and Thomas J.M. Freyvogel Family Scholarship  
Katherine Donahue Freyvogel Scholarship  
Leader In Academic Scholarship  
Leading Ladies Scholarship  
Loretta Grecco Scholarship  
Louise DiNardo Scholarship  
Maribeth and Richard S. Donley Family Scholarship  
Oakland Catholic Merit Scholarship  
President's Scholarship  
Principal's Scholarship  
Ruth Donnelly Egler Scholarship  
Susan and Ron Petnuch Family Scholarship  
Susanna McGraw Freyvogel Scholarship  
The Sarafina Spoltore Raimondi Scholarship

## THE TIME IS NOW

Make your impact today with a gift to Oakland Catholic.

**GiveToOC.com**





# SPONSOR A STUDENT

***Every year, hundreds of students are given the gift of an Oakland Catholic education thanks to the generosity of people like you.***

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each year, Oakland Catholic identifies students with significant financial need and builds financial aid packages to the best of the school's ability. Unfortunately, need is frequently greater than the resources available. By identifying a sponsor who supports a young woman across all four years of her OC education, we close the gap and provide her the chance to thrive and succeed in this unique educational environment. Sponsors connect with their students via updates from both the school and the student. In a very personal way, sponsors impact our world, one student at a time.

## WHOM DOES IT BENEFIT?

Students, Sponsors, the entire Oakland Catholic Community... our future world.

## HOW DO I BECOME A SPONSOR?

Simply select the level of commitment that reflects your circumstances, contact Vice President of Advancement Karen Marner by phone at 412.682.6877 or via email at [kmarner@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:kmarner@oaklandcatholic.org) with your desire to become a Sponsor, and excitedly wait to meet your OC Student. With your generous support, she will soon soar as an OC Eagle.

## SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Sponsorship is a 4-year commitment. Upon your student's graduation, you will have the opportunity to recommit to this program by sponsoring a new student.

**\$10,000 • \$5,000 • \$3,000**

*\*Yearly sponsorship contributions can be made annually, quarterly, or monthly. All contributions are tax deductible as charitable contributions.*

  
**Oakland Catholic**  
High School  
**Only Here.**

## MONTHLY GIVING: RECURRING GIFTS

Oakland Catholic High School has been positively transforming the lives of students since 1989. Our alumnae often attribute their success to the foundation they received at Oakland Catholic High School. In order to provide our current students with opportunities to learn and grow in the values of Spirituality, Scholarship and Service, we ask that you join our call to action by making a recurring monthly, or quarterly, gift to the Oakland Catholic Fund.

Your recurring gift will ensure that Oakland Catholic High School remains an educational cornerstone in the lives of our students for many years to come. Gifts to the Oakland Catholic Fund support overall growth, enhanced curriculum, increased tuition assistance and much more. A gift in any amount is greatly appreciated, as your participation alone signifies your support of the mission of Oakland Catholic High School! Sign up today online at [oaklandcatholic.org](http://oaklandcatholic.org)—support OC—and your gift will be automatically received every month to support OC!



## WAYS TO GIVE

Thinking carefully about what to give—and when to give—can help magnify the impact of your gifts. With careful planning you may discover that your gifts have more charitable impact than you thought possible, and can reduce your overall tax bill.

### CURRENT GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

**Cash:** Gifts of cash, by check are the most popular ways to give.

**Online Donations:** One-time or monthly “recurring-gifts” can be made online.

**Recurring Gifts:** Making donations on a monthly basis helps to spread out your support throughout the entire year. For example:

- \$1,000 a year = \$83.33 a month
- \$500 a year = \$41.67 a month
- \$250 a year = \$20.83 a month

**Securities:** A gift of stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares may yield additional tax savings if they are worth more at the time of transfer than their original cost.

**Bequests:** A bequest is a gift made upon death through a will or a revocable trust.

To discuss these options contact **Karen Marner**, Vice President of Advancement at [kmarner@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:kmarner@oaklandcatholic.org) or 412.682.6877.

## OC GIVE DAY

OC Give Day is being planned for Thursday, March 4. Watch for information on how you can participate and support the students at OC now and in the future.



## EITC AND OSTC

Did you know that your state taxes could help support Oakland Catholic High School? EITC and OSTC are Pennsylvania state programs that give business owners and corporations the opportunity to allocate a portion of their state taxes to a non-profit organization. As a 501(c)3 organization, Oakland Catholic qualifies for these programs and is grateful to the businesses for their support. To learn more about how you and your business can participate in these important programs, please contact **Diane Totten**, Director of Constituent Relations at 412.682.6633 x263 or e-mail [dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org).



## 2020-2021 MATCHING GIFTS

Abbott Laboratories

AT&T

Bank of America, Matching Gifts Program

Chevron Humankind

Dominion Foundation

EQT Foundation

GE Foundation

Highmark Matching Funds

Johnson & Johnson

Lincoln Financial Advisors

Morgan Stanley Foundation

New York Life

NiSource Political Action Committee

Northwestern Mutual Foundation

OppenheimerFunds

PepsiCo Foundation

Pfizer Foundation

PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Refinitiv

Rockwell Collins Matching Gift Program

Sanofi Foundation for North America

Steel City Inspection Agency Inc.

The Bank of New York Mellon

The PIMCO Foundation

The Pittsburgh Foundation

UBS Employee Giving Programs

United States Steel Foundation, Inc.

Wells Fargo Foundation

## EITC SUPPORTERS

Anonymous

Michael & Lisa Anselmo

Armstrong County Community  
*Allegheny Mineral Corporation, Elderton State  
Bank, Keybank, Nextier Bank, Northwest,  
UPMC Health Plan, and Waste Management*

Thomas H. Ayooob, III & Associates, LLC

Braskem (via Bridges Foundation)

CASTA-SOS I, LLC

CASTA-SOS II LLC

CASTA III

Gary and Megan Doyle

Fathead's Saloon 1805  
East Carson St. Corporation

Federated Advisory Services

First National Bank

Diane and John Fisher

Glimcher Brokerage

Hoddy and Mary Anne Hanna

Highmark, Inc.

HM Health Insurance Company

Gary A. and Lori Kroner

Peter and Alice Leone

Maher Duessel  
Certified Public Accountants

Doug and Carol MacPhail

Tom & Kelly McDonnell

Nextier Bank

Hank & Tina Richard

Tim and Kristie Steitz

Francesco Tirone

Waste Management  
(via Bridges Foundation)

## OSTC SUPPORTERS

Karen & Joe DiVito (PAPE LLC)

First National Bank

Hayes Design Group

Kelly Realtors, Inc

Nextier Bank

Waste Management  
(via Bridges Foundation)

## MATCHING GIFTS: DOUBLE YOUR GIFT, DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

As an educational, non-profit organization, Oakland Catholic High School is eligible to receive matching gifts from companies that match their employees' charitable donations. You can potentially double your gift to Oakland Catholic by participating in a matching gift program.

Visit [oaklandcatholic.org/donation-page/other-ways-to-give](https://oaklandcatholic.org/donation-page/other-ways-to-give) to search for your company and double your impact.



# 17TH ANNUAL OC EAGLE CLASSIC

The rescheduled 17th Annual OC Eagle Classic took place on Monday, October 12, 2020 at the Pittsburgh Field Club and was attended by 89 golfers and friends of OC. The event was chaired by Brad and Colleen Totten OCHS P'08, P'10, P'11.

## THANK YOU TO ALL THE DONORS WHO SUPPORTED THE OC EAGLE CLASSIC!

### EAGLE SPONSORS

A Friend of Oakland Catholic  
UPMC and UPMC Health Plan

### BIRDIE SPONSORS

Dentistry for Kids, Inc.  
Ann & J. Christopher Donahue  
John C.R. Kelly Realty, Inc.

### LUNCH SPONSOR

Joe & Judy Doyle

### FOURSOMES

Falcon Drilling Company, LLC  
Perry Giovannelli  
George V. Hamilton, Inc.  
Tom & Kelly McDonnell Family  
Derek Mousseau  
PJ Dick-Trumbull-Lindy Paving  
Joseph P. Pohl III  
PNC  
Michael Shovlin  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Swanson  
T. Bradley & Colleen Totten  
Tudi Mechanical Systems  
Willman & Silvaggio, LLP

### TWOSOMES

Jim & Colleen Meyers

### INDIVIDUAL GOLFERS

Tom Ayoob  
Mary Pat Bielich  
Bill Garrison  
Brock McCracken  
Damian Schorr  
Paul D. Svirbel, Jr.

### SKILL PRIZE SPONSOR

Brad & Colleen Totten

### GOLF BALL SPONSOR

Joe & Judy Doyle

### BEVERAGE HOLE & CART SPONSOR

Estocin Property Services

### GOLF CART SPONSORS

Amcom Office Systems  
Coghill Investment Strategies  
Alice & Peter Leone

### SCORECARD SPONSORS

Thomas H. Ayoob III & Associates, LLC  
Estocin Property Services  
Fagan Sanitary Supply

### PIN FLAG SPONSORS

A Friend of Oakland Catholic  
CPI Creative  
Dentistry For Kids  
Joseph & Judy Doyle  
Estocin Property Services  
Falcon Drilling Company LLC  
Fuhrer Wholesale Company  
Futures Begin At Oakland Catholic  
Haley & Hannah Herda  
John C.R. Kelly Realty, Inc.  
Alice & Peter Leone  
LionWorks Printing & Graphics  
Kelly & Tom McDonnell Family  
Oakland Catholic  
High School Golf Team  
Pittsburgh Steelers  
UPMC and UPMC Health Plan  
R. Curtis Waligura, D.O.  
Willman & Silvaggio, LLP

### TEE SIGNS

A Friend of Oakland Catholic  
Amcom Office Systems  
Coghill Investment Strategies  
CPI Creative

Dentistry For Kids, Inc.  
Joseph & Judy Doyle  
Estocin Property Services  
Falcon Drilling Company LLC  
Fuhrer Wholesale Company  
The Huge Chair Co.  
Hunt Stained Glass Studios, Inc.  
John C. R. Kelly Realty, Inc.  
Peter & Alice Leone  
LionWorks Printing & Graphics  
Brad & Colleen Totten  
PJ Dick-Trumbull-Lindy Paving  
Poillucci Plumbing, Inc.  
The Quinn Family  
Thomas H. Ayoob III & Associates, LLC  
The Thomasmeyer Family  
UPMC and UPMC Health Plan  
R. Curtis Waligura, D.O.  
The Zotter Family

### DONATIONS

Dr. & Mrs. William Hahn  
John & Denise McCarthy  
Paul & Penny McKenna  
R. Curtis Waligura, D.O.

This list includes those sponsors and auction raffle donors whose information was received by October 12, 2020. Oakland Catholic appreciates all sponsorship & donations that were received after this date for the 17th Annual OC Eagle Classic.



# SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US ON THE LINKS THIS SPRING!

**MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021 AT  
THE PITTSBURGH FIELD CLUB  
SHOTGUN START – 12:30 P.M.**

Save the Date and plan to join Honorary Chairs Derek and Rebecca Mousseau and the OC Community. For more information, contact Karen Ferrari at 412.682.6797 or [kferrari@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:kferrari@oaklandcatholic.org).

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 WINNING TEAMS!**



## **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE TEAM**

Scott Mezyk, Jim Ober  
& Mike Wallace



## **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE TEAM**

Joseph Silvaggio, Tony Chammas,  
Harry Klucher & Richard Schmidt



## **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE TEAM**

Derek Mousseau, Joe Gartner,  
Pat Brady & Peter Kohelis

**Golf Sponsorship Opportunities and Golfer Registration  
information will be available in the spring.**



## 2021 Challenges

VISIT [OCGIVEDAY.ORG](http://OCGIVEDAY.ORG) TO LEARN MORE!

BECOME A  
*Medalist*

CALLING ALL  
ALUMNAE

OC  
*Wheels*

...THE PLACES  
WE GO

THE ABCs  
*of OC*

G IS FOR  
GIVING

SPONSOR OUR  
*Students*

IMPACT THE  
FUTURE

SAVE THE DATE: *March 4, 2021!*

We're excited for our sixth annual OC Give Day! So excited that we set the bar high with a goal of **\$110,000**. Over 400 donors helped us meet our goal last year. **This year, we're counting on YOU!** Donate on March 4 at [OCGIVEDAY.org](http://OCGIVEDAY.org) with a one-time or recurring gift and help unlock an additional \$30,000 across four challenges.

Afraid you'll miss your chance to participate because of your schedule? **Pledge your gift in advance!** In 2020, the many \$1,000 gifts we received in advance put us over the top. Help us meet our ambitious goal with a signature gift of this nature!

*Mark your calendar for Thursday,  
March 4, and make a difference!*

# IN MEMORIAM

*The time it takes to heal from a great loss is different for each of us. God knows our hearts and always walks with us at the perfect pace of His comforting grace. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of the following alumnae:*

## ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mary Pollis Lagueruela, CHS'40  
Kathleen MacIvor Alvarez, CHS'41  
Grace Becker Ripple, CHS'41  
Joan Lamb Gigler, CHS'43  
Mary Lou Daschbach Kling, CHS'43  
Faye Mosebarger Jeannett, CHS'44  
Helen Pollice Krowitz, CHS'44  
Lorene Kaduck Bartrug, CHS'55  
Mary Geier Drummond, CHS'45  
Mary Alice McWilliams Hays, CHS'45  
Phyllis DiPilla Loffarelli, CHS'45  
Mary Duco Maffeo, CHS'45  
Dolores Moore Huber, CHS'46  
Margaret Eileen Clarke Joyce, CHS'46  
Maryann Hague Phillips, CHS'46  
Angela R. Pollis, CHS'46  
Helen Coyne Walsh, CHS'46  
Marie Casciato Bucci, CHS'47  
Rose Diulus Ciranni, CHS'47  
Elizabeth "Betty" White Flaherty, CHS'47  
Joan G. Kraft, CHS'47  
Sr. Sheila P. O'Friel, DC, CHS'47  
Mary Lou States Quinn, CHS'47  
Jean Geneski Straub, CHS'47  
Marion Basinski Cynkar, CHS'49  
Elizabeth "Betty Jo" Shivers Steele, CHS'49  
Margaret "Peggy" Plunkett Laird, CHS'53  
Lorene Kaduck Bartrug, CHS'55  
Antoinette "Bonnie" Mazzocchi Simon, CHS'57  
Billie Jean Martincic Prichard, CHS'59  
Carol Barrett Coyne, CHS'60  
Patricia Leonard Urban, CHS'61  
Andrea Lucas Parrotto, CHS'65  
Kathleen Deroy Wagner, CHS'67  
Deborah A. Locante, CHS'74  
Joyce M. Colletto, CHS'77

## OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY

Joan Connell Kirby, OLOMA  
Anna Mae Matkovich, OLOMA  
Patricia DeLillo Morrissey, OLOMA  
Barbara Crumbaker Teves, OLOMA  
Mary Alice Corcoran Schierberl, OLOMA'44

Mary Gloninger Fleury, OLOMA'45  
Marcella Cusack Gordon, OLOMA'48  
Rachel Raphael Latterman, OLOMA'48  
Jean Connell McClaud, OLOMA'48  
Carol Smith Buongiorno, OLOMA'49  
Patricia O'Hanlon Bogden, OLOMA'51  
Eleanor McFadden Peternel, OLOMA'51  
Sandra Davenport Schuchert, OLOMA'54  
Eva Thoresen Arnold, OLOMA'55  
Marian Barkley Loughran, OLOMA'55  
Yolanda "Chi Chi" Glasco Sweeney, OLOMA'56  
Noreen DiBucci Christiano, OLOMA'60  
Trudy Thurner Ward, OLOMA'64  
Miriam Zupancic Brotherton, OLOMA'65

## SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL

Angela Boccella Bianco, SHHS'39  
Loretta Benson Flanagan, SHHS'39  
Jeanne Ivory Schwendinger, SHHS'40  
Mary Hanley Rafferty, SHHS'42  
Margaret "Sue" Oxley Tappe, SHHS'42  
Margaret Bradley Schmitt, SHHS'44  
Clara "Toots" Nardozzi Fedishen, SHHS'45  
Marian Keene Welsh, SHHS'45  
Patricia Tuckey Howard, SHHS'46  
Mary Lou Casey Huth, SHHS'46  
Mary Chiccarello Jaluvka, SHHS'46  
Catherine Frasca Labriola, SHHS'46  
Dorothy Hick DeVenny, SHHS'47  
Norma Griffin Gula, SHHS'47  
Kathryn Reiss McCaully, SHHS'47  
Dorothy Wishoski McClelland, SHHS'47  
Mary Patricia Mulvaney Miller, SHHS'47  
Sr. M. Adele Rogers, SC, SHHS'47  
Elizabeth Cochrane Salley, SHHS'47  
Marjorie Kennedy Westhoff, SHHS'47  
Irene Daerr Durkin, SHHS'48  
Mary Margaret Maher Hoetzlein, SHHS'48  
Mary Ellen Pass Hurley, SHHS'48  
Ruthanne Mitsch Riffle, SHHS'48  
Rosemarie Shook Rogers, SHHS'48  
Geraldine Toth Rote, SHHS'48  
Esther Doody Theiss, SHHS'48  
Theresa Ventura Trenz, SHHS'48  
Anna F. Sovec, SHHS'49

Mary Shaughnessy Kriznik, SHHS'50  
Joan Rochira Gerbec, SHHS'51  
Elizabeth "Betty" Connor Kenna, SHHS'51  
Ann Ferris Garvin, SHHS'53  
Julia "Judy" Graham Sullivan, SHHS'53  
Patricia Powers Chiurazzi, SHHS'54  
Rosemary Barna O'Rourke, SHHS'54  
Katherine Keough Harney, SHHS'56  
Betty Devlin Milby, SHHS'56  
Dorothy Delaney Gray, SHHS'57  
Gloria DelGrosso Moriarity, SHHS'57  
Virginia Fix Bash, SHHS'58  
Rosemary Larkin Bytnar, SHHS'58  
Judi Ifft Lerach, SHHS'58  
Carolyn Brannigan Simon, SHHS'58  
Margaret "Peggy" Spates Zavolta, SHHS'58  
Marion Doyle Banner, SHHS'59  
Patricia Boyle Ramp, SHHS'59  
Rosemarie Rocco Miele, SHHS'60  
Judy Bisceglia Casanova, SHHS'62  
Patricia Diskin Glackin, SHHS'62  
Anna Jerpe Mercho, SHHS'62  
Jacqueline White Remmick, SHHS'62  
Kathryn L. "Kay" Schaffer, SHHS'62  
Laurie Miller Connelly, SHHS'63  
Suzanne Barnes Quinn, SHHS'63  
Mary Alice Gratzmiller Ribar, SHHS'63  
Sandra Esposito Vesely, SHHS'64  
Elaine A. Herald, SHHS'65  
Carolyn Pratt Spicknell, SHHS'67  
Rosemarie Esposito Waechter, SHHS'67  
Lisa M. Kent, SHHS'80  
Midge Dalton Malone, SHHS'81  
Mary K. Fanto, SHHS'88

## CCFUND

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

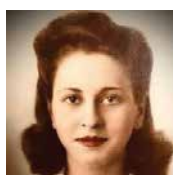
*The Oakland Catholic Fund keeps this all-girls Catholic educational opportunity accessible to young women of this region. Your gift in honor, or in memory, of an alumna provides an opportunity to a future alumna.*



# ALUMNAE NEWS



Oakland Catholic High School is eager to connect with our alumnae! Submit reunion information, career news, graduation updates and anything else you feel pertinent to **Diane Totten**, Director of Constituent Relations by sending an email to [dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org) or calling 412-682-6633 ext. 263.



**Helen Angela Pollice Krowitz, CHS'44**, passed away on March 28. She was a proud graduate of CHS throughout her life and her daughters, **Susan Krowitz Akerley, CHS'68** and **Carol Krowitz Ward, CHS'72**, followed in her footsteps. When Helen graduated in 1944, the school could not obtain the traditional purple stones for their class rings due to WWII. Instead, their distinctive rings that year were made with a light blue-gray colored stone.

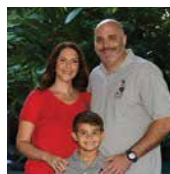
**Stephanie Carleton, OLOMA'69**, had a class ring that went missing a few years ago, after keeping it for 45 years. If anyone has an OLOMA ring and would like to help Stephanie, please contact Diane Totten at [dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org).



**Patricia Joyce Rooney, CHS'79**, credits the discipline and "setting the bar high" to her St. Paul's education. "I loved my time at St. Paul's, and quite a few of us are still friends to this day," says Patricia. For the past 20 years, she been a multi-million-dollar producer for Bucks County PA Real Estate market. She was National Sales Manager for Dymax Corporation, a medical device company in Pittsburgh. Her husband of 25 years is Captain Larry Rooney, USAir now American Airlines. He was the Co-Chairman of accidents and investigations for USAir Pilot's Union, therefore was the company's Charge Investigator for Cpts. Sullenberg and Skyes, Miracle on the Hudson. Both she and her husband were portrayed in the movie *Sully*. Her husband is currently the President of the Coalition of Airline Pilots of the US.



**Janera Solomon, OCHS'93**, was recognized for "community leadership" by the East Liberty Chamber of Commerce and Chatham University Center for Women's Entrepreneurship. Oakland Catholic was thrilled to host Janera as the Keynote Speaker for the 2020 OC Career Symposium.



**Rebecca Zeitler Farrell, OCHS'94**, has been promoted to Vice President, Group Manager in the Health Innovation and Wellness Practice at Ketchum Public Relations, a global communications consultancy. She resides in Atlanta with her husband, Christian, and their son Ronan, age 7. In her free time, Rebecca is a Disney travel planner, [www.AMomWithMouseEars.com](http://www.AMomWithMouseEars.com).



**Robyn Shepherd, OCHS'97**, and current Board Director at Oakland Catholic, was named as one of the "50 Leading Women in Hedge Funds" by the *Hedge Fund Journal*. Robyn is Head of Corporate Engagement, Bridgewater Associates. She oversees the firm's public affairs, communications and branding functions, as well as the company's initiatives for sustainability, diversity and inclusion, and community. She is the Co-Founder and Senior Sponsor of Bridgewater's Women's Influence Network, a role based on her commitment to the advancement of women in the finance industry and beyond.



**Sabrina Saunders Mosby, OCHS'99**, President and CEO at Vibrant Pittsburgh and current Board of Directors member at OC, has been included in the **Pittsburgh Business Times #Power100** group of leaders that reflects "the most influential people at this historic moment in time."



**Katherine Mikulla, OCHS'02**, has lived in Alaska for five years. She works for the Department of Interior for the National Park Service at Denali National Park and Preserve as an Interpretive Specialist.



**Kate Oczypok, OCHS'03**, is engaged to longtime boyfriend, Brad Phillis, on October 1. They're hoping for a fall 2021 wedding. In the meantime, they're enjoying celebrating their engagement with their French bulldog, Tito.



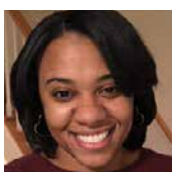
**Caitlin O'Brien-Rice, OCHS'06**, married Steve Revitsky at Sacred Heart Church in Shadyside on November 21, 2020. Caitlin works on the clinical marketing team at UPMC where she leads marketing and brand strategy for the Heart & Vascular Institute.



**Carlie Totten Wagner, OCHS'07**, and her husband, Mike, welcomed their son, Cole Martino, into the world on October 24. Cole weighed 5 lbs. 15 oz. and was 20" long. He joins his big brother, Mikey.



**Elizabeth Rieker, MBA, OCHS'09**, has been promoted to Senior Strategic Planner at Lockheed Martin.



**Farryn Jones, OCHS'10**, works at Deloitte LLP in the Rosslyn, VA, office where she provides financial advisory consulting services for federal government agencies. She recently obtained her CGFM (Certified Government Financial Manager) certification.

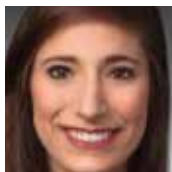


**Megan Zumbrun Krider, OCHS'03**, and her husband, Ben, adopted their first daughter, Evelyn, in December 2017 and adopted their second daughter, Jocelyn, in November 2020. Evelyn will be 4 in February and Jocelyn turned one in December. In addition to her personal dreams coming true, Megan has professional successes to celebrate as well after being named as a recipient of Pittsburgh Magazine's "2020 40 Under 40" honoree.



Megan started her career in child welfare. It may seem vastly different from her current role as the manager of Affordable Housing and Community Development at FHLBank Pittsburgh but Megan sees them as vital to one another. "Housing is truly foundational and instrumental in so many outcomes," Megan says. "How are you supposed to do everything else without a place to call home?"

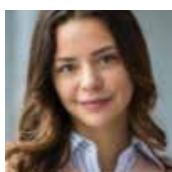
*First photo courtesy of Pittsburgh Magazine and second photo courtesy of Becky Thurner Braddock.*



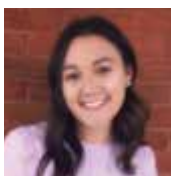
**Cara Kennedy, OCHS'11**, is humbled to be an Illinois Green Alliance 2020 Outstanding Volunteer Award recipient. "This past year was full of challenges but one source of joy for me was giving back to a like-minded organization. I encourage everyone to find an organization you believe in and devote what you can. If not us, then who?"



**Kathleen Mannard, OCHS'13**, has passed the Pennsylvania Bar Exam and has transitioned to Associate Attorney with Strassburger, McKenna, Gutnick, & Gefsky.



**Lucy Alexander, OCHS'15**, and a guest alumnae speaker last spring, has started a new position as Cyber Security Technical Project Manager at SAP.



**Mia Fratto, OCHS'15**, started a new position as Associate Packaging Engineer at Mars.

**Maura Sheedy, OCHS'16**, was recently promoted to Brand Partnerships Executive at Wolf & Badger.

**Chloe Wojcik, OCHS'16**, has been placed on the Gettysburg College Dean's Honor list for outstanding academic achievement in the Spring 2020 semester.



**Molly DeFilippo, OCHS'17**, visited Oakland Catholic for Open House in 2012. There she met the Chinese teacher and the OC leader of a life changing trip to China. Now eight years later, Molly has studied in mainland China, worked in Hong Kong, and interned in China. Molly is in her senior year at Miami University (OH) pursuing degrees in Economics and Mandarin Chinese.

Last year she lived in Hong Kong while interning at Metropolitan Lifestyle Group then continued her Mandarin studies in Chengdu China in the fall of 2019. This past summer Molly interned at CleanLife LED as a Supply Chain Analyst. She worked on a team to create a new business line selling PPE to the Northeast Ohio region in the midst of COVID-19. In June, Molly will be joining BearingPoint in their Chicago office as a Business Analyst.

**Jamie Gatesman, OCHS'17**, a student of the Psychology department has earned the recognitions of a Psi Chi Inductee as well as an inductee into The International Honor Society at John Carroll University.



**Alissa A. Pampena, OCHS'18**, has started a new position as Marketing Associate at University of Dayton Retail Operations.

**Angela Zenchak, OCHS'18**, has been named the first recipient of St. Vincent College's Rev. Nathan J. Munsch, OSB, Scholarship, recognizing academic achievement, humility and character, pastoral commitment and financial need.

Angela was humbled to learn of her selection from Dr. Lucas Briola, assistant professor of theology, who states, "Angela stood out because of her ardent desire to blend her study of theology with pastoral care, both of which are grounded in a deep spirituality."

**Katherine Rose Anthony, OCHS'19**, a sophomore at the University of Alabama, has been elected to be on the executive council of her Alpha Phi sorority for the 2020-2021 school year as the Vice President of Health, Wellness, and Accountability.



**Jayde Boyd, OCHS'19**, a sophomore who wears #15 at Mercyhurst University, scored 24 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to record her first collegiate double-double.



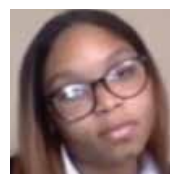
**Jayla Ellis, OCHS'19**, a three time Dean's List sophomore at Purdue University, has been inducted into Omega Chi Epsilon, the Chemical Engineering Honor Society.



**Emma Fandray, OCHS'20**, has completed her first semester at Kent State University Honors College where she was named to the Dean's List while carrying 18 credits. She is a chemistry major and considered a sophomore now with credits from her AP and CE classes at Oakland Catholic. Emma has been asked to Alpha Lambda Delta, the National Honor Society for First Year Success.



**Annie Mihm, OCHS'20**, had her first NYC Broadway Gig: PACE University's Musical Theatre Event – *Vulnerable Noise*!



**Treasure Palmer, OCHS'20**, was featured in a Disney Channel segment, "Kudos and Kudon'ts", for her co-creation of the Pittsburgh organization, *Black, Young, and Educated*.

# PRESIDENT'S/ DEAN'S LIST

*Congratulations to the following OC Alumnae who made the President's/Dean's List!*

OYINKANSOLA ADEBAJO, OCHS'20  
*Muhlenberg College*

ABIGAIL CAVALIER, OCHS'18  
*Providence College*

MEGAN CYTERSКИ, OCHS'19  
*Coastal Carolina University*

NATALIE CYTERSКИ, OCHS'19  
*Coastal Carolina University*

TAYLOR DENHAM, OCHS'18  
*St. Francis University*

HOPE DIGIOIA, OCHS'18  
*Slippery Rock University*

LAUREN DUPLESSIS, OCHS'17  
*University of Delaware*

EMMA FANDRAY, OCHS'20  
*Kent State University*

ELLEN KUSZAJEWSKI, OCHS'17  
*Baldwin Wallace University*

TALAI AH MATTHEWS, OCHS'20  
*Slippery Rock University*

JONELLE MENNER, OCHS'18  
*Hamilton College*

HANNAH MILLER, OCHS'18  
*Slippery Rock University*

SOPHIA MULLER, OCHS'18  
*Slippery Rock University*

ABBY ROBINSON, OCHS'19  
*St. Francis University*

DELANEY SHAFFER, OCHS'17  
*Slippery Rock University*

## It's All About Leverage.

Think OC is done helping you fulfill your potential? Think again.  
Sign up to Oakland Catholic Connect and find alumnae in high places.  
Discover old friends and other alum who are leading their companies forward.  
Share posts, see theirs, and leverage your Oakland Catholic connections.

If you haven't already, join hundreds of other OC, Cathedral,  
Sacred Heart, and Mount Mercy alumnae at **[OaklandCatholicConnect.org](http://OaklandCatholicConnect.org)**.  
We're one big team that can give you an edge. Connect today.

*Pictured to the left, Shannon Smith Vukmir, OCHS'97,  
Partner at Sitko Bruno, LLC, speaking at the 2018 OC Career Symposium.*





At Oakland Catholic

# You'll Make Friends For Life

The Oakland Catholic environment is defined by acceptance and inclusion. All are welcome in every club, every sport, and at every table.

We are a diverse population of talented, enthusiastic, and supportive young women who root for our classmates to succeed. You won't find a best friend here—you'll find many. OC friends are friends for life.

# OAKLAND CATHOLIC CONNECT

Oakland Catholic Connect allows you to re-connect with old classmates and enables you to utilize the trusted Oakland Catholic High School environment to expand your professional network. By fully integrating with social networks, and cultivating a culture of helping and giving back, you will be amazed by the vibrancy of the Oakland Catholic High School community.

For additional Alumnae news, sign up for Oakland Catholic Connect—an exclusive resource where Alumnae can seek career advice, mentor younger alum, post job and internship opportunities, share photos from reunions and more! Enhance and strengthen Oakland Catholic's Alumnae Relations by joining Oakland Catholic Connect today! **[www.OaklandCatholicConnect.org](http://www.OaklandCatholicConnect.org)**





## RECONNECT

Find and reminisce with fellow graduates, see what they have been up to and stay in touch.



## GIVE BACK

Introduce, employ, and offer to act as a mentor to our graduating students.



## EXPAND

Leverage your professional network to get introduced to people you should know.



## ADVANCE

Advance your career through inside connections working in top companies.



## PROMOTE

Promote your business in the Business Directory and offer exclusive offers to your fellow alumnae.



# ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHTS



## DEBBIE DEE COLLINS OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY

Having grown up in Squirrel Hill, Debbie Dee Collins isn't sure how she ended up in Monroeville at Our Lady of Mercy Academy (OLOMA), but it is an experience for which she will always be grateful. She was able to meet girls from all over Pittsburgh and the surrounding area. Debbie's three older brothers all attended Central Catholic, and her two sisters also went to OLOMA. She believes they all have many happy memories and lifelong friendships that they cherish dearly.

"I recently had a Zoom 'Cocktail Party' with four women from Mt. Mercy, and we reminisced about what great fun we had and how grateful we are to have friendships that we love 50 years later! Though scattered throughout Texas, Florida, and Pittsburgh, we all still enjoy catching up with 'our girls'", says Debbie enthusiastically!

While attending OLOMA, Debbie was a bit of a "jock" and loved playing various sports. To this day she remembers how much fun it was playing in the All-Star games (though she's not sure how "competitive" it was since there were only 45 members in her class!). OLOMA instilled in Debbie a love of sports and she still enjoys participating to this day—especially golf, paddle, and pickleball. No more pick-up basketball at lunch, but she would love a quick badminton game! "Maybe even a good game of Bridge. I'm always grateful for Ms. Brallier...she was truly an inspiration to all of us," says Debbie.

After graduating from Mt. Mercy in 1969, Debbie attended the University of Pittsburgh. Following commencement at Pitt, she spent a few years at various jobs and then landed in her Real Estate career which she has been involved with for over 30 years.

Debbie's proudest accomplishment is marrying Kevin, her guy from Boston, and raising their two children, Caitlin and Casey. Caitlin attended OC and was a member of the inaugural golf team, which Debbie proudly helped to start with Marge Logsdon in 2003. Casey went to Central Catholic. They enjoyed following both of them through their high school years and are grateful for the many families they've met and continue to enjoy years later. "We have two "PERFECT" grandchildren that are the apples of our eyes, and though they are in Richmond VA, we are lucky to see them often. Life is full and love is abundant."

"There is a special bond in the Catholic educated community of OLOMA, Sacred Heart, St. Paul's, Oakland Catholic, and Central, and I am so proud to be a part of it. I recommend you ENJOY it every day!"

# ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHTS

## MARY ANN WOLAK MICHELIS SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL

Mary Ann Wolak Michelis decided to be a physician at age 15 when taking Sister Mary Alexine's biology course. "She enthusiastically taught us biological principles with incredible diagrams that she drew on the board with both hands. She displayed a sincere interest in helping each of us understand the wonders in life science." Mary Ann who graduated in '67 fondly remembers her educational experience at Sacred Heart as being a very fun learning environment.



She feels that It is so important to take advantage of extracurricular opportunities such as clubs, theater, music groups, sports, and journalism. Both academic and religious principles learned at SHHS impacted her life far after graduation.

Mary Ann's favorite memory from high school is the terrific girls that she met who lived in various neighborhoods in Pittsburgh. "Through this COVID crisis, I have enjoyed regular Zoom meetings with SHHS lunch table pals who live all over the country. Sadly, two of them died this past year: Carolyn Pratt and Rosemarie Esposito, making us aware of how transient and special life is."

Mary Ann lives in Tenafly, NJ a small town about ten minutes away from the George Washington Bridge. She moved there, after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in 1975, for her hospital training in New York City. Last October, Mary Ann retired from Hackensack University Medical where she had worked for 38 years. She was Chief of Allergy-Immunology, Director of the AIR Express, a mobile asthma bus that went to community schools and federal housing for the early detection of asthma. Even though Mary Ann is retired, she is still an associate professor of medicine at Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine.

Mary Ann has been married to Michael Michelis, MD for 47 years and they have two beautiful daughters, Elizabeth who is a middle school dean at a private school in New York City and Katherine who is a heart failure cardiologist in Dallas; both are married with children. Even though Mary Ann has received multiple accolades for her medical journal articles, she is very proud of becoming a grandmother and loves seeing her daughters as mothers.

"I miss Pittsburgh for its super friendly people, crazy sports fans, markedly diverse populace and the best kielbasa sausage in the US. And, of course my two brothers and our dear friends that live in Pittsburgh."

# ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHTS



ELDA EVANS  
SULLIVAN NUMRICH  
ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL

“Having gone to Cathedral School since first grade and knowing my fellow students for all those years it was so interesting to meet other girls from different schools and backgrounds at Cathedral High School (CHS). Some have remained my friends even today,” states Elda Evans Sullivan Numrich, who graduated from Cathedral in 1954.

“The school was much smaller then and times were very different in the 50’s than they are now. Our sports were basketball and ballroom dancing. On Fridays after school some of us would go next door to Duquesne Gardens to ice skate (that’s where the Hornets hockey team played). One of my favorite memories is learning to put on lipstick without a mirror. We weren’t allowed to wear makeup so we would put lipstick on as we walked down the steps outside of school in case we would see some Central boys as we walked home. To me one of the most important things about going to an all-girls school was learning that you could do whatever you put your mind to doing.

We were educated by the Sisters of Mercy who did an excellent job of giving us skills in discipline, organization and spirituality as well as academics. These have served me well throughout my life. I also learned the values of respect, listening, and thinking things over before I make decisions.

I graduated from CHS and then went to the University of Michigan where I graduated in 1958. Then I went to Carnegie Tech (now CMU) and got a degree in business. I worked for the Chemical Division of PPG and after getting that experience then went into my family’s automobile business. My family had been in some form of the automobile business since before I was born. When I came in full-time we had a Chevrolet Dealership in Etna (Coyne & Evans Chevrolet, then Jack Sullivan Chevrolet). After my father and husband passed away I became the sole dealer and had the business until I retired. I also owned and operated a Ford dealership in Etna/Shaler.

Over the years I was active in the Arts and Crafts Center, served on the Social Service Board of Shadyside Hospital, served as President of the Greater Pittsburgh Automobile Dealer Association and on the Board of the Pennsylvania Automobile Dealer Foundation.

After college I married Jack Sullivan and we had two children plus 5 grandchildren. After Jack passed away, I married Bill Numrich, a man who was also in the automobile business.”

# ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHTS

## BRITTANY JOHNSON HOUSER OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Brittany Johnson Houser learned a memorable lesson while attending Oakland Catholic High School that still remains true for her today: “Be accountable for all that I do and do quality work.” This lesson and the fact that she never takes “NO” as her first answer (a quality trait that she is most proud of) have led her to where she is today.



After graduating from OC in 2006 Brittany went to Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) where she earned a major in marketing and a minor in economics.

Following her graduation from IUP, she worked for the family business doing administrative work for the bus company. But Brittany knew that wasn't her calling. She truly enjoyed cooking and trying different recipes. Her passion really lies in being creative with comfort food and seafood. Her love of cooking came to fruition in 2017 when Brittany and her husband, Jermaine, stumbled across an out of business pizza shop and from there Soul & Sea was born. “People thought I was crazy for wanting to open a restaurant but my faith in God wouldn't let me fail; in fact, it helped push me along.”

Soul & Sea opened in 2017 but suffered a devastating fire just three months later. The doors reopened in July 2018 and a little more than a year after that, they opened their second location in the historic Southside on East Carson Street.

As the CEO/owner of Soul & Sea, Brittany is proud to be included in *Pittsburgh Magazine's* “40 Under 40” elite group this year. She was also named to *The Incline* “Who's Next: Food & Beverage 2019” list of 11 people elevating Pittsburgh's dining scene.

Not only were lessons learned at OC but lasting memories were also lived. Brittany's favorite memory was the talent show during Spirit Week of her senior year. She and her friends sang an old school song “Poison” by Bel Biv Devoe. “It was completely hilarious and I think there is footage of it somewhere!” In addition to participating in the talent show, Brittany was a member of the Step team and Tennis team during her years at Oakland Catholic. Brittany is thankful to Oakland Catholic for teaching her life lessons and for “starting my mindset to persevere over anything set in my path.”

Soul & Sea is currently accepting take-out orders at both locations.

*Photo courtesy of Pittsburgh Magazine.*

# ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHTS



## KRISTEN FINNEGAN OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

After obtaining a degree in Aerospace Engineering from Penn State, Kristen Finnegan accepted a job working for the US Navy and moved to southern Maryland. She works as a Flight Test Engineer supporting helicopter testing aboard US Navy ships. The job includes spending one to two weeks on a US Navy ship to conduct testing a few times a year. Kristen has spent time on over 15 different US Navy ships.

The part she enjoys most about the job is that it allows her to get out of the office and conduct hands-on testing while working directly with the pilots and aircrew. Recently, Kristen also obtained a Master's Degree in Flight Test Engineering and is a graduate of the US Navy Test Pilot school. She enjoys living in southern Maryland—it's a small town but it's situated directly on the Chesapeake Bay so there are lots of options for water-based activities.

Kristen, who graduated from Oakland Catholic in 2003, is the recipient of the Society of Flight Test Engineers Kelly Johnson Award: Individual Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Flight Test Engineering. She also won in the Individual Category of the Naval Air Warfare Center Atlantic Division Commander's Award which was presented to her by Rear Admiral John Lemmon, United States Navy. Kristen successfully led the CH-53K Sea Trials effort this year, overcoming a number of challenges to complete one of the most successful shipboard detachments in flight test history.

She was the Lead Project Engineer for the testing aboard the USS Wasp (LHD-1), developing the complex test plan, leading the preparations for the two-week detachment, and directing on-site execution. In 2020, Kristen led the first-ever shipboard detachment for a platform during an epidemic—a seemingly impossible task. She not only made it possible, she executed it flawlessly. Her efforts resulted in one of the largest flight envelopes after a program's initial Sea Trials test. This was a significant task as she had only joined the program in May of 2019. Sea Trials tests are so much more than being proficient at a single sub-discipline, you must be a master of them all, and Kristen was just that.

Kristen is grateful for “many of my teachers at OCHS, including Ms. Evans, my chemistry teacher, and Mr. Lear, my physics teacher. They both made the subject material interesting and applied it to the real world so that it wasn't just theoretical numbers in a textbook.” Those two classes piqued Kristen's interest in math and science and undoubtedly contributed to her choice to go into a STEM career field. Additionally, the overall atmosphere of OCHS consistently conveyed that females could follow any education and career path that they wanted. That notion made it easier for Kristen to enter into a statistically male-dominated career field. Her advice to current students is “to ignore the statistics and just choose a career field that interests you! Find work that both appeals to you and challenges you.”

At OC, Kristen was on the volleyball team and track team. She loves all the crazy memories made with her teammates during those years! Kristen still keeps in touch with several of her friends from high school and visits with some of them when she is back in Pittsburgh for the holidays.



# "They" Say the Future is STEM.

We Say That's One Part of the Story.

Oakland Catholic is a big believer in preparing you for emerging fields, giving you a background in coding, and preparing you for robotics and engineering. But if you are going to lead, you'll need to articulate your scientific discoveries. And if you ultimately discover that STEM isn't your thing, know that the critical thinking you develop in your labs will contribute to your literary genius in English class and make you a wiz in the creative and performing arts.



144 N. CRAIG STREET  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15213

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
PERMIT NO. 2574

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OC GIVE DAY

Thursday, March 4, 2021

### SENIOR LITURGY AND LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

### 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL OC EAGLE CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, May 10, 2021  
at The Pittsburgh Field Club

### BACCALAUREATE MASS

Monday, May 24, 2021

### COMMENCEMENT

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

*In an effort to be more environmentally responsible, only one OC Review will be mailed to each household.*

*If your daughter has moved from your home, please notify **Diane Totten** of her current address at 412.682.6633 x263 or [dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org](mailto:dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org).*



**GIVE DAY**  
—OCFUND—

WON'T YOU PLEASE *Step Up*  
ON OC GIVE DAY?

*March 4, 2021*

THE FIRST 100 DONORS  
OF **\$50 OR MORE** WILL  
RECEIVE A PAIR OF  
**CUSTOM OC SOCKS!**



TO LEARN MORE, VISIT **OCGIVEDAY.ORG**