



June, 2022

Dear Oakland Catholic Parents,

Welcome to the Athletics Department at Oakland Catholic High School! As Ecclesiastes 3:1 states, "To everything there is a season, and time for every matter under heaven." I am excited for the opportunity to usher in this season of change for OC Athletics.

I am Dr. Karen Hall, the recently appointed Athletic Director at Oakland Catholic High School. In my role, I will lead our student athletes and coaches, manage 16 interscholastic sports, and oversee the business of the athletic department in this new era. Having started after the spring sport season began, I've had a couple months to observe, assess, and determine what's needed. Now, it's time to get to work!

Thank you for the genuine welcome from so many parents. The commitment, passion, and involvement of our parents is apparent and commendable. We share a common objective - to ensure a healthy sport experience for our student athletes. Sport provides your daughter with an opportunity to grow, to expand her mind, and to challenge herself in new ways. I look forward to understanding the family and student athletes' goals. Under my direction, the athletic department will help your daughter develop, while achieving larger goals within our sports program. Change is inevitable as we modernize and improve cooperation, but this is the business of sport, and the future of our student athletes is our priority.

My mission, vision, and philosophy with regard to high school athletics are grounded in three interwoven beliefs:

1. The value of developing the whole person through education;
2. The importance of extracurricular activity in a holistic approach;
3. The teachings of God.

Under my leadership, respect, honesty, open communication, and adherence to rules and policies of OC, WPIAL, and PIAA will be paramount. Decisions within the athletics department will be made in the best interest of both present and future student athletes. All views are respected and the expression of views is welcome, but authentic and valuable communication only occurs when the ground rules of respect and decency prevail. You can expect direct and respectful communication from me. I thank you in advance for addressing communication in this manner and for abiding by the Communication Progression.

My overall goals:

1. To elevate our athletic department, largely through increased partnership, participation, and sponsorship, while improving the overall team experience for our student athletes.
2. To foster an athletic culture where student athletes are empowered to advocate for themselves; where they visibly demonstrate positive character development; where they grow in confidence; and where understand the importance of competition while enjoying themselves through sport.
3. To collaborate with parents of student athletes in an authentic and respectful manner.

Snapshot of my vision for the OCHS Athletics Department:

- Establish a “team approach” standard. Stakeholders invested in OC Athletics commit to roles that ensure a positive experience for the student athlete.
- Create a winning culture based on positivity, clear communication, and enthusiasm.
- Develop athletics systems and protocols to assist stakeholders in maintaining boundaries.
- Empower coaches to advocate for their student athletes as leaders of their programs.
- Develop student athletes who pursue athletic careers (NCAA DI, D2, D3, Olympics).
- Enhance school spirit among students, faculty, staff, and the entire OC community.
- Introduce Student Athlete Development sessions. **Stay tuned!*

With the winning combination of great families, a wonderful past, competent coaches, and a commitment by all to prioritize a healthy sport experience for our student athletes, I am confident that the OC Eagles will rise to the top where they belong.

Thank you for entrusting your daughter to our care. Your time, energy, and commitment are appreciated.

Best always,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Karen Hall".

Dr. Karen Hall
Athletic Director at Oakland Catholic High School