

May 18, 2020



# DEPAUL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome to the Spartan Sentinel, our bi-weekly electronic newsletter for all things DePaul Catholic.

---

**Principal's Corner**  
Mr. Russell Petrocelli

Dear Spartan Community,

This is addressed to the Spartan Community, but I am speaking to the Senior Class and their families as it relates to our plans for Graduation. During this time that the school building has been closed, the school administration has held out hope that we would be able to have a traditional graduation ceremony. In consultation and with direction from the Diocese of Paterson Schools Office, DePaul Catholic High School will have a virtual graduation ceremony on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 6:00 PM. We will have a ceremony that closely resembles the ceremony that has been held in the past and will officially certify that the students have completed the prescribed course of study and have earned their high school diploma. By releasing this virtual graduation, we are not dismissing the idea that there will be an in-person ceremony and celebration at a later date. When that date will be, I could not honestly tell you today. Some are planning for the end of June while others for the end of July or later, but no one knows for sure when it will be permissible and safe. We will schedule the ceremony once the all clear has been given by the proper authorities and will celebrate the Class of 2020, in person. I know that this is not what people had hoped to hear...I assure you that I never wanted to say it but we think it is the best way to proceed at this time.

We continue to honor our students this week as we will be having our National Honor Society Induction Ceremony through a virtual celebration that will be shared on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

I look forward to seeing the seniors on Thursday when they come to school and pick up their caps and gowns, lawn signs, and other graduation materials. If you have textbooks, athletic uniforms, or other school items to return, Thursday would be a good day to bring them in. Please remember last names A to L from 10 AM to 12 PM and last names M to Z from 12 PM to 2 PM.

No classes will be held on Friday, May 22, 2020 as we celebrate the holiday given to the school by Bishop Serratelli when he celebrated Mass for us earlier in the school year. Have a blessed and safe Memorial Day weekend and please remember and pray for those brave men and women who gave their lives so that we can live in the greatest country in the world. God Bless America.

St. Vincent DePaul – Pray for Us!

---

**Moving Forward...**

Mr. John Merritt '71

**Vice Principal, Student Life**

**Thanks, Mom!**

## ***Today was a good day, but a little sad.***

We spent the day filming portions of our virtual graduation. The video will be ready and presented to our graduates and their families electronically on our scheduled graduation date of June 2nd. It was a bit sad because, as we filmed, we finally accepted that this is how it is going to be for awhile.

We are proud of all the kids at DePaul. They have been doing their work, staying in touch and getting ready for, I hope, an enjoyable summer. The kids have done their part. They have adapted and overcome a situation that no one could ever have predicted.

The seniors, of course, are having the toughest time. They have done a great job at DePaul. They have brought humor, intensity, toughness and perseverance in their academics and also in the sports they play. The college acceptance list for the Class of 2020 is outstanding.

### **The Class of 2020 are winners and time will prove me right.**

What I admired most was the way the seniors adapted, worked and now they are getting ready to move on to the next great time in their life. I will miss them and I wish them well.

I also want to mention a couple of other things.

DePaul Catholic continues to do the work begun in 1956 by The Sisters of Charity and Msgr. John P. McHugh. We continue to welcome a diverse student body from over 50 towns, maybe the town you grew up in. We continue to educate students who arrive with outstanding academic backgrounds, and we also continue to successfully educate students who arrive with limited academic background skills, but who have the desire to learn and move forward. ***We are a high school that welcomes all who arrive with a will to succeed.***

I know Sister Patricia Flarity, Principal from 1965-2000, would be proud of our school today and the work we are doing. Sister was always about giving all kids a chance, and in today's world, with Catholic Schools struggling I think giving kids, all kids, a chance is the way to move forward.

I remember when my Dad told me and my brothers a story about my Mom growing up. My Mom was of pure Italian decent. Her dad, my grandfather, actually fought in the Italian Army during WW1. Her parents, my grandparents, arrived at Ellis Island after the war, moved to Newark into an Italian community and raised a family. It took 15 years for my grandfather to make the big move to Belleville.

My mom was welcomed as a student into Good Counsel High School, sadly now closed, along with other kids. As you know, Italians were also fighting their own minority rights battle in those days. She was actually a hurdler on the track team while in high school and her school offered a great education and a safe haven. Catholic schools have always been, or are supposed to be, safe havens for all students, new arrivals, minority students, everybody. ***DePaul continues to be that safe place in the year 2020 .***

My father finished the story, telling us that in 1963 he was making enough money to move to a larger house. We lived in Parsippany and Wayne was building a lot of new houses on the old farms that were being sold off on Valley Road. By chance, my parents were also shown a house in a lake community in Wayne. They liked the house. But then they got a weird feeling when the realtor saw that my mom had an Italian maiden name, it was almost like, "oh, you are not really welcome here".

My father and mother walked away. They bought a house on the other side of Wayne. Four bedrooms for a whopping \$23,000 dollars. My father's mortgage payment was less than \$175.00 per month. He complained until he paid off this huge mortgage. My mom, however never got over the realtor and his funny look.

***I tell this story for a few reasons.*** Growing up, the Catholic school, Good Counsel, offered my mom and her sister hope and a sense of equality and community. I hope Catholic Schools always continue to educate all of us, not just the wealthy, the elite. or the

intellectually gifted. ***I hope they always continue to offer hope to kids from everywhere.***

**For DePaul to continue to do this, we will always need the help of past students and friends.**

The major fundraising events of this Spring, our Sister Pat Golf Tournament, and our Parents Association Tricky Tray were postponed because of the pandemic. Together these fundraisers contributed to a large part of our yearly budget to help students.

As a result, **we need your help more than ever.** We have held our tuition levels so as to make it possible for almost all students, who qualify, to attend. This always requires a great financial sacrifice by parents. My Dad use to complain about the tuition, too. DePaul was about \$300.00 dollars a year when I attended. \$30 per month, and I took it to school in cash and gave it to Mrs. McGrath in the Main Office. You may remember Violet Ginger McGrath, the Main Office secretary.

***Finally and thanks for bearing with my long windedness,***

I hope you have had a chance to view the video about Sister Patricia Flarity [The link is here](#) and it is also on our website. ***But I am asking that you do more than just watch the video.*** I am asking for your financial support. Some folks already have offered financial support, and we thank you very much. I am asking all of you to contribute, whatever you can, so we can continue to offer kids the same quality Catholic education that you received. ***Your contribution does not go to pay bills, it goes directly in the Sister Pat Fund to help students, your successors.***

This is my 44th year working at DePaul. If, perchance, you believe that DePaul is “not what it used to be” as I have heard some mention, I invite you to come back and look around. I believe any concern or cynicism you may have developed over the years will soon fade away. The lockers today are even large enough to fit your coat. Quite an upgrade!

***We need your support in 2 ways, financial, but more important, we need you to remember the time you had and what DePaul gave to you. We need your good will.***

*And by the way, you will be giving to support your school, which in this time of trouble in Catholic Education, is experiencing an enrollment upswing, with new facilities being planned, a new field turf field, and an Honors Academy Program that is second to none.*

Yes, we are a vibrant, growing, Catholic high school, still located at 1512 Alps Road in Wayne, just where you left us, ready to educate the children of today.

Thanks, Mom, for sending me, Steve '74, and Bill '76 to Catholic School. Thanks, Pop, for paying the bills.

Thank you and be well.

To donate to the Sr. Pat Fund, please click  
here.

---

**Welcome, Future Spartans!**

[Mrs. Brynn Merritt Campbell](#)  
Director of Marketing & Enrollment Management

# DePaul Catholic

EIGHTH GRADE PREP SCHOOL

*The place to begin*

Hi, Future Spartans,

A lot has happened since our last publication.

Let me fill you in...

- We hosted our first ever **Virtual Open House on May 7th**. It's now available for all to view by [clicking here](#).
- We had Math Placement Testing and Parent Orientation, virtually of course, for the Class of 2024 & 8th Grade Prep on Saturday, May 16th.
- We are experiencing an upswing of registrations for the 9th Grade, interviewing a number of transfer students, and welcoming new 8th Grade Prep students.
- We are currently planning our **Prep, Frosh & Transfer BBQ for Wednesday, September 2, 2020**. (details coming!)
- Our Student Ambassadors have been busy hosting Virtual Shadow Days with prospective students.

Needless to say, we've been very busy, but we like it best that way!

There are still a few seats available in our Class of 2024 (9th Grade) and 8th Grade Prep that will start in September of 2020. We are also accepting transfer applications. Please email [admissions@dpchs.org](mailto:admissions@dpchs.org) and a member of our team will be in touch.

Go Spartans!

---

## Still need to apply?

We will continue to review applications on a rolling basis.

**[Class of 2024 & 8th Grade Prep Apply Here](#)**

## New Admissions Process

Apply online (link above)

Send us a copy of your 6th, 7th, and 8th grade report cards. If you cannot get transcripts from your school, a screen shot of your report cards will work.

Ask your favorite teacher to write a few paragraphs about you and send it to us.

We will set up HSPT exams when we return.

## Upcoming Events

Mrs. Coleen Brophy '79

Director of Special Events & Alumni Relations

## Brian Buczek Golf Outing has been cancelled!

We have set a new date for our Golf Outing and Dinner Event to take place next year on SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021. We hope, with your support, it will be as successful or even better than it has been in previous years. We certainly look forward to another great time visiting with all of you!

## Alumni Field Makeover

Alumni Field is getting a makeover! This summer, new turf will be installed on Alumni Field. It has reached it's 10 year lifespan, and for the safety of our student-athletes, it's time to renovate. The entire surface of Alumni Field will be Field Turfed. As we finalize the plans for installation, new banners have been added to the fences around the field. (See photos) Thank you to the parents, donors, alumni, and everyone who gave their time, talent, and treasure to this project.



## Spend Your Summer As A Spartan

We still plan to hold our Summer Camps - both Academic & Sport, though all dates are tentative for now. Click the link below to see what we have planned.

[Summer at DPCHS](#)

---

## DePaul Catholic Parents' Association



*The hardest times  
often show the  
greatest parts  
of your life.  
Keep going!  
Tough situations  
build strong people!*



### From The TRICKY TRAY COMMITTEE

The 2020 **Mother Earth's Garden Party** Tricky Tray/Fashion Show  
Has been tentatively rescheduled to....Tuesday, August 4, 2020!  
We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.



Have you been social distancing and shopping online? If so, please support DePaul at no extra cost with [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) Choose DePaul Catholic High School Inc as your charitable organization and let the shopping begin!



Have you cleaned out your closets and drawers!  
The donations bins at the back of the parking lot are open for donations. It's an easy way to help out DePaul, help those in need and make some much needed room!

### **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Advisor-** Sr. Jeanne Agans **President-** Allison Beshada **Secretary-** Jean Raftery, Mina Farrell  
**Treasurer-** Kim Wilderson **Tricky Tray-** Donna DiPiano, Maryann Marren, Debbie Lozito  
**Hospitality-** Deb Murray, Julie Sullivan **Ambassadors-** Andie Pegel, Jo Spaulding **Calendar Raffle-** Cindy Winkler  
**Snack Stand-** Bob Niemiec, Allison Beshada **Public Relations-** Brenda Salamon **Stop & Shop-** Rosalind Tomeio

### Our Call to Action

Over the past few weeks, we have been invited to think about how we can use our charism for the good of the Church. We gave God the time He deserves as we identified our own charism; as we pondered using that charism as a sister, brother or priest; as we recognized our responsibility of asking all unmarried Catholic men and women if they have ever considered a vocation to Religious Life or Priesthood?

The Church does not ask you to go against God's unique vocational desire for you. The Church asks you to discern what His desire for you is and say, "Yes," be it marriage, religious or priest. Even if we, ourselves, are not called to a vocation of priesthood or religious life, we are called to inspire them.

Would it shock you to know that 87% of men and 90% of women "have never considered" these vocations. Would it shock you to know, that of the few that did, the majority of them were discouraged by their families.

Brother Paul Bednarczyk, executive director of the National Religious Vocation Conference, said the discouragement from family and friends is troubling. He states, "Although people want a full-time pastor in their parish or religious sister teaching their

children in the Catholic school, ironically, they are reluctant to have their own son or daughter choose that vocation.”

Over half of the sisters who successfully professed their final vows in 2010 acknowledged that a parent or family member had deliberately discouraged them. Only 26% said their mothers actively encouraged them and only 16% of their fathers, according to a Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) survey.

The study points out that priests are more likely than sisters to receive encouragement AND discouragement. Perhaps because the priesthood is more in the public eye than religious, to paraphrase CARA. Conceivably, this could be contributing to the average age of Catholic priests in the United States rising from 35 in 1970 to 63 in 2009.

Our Church’s situation has a relatively simple answer, although it is emotionally difficult to bring to fruition:

Our Church needs men and women to entertain the thought of becoming a priest, sister or brother.

We need them to discern which vocational desire God has for them.

We need them to say, “Yes.”

We need family and friends to encourage them.

My Brothers and Sisters, these are impressive problems and we need impressive people to solve them. If any of this resonates with anyone, if it inspires questions, if it stirs your Spirit, please contact me or your Parish Office for information and advice.

Peace,  
Fr. Andrew

---

## **Distance Learning**

We may not all be together on Alps Road, but Zoom, Google Hangouts, and Email are keeping us more connected than ever. Check out some scenes from the last two weeks.

## **Please Stand For Our Morning Prayer**

Join us each morning around 7:30am on social media as we come together for our morning prayer.



---

**Our social media pages are always changing, but there are a few things that will remain the same each week.**

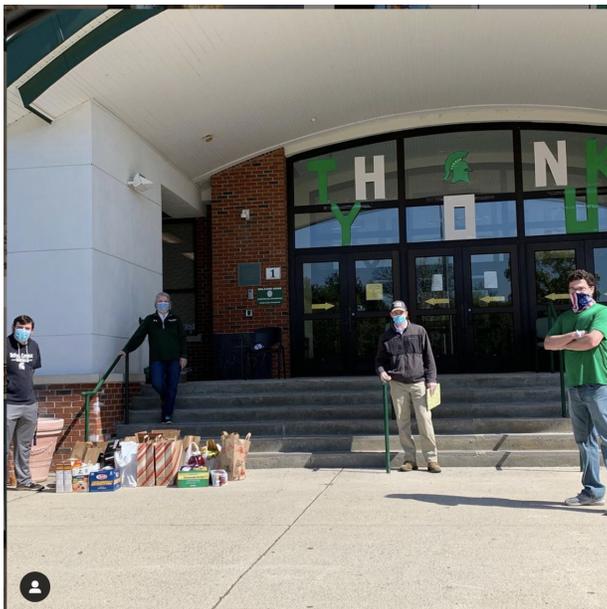
**MOTIVATION MONDAY** with Mr. Merritt  
**Takeout Tuesday**  
Wellness Wednesday  
**Thankful Thursday** with Mr. Petrocelli  
*Faith-filled Friday* with Sr. Jeanne

### Scenes Of A Spartan

Catch all of our "Scenes of a Spartan" on our social media pages.



The Football Team collected paper products and waters for their friends at Catholic Charities Group Homes, Murray House and Fitzpatrick House.



“Socially distancing” but not being distant in our hearts and in the spirit of giving! The Interact Food Drive for Catholic Charities.

---

**Desi's Jigsaw Puzzle Of The Week**  
**"Brunner Teddy Bear on the Flower Table"**



DePaul Catholic High School | 973.694.3702 | [www.depaulcatholic.org](http://www.depaulcatholic.org)

STAY CONNECTED

