

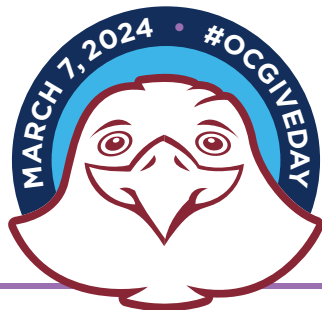
OC REVIEW

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL | WINTER 2024



Reconnecting with the Past
EMBRACING THE FUTURE

OAKLAND CATHOLIC CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE WITH A FUTURE FORWARD FOCUS



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Gift!

GIVE DAY

OCFUND

WE NEED YOU TO BECOME A MATCH SPONSOR OR VIP DONOR

If you own a business this is an excellent way to promote it throughout the entire OC community and support our students at the same time! We welcome your ideas for a **Challenge Match** or we can work with you on some ideas that have worked successfully in the past. We need **at least six** (although more is always welcome!) **\$5,000 Challenge Match sponsors** that will make these 36 hours fun, interactive, and competitive!

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HONOR OF
KAREN MARNER

TUITION
ASSISTANCE
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GIFTS IN HONOR
OF GEORGE
RUDOLPH

WE THANK OUR 2023 SPONSORS & VIP DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT LAST YEAR!

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TO LEARN MORE!

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OC REVIEW

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL | WINTER 2024

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OC Faculty, Staff, Administrators, and Supporters are, at the root, OC Believers who dedicate their time, talent, and treasure in abundance to ensure that this 35th anniversary of the school is one of many celebrations of an ever-growing legacy to Pittsburgh's commitment to "educating young women to become faith-filled, exceptional, and confident global leaders".

PAGE 14 WELCOME CLASS OF 2027

Each new academic year brings a new group of students to our school community. The Class of 2027 hails from all corners of Allegheny County and beyond.

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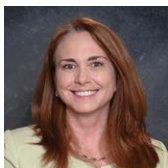
OUR MISSION

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.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy 35th Anniversary! This OC Review is focused on commemorating the 35th anniversary of Oakland Catholic being the only all-girls Catholic high school in western PA and it is a significant milestone.

Our cover story is dedicated to reflecting back on our history and celebrating the achievements and progress made by the school over the years. Over the past three and a half decades Oakland Catholic has been a beacon of Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service for young women in Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas. We have nurtured the minds and spirits of generations of bright and talented young women, equipping them with the strength of faith and knowledge to navigate the world with confidence and grace.

As we celebrate this anniversary, we must acknowledge the visionaries who laid the foundation for Oakland Catholic and their unwavering commitment to providing an all-girls Catholic education that has paved the way for countless success stories; the parents who have made the investment in the daughters' future; the students, both past and present, you are the heart and soul of our school; and to our thousands of alumnae, you are the living embodiment of our school's legacy.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the OC Review and the recounting of how Oakland Catholic began. It is our past that helps us live in the present and also helps guide our future.

KELLY LAZZARA
PRESIDENT



OC REVIEW EDITOR IN CHIEF

KAREN MARNER SHHS'76
VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

KELLY LAZZARA
PRESIDENT

LYNN BROWN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR OF OAKLAND CATHOLIC PARENT GUILD

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NICOLE POWELL

CONCETTA SILVAGGIO, ESQ. SHHS'75



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BELOW ARE JUST A FEW ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS IN WHICH PRESIDENT KELLY LAZZARA HAS PARTICIPATED IN SINCE JOINING THE OC FAMILY IN JULY OF 2023.



PASTRIES WITH THE PRESIDENT

Over 100 students joined **Mrs. Kelly Lazzara** and **Mrs. Lynn Brown** to share ideas at the various sessions of Pastries with the President.



KAIROS RETREAT

Mrs. Kelly Lazzara connected with the 40 students and faculty that attended the Kairos Retreat the weekend of December 2 in Ligonier.



JUNIOR MEDALLION LUNCH

Mrs. Kelly Lazzara and **Mrs. Lynn Brown** posed with students at the Junior Medallion Lunch at the LeMont on October 9.



NORTH AND SOUTH HILLS FESTIVALS

Mrs. Kelly Lazzara and **Mrs. Lynn Brown** joined in the festivities at the Back to School Bash at North Park hosted by the North Hills Regional Catholic Elementary Schools. They also represented OC at the Faith Festival held at Ave Maria Academy hosted by the South Hills Regional Catholic Elementary Schools.

MISSION WORK

Mrs. Kelly Lazzara worked alongside students during the Pittsburgh Mission this past November. She also volunteers at the Red Door and transports the students to and from the shelter in the OC van.



OC SPECIAL EVENTS

Mrs. Kelly Lazzara welcomed attendees to the OC Gala at Acrisure Stadium on September 30. She also attended the OC Invitational Awards Ceremony that day and presented awards with **Dr. Hall**.



Mrs. Kelly Lazzara and **Mrs. Lynn Brown** were honored to be part of the St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind Winter Membership Meeting at the Pittsburgh Field Club on January 23.



Mrs. Lynn Brown, Mrs. Kelly Lazzara, Mrs. Rhodora Freyvogel Noethling OCHS'94, Mrs. Pamela Silvaggio OC Parent

AROUND OC

Mrs. Kelly Lazzara led a small group presentation for the FIAT mentors on the qualities of leadership this past August.



Mrs. Kelly Lazzara served the whipped cream topping at the Christmas Hot Chocolate Bar hosted by the Oakland Catholic Parent Guild.





Reconnecting with the Past **EMBRACING THE FUTURE**

OAKLAND CATHOLIC CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE WITH A FUTURE FORWARD FOCUS

Buses, vans, and cars of all colors and sizes descend upon 144 N. Craig Street each morning, transporting young women from across the region to Oakland Catholic High School. They come from approximately 50 different elementary and middle school institutions. They walk, carpool, ride a public bus, sit in a yellow school bus, or hitch a ride with parents who work in the city. They live as close as a building away and as far as a 45-minute drive. They cross bridges and rivers, go through tunnels, travel highways and by-ways, and even commute all the way from Mars (PA, that is)!



The commitment to seeking an all-girls, college-preparatory education grounded in Catholic teachings and values unifies the entire community. OC Parents choose to send their daughters here because they want a faith-based, exceptional education in the unique environment that Oakland Catholic provides. OC Students understand that they attend OC not just to improve themselves, but because they are called to become the best version of themselves in order to make a difference in the lives of others through service. OC Alumnae manifest the impact a purposeful and purpose-filled education has on our world as they lead their families, churches, communities, workplaces, and industries. OC Faculty, Staff, Administrators, and Supporters are, at the root, OC Believers who dedicate their time, talent, and treasure in abundance to ensure that this 35th anniversary of the school is one of many celebrations of an ever-growing legacy to Pittsburgh's commitment to "educating young women to become faith-filled, exceptional, and confident global leaders".

A LEGACY OF WOMEN SERVING WOMEN

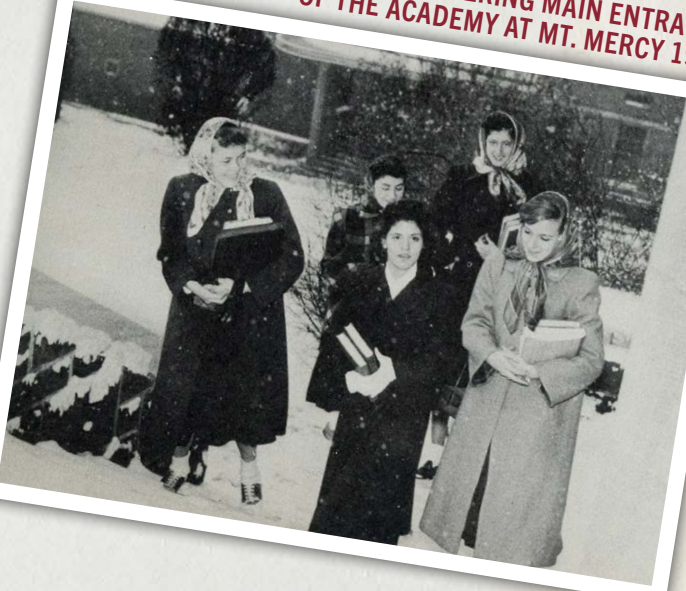
The value proposition of an all-girls Catholic high school like Oakland Catholic High School started over a century before the school's official founding on July 1, 1989. Both the Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of Charity recognized the incredible resource that lay hidden in an underserved and undervalued segment of society—girls. In 1809, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, a convert to Catholicism and the first American-born saint, founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Dedicated to the care of the children of the poor, particularly through education, she is credited with founding the parochial school system in the United States. The Venerable Mother McCauley answered a similar call in 1831 when she founded the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland.

From their inception, the Mercy Sisters were committed to the poor and uneducated, particularly women. Both orders responded to requests from Bishops in the young Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh to address the needs of a growing population of working families through education, ministry, and healthcare.

This call to educate young women, to develop in them a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith and their Christian responsibilities, and to train them to become servant leaders in a world filled with need is the historical foundation of Oakland Catholic's legacy of Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service.

In 1844, the Sisters of Mercy opened Our Lady of Mercy Academy (OLOMA), the first private academy for girls in Pittsburgh, at St. Mary's on Penn Avenue. Although its location shifted over the years, it remained part of the "Mercy Corridor" in Oakland for years, joining Mt. Mercy Academy (now Carlow University), the Campus School, and the schools of the Cathedral. OLOMA moved to a larger campus in Monroeville in 1963 and eventually closed its doors in 1979, but the school's spirit lives on.

**GIRLS ENTERING MAIN ENTRANCE
OF THE ACADEMY AT MT. MERCY 1951**



OC Timeline 1989 TO PRESENT

JULY 1989

Oakland Catholic High School is born as the first, all-girls diocesan high school in Pittsburgh, PA with Sister Claudia Klyn, OSU as first Principal.



1990

The first class graduated Oakland Catholic High School in May. In September, the first issue of OC Review was published.

1991

In January, Madeleine Vincunas is named Principal.

In September, the Back-to-School Picnic is established.



1993

The Oakland Catholic Basketball team wins Quad-A PIAA State Championship in March.



1995

In the summer, travel opportunities begin to increase, with students traveling to places like France and Europe.

1996

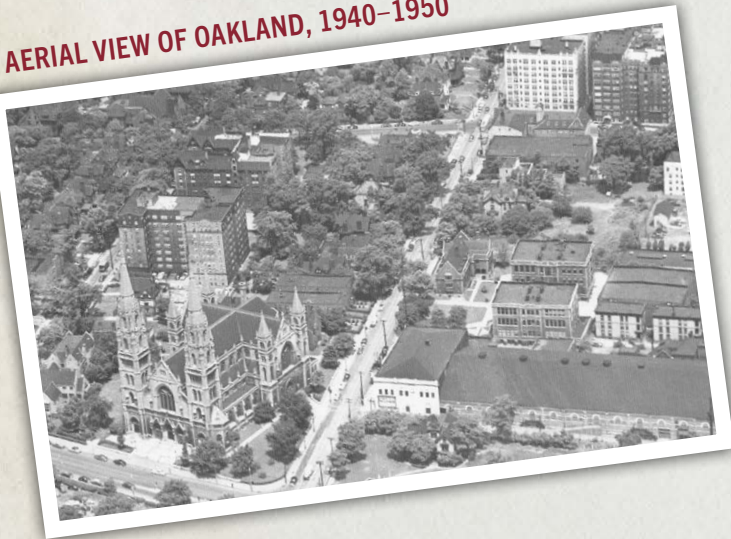
The President/Principal model of governance is officially recognized, with Katherine D. Freyvoegel serving as the school's first President in July.



St. Paul Cathedral High School for girls grew in size and stature during the early 1900s. The Joan of Arc Building housed the high school until the “new building” was constructed in 1960. An aspiration for families that populated Oakland, Hazelwood, the Hill, Shadyside, and many other city neighborhoods, it truly served a diverse population and embraced the Mercy charism. In 1989, St. Paul Cathedral High School for girls graduated its last class, but the concept of how important it was to provide this unique educational opportunity to the Pittsburgh region persisted.

The Sisters of Charity responded to Bishop O'Connor's first request to staff St. Paul Cathedral school in 1844 but were called a year later to other endeavors. Decades later, they expanded their educational endeavors in the city, establishing Sacred Heart High School in 1915. Originally a co-educational institution, Sacred Heart fluctuated between co-ed and all-girls until it solidified its identity as an all-girls Catholic high school in the 1940s. Like Cathedral, Sacred Heart was a powerhouse institution where young women of the city and beyond were educated in the tenets of the faith, grounded in Catholic Social Teaching that prioritizes service to others, and prepared academically to lead.

AERIAL VIEW OF OAKLAND, 1940–1950



Its doors closed as well in the Spring of 1989, but the vision of an all-girls, college-preparatory education rooted in the Catholic responsibility to live the teachings of the gospel remained.

Ruth Egler, a graduate of Mt. Mercy Academy, whose daughters attended Our Lady of Mercy Academy, believed strongly in the value an all-girls Catholic education provided to the entire region. She worked closely with the Diocese on establishing an all-girls diocesan high school to parallel the existing all-boys diocesan Central Catholic. Why shouldn't the young women of Pittsburgh enjoy the benefits and advantages of a diocesan community dedicated to their formation and development?

Working with her friend, **Rhodora J. Donahue**, and Rhodora's oldest daughter, **Katherine D. Freyvogel**, Ruth garnered growing support for a regional high school that focused on the education, formation, and enrichment of girls. A community of believers in the importance of all-girls Catholic education; a legacy of women striving to provide for the next generation of women; a shared history and philosophy by OC's three alumna schools of OLOMA, CHS, and SHHS; a focused vision; resources; thoughtful collaboration; and a call to make a difference... these are the foundational building blocks that launched the founding of Oakland Catholic High School, the first, and only, all-girls, college-preparatory, Catholic high school in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

In July 1989, only weeks after two prominent all-girls Catholic parish high schools had held their final graduation ceremonies, Oakland Catholic High School took up residence at 144 N. Craig Street, proudly sitting in the Mercy Corridor, embracing the charism and missions of its predecessors, and opening its doors to any young woman in the region who sought what students continue to seek today—a rigorous academic experience based on the ultimate call to develop your talents and skills in order to bring a glimpse of God's kingdom to this world.

1997

Oakland Catholic's first Strategic Plan is initiated. This plan would run from September 1997 through 2002.

1998–1999

The Parent Teacher Guild (PTG) is created. Camp OC starts its five-year run. Eagle for a Day is held for first time. The first KAIROS retreat occurred.

2000

The Oakland Catholic Student Ambassador program is initiated in August.

JANUARY 2001

The OC Dance Marathon is initiated. It was held at the PAA for nine years before it moved to OC.



2001

The Basketball team wins State Championship at Hershey, PA in March. In August, Mary Claire Kasunic begins a one-year stint as interim principal. OC develops its first website.

2002

The Joan of Arc Society of Scholars created. The first Mission Trip to Guatemala occurred. Dr. Maureen G. Marsteller is appointed principal in July. Strategic Plan #2 is initiated



OAKLAND CATHOLIC TAKES THE LEAD

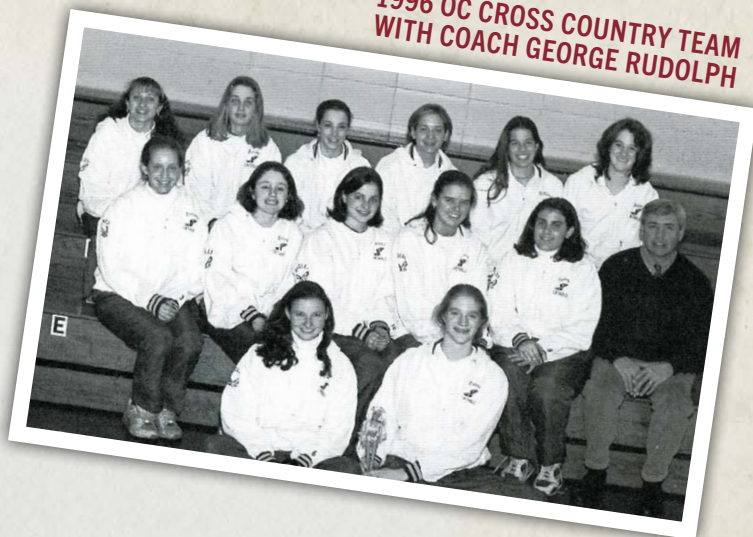
Perhaps Oakland Catholic's strength comes from an inherent sense that something of incredible worth typically stems from success in overcoming difficulties. Challenges abounded in the early days of Oakland Catholic High School—doubts about the whole endeavor; concerns about locating the campus on the former site of St. Paul Cathedral High School; organizational issues with regard to administrators, faculty, the union, and the diocese; outrage and disappointment from alumnae of the recently closed Cathedral and Sacred Heart high schools (*N.B. These schools were fierce competitors in all areas and even fiercer rivals; now, they were classmates and members of a shared alumnae network.*); and wariness of prospective parents as to whether the school would prove successful.

The dozens of roses carried by OC graduates at each commencement, provided since the school's start by a gracious benefactor, did not line the school's initial path at the time of its founding.

And yet, Oakland Catholic did succeed. That first decade proved that mission, vision, competence, leadership, faith, hope, and love always prevail. As stated in 1 Corinthians 13:13, "...and the greatest of these is love." Oakland Catholic exuded love. Students from rival schools quickly immersed themselves in the unifying experience of being a student at this incredibly new and exciting endeavor designed specifically for their benefit.

They fell in love with the school where they excelled at academics and athletics. *College acceptance rates grew year over year from the start. The basketball team claimed their first of several state championships in 1993. They vied for positions on Student Council and formed new clubs and sports—from the Human Rights Club, to a crew team, to Student Ambassadors. Parents joined committees and promoted the school to naysayers.*

1996 OC CROSS COUNTRY TEAM
WITH COACH GEORGE RUDOLPH



They loved the difference being made by a dedicated and expert staff of educators who expanded curriculum, volunteered to moderate numerous extracurriculars, and raised the school quickly to a level of excellence.

Together, old traditions were given new life and new traditions were quickly established in activities like the picnic, talent show, and senior privileges—building community, friendship, and memories. Students developed into leaders who would one day serve their industries, communities, and alma mater with competence, care, vision, and love. Love for the school, its purpose, and its mission was palpable and contagious.

OC Alumnae continue to give back as leaders in multiple ways, such as participating on the Board of Directors, presenting at the OC Career Symposium, and conveying testimonials about the power of this OC educational experience.

2003

OC Eagles Basketball wins PIAA State Championship in March.

Creating Leaders of Tomorrow Phase I Capital Campaign is launched.



2004

First OC Eagle Golf Classic is held at Fox Chapel Country Club and the first Leading Ladies Gala is held at Heinz Field. The Donahue Pavilion is dedicated in September.

2005–2006

Dining Hall, Science Labs, and Fitness Center are created.

Classrooms are completely renovated in main building.

2007

Oakland Catholic High School is incorporated. Creating Leaders of Tomorrow Phase II Capital Campaign is launched. Admissions Department is formalized on a part-time basis.

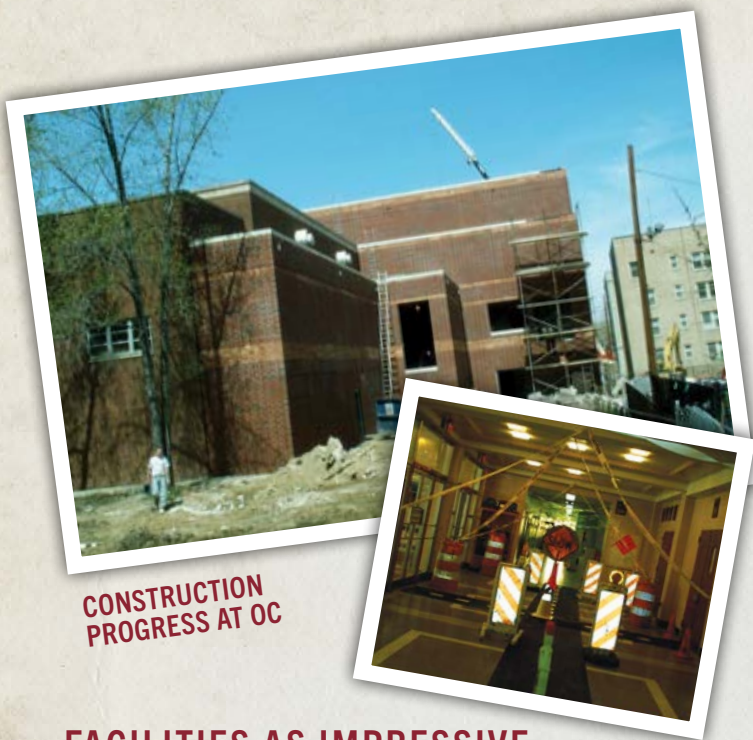
2008

First 4K Rudolph's Run is held. Strategic Plan #3 is initiated. First Breakfast with Santa is held. The Rhodora J. Donahue Chapel in Honor of St. Joan of Arc is dedicated.



2009

The board engages Partners in Mission to create and enhance the Advancement Office. OC Kicks off Embrace the Tradition, Ensure the Legacy Capital Campaign.



**CONSTRUCTION
PROGRESS AT OC**

FACILITIES AS IMPRESSIVE AS THE PROGRAM

By the early 2000s, Oakland Catholic had established itself as a powerhouse in the educational landscape of Pittsburgh. Parents chose the school for its excellence across spirituality, scholarship, and service, even though that tagline wouldn't be coined until 2009.

With a mission-driven philosophy, the stability of a President/Principal governance model spearheaded by the leadership of Katherine D. Freyvogel as the school's first president, academic rigor, faith formation, a robust extracurricular program, and championship sports teams, Oakland Catholic's overall program was impressive! Serving a diverse population of students who hailed from both the city and the surrounding suburbs, new challenges presented themselves. Once again, the believers in Oakland Catholic, now numbering in the thousands, stepped up with a solution. It was time to ensure OC's future by bringing the campus and facilities up to par with the strength of the school's program.

The Board of Directors, President Freyvogel, and the newly-created Advancement Office undertook a massive campaign to upgrade, renovate, and build. Technology demanded new infrastructure. Athletics required more competitive facilities. Students needed improved services. Families needed financial support. For the next decade or more, the Oakland Catholic campus underwent a massive overhaul.

While renovations took place, faculty, staff, and students never stopped praying, learning, growing, improving... and building the legacy of Oakland Catholic. Trailers that housed classes and the bookstore sprouted in the parking lot while classrooms were rebuilt; the cafeteria moved temporarily to the basement of the J-Building while the ground floor of the main building was equipped with a new dining hall, fitness center, multiple science labs, and more.

The Class of 2005 made yellow their color for Spirit Week and decorated their floor with a construction theme. Teachers shared classrooms and taught in odd spaces. Advanced Placement (A.P.) and College Equivalent (C.E.) French took place in a science lab. JOA Scholars met with the director in a second-floor closet converted to a temporary bookstore/office. Guidance (now called School Counseling) shifted downstairs until the new wing was built, and every Mass, every prayer service, every spiritual event took place in either the Aux gym or the Cathedral since the chapel was only a sketch in the architect's notebook.

Sure, there was plenty of dirt. And yes, some snubbed their nose at a school under construction. But the believers? The OC Students, Parents, Faculty, Administrators, Board Directors, and Alumnae? We knew we were answering a call to put Oakland Catholic on the map and to elevate this all-girls Catholic educational experience for as many young women in the region as possible.

2011

The Katherine Donahue Freyvogel Building renovations are completed.



2012

OC wins PLAA Quad-A Basketball Championship. The OC Chess Queens take Championship Tournament. Dorrie Donahue is named Director of Mission Integration.

2012–2013

Construction upgrades in School Building are completed.

The of Joan of Arc Theatre & Building are dedicated.



2014

Principal Dr. Maureen G. Marsteller retires. Mary Claire Kasunic begins tenure as second President of school.



1:1 laptop program, Mission Forward, rolled out.

2015

Collaboration Center is established to support tech in curriculum. College Counseling and Girls of Steel Robotics programs are established. Strategic Plan #4 is initiated. OC Give Day is launched.

OCTOBER 2015

Global Competence Initiative (GCI) certificate program debuts.

First OC Gala is held at the Westin Convention Center Hotel.



Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service persevered and Oakland Catholic's reputation as a premier educational institution grew.

OC aspires to create lifelong learners, and does so by modeling best practices in its own growth and development as a Catholic educational institution:

MISSION-DRIVEN AND VISION-FOCUSED

Educate young women of diverse backgrounds to become competent, responsible, faith-filled global leaders.

This was a version of the same call that the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of Charity answered well over a century ago. This was the philosophy that permeated the halls of Sacred Heart High School, St. Paul Cathedral High School, and Our Lady of Mercy Academy. This is the heart of Oakland Catholic's mission. Throughout the school's 35 years of growing, thriving, and serving, Oakland Catholic has been true to its mission. Every strategic plan, every board decision, every new program, every request for support from fellow believers has been the outcome of an authentic response to our mission and identity. Mission, coupled with a shared vision, and supplemented by competent leadership, has come to define Oakland Catholic High School.

Set sights high, knowing that God provides for those who are willing to travel the road He paves. (Vision)

Be true to who you are at the core, remembering that Christ is calling each of us to develop our individual gifts and talents, strive for sainthood, and contribute to the greater good in a multitude of ways. (Mission)

Do, speak, reflect, pray, question, research, analyze, synthesize...in this order and in a completely different order. Then, repeat it again, and again, and again. (Learn, Experience, Improve.)

Share your light and God-given talents with the world. (Participate, lead, collaborate, support, grow in wisdom...Serve.)

MAIN ENTRANCE STEPS IN THE 1990S...



...AND NOW IN 2024!



2016

Assistant principal Marisa Bragg is appointed Principal.

First OC Give Day is scheduled for March.



2017

OC Career Symposium is established. First Young Women's Leadership Trip (to Italy) occurs. President Kasunic travels to China as part of admissions/enrollment.



2018-2019

BAM! Summer camps and workshops are introduced.

Stained glass windows are installed in the Rhodora J. Donahue Chapel in honor of St. Joan of Arc.

2019

The first group of students participate in Outdoor Odyssey in Ligonier. FLAT is created and directed by then Assistant Principal Nicole Powell. The Senior Study Area is overhauled.

MARCH 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic shuts down building, but Oakland Catholic continues to thrive through virtual instruction!



LATE 2020

John McGonigle Innovation Lab and College Counseling Center are constructed.

Oakland Catholic opens on a hybrid schedule.

IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT THE PEOPLE

As we recall the history of Oakland Catholic in this 35th anniversary year, we mark the milestone achievements of new buildings, the development of innovative programs, exciting events, and the incredible accomplishments. However, these are just the stats that populate graphics, charts, and timelines.

The story and ultimate success of Oakland Catholic is a testament to its community. It's about the individuals who envisioned a school that had not yet been founded, the teachers who dedicated their lives to the hundreds of young women who passed through their classrooms, the students and alumnae who impact each other as classmates, teammates, competitors, mentors, and friends.

It gives credence to the tens of thousands of prayers that rose up individually and collectively over three and a half decades, bringing the voices of Oakland Catholic to the attentive ears of God.

It is a history of lives influenced and changed, of minds expanded and enriched, of opened and healed hearts, of souls forgiven, and of moments never forgotten.

Oakland Catholic has always been about the people, and most especially the young women who have been at the center of the OC mission long before the words of a mission statement were ever put to paper. Oakland Catholic is 35 years old in this present year, but its mission began well over a century ago as groups of Catholic women made the education of young women their mission.

Today's students and OC Alumnae continue to write the school's history, ensuring that the mission remains valued and viable well into the future. "...and the greatest of these is love." Here's to the love that binds the Oakland Catholic community—past, present, and future.

Happy 35th Anniversary, OC!

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF OCHS



KATHERINE D. FREYVOGEL OLOMA '66,
RUTH EGLER AND DR. MAUREEN
MARSTELLER

OC GALA 2023



JANUARY 2021

Oakland Catholic reopened for in-person instruction.

Remote learning continued to be made available for students.

2021

Floor-to-ceiling display cases are installed in the Donahue Pavilion Lobby.

A short and long-term exchange program with Istituto Leone XIII of Milan is established.



2022

E³ – the OC Leadership Initiative is inaugurated.

Acting Principal Nicole Powell is officially named Principal of Oakland Catholic.

2023

Installation of stairwell mural and wall dedicated to the universality of our Blessed Mother.

Strategic Plan #5 is initiated in September.

JULY 2023

Kelly M. Lazzara begins her time as the third President of Oakland Catholic High School.



2024

The OC Parent Guild is initiated.

OC prepares to embrace the future...

There's only one OC, but OUR NUMBERS TELL A STORY



20

Different Countries
Visited on Various
Student Trips



2,400+

Number of Student
Athletes throughout
the Past 35 Years



4,347

Total OC Alumnae
throughout OC
History



6,300

Total Days of
Instructional School
(including 2024)



500,000+

Total Hours of
Student Service over
35 Years

Our Building

3

Alumnae Schools,
Capital Campaigns and
Building Dedications

38

Classrooms throughout
Two Buildings on Campus

233

Total Steps in the Joan
of Arc Building

749

Masses in the Rhodora J.
Donahue Chapel in Honor
of St. Joan of Arc

800

Eagle Fan Capacity in the
Donahue Pavilion

Our Staff

1

Director of Mission
Integration

3

Presidents throughout
the Past 35 Years

6

Principals throughout
the Past 35 Years

50

Years of Coaching for
George Rudolph

84

Different Board Directors
throughout our History

271

Current and Former Faculty
and Staff over 35 Years

Our Programs

5

Current Foreign Languages
and Strategic Plans

17

Sports Teams Currently
Offered at OC

33

Clubs and Activities
Currently Offered

180

Different Class and
Kairos Retreats Over
the Years

192

Global Competence
Initiative (GCI)
Certificate Holders

Our Events

8

OC Give Days and
Dance Marathons

21

Eagle Classic Golf
Events

189

Speakers in Symposiums
(including 2024)

221

Leading Ladies
Honored at the Leading
Ladies Gala

1,124

Grandparents who
have Attended
Grandparents Day



COUNTLESS

Cookies made by
Judy and enjoyed
by OC Students
and Faculty

92

Elementary Schools Across Many
Counties in PA Leading to OC

648

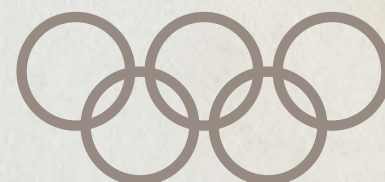
Students who have Participated
in Missions through OC

683

Annual Average Number of
College Acceptances Each Year

16K

OC Alumnae from Legacy Schools
OLOMA, CHS, & SHHS



TWO

Alumnae medaled
in the Olympic
Games



OAKLAND CATHOLIC MAKES INFINITE IMPACTS ON THE GREATER GOOD!

AROUND



Welcome
CLASS OF 2027!



Each academic year brings a new group of students to our school community. This year the Class of 2027 hails from all corners of Allegheny County and beyond coming from over 49 different zip codes, 20 school districts, 60 elementary schools, and even includes eight students whose sisters are currently enrolled at Oakland Catholic! They have created a class that is lively, engaging and rich in diversity and they are fueled with enthusiasm to meet new friends as they seek opportunities for new beginnings, and new endeavors in their high school career. Now in their second semester, they are immersed in life at OC! Some have already graduated to Student Ambassadors-in-training as they share their new love for OC with prospective students for the Class of 2028 and continue to explore the tenets of Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION CEREMONY

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students is more than just an honor roll. It serves to recognize those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character and these characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since 1921.



On November 16, OC inducted seven seniors and 56 juniors into the National Honor Society (NHS) in the Donahue Pavilion. Following the prayer led by Principal **Nicole Powell**, NHS Moderator and Latin teacher **Ms. Heather Day**, opened the ceremonies with the Advisor's Address. Senior NHS members **Michaela William OCHS'24**, **Katherine Smith OCHS'24**, and **Mia Maurizio OCHS'24** offered reflections on the four pillars of the National Honor Society—Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character. As **Ms. Heather Day** called each new member to the stage, Principal **Nicole Powell** placed the NHS stole around their neck. After inductees recited the NHS pledge, President **Kelly Lazzara** closed the ceremony with congratulatory remarks. All gathered for a reception and more congratulations in the concession area of the Donahue Pavilion. Members of the OC community look forward to witnessing the achievements and insights that the newly inducted NHS scholars will share with the OC Community for years to come.

CLASS OF 2025

JILLIAN BEIBER
ALYSSA BELTZ
SARAH BERTOCCHI
ALEXA BRONKAJ
LILLIAN CARR
SARAH CAVANAUGH
DANERAH CHISHOLM
HAU CHING
(CORLISS) CHUNG
AVA COOK
EMILY COOKE
SHEA COUGHLIN
THERESA COURTRIGHT
ANNA FARKASOVSKY
FABIANA FRITZ
VENCE NAHO FUKASAKU

LAUREN GALLO
CAMILLE GILBERT
KIYAH GRAY
GRACE HALL
MYIA HANEY
HEATHER HELWICK
OLIVIA HILL
HANNAH JACOB
EMMA KELLEY
GIANNA KENNELLY
EILA KNAPIK
MARIA KOLTAS
ADELAIDE KREUTEL
UYEN LE
CORINNA MARTELLA
MARIA MATRASCIA
CAMERON MAY

MORGAN MCCRAY
KAITLYN MCINTYRE
CAROLINE MILLER
MCKENZIE MORRISON
LAN ANH NGUYEN
SHAHZAD O'CONNOR
REAGAN O'TOOLE
KIERSTEN OLESINSKI
GABRIELA PALMIERI
SUNAI PARHAM-ALLEN
DANICA PEIRCE
GRIER PRIMROSE
MAIA RAMIREZ
FELICITY RAVANO
KAYLA REMBERT
SIENNA STERN
AUBRIE THIMONS

HANNAH THOMAS
REBECCA URIBE
GRETCHEN WARUSZEWSKI
KAITLYN WHITE
EMMA WINKLER
QIANHUI (EMMA) YANG
AVA YODER

CLASS OF 2024

ALONIE ASHLEY
SHANNON FLECKENSTEIN
TIA KASCHAUER
MYLA MADERA
JULIANA RUGGLES
MIA ZELAZOWSKI
LUCIA ZWICKER-JONES

INDUCTION PLEDGE

I pledge myself to uphold the high purposes of the National Honor Society to which I have been selected. Striving in every way by word and deed to make its ideals the ideals of my school and of my life. I pledge to maintain high scholastic standing, to endeavor intelligently and courageously to be a leader, to give of myself freely in service to others, and to hold as fundamental and worthy an untarnished character. In so doing, I shall prove myself worthy of a place in the National Honor Society.



E³ LEADERSHIP SKILLS GAINED AT OUTDOOR ODYSSEY

E³ Leadership trained the latest cohort of rising sophomores when they spent an exciting week at Outdoor Odyssey in Boswell, PA this past summer. The student leaders worked together to complete “challenge by choice” courses while learning leadership fundamentals. E³ seniors **Mia Maurizio** and **Abby Santora** worked on some final design ideas for their action research project and presented their research project—a beautification project plan for OC’s campus—to a panel comprised of **Mr. Matthew Williams**, **Principal Nicole Powell**, **President Kelly Lazzara**, and E³ director **Miss Jen Schmidt**. Congratulations to the newest leaders who completed the leadership program.



TRAVEL TALES

The OC Global Competence Initiative’s annual An Evening of Travel Tales took place on November 30. Attendees were treated to an array of stories showcasing the diverse and captivating experiences of thirteen students and four faculty members. “I was able to learn so many things about other cultures and the ways everyone interacts,” said **Anna Nguyen OCHS’25**. “I really enjoyed presenting about my summer vacation” remarked presenter **Naho Fukasaku OCHS’25**. Referencing the excitement of reminiscing and sharing memories, she added, “looking back at all the pictures we took during the trip was the most fun part!”



GUATEMALAN EXCHANGE

From October 16 to December 8, Oakland Catholic and two OC families hosted young women from Guatemala. The exchange students, **Abril** and **Fatima**, received an American high school experience, participating in a full schedule of classes and clubs and touring Pittsburgh on the weekends. Both Abril and Fatima were particularly excited to be in the US for Halloween and Thanksgiving. They also eagerly became cultural resources for OC’s students, giving presentations on Guatemalan culture and schooling in their Spanish classes and to the GCI scholars. “This has been such a great experience for our family,” said Leah Siebold, mother of **Phoebe Siebold OCHS’27** and host mother to Abril.



MODEL UN

On October 24, fourteen members of the OC Model UN Club attended the University of Pittsburgh Model United Nations conference with advisors **Ms. Maura Doyle** and **Ms. Kelly Wall**. After walking the four blocks to Pitt, our students engaged in debate, discussion, and diplomacy with 400 students from over 25 different schools. They focused on topics such as Cryptocurrency, Journalistic Freedom, the Hellenistic Parliament, US Security, and the future of Space, among others. **Lillianna Peterson OCHS’24** and **Anna Nguyen OCHS’25** won awards for Outstanding Position Papers. **Mia Flaherty OCHS’24** won an Outstanding Delegate Award and Best Position paper for her work in the Syrian Civil War Crisis Committee. It was a successful day for all involved!



CSI CAMP EXPERIENCE

Seniors **Baylie Shropshire** and **Karina Sirott** enjoyed a five-day CSI experience at Waynesburg University this past summer. Campers learned important aspects in the field of forensic science: fundamentals of fingerprinting, crime scene investigation and processing of physical evidence, DNA profiling and analysis, excavation of burial remains, surveillance techniques, planning and execution of search warrants, expert testimony and hands-on training by certified experts in the field of forensics. It was an amazing opportunity for Baylie and Karina!





↻ The Latin 2 Honors class made models of famous Roman monuments, which they presented to their class. Aqueducts, temples, and memorial arches were created from clay, styrofoam, paper, plastic plates, and even on Minecraft!



↻ Ms. Alissa Martin's Chem students had fun conducting a flame test lab using the Bunsen burners.



↻ Students in Mr. Jamie Weiss' Anatomy and Physiology classes were treated to a special guest presentation by Mr. Mark Krotec, biology teacher at Central Catholic who taught them all about enzymes and their role in metabolism.



↻ Mr. Steve Graner's Creativity by Design class learned how to code multiple different sensors like motion detectors, motors for wheels and a weapon, and a color detector.



↻ Students in AP Literature arranged seating for a King Lear dinner party to discuss the play.



↻ Mrs. Gretchen Anselmo took CE and AP Spanish students to Duolingo's office in East Liberty for a tour and career exploration presentation. Highlights included being treated to a delicious lunch, meeting Duo the owl, and learning about the vast opportunities for careers in the tech industry.



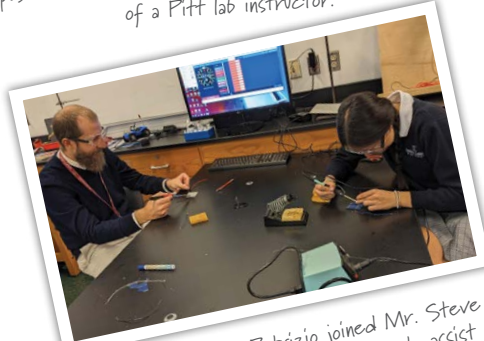
↻ Mr. Jamie Weiss' CE Chemistry class visited the Chevron Science Center on the University of Pittsburgh's campus and studied reactivity patterns under the guidance of a Pitt lab instructor.



↻ Students in Mr. Jamie Weiss' biology class used dialysis membranes and chemical indicators to make models of a cell and observe diffusion and osmosis.



↻ At Speech and Debate practice, Mr. Ryan Roccia and seniors assisted the underclassmen in planning for their first debate for an upcoming novice tournament.



↻ Mr. Jeff Patrizio joined Mr. Steve Graner's Physics 2 class to assist them in tabbing a solar panel.



↻ Romeo and Juliet wedding scenes were written, directed and performed 9th graders in Mrs. Emily D'Amico's class.



↻ Ms. Jen Schmidt and Mrs. Emily D'Amico's English 9 students participated in creative writing and storytelling.

WORLD PEACE DAY

In honor of World Peace Day, celebrated on September 21, 10 OC GCI scholars traveled to the North Shore to see *Play in Peace*, an art and performance piece centered on Little Amal, a 12-foot puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee girl.

ROBOTICS HIGHLIGHTS

The Oakland Catholic Robotics Team, THE FLOCK, had a full fall schedule and was in full force with several activities including the FTC Red and Green Scrimmage where the team ranked 11th out of 22 teams!

Mr. Steve Graner and **Ms. Gabrielle Dean** also took the Robotics Club and the Creativity By Design students to the 2nd annual Discovery Day Robotic convention in downtown Pittsburgh on November 16. Here, the students were captivated by all the available choices and career paths available that they were exposed to at the event. The Robotics team also had an opportunity to collaborate with other FTC teams to solve some programming issues.

STEM ASSEMBLY

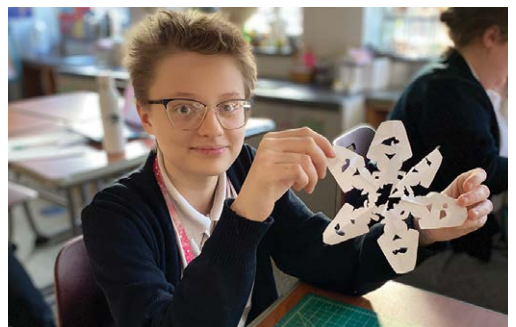
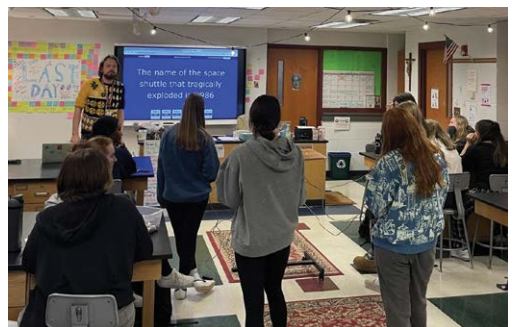
The Math and Science Departments hosted a STEM Assembly on December 1. Teachers designed a range of activities to cover student interests. Activities included a Spaghetti Tower, Foam Plate Gliders, Slow Rising Balloons, Hour of Code, Innovation Lab Keepsakes, Chemistry Goo and STEM Jeopardy! It was a fun and critical learning event for both students and faculty.

CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

The **Science Fiction and Fantasy Club** celebrated A Star Wars Christmas making snowflakes. **Latin Club** learned about Saturnalia, ancient Rome's version of Christmas, while enjoying a fun and tasty activity decorating gingerbread men as toga-clad Romans!

On November 11, National Pocky Day, over 40 students participated in **Asian Cultures Club** activities, learning about Japanese sweet snacks Pocky, trying different flavors, and playing a game outside.

OC juniors **Emma Winkler** and **Grier Primrose** created the Helping Hands Club as a way to give back through volunteerism and community service. Their most recent event was organizing and hosting an amazing Winter Wonderland Formal for the residents of Longwood at Oakmont.



KEEP UP WITH ALL THINGS OC BY
FOLLOWING US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



OC GRANDPARENTS DAY

The feeling of love and support is so obvious during our traditional celebration of OC Grandparents' Day that it's impossible to decide who is enjoying the day more—the grandparents or their granddaughters!

On November 1, grandparents started arriving at 7:30am to meet their granddaughters in the *Rhodora J. Donahue Chapel in Honor of St. Joan of Arc* for the morning activities. **Maddie Ng**, a senior, happily provided the background piano music while grandparents enjoyed watching the video of candid photos submitted by students with their grandparents as they eagerly awaited to see their granddaughter. After meeting, they endured the cold weather to walk the short distance to St. Paul Cathedral where Mass was celebrated by **Fr. Dan Walsh** who was assisted by **Deacon Bill Hahn**. The Mass was a lovely tribute to both All Saints Day and Grandparents, and one which showcased our student musicians and readers who graced us with their talents throughout the liturgy.

Following Mass, grandparents were excited to tour the OC campus, meet faculty members, enjoy some light refreshments, all while spending time together with their granddaughters. Oakland Catholic hosted nearly 300 family and OC Community members to share in this multi-generational day of celebration.

"Thank you for planning a perfect Grandparents Day once again. Cassidy and I had a wonderful time praying together at Mass, talking with her friends, touring the school, and sharing some funny memories while enjoying the delicious refreshments provided for us. Cassidy is now 16 and has activities and interests of her own. Having the opportunity to spend this day with her meant so much to me. Thank you again for making it possible and for all of your efforts in planning such a special day."

ROSE HUDSON

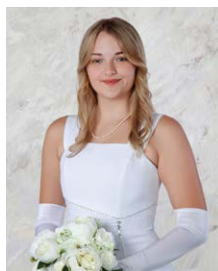
"I have always enjoyed attending Grandparents Day. It is such a wonderful opportunity to visit with Paige and see all the resources Oakland Catholic has to offer. Our class just celebrated our 69th reunion luncheon. We all value our education at Sacred Heart. I will miss coming for Grandparents Day but I know Paige has a bright future. I am excited to follow her college career."

MARY KAY KENNEDY MEYERS
SACRED HEART CLASS OF 1954



MEDALLION BALL

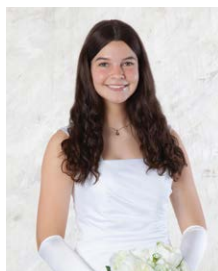
The mission of St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind is to encourage and inspire young women to commit to a lifetime of volunteer service. Our OC students excel in that mission by leading with their hearts as they dedicate their time and talents to their communities. The 60th Medallion Ball for St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind was held on Friday, November 24, at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown. Twelve Oakland Catholic students were honored at this year's event among the 95 medallion candidates who volunteered a total of 17,474 hours to earn the coveted Joan of Arc Medallion presented to them by the **Most Rev. William Waltersheid**, Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh, in honor of their service.



**MADISON
ADAMS**



**JULIETTE
BARTH**



**DEIRDRE
DOYLE**



**ELENA
ESQUIVEL**



**KATHERINE
(KATE) LELAND**



**ELIZABETH
MAENTZ**



**PAIGE
MEYERS**



**TAYLOR
PAULEY**



**KATHERINE
SMITH**



**ANGELINA
WILSON**



**GRACE
WINDFELDER**



**MIA
ZELAZOWSKI**

OC ALUMNAE SUPPORT ST. LUCY'S AUXILIARY

This year's Medallion Ball Chairs **Susanna Freyvogel Koubek OCHS'07** and **Maria Petnuch Phelps OCHS'06** are both Oakland Catholic alumna, as was this year's St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind President **Rhodora Freyvogel Noethling OCHS'94**. In addition, serving on St. Lucy's board this past year were Oakland Catholic alumnae including **Helen Hanna Casey OLOMA'67**, **Annie Hanna Cestra OLOMA'69**, **Katherine Donahue Freyvogel OLOMA'66**, **Susanna Freyvogel Koubek OCHS'07**, **Kristine Donahue McGinley OCHS'99**, **Jennifer McPeak SHHS'89**, **Rebecca Freyvogel Mousseau OCHS'00**, **Rhodora Freyvogel Noethling OCHS'94**, **Maria Petnuch Phelps OCHS'06**, **Mary Lee Gannon von Waldow SHHS'78** and **Roseanne Ruggerio Wholey CHS'72**.



Pictured first row, left to right: Helen Hanna Casey, Annie Casey Engel, Katherine Donahue Freyvogel, OC senior Kate Leland, Susanna Freyvogel Koubek. Second row, left to right: Rebecca Freyvogel Mousseau, Rhodora Freyvogel Noethling, Erin Freyvogel Leland, Annie Hanna Cestra, Trisha Freyvogel Bell. Photo courtesy of Maxine McGough Ron Richards Photography.



St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind

The Mission of St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind is to encourage and inspire a lifetime commitment of volunteer service in young women. The Auxiliary honors qualified candidates with the Joan of Arc Medallion while raising funds for the visually impaired.

CC CAMPUS MINISTRY



fiat

Senior Fiat mentors came to campus a week early to prepare to become mentors who welcomed the OC freshman class! They listened to various topics about leadership, emotional maturity, and the basics of leading a small group discussion. These leaders also enjoyed painting and acting out different scenarios.

The mentor training ended with the celebration of Mass in the *Rhodora J. Donahue Chapel in honor of St. Joan of Arc* for the Feast of the Assumption. **President Kelly Lazzara** loved having the opportunity to connect with the senior mentors and to give them a true understanding of leadership qualities and how best to engage with the freshman class.



The word “Fiat” means Mary’s “YES” to becoming the Mother of God. Just as Mary said “Yes” to God’s will, so too have the seniors said “Yes” in supporting ninth graders as they take on this new journey as freshmen in high school. Twice a month, the Fiat groups meet to learn about OC events, share their faith, and support one another. This semester, the Fiat groups have discussed self-care, their relationship with God, and the pros and cons to social media.



Averie Strohn OCHS’27 shared her experience with Fiat. She said, “My Fiat experience has been so fun! I don’t have an older sister, so Fiat has been a really good way to talk to older girls who are sister-like role models to me. Getting to talk to them about the topic of our meeting and even just personal stuff that’s going on in my life has been really relieving at times. Fiat has given me an opportunity to get to know my classmates and my upperclassmen.” **Ms. Karen Dopico** is so proud of the Senior leaders for their hard work and dedication to Fiat.



MADISON ADAMS
KATE BAEUR
JULIETTE BARTH
EBONNEY BROWN
ELENA ESQUIVEL
MIA FLAHERTY
CARLEY FREEMAN
GRACIE HALL
KATE HALLETT
ALEXIS HAMMERLING

KATE LELAND
SOPHIA LOPRESTI
ELLIE MAENTZ
MIA MAURIZIO
CHRISTINE O’TOOLE
TAYLOR PAULEY
AMELIA PERRI
ELLA REED
SURRAYA ROBERTS
JOELLE SAMUEL

ABBY SANTORA
BOA SEO
MAEVE SHAUGNESSY
KATIE SMITH
ANGELINA WILSON
KAYLEE WISER
MIA ZELAZOWSKI
LUCIA ZWICKER-JONES



CLASS OF 2027 OC ROSARIES

Freshmen received their beautiful Oakland Catholic rosaries on November 3 during their Fiat time. They started the day in prayer then enjoyed some refreshments while they wrote notes of gratitude to their Fiat mentors. Distribution of OC rosaries has been a tradition for many years and students learn to pray the rosary as part of the tradition.

MASS AT OC

Several OC team Masses were celebrated this past fall with the intention for the Mass for the respective team.

Father Peter Gruber, Chaplain at the Pittsburgh Oratory and Catholic Newman Center, took time to bless the athletes after each Mass. In addition to the team and retreat Masses, OC celebrated all-school Masses at St. Paul Cathedral for Back to School, Grandparents Day/All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and Christmas. OC Chaplain, **Father Matthew Hawkins** also celebrates a grade level Mass each week. We are excited to have coordinated a joint Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic all-school Mass on January 29 to kick off Catholic Schools Week. All provided opportunities for the school community to gather in prayer.

Soccer - September 19th



Field Hockey - September 26th



Tennis - October 3rd



Golf - October 10th



Volleyball - October 17th



Cross Country - October 24th



Swim - November 14th



Pittsburgh Mission - November 17th



Basketball - December 5th



Central Catholic - January 29th





KAIROS RETREAT

In December, 42 Oakland Catholic Juniors and Seniors attended the Kairos Retreat at Camp Ligonier. During the retreat, they had time to truly experience a break from their busy lives to immerse themselves deeper into a relationship with our Lord. These young women spent time listening to talks and encountering Christ through Mass, Adoration, and Confession. They also spent time in the community with one another, getting to know people they would have never met otherwise!

CLASS RETREATS

Class Retreats were conducted this past fall. All students had an opportunity to participate and experience a day reflecting with their classmates and strengthening their bonds as a class.



FRESHMAN RETREAT

The freshmen enjoyed their first-class retreat on September 13! Students were able to go to Mass, and many received Reconciliation. They enjoyed playing “What’s in the Box?” and doing a sing off. The theme “Invitation, Belonging, and Inviting Others” was lived out through fellowship and embracing our Catholic spirituality. Overall, the class was able to get to know each other better in a spiritual, calm and welcoming setting.

SOPHOMORE RETREAT

The sophomore class spent some time together on September 27 to learn what it means to have authentic relationships. Seniors **Santonio Hill** and **Ellie Maentz** shared their testimonies, which set the tone of the retreat. Many students received the sacrament of Reconciliation, and all celebrated Mass. The girls were given journals for reflection for adoration and their small groups. While building their relationship with God, the sophomores also enjoyed forming and strengthening their relationship with each other through dance-offs and other games. The sophomores embraced the theme of “Authentic Relationships” by having time to focus on God and their friendships.



JUNIOR RETREAT

On September 20, the Junior Retreat was a success! **President Kelly Lazzara** gave a talk on how we are called to be Christian leaders. The juniors enjoyed participating in sing-offs, dance battles, and enjoyed some sweet treats. Students also had Adoration, fun bonding activities, time for reflection, small group discussions, Reconciliation, and Mass. This was a great time for this class to reconnect with God and others.

SENIOR RETREAT

On November 2, the Class of 2024 came together for their last class retreat! Students were bused over to Brother Andres Cafe and heard testimonies from four guest speakers: **Brianna** and **Marcel Lu**, **Joni Mulvaney**, and **Noah Pepmeyer**. After each testimony, students went into a small group discussion, which was led either by a faculty member or a young adult missionary. The seniors also made blankets, sandwiches, and cards for the Red Door as an indirect service project. The day ended with adoration, Reconciliation, and Mass. Thank you to our speakers, FOCUS and Culture Project missionaries, alumnae; **Mary Kate O'Brien** and **Monica Veres OCHS'19**, and faculty that came together to help our seniors encounter Christ!



MISSION TRIPS APPALACHIA

In June, 14 OC students, faculty, and parents were joined by a similar size group from Central Catholic High School in Huntington, West Virginia for a week of service during the Appalachia Mission Trip. The trip gave them an opportunity to live out their schools' commitment to service as they build homes and additions, and made much needed improvements to enhance the quality of life for citizens in one of the poorest areas of our country.

PITTSBURGH

The Pittsburgh Mission Trip was held on November 18 and 19 under the direction of **Ms. Dorrie Donahue**, Director of Mission Integration, with the assistance of Campus Minister **Ms. Karen Dopico** and **President Kelly Lazzara**.

Sixty OC students and ten chaperones—including seven parents, spent the night at Oakland Catholic, an experience these students will never forget. The students were broken into teams to divide and conquer the mission of serving the Pittsburgh community.

On Saturday, students enjoyed serving several local organizations, including the Little Sisters of the Poor, The Nest, Propel, Second Harvest, Global Links and Light of Life Mission where one of the OC teams made 2,976 Thanksgiving boxes that were distributed to families in need on Thanksgiving Day!



Appalachia Group Photo



Pittsburgh Group Photo



RED DOOR

Students at Oakland Catholic High School visit The Red Door, a ministry of Divine Mercy Parish, every other Tuesday to prepare and distribute meals to the homeless. The girls enjoy interacting with and serving those in need. OC Campus Ministry has partnered with The Red Door to pack and serve meals for people experiencing homelessness. By participating in this important ministry, student, faculty, and staff volunteers can give of themselves to benefit those members of the Pittsburgh community that could use some help.



RESPECT FOR LIFE MONTH

During October, Respect for Life Month, **Ms. Karen Dopico** and **Mr. Jeff Patrizio** accompanied eight students (in collaboration with Central Catholic students) to the March for Life in Harrisburg. A school wide rosary was also prayed.



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Special thanks to the OC community who donated over 850 food items to the St. Paul Cathedral Food Pantry to help stock their food bank and help those in need.

GIVING TO OTHERS

Students left prayers and notes of gratitude and encouragement on the "Take a Prayer, Leave a Prayer" tree located in the Dining Hall during the holiday season.

THE ARTS AT



A WHOLE NEW WORLD

On October 30, **Ms. Kaylee Allmond**, Music teacher, directed her first OC Cabaret: A Whole New World, accompanied by Central Catholic High School's **Dr. Michael Mackey**, Director of Vocal Music and The Masque. Over 25 students participated in the evening of Disney songs and entertained all in attendance.



VETERAN'S DAY PARADE

Students from Oakland Catholic joined the Central Catholic High School Marching Band to participate in the Veterans Day Parade held in Downtown Pittsburgh on Saturday, November 11.

The band members performed well and honored all those that bravely served our country.



FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

On Friday, October 20, Oakland Catholic senior color guard and band members that perform with the Central Catholic High School Marching Band were recognized at halftime during the Central Catholic football game against Seneca Valley. All of our OC girls that participated in the CCHS band this year were a wonderful addition.



OC THEATRE GROUP

The OC Theatre Group October performances of *Dracula* were a great success! Thanks to all who supported the cast and crew by attending the shows.



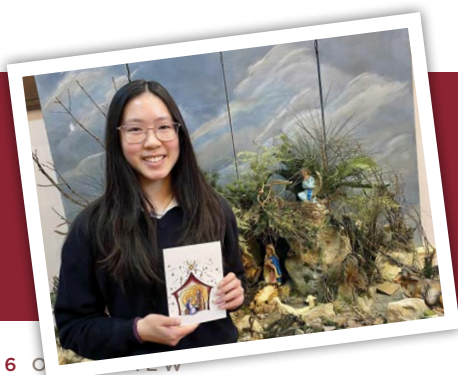
CEREAL PARTY

OC Pottery classes took part in **Mrs. Meg Koroly's** annual Thanksgiving Cereal Party tradition. They enjoyed eating cereal from their handmade bowls while sharing friendship and fun.



CMU SCHOOL OF ART

Mrs. Meg Koroly's AP Art class visited the Carnegie Mellon University School of Art! They walked to the CMU campus to enjoy a presentation about art school applications and portfolios and a Q&A session with current CMU School of Art students.



OC CHRISTMAS CARD

OC senior, **Maddie Ng** used her creative talents to design this year's school Christmas card. She used the nativity scene as inspiration for her beautiful card.



MASQUE PRODUCTION

In early December, the Central Catholic - Oakland Catholic Masque Drama Society presented its annual musical revue—"We Need a Little Christmas!" This year's show offered something for the entire family, from nostalgic, holiday classics to recent movie and Broadway hits.

The program featured music from Mame, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Anastasia, A Christmas Story, A Year without a Santa Claus, Frozen, and White Christmas, with a full-staging of the beloved TV special "A Charlie Brown Christmas!" Congratulations on the great performances that got all into the holiday spirit.



MASQUE CAST AND CREW

CAST

MADISON ADAMS OCHS'24
 ETHAN BELL CCHS'24
 CARYS BLOUGH OCHS'27
 ELIZA JANE BURGESS OCHS'27
 AINSLEY COOK-BALDAUF OCHS'27
 MIA CROFFORD OCHS'25
 NOVA DAVIS OCHS'24
 BLAKE DEJULIO CCHS'26
 LUKA DEPASQUALE CCHS'24
 GIANNA DIGILARMO OCHS'27
 MATTHEW EVANS CCHS'25
 GABRIELLA FERNANDEZ OCHS'27
 NORA FLAHERTY OCHS'26
 SOPHIA GLOSSER OCHS'26
 WILL GRONSKY CCHS'26
 HEATHER HELWICK OCHS'25
 VINCENT JACKSON CCHS'27
 ROWEN KAUTTER CCHS'24

GIANNA KENNELLY OCHS'25
 MARIA KOLTAS OCHS'25
 CHRISTOPHER KUSK CCHS'25
 TOAN LE CCHS'26
 LADA LEAZIER OCHS'27
 CHRISTIAN LEWAND CCHS'24
 CYNTHIA LOPEZ OCHS'24
 MARYKATE MALNIGHT OCHS'26
 MIA MAURIZIO OCHS'24
 ANTHONY MCFADDEN CCHS'25
 THEODOR MERTZ CCHS'26
 SHANE MILLER CCHS'27
 NIKO MIYAKI OCHS'26
 JAYLA OLSON OCHS'24
 DANIEL PATTON CCHS'25
 MARCO PETRUCCI CCHS'26
 CALLI RAJASENAN OCHS'26
 MAIA RAMIREZ OCHS'25
 EMANUEL REVILAK CCHS'27

SURRAYA ROBERTS OCHS'24
 JHURNEI M. SMITH OCHS'26
 MARGARET ACE VALENTINE OCHS'24
 FRANCESCA VEONI OCHS'24
 ANDREW WALLANDER CCHS'24
 KAYLEE WISER OCHS'24

CREW

TRINITY ABATE OCHS'26
 LIENNA BASSANO OCHS'27
 ETHAN BELL CCHS'24
 MARY BORISH OCHS'25
 CASSIDY BYRNE OCHS'25
 CAROLINE CARNEY OCHS'26
 MAKENZIE GASIOROWSKI OCHS'25
 SYDNEY GILLEN OCHS'27
 TATE HELMS CCHS'24
 ROB JAMES CCHS'24
 GARRETT D KING CCHS'26

FINN KINIRY CCHS'24
 SOPHIA LOPRESTI OCHS'24
 CLARA LOPRESTI OCHS'26
 MATEO MAZARIEGOS CCHS'26
 ARII METZ CCHS'24
 KAITLYN MILLER OCHS'27
 CHRISTINA LEE OCHS'24
 KIERSTEN OLESINSKI OCHS'25
 JONATHAN PATTON CCHS'27
 DANICA PEIRCE OCHS'25
 FRANCESCO PORCO CCHS'24
 MILAN N. SEMINATORE CCHS'24
 BAYLIE SHROPSHIRE OCHS'24
 KATIE WHITE OCHS'25
 KENDRA WILMER OCHS'24

CC ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Senior **Elena Esquivel** has been named a Semifinalist for the 2024 class of Coca-Cola Scholars Program. Elena is in the running among 1,514 high school seniors for 150 college scholarships worth \$20,000.

Elena also committed to attend Case Western Reserve University. She has accepted a scholarship offer and will be playing volleyball while pursuing an engineering degree. Congratulations, Elena!



Polygence held its Ninth Symposium of Rising Scholars! Polygence provides research mentorship and support for high school students. These student scholars discover, explore, and showcase their passions through a personalized project with an expert mentor to gain valuable pre-college experience to help them stand out.

Senior **Boa Seo** presented on her project titled 'The Effects of Teeth Whitening on Dental Health'.



Constance Tompkins OCHS'24 has been accepted to Carnegie Mellon University's Pre-College Summer SAMS program. The five-week program runs July 1 through August 5.

Constance will attend the Summer Academy for Math and Science where she will gain a deeper understanding of STEM, engaging with world renowned staff and collaborate with peers across the country.



Senior **London Richardson** attended the Pittsburgh FBI Teen Academy, where she interacted with FBI Special Agents, Intelligence Analysts, Professional Staff, Special Weapons & Tactics, Bomb Techs and the Evidence Response Team to learn about the FBI and what a variety of career paths in the FBI would entail.



Senior **Tia Kaschauer** was selected as the recipient of the Chaffin Luhana Anti-Distracted Driving Scholarship. She was selected for her commitment to promoting safe driving practices and raising awareness about the dangers of distracted driving.



Congratulations to seniors **Olivia Marche** and **Eliza Bell**, who were recently admitted to the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering! They were also guaranteed admission to one of Pitt's MS Graduate Engineering Programs as part of the Swanson School of Engineering Accelerated Graduate program.



During the summer of 2023, rising senior **Mia Flaherty** attended The Governor's School for Global and International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh.

Mia spent four weeks participating in this immersive program earning college credits in Global Studies. She also learned Arabic and had the opportunity to interact with students from across the nation and from Italy.



Senior **Michaela William** co-facilitated a Creative Writing/English Language Arts (ELA) class for middle school students in grades 6-8 at The Neighborhood Academy with Dr. Keely Austin of Carnegie Mellon University. Michaela advised and assisted in the creation of the course and then co-lectured to 60 middle schoolers. She also played a key role in guided reading instruction for sixth grade students in need of remedial reading strategies.



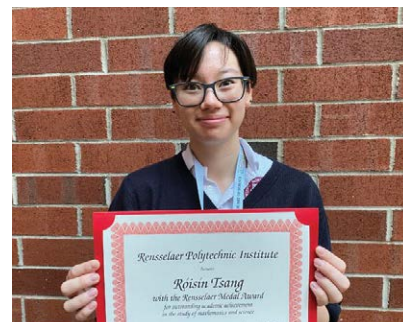
Seniors **Mia Flaherty** and **Boa Seo** have been named Commended Students in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2024 competition by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. These students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success. Congratulations, Mia and Boa!



Taylor Pauley, **Raygen Hintemeyer**, and **Katie Carney** were recognized as High Point University Junior Scholars last spring. The Junior Scholars Program at High Point University recognizes and awards outstanding high school juniors for their exceptional academic achievement, leadership, demonstrated interest in HPU and remarkable extracurricular involvement. Congratulations!



Senior **Ella Reed** participated in Brown University's Environmental Leadership Program in the Eastern Sierras in the summer of 2023. At the BELL Program, Ella participated in labs relating to climate change including paleoclimate, stream chemistry/carbon cycle, sedimentology, and hydrology. She also had the opportunity to implement these skills in the field during outdoor lab days in Yosemite National Park, Mono Lake, and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest.



Congratulations to senior **Róisín Tsang**, who has been awarded the Rensselaer Medal! Awarded by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the medal recognizes Róisín's strength and success in mathematics and science.

OC ATHLETICS

OC CHAMPIONS & ALL STARS PIAA 3A ALL-STATE TEAM

Congratulations to **Elena Esquivel OCHS'24** and **Riley Samuel OCHS'24** for making the PIAA 3a All-State Team.

FIELD HOCKEY

Three OC players have been named WPIAL Field Hockey All-Stars!

Congratulations to **Alexis Hammerling OCHS'24**, **Eve Majewski OCHS'24** and **Caroline Miller OCHS'25**.

VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to the six OC athletes who were named WPIAL All-Section volleyball players! First Team: **Juliette Barth OCHS'24**, **Elena Esquivel OCHS'24**, and **Riley Samuel OCHS'24**. Second Team: **Katie Diegelman OCHS'24** and **Josie Fontana OCHS'26**. Third Team: **Grace Kosylo OCHS'25**.

GOLF

Paige Meyers OCHS'24 and **Grace Windfelder OCHS'24** represented OC at Penn State for States and placed 9th and 20th respectively.

SOCCER

Congratulations to OC soccer players who were voted all-section by coaches in the section: **Nica Folino OCHS'25**, **Gracie Hall OCHS'25**, **Corinna Martella OCHS'25**, **Sophia Mlecko OCHS'24** and **Noelle Spears OCHS'26**! It was a great honor for OC to have five players selected.

TENNIS

Abby Santora OCHS'24 and **Mollie Schlichter OCHS'27** represented the Oakland Catholic Tennis Program at the PIAA State Doubles Championships on November 3 at the Hershey Racquet Club. Despite playing well, the duo lost to the top team out of Philadelphia. They had an outstanding season and represented Oakland Catholic with pride. Congratulations, Mollie and Abby!

WPIAL SPORTSMANSHIP SUMMIT

Four student-athletes represented Oakland Catholic at the WPIAL Sportsmanship Summit at the Heinz History Center on November 8. The students who attended were **Alyssa Beltz OCHS'25**, **Annabell Evanchko OCHS'26**, **Emma Kelley OCHS'25** and **Caroline Miller OCHS'25**. While there, they spotted 2004 OC alumna Amanda Polk's crew uniform.



LATEST ATHLETIC SIGNINGS



Channing Brook
Stanford University
Rowing



Elena Esquivel
Case Western Reserve University
Volleyball



Riley Samuel
The George Washington University
Volleyball



Grace Windfelder
Fairfield University
Golf

THIRD ANNUAL OC INVITATIONAL

The OC Invitational was held on September 9 at the Schenley Oval. Participants from 4th to 8th grade came from nine local and regional schools representing Catholic, Private and Public Schools. Congratulations to all runners on a job well done!

FUN OFF THE FIELD

On October 22, OC field hockey players and their coach ran a 'Trick or Trot' 5k on the North Shore. The event was hosted by Propel Partners in Wellness and gave team members an opportunity to represent Oakland Catholic and participate as a group.

BASKETBALL SKILLS AT OC

On December 9, 23 Middle School girls attended the Basketball Skills Clinic. **Coach Benton**, the OC JV, and Varsity players helped the attendees improve their hoops skills and provided an experience playing in Donahue Pavilion.

P3R TURKEY TROT

Congratulations to Oakland Catholic on being selected the winner of the \$500 Turkey Trot Grant from P3R! OC students **Lienna Bassano OCHS'27**, **Caitlin Collins OCHS'27**, **Deirdre Doyle OCHS'24** and **Alexis Hammerling OCHS'24** represented OC in the Turkey Trot.

MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL NIGHT

OC welcomed 55 middle school students from 12 Catholic and public grade schools around the Pittsburgh region on September 26 to cheer on the OC Eagles! OC loved having them as our special guests and showing them what our OC family is all about.

NCAA COLLEGE BASKETBALL ACADEMY

Junior **London Creach** was selected to participate in the Inaugural NCAA College Basketball Academy held in Memphis, TN this past summer. Only 324 girls were selected nationwide, including 11 from PA and four from Western PA. The NCAA College Basketball Academies for men and women are designed to give prospective student-athletes a glimpse of the college basketball experience.

FOOD DRIVE

The Oakland Catholic Athletic Department was a supporter of the WPIAL/Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank Drive that ran in October and November. The OC Eagles athletic teams contributed over 100 canned items to support the initiative. *For I was hungry you gave me something to eat. When I was hungry you gave me to eat: I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. Matthew 25:35*

FALL SPORTS IN REVIEW

6

SPORTS

5

TEAMS QUALIFIED FOR
WPIAL TOURNAMENT

4

STUDENT ATHLETES
SIGNED LETTERS OF
INTENT TO COMPETE
IN COLLEGE

3

TENNIS & GOLF
PLAYERS WENT TO
STATES

1

UNDEFEATED
SECTION CHAMPION
(VOLLEYBALL)

PLUS LOTS OF
SCHOOL SPIRIT!



COLLEGE & SCHOOL COUNSELING

COLLEGE VISITS

The College Counseling Center hosted 110 colleges and two branches of the US Armed Forces this past fall! The visit with the most students was Penn State University! The farthest schools were the University of California (Berkeley) to the west and The American University of Paris to our east!

HBCU FAIR

15 students attended the Steel City HBCU Fair at PNC Park. Seniors received on-the-spot college acceptances and scholarship offers from several colleges.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Congratulations to all OC seniors who have received college acceptances! Two OC friends shared a college acceptance! OC seniors **Sabrina Leffler** and **Mia Maurizio** celebrated their recent acceptance into the University of Delaware! See where our Class of 2024 and former seniors are going! Take a moment to review the list of schools that have accepted Oakland Catholic seniors at www.oaklandcatholic.org/academics/college.

HIGHMARK CARING PLACE SUMMIT & DAY OF GRIEVING

Mrs. Vicky Cunningham, **Mrs. Samantha Conley**, **Hannah Thomas OCHS'25**, and **Bailey Heagy OCHS'27**, visited the Highmark Caring Place for their annual summit. During their time at the Caring Place, they learned more about what it does, how it helps grieving children, and how-to bring awareness of child grief back to OC. Hannah and Bailey played games, made crafts and left words of encouragement for other children visiting the Caring Place.

Nova Davis OCHS'24 and friends created a Butterfly garden for students to participate in their OC lunch periods by adding butterflies with inspirational messages of support and hope on November 16 in recognition of the Day of Grieving.



OC STUDENT EVENTS

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PICNIC

The annual back-to-school picnic was held on September 8. Students showed their class spirit by dressing in their class colors and entered into some friendly competitions. The traditional gong show brought in some 'great' acts, but the dunk tank was the highlight of the day!

HALLOWEEN

Students, faculty and staff highlighted their costumes in the annual OC Halloween competition held in the Donahue Pavilion during the Halloween Parade on October 27. Special thanks to Student Council for organizing this fun event!

FRIENDSGIVING

On November 16, OC celebrated Friendsgiving during all lunch periods. New AVI Resident Director, Amy and the AVI staff prepared a delicious meal with all the trimmings and pumpkin pie. Students had a great time enjoying the special meal and time with OC friends.

BSU CHRISTMAS DRIVE

The BSU Christmas Drive was a huge success! Under the guidance of **Mrs. Nicole Richardson**, Administrative Assistant, School Office, Crossroads Advisor, **Ms. Tashai Thompson**, the BSU students organized tags and delivered gifts to students of Sister Thea Bowman and St. Benedict the Moor schools.

With the help of the OC community, BSU was able to provide gifts for 101 students this holiday season!

O-CHRISTMAS TREE SEMI-FORMAL

Students enjoyed the annual Christmas semi-formal hosted by Student Council on December 16 in the Auxiliary Gym.

HOT CHOCOLATE BAR

On December 20 the OC Parent Guild hosted a hot chocolate bar for all to get into the holiday spirit.

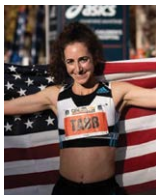


OC FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS



WELCOME DEAN OF STUDENTS

On November 13, OC welcomed Dean of Students **Mrs. Tracie Oechslein**, an experienced and dedicated educator. Her passion for student success, Catholic education and unwavering commitment to the OC mission made her a perfect fit for our community. Her primary role will be working with students in all aspects of student life.



OLYMPIC TRIALS

Math Teacher **Elaina Tabb** headed to Orlando, FL to compete in the Olympic Trials—"The Journey to Paris Runs Through Downtown Orlando!" Mrs. Tabb was excited for the opportunity to represent the United States at the Summer Olympics in Paris. Fresh off of maternity leave after welcoming daughter, Kalliopi, Mrs. Tabb had been training harder than ever before. She made the trip to Orlando but unfortunately, due to an injury, she was unable to compete.

NEW BABIES AND FUTURE OC EAGLES

Congratulations to **Dennis DeFilippo** on the arrival of his first TWO grandchildren, twins **Rocco** and **Christopher**! They arrived a little earlier than expected, but are doing well in CA! Congratulations to the DeFilippo family!

Congratulations to **Amanda Sforza** and her husband on the arrival of their daughter **Serena Rae** on August 12.

Congratulations to **Elaina** and her husband on the arrival of **Kalliopi Lena Tabb** on Sunday, September 3. Kalli weighed 8lbs.



IN MEMORY

Judy Febbraro, known by thousands as just "Judy", passed away unexpectedly on August 16. She retired a couple of months prior after managing the cafeterias of Oakland Catholic and St. Paul Cathedral high schools for nearly 40 years.

Judy made every lunch period memorable, and her role as judge during the annual school picnic Gong Show was more entertaining than the actual talent itself! Judy will always be fondly remembered for her vibrant personality, contagious laugh, interesting humor, and of course, her well-known, and the favorite memory of so many generations of young women...her COOKIES!



ADVANCEMENT

The Advancement Office supports the mission of Oakland Catholic High School in a number of ways. None of it is possible without the participation of all members of the school community—parents, grandparents, alumnae, businesses, foundations, and friends. Reach out to us to find out how you can be part of the process to advance Oakland Catholic as we educate diverse young women become competent, confident, ethical, faith-filled, global leaders!

WAYS TO GIVE



RESTRICTED GIFTS

Restricted funds are any donations made and earmarked for a specific purpose by the donor. Donors have the legal right to restrict the donations they contribute to Oakland Catholic and require that their gifts be used only for very limited and specific purposes.

ENDOWMENT

An endowment fund is a kind of investment fund that Oakland Catholic High School holds, and amounts are frequently withdrawn from the fund to meet general and specific needs. The fund consists of the number of investments made and income earned on such investments.



SIMPLY SISTERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Throughout the year, Simply Sisters Photography is there to capture moments at our Oakland Catholic events. Photography used in this publication and throughout the year is courtesy of Simply Sisters Photography. Our exclusive photographers—**Lynda Scahill** and **Stephanie Green** document all major events at Oakland Catholic to capture all of the special moments throughout the school year. Please support Simply Sisters Photography

as they photograph and document our school year and honor copyright laws by purchasing photos as keepsakes. Go to simplysistersphotography.com and click on Client Login, type one of the passwords listed below into the empty box below Oakland Catholic High School then click on Open My Gallery to order prints through the website. Please call Steph at 412-657-7375 with any questions. A 4x6 photograph is reasonably priced, and a portion of all sales comes back to OC!

Masque2023

OCAthleticSignings2023-2024

OCCBaccalaureate2023

OCCBand2023

OCCBasketball2023

OCCBHMAsssembly2023

OCCabaret2023

OCCareerSymposium2023

OCCrossCountry2023

OCDracula2023

OCCFieldHockey2023

OCCFlagFootball2023

OCCFreshmen2023-2024

OCCGCI2023

OCCGolf2023

OCCGraduation2023

OCCGrandparentsDay2023

OCCHonorsConvocation2023

OCCInternationalMass2023

OCCJuniors2023-2024

OCCLacrosse2023

OCCNHS2023

OCCProm2023

OCCSeniorLuncheon2023

OCCSoccer2023

OCCSoftball2023

OCCSophomores2023-2024

OCCSpiritWeek2023

OCTennis2023

OCTheatre2023

OCCTrack2023

OCCUltimateFrisbee2023

OCCVolleyball2023

OCCWorldLanguageFair2023



SAVE THE DATE

Plan to join Honorary Chairs Derek and Rebecca OCHS'00 Mousseau and the OC Community on Monday, April 29, 2024 at the Pittsburgh Field Club. For more information, contact Karen Ferrari at 412.682.6633 x1233 or kferrari@oaklandcatholic.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS!

The 20th Annual OC Eagle Classic Golf Tournament was held on May 8, 2023 at the Pittsburgh Field Club. Honorary Chairs, **Derek and Rebecca Mousseau OCHS'00** welcomed golfers to this year's event and hosted over 80 golfers all who were present to support the students of Oakland Catholic.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

DINNER SPONSOR

John C.R. Kelly Realty, Inc.

BIRDIE SPONSORS

Coghill Investment Strategies

J. Christopher & Ann C. Donahue

LUNCH SPONSOR

Avison Young-Pittsburgh
& Brad Totten

Thomas H. Ayoob III &
Associates, LLC

19TH HOLE COCKTAIL SPONSOR

Joe & Judy Doyle

FOURSOMES

Joe & Judy Doyle

Fagan Sanitary Supply

Falcon Drilling Company, LLC

Katherine & Ty Freyvogel

George V. Hamilton, Inc.

John Hobart Miller, Inc.

McDonnell Family

Derek & Rebecca Mousseau

PNC Bank

Linn Swanson

Tudi Mechanical Systems

Willman & Silvaggio, LLP

DRIVING GREEN SPONSOR

Joe & Judy Doyle

GOLF CART SPONSOR

Alice & Peter Leone

SCORECARD SPONSORS

Beltz Performance

Central Catholic High School

Paul & Penny McKenna

BEVERAGE HOLE & CART SPONSORS

Estocin Property Services

R. Curtis Waligura, DO

TWOSOMES

Amcom Office Systems

Flooring Contractors of
Pittsburgh

INDIVIDUAL GOLFERS

Jim Fanning

PIN FLAG SPONSORS

Avison Young-Pittsburgh
& Brad Totten

B&R Pools and Swim Shop

Coghill Investment Strategies

CPI Creative

David Vento Remodeling, Inc.

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Estocin Property Services

Falcon Drilling Company, LLC

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of Pittsburgh

John C.R. Kelly Realty, Inc.

Mullaney's Harp and Fiddle

Steelers Pro Shop

Thomas H. Ayoob III &
Associates, LLC

R. Curtis Waligura, DO

Willman & Silvaggio, LLP

TEE SIGNS

Avison Young - Pittsburgh
& Brad Totten

Beltz Performance

Blessed Trinity Academy

Central Catholic High School

J. Christopher & Ann C. Donahue

Joe & Judy Doyle

Estocin Property Services

Falcon Drilling Company, LLC

Jim Fanning,

Northwestern Mutual

Flooring Contractors
of Pittsburgh

George V. Hamilton, Inc.

Hunt Stained Glass Studios Inc.

John C.R. Kelly Realty, Inc.

John Hobart Miller, Inc.

Gloria Brashear

Koehlinger OCHS'03

Peter & Alice Leone

Paul & Penny McKenna

Mullaney's Harp and Fiddle

Pittsburgh Irish Festival

The Quinn Family

Thomas H. Ayoob III &
Associates, LLC

The Thomasmeyer Family

R. Curtis Waligura, DO

Zotter Family

DONATIONS

John & Denise McCarthy

Oakland Catholic High
School PTG

Michael A. Shovlin



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 WINNING TEAMS!

Women's 1st Place: Holly Hoff, Rebecca Mousseau, Annina Silverman, and Jen Totten.

Men's 1st Place: Joe Gartner, D.J. Miller, Derek Mousseau, and Phil Tedesco.

Men's 2nd Place: Sean Fagan, Jared Farabee, Dale Morgele, and Johnny Volpi.

Men's 3rd Place: Peter Leone, David Regan, T. Brad Totten, and Gerry Totten.



Do you want your PA state tax dollars to help an Oakland Catholic student in need with her tuition? Yes, you do! Gather the facts of the simple process and join the supporters that will contribute more than \$523,000 in tax credit *scholarships* to our young women at Oakland Catholic for the 2023-2024 school year.

WE PROUDLY ACKNOWLEDGE OUR EITC/OSTC PARTICIPANTS!

Anonymous	Peter & Alice Leone
Michael & Lisa Anselmo	Maher Duessel Certified Public Accountants
Thomas H. Ayoob, III & Associates, LLC	Doug & Carol MacPhail
Carnegie Mellon University	Tom & Kelly McDonnell
Gary & Megan Doyle	Jim & Colleen Meyers
Extreme Restoration	Nextier Bank
Fathead's Saloon	PA Partners for Education LLC
1805 East Carson St. Corporation	Dr. Kiran & Mrs. Rose Rajasenan
Federated Advisory Services	Hank & Tina Richard
First National Bank (EITC and OSTC)	Tim & Kristie Steitz
Diane & John Fisher	Francesco & Natalie Tirone
Anthony & Connie Folino	United Concordia
Glimcher Brokerage	U.S. Steel (via Bridge Foundation)
Linda & Daniel Haller	Waste Management (via Bridge Foundation)
Kelly Realtors, Inc	Blair & Rubia William
Robert & Amy Kreutel	
Scott Lammie	

Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC)

are PA state programs that provide qualified individuals and business owners with the opportunity to allocate their state taxes to a non-profit organization.

\$523,000

distributed during the 2023-2024 fiscal year

212

students who received aid in the 2023-2024 fiscal year



412-682-6633 ext. 1263



dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org

To learn more about how you as an individual, or you and your business can participate, please contact **Diane Totten**, Director of Constituent Relations at 412.682.6633 x1263, or email at dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org.



Oakland Catholic is proud to be one of the Pittsburgh area schools to receive a portion of the \$108,200 of EITC scholarship funds donated by Waste Management via the Bridge Educational Foundation.

In attendance at the event held at Pittsburgh Urban Christian School were Senator Jay Costa, RBC Capital Markets and Bridge representatives, personnel from recipient schools including **Stephanie Bachman**, Business Manager, and **Diane Totten**, Director of Constituent Relations from OC. The generous support from Waste Management benefits multiple Oakland Catholic families during this school year.



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:

SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL

Rose Marie Scott SHHS'45

Irene Schultz SHHS'51

Anna M. Noonan Connelly SHHS'52

Ann McGrath SHHS'58

Judith A. Millan Pribanic SHHS'59

Theresa A. Jones Sedinger SHHS'59

Mary Louise Sosso SHHS'68

Kathy A. Reiner SHHS'70

Barbara C. Yavorka SHHS'71

Kathleen J. Gilmartin Vesco SHHS'73

Mary C. James SHHS'77

Alda Maria Costa SHHS'84

ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL

Dolores M. Chieffe CHS'46

Mary Joan Anderson Blank CHS'50

Henrietta Maus Recko CHS'51

Mary E. Aquiline CHS'52

Jean J. Lamanna CHS'54

Margot A. Mulligan Vaughan CHS'54

Carol A. Coleman CHS'62

MaryAnn Price LeDonne CHS'63

Carol A. Staley CHS'63

OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY

Barbara E. Clegg Fitch OLOMA'49

Nancy J. Voss OLOMA'53

Patricia Chapman Sereno OLOMA'59

Mary Louise Griffin OLOMA'60

Nancy J. Haben OLOMA'60

Alice Laffey OLOMA'62

Veronica V. Volcheck OLOMA'67

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Kata Hribar Carter OCHS'02

Molly Arthur OCHS'07

List includes names of deceased alumnae as of January 24, 2024.



THERESE ROCCO CHS'43

Leadership, confidence, the ability to identify problems facing our world, and the sense that you have a responsibility to give back to the greater good, have always been and remain hallmarks of an all-girls Catholic education. Therese Rocco CHS'43, took that responsibility to heart and she worked tirelessly to resolve problems in her community and our nation through her work on the Pittsburgh police force. Because of her competence, vision, and leadership, she was named the first female Assistant Chief of Police in Pittsburgh, and the in the nation.



Therese passed away at the age of 97 on December 11. She began her 40-year career in 1949 as a clerk for the bureau's Missing Persons Unit. She later took charge of that unit and helped to find thousands of missing persons and reunite them with family. Known as "The Rock," she was highlighted by Newsweek Magazine in 1987. Therese always remembered her roots and returned in 2018 to speak to the young women at Oakland Catholic.

Pictured to the left: Therese Rocco poses with Caroline Richard, OCHS'19 during her CCW session in 2018.

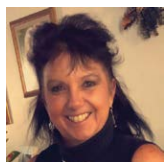
ALUMNAE NEWS



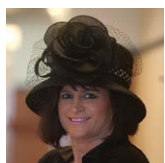
Oakland Catholic High School is eager to connect with our alumnae! Submit reunion information, career news, graduation updates and anything else you feel pertinent to **Diane Totten**, Director of Constituent Relations by sending an email to dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org or calling 412-682-6633 ext. 1263.



Joan Rozmus Bowling CHS'74 came together with four generations of family as they gathered in Upper St. Clair on July 3 to celebrate her 95-year young mother, Lil. "There is no greater blessing than good health and a great family to enjoy it with. And what a youthful spirit mom has. Her only other request was a cake from Oakmont Bakery. We were happy to oblige!" *Photo courtesy of Simply Sisters.*



Kathaleen Kennedy Cole SHHS'81 is a registered Pharmacist currently working at Independence Health Systems. Kathaleen is very thankful for the chemistry and math classes she took at Sacred Heart High School.



JoAnne Klimovich Harrop SHHS'81 has written her first book, "A daughter's promise" inspired by her 2021 national Edward R. Murrow award-winning story about quarantining with her 93-year-old mother, Evelyn, in her nursing home during the pandemic. The book launched in October on Amazon and Book Baby.



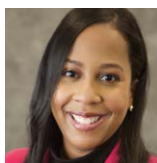
Carrie Brunner Ruggiero, Misty Dawgiello Druga, Allison Bevan Moore, all OCHS'94 alumnae along with **Lynn Brown**, Executive Assistant to the President and Director of the OC Parent Guild, have been getting together for the past 20 years for their annual wine weekend at Geneva on the Lake, OH. Although the alumnae group was a little smaller this year, since typically there are eight or more OC Eagles continuing the friendship that all started at Oakland Catholic.



Sarah Kelly OCHS'97, a 15+ year Google veteran, is currently a Senior Program Manager, where she is focused on transforming the shopping experience on Google.com. She serves on the board of Jeremiah's Place, which provides free, emergency childcare.



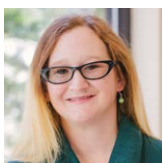
Carey Welsh, MD OCHS'97 is a clinical neonatologist who joined the UPMC Division of Newborn Medicine in 2018 and is certified in pediatrics and perinatal-neonatal medicine by the American Board of Pediatrics. In her current positions as the Associate Regional Medical Director of Newborn Medicine in Central PA as well as the Medical Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at UPMC Harrisburg, Carey develops operational leadership and a coordination of medical care across multiple UPMC hospitals and medical teams.



Jennifer Smith Pannill OCHS'98 and former OCHS Board Director was one of the winners of the Diocese of Pittsburgh's Manifesting the Kingdom Award. The awards honor current laity, clergy, and consecrated men and women who demonstrate the presence of Jesus in their lives and have participated in an exceptional service to the Church.



Heather Worthy Wilson OCHS'98 recently transitioned into a new role as Chief Strategy and Growth Officer for the YMCA of Greater Brandywine in West Chester, PA. "Good health should not be reserved for a subset of the community but it is a right of all people from all walks of life," Heather says. "I am thrilled to share my health expertise and passion for health equity. Great things happen when we all work together."



Heather Bova Kreke OCHS'99 is passionate about showing teens and young adults they can find hope in God's plan for their lives—even through the darkest times. Her debut novel *Path of Totality* won first place in the 2023 Selah awards in the First Novel category.



Sabrina Saunders-Mosby OCHS'99, President and CEO, Vibrant Pittsburgh and former OCHS Board Director, was named as one of the Pittsburgh Business Times 2023 C-Suite Award winners. The winners were honored as the region's most accomplished business leaders who have demonstrated vital leadership and business savvy to guide their companies to success.



Valeria Bradley OCHS'03 and Akida McLain (CCHS) welcomed their son, Armias Maxwell, on August 19. He was born at Texas Children's Hospital and weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. and was 19" long.



Courtney Ceponis Murcko, Katie Swanson, Kate McMackin Reed, and Meg Zumbrun Krider, all **OCHS'03** alumnae, enjoyed a meal together with their littles at Alta Via Pizzeria in Bakery Square this summer!



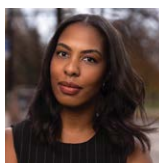
Kelly McKeen and **Candice Carr OCHS'03** were spotted at the Taylor Swift Eras Tour concert.



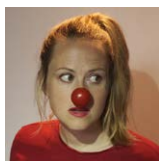
Gia Medvid, Maria Magnotta, Courtney McMackin Strouse, and Jamie McLaughlin, all **OCHS'03** alumnae, enjoyed a night out together.



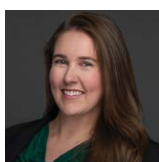
Candice Pulkowski OCHS'03 was named as one of the 40 Under 40 Honorees from Pittsburgh Magazine and PUMP as a person whose creativity, vision, and passion enrich the Pittsburgh region. In her role as Manager of Member Experience & Engagement, Highmark Wholecare, Candice interacts with customers via interviews for the Wholecare magazine. At Highmark, she has increased member satisfaction scores, and in 2020 she launched a Voice of the Customer initiative. Her community involvement is unstoppable as she has supported more than 20 causes via board or volunteer commitments. In 2016, Candice co-founded Benevine, which links young professionals with non-profit organizations that need specific skills and support.



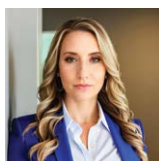
Chloe Taylor OCHS'04 is an author and entrepreneur based in Brooklyn, New York. She is the founder of Chloe Taylor Technology, a STEM education consulting company that partners with schools looking to incorporate meaningful technology education for young learners. Chloe has been a facilitator of the Girls Who Code program for six years.



Audrey Rose Hickton Dégez OCHS'06 is a producer, director, playwright, actress, mother, and wife from Pittsburgh and based in Paris, France. Her theatrical areas of research include physical theatre, clown, and theatre of cultural resistance.



Sheila Grab, PhD, OCHS'06, is currently working in clinical research as a clinical and regulatory scientist. Sheila works with a wide range of biological, medical device, small molecule and combination products from early development through clinical implementation.



Nicole Talak OCHS'06 joined Verizon Wireless in 2020. She serves as the Associate Director for Network Engineering in the Global Network and Technology branch. Nicole graduated from Duquesne University in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, and is currently pursuing her MBA.

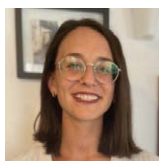


Erica Prosser OCHS'07 was selected to the Pittsburgh Basketball Club Women's Hall of Fame Legends Division, Class of 2023. She was honored on November 4.



Caroline Fitzgerald OCHS'08 was interviewed by CNN's Christina Macfarlane on First Move in August to make the business case for women's sports. She thanked the reporters and outlets like CNN for providing the platform to educate the business community on how lucrative women's sports can—and will be. Caroline recently made a trip back to her alma mater to participate in the Penn State College of Liberal Arts Emerging Alumni Leaders program.

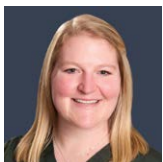
Photo courtesy of CNN.



Andi Thieman OCHS'08, founder of pennyloafer.org, has joined Closegap as the Director of Operations.



Chelsea Konopka Barry OCHS'09 was named the Residency Program Director of the Critical Care Pharmacy Residency program at Allegheny General Hospital (AGH). Chelsea is a 2015 graduate of the Duquesne University School of Pharmacy, and completed her post-graduate residency training in acute care and critical care at AGH. Her clinical practice is in the Cardiothoracic Surgical ICU.



Elizabeth Richmond Flanders, MSN, RN, AGPCNP-BC, NP-C, GS-C, OCHS'09 is a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner who specializes in geriatric primary care at the Center for Success Aging (CSA) in Baltimore, Maryland. Within the interdisciplinary team, Elizabeth collaborates with medical assistants, physical therapists, pharmacists, geriatricians, and social workers.



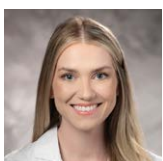
Alex Willey Vaglica OCHS'09 is Assistant Vice President, Capital Markets, Berkshire Residential Investments. Alex is responsible for client relations activities at Berkshire including creation of marketing materials and the preparation of fund offering materials.



Taylor Doaty OCHS'10 is a Senior Employee Relations Partner at Google, focused on enabling equitable outcomes for workplace investigations. Beyond her HR career, she spends her time volunteering in the New York Community with Big Brothers Big Sisters, God's Love We Deliver, and the Bowery Mission.



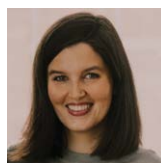
Addi Watters Georgantzis OCHS'10 and her husband, Lefteris, welcomed their first child, Adriana Michelle Georgantzis. She was born on June 23, six weeks early but she is thriving, and is adored by her parents.



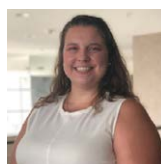
Dr. Julie Walsh OCHS'10 successfully completed her general surgery training at Mercy Health in Toledo, OH, in June. She is pursuing her fellowship training in trauma surgery at Duke University. Her family and friends are extremely proud of her for accomplishing her lifelong dreams.

Louisa Fitzgerald OCHS'11 was promoted to Sr. R&D Manager, Global Brands at Ferrara.

Devan Mercurio OCHS'11 was one of the recipients of the Pittsburgh Planned Giving Council's scholarship to attend this year's Emerging Philanthropy Conference. Devan is the Senior Manager of Development with the Pittsburgh Public Theater.



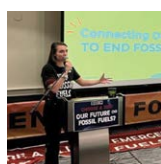
Mary Claire Doyle Schneider OCHS'11 and her husband, Erik, celebrated their daughter, Lucy, on her first birthday in August. Mary Claire is a Senior Program Specialist at Deloitte. She graduated from Penn State Schreyer Honors College in 2015 with degrees in Economics and Human Development & Family Studies, and a minor in Business.



Mary Price Petrusch OCHS'11 and her husband, Zachary, welcomed Benjamin Paul Petrusch on July 15, 2023. Benny weighed 7.7lbs and was 19.25 inches long. Mary is the Lead Employment Specialist at Transitional Paths to Independent Living (TRPIL) and Voices for Independence (VFI). She works with people to explore career paths to find and maintain permanent employment.



Jackie Klunk OCHS'12 is an outpatient dietitian with the UPMC Presbyterian Outpatient Nutrition Services team. She strongly values providing care from a compassionate perspective to help others achieve their long-term goals for health and well-being, both physically and mentally.



Molly Morabito OCHS'13, a Climate Organizer at the Center for Biological Diversity, helped organize the first national Youth vs. Fossil Fuels Convergence bringing together over 75 youth climate leaders from across the country to connect and strategize together on youth-led campaigns and actions to end the era of fossil fuels.



Sammi Cohen OCHS'14 is the Social Media and Influencer Marketing Manager at BabyBjörn, a family-owned Swedish brand that specializes in high-quality baby products. In her role she creates and manages targeted social media campaigns and builds strategic partnerships with influencers to boost brand awareness.



Francesca Iurlano OCHS'15 is a senior associate in the Assurance Risk Management group at Grant Thornton, LLP, a public accounting firm. Outside of work, Francesca spends her time with family and friends, traveling, and volunteering in the community.

Gretchen Shepard OCHS'15 is a Clinical Supervisor at Progressive Medical Specialists and a licensed professional counselor in the state of PA.

Mary O'Brien OCHS'16 has joined Carlow University as Achievement Coach.



Arianna Burns Ordway OCHS'16 is a Child Advocacy Specialist at KidsVoice. She works alongside a team of attorneys to advocate for children that are active within the child welfare or juvenile justice court system ensuring that the child's rights are being maintained and the child is receiving everything they need while active with family division courts.

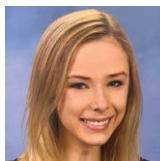
Mary Kathryn Daigle OCHS'17 started a new position as Press Assistant at The Office of Congressman Chris Deluzio.



Bella Statnick OCHS'17 graduated from John Carroll University in 2021 and joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and served two years at Dolores Mission Church in East Los Angeles as the youth ministry assistant and immersion coordinator. "I have just finished two beautiful years accompanying teens in the community. I will be heading to Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry on a full scholarship to pursue my Masters of Divinity as well as working in Boston College's Campus Ministry Department as the Graduate Assistant for Kairos. If it weren't for Oakland Catholic's Campus Ministry program, I wouldn't be where I am today. I am deeply grateful for my time spent in all the beautiful programs and the leadership opportunities campus ministry offered. It inspired my future and created many dreams of the person I wanted to become."



Siena DeAngelo OCHS'18 graduated from St. Bonaventure University with an MBA and is now back in Pittsburgh with Citrone 33 as a Marketing Specialist.



Molly DeLuca OCHS'18, a Notre Dame Physics & Astronomy graduate of 2022, has been selected to the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP). She is currently a graduate assistant at the UW-Madison Cyclotron Lab. In the spring of 2022, Molly was inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma, the official honor society of the physics profession. She also was the co-recipient of the 2022 Undergraduate Research Award from the Department of Physics & Astronomy. Molly graduated *magna cum laude* from Notre Dame and was a Glynn Family Honors student.

Grace Doerfler OCHS'18 started a new position as Reporter at KPCW Radio, a public radio station in Park City, Utah.

Sophia Rizzo OCHS'18 is excited to share that she has been promoted to Manager of Club Events & Operations with the Pittsburgh Steelers and PSSI Stadium LLC. She was happy to ensure that everything was perfect for the OC Gala!

Isabelle Schmeler OCHS'18 began a new position as 2024 Political Desk Researcher at NBC News.

Katherine Rose Anthony OCHS'19 started graduate school at The University of Pittsburgh at The Katz School of Business. She is pursuing a Master's degree in Marketing Sciences. Katherine was selected as a Katz Student Ambassador and is the Assistant Vice President of the Katz Marketing Club.

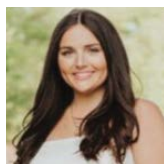


Sierra DeAngelo OCHS'19, a basketball graduate forward at Iona, was named the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Player of the Week after averaging a double-double in two games. She paced the Gaels with 23.5 points and 11.0 rebounds per game to go with a 51.4% goal percentage in two games. Sierra played four seasons at Fairleigh Dickinson before graduate transferring to Iona for her final year of college basketball.



Molly Doerfler OCHS'19 graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a BS in Mechanical Engineering and a DaVinci concentration in Art, Art History, and Design. This summer, she worked as a Program Assistant for Notre Dame's Rome Summer Engineering Program. This September, Molly headed to Dublin to begin a yearlong Master's in Environmental Technology within University College Dublin's School of Biosystems & Food Engineering. She is grateful to the Naughton Fellowship for making this program possible and was excited to dive into life in Ireland!

Victoria Gevaudan OCHS'19 started a new position as Graduate Assistant for Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) at the University of Washington.



Aliza Gloninger OCHS'19 graduated from John Carroll University with a BA in Communications and a concentration in Integrated Marketing. She joined the Lit Fiber Medina team as a Marketing

Coordinator in September.

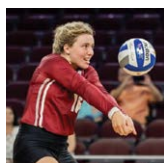
Sofia Heller OCHS'19, a graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University, started a new position as Short Film Competition Co-Coordinator.

Emma McMahon OCHS'19 began a new position as Account Assistant, Fashion at Karlo Otto.

Maricairin Minnock OCHS'19 started a new position as Project Scientist at Influential Drones.

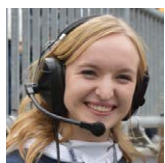
Victoria Viola OCHS'19 was promoted to Corporate Communications Specialist at F.N.B. Corporation.

Anela Brown OCHS'20, a Penn State student majoring in Marketing with a Supply Chain and Information Systems minor, is the Entertainment Captain at Penn State THON.



Taylor Cigna OCHS'20 plays on the Colgate women's volleyball team and was named the Patriot League Tournament MVP in November. She helped push the Raiders to the tournament win and an automatic entry in the NCAA tournament. Her coach says, "Taylor is one of the hardest working players I've ever coached. Her work ethic, compassion, humorous personality, and loyalty have infiltrated our program both on and off the court."

Emma Fandray OCHS'20 graduated *magna cum laude* in three years from Kent State University in August. She is attending the West Virginia University School of Medicine for Physician Assistant Studies.



Emma Holtz OCHS'20 started a new position as Treasurer at the Association for Women in Sports Media at Penn State University.

Sofia Llovet-Nava OCHS'20 was happy to participate in this year's U360 Business Sustainability internship class. "Considering that small businesses contribute to 65% of pollution, U360 is a high-impact opportunity, and I am excited to work with the team at Manomet and business owners across the country on ESG analysis, while learning about the development of sustainability action plans."



Caroline McShea OCHS'20 was awarded the Marly Pineda Award for the second year in a row. This award is given for exemplifying Positive Attitude, Spirit of Champion, Passion, Sportsmanship, Dedication, and Selflessness. Caroline spent this summer serving an internship in all areas of food and beverage at the Chevy Chase Club in Bethesda, MD.

Emma Shaughnessy OCHS'20 was a summer intern at Warner Music Nashville (WMN). She spent ten weeks in the Strategic Partnerships department learning best practices for brand research and outreach, creating pitch decks for artists and events, and preparing for the annual CMA Awards. In addition to this internship, Emma was also fortunate to have another ten-week internship with Bauer Entertainment Marketing. "I learned the ins and outs of social media marketing from ideating social concepts and creating content to generating weekly KPI reports."



Mallory Sherman OCHS'20 realized a new interest in art in January 2023. As a marketing major at Pitt, she began painting (either on sketchbook paper or a canvas) with paint sticks. Once satisfied, Mallory then takes a photograph of the painting. She then edits this image by mirroring and rotating the photograph to create a final piece of art. This image is then adjusted to fit an 8 x 8 size and printed as a square print. "My work begins on paper or canvas, turns into a photograph, becomes a digital work, and then finally reverts back to a physical print medium." Mallory had two pieces featured in Wick Monet's Aural Exhibition and has participated in two international online abstract art gallery exhibitions.



Maggie Storti OCHS'20, a senior studying Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism along the Pre-Medicine track, joined the Case Western Reserve University Entrepreneurship team because she realized "I had a passion for innovation, and helping people with their start-ups, especially in the healthcare field." In her free time, Maggie plays on the Varsity soccer team.

Caterina Veneziano OCHS'20 started a new position as a Paraprofessional at St. Anthony School Programs.

Lindsey Bonavita OCHS'21, a student at Loyola University, started a new position as Book Designer at Apprentice House Press.

Maya Weaver OCHS'21, an Anthropology student at the University of Delaware, spent time this summer collaborating with Dr. Andrew McCormick on an article recently published in the American Journal of Medical Genetics. Through the guidance of Dr. McCormick and visitations at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Maya "gained invaluable insight on the healthcare transition process for individuals with Down syndrome."



Caroline Sarneso OCHS'22 is happy to serve as a Theology Mentor for the University of Notre Dame Theology Department. She and **Rachel Sweeny OCHS'22** found time to snap a selfie on campus.

Charlotte Devlin OCHS'23 was named as Undergraduate Advisory Board Member at UPenn CURF—Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships.

She is a first-year Pre-Med student at the University of Pennsylvania. Charlotte is also a News Brief Committee Member at Penn Bioethics Journal.



Rachel Haver, Chloe Shovlin, Adela Holland, Kate Burns, Hannah Friday, Mary Nagy, and Aibreann Shovlin, all **UCHS'23** alumnae, got together for a Pitt game in October. Once an Eagle...always an Eagle!



Alexa Washington OCHS'23, a freshman Guard at the University of North Florida, scored her first career points, a three pointer, during a game against Florida.

UPDATES WITH A BURGUNDY BORDER REPRESENT THE ALUMNA SPEAKERS AT THE 2024 OC CAREER SYMPOSIUM.

REMINDER TO COMPLETE THE CENSUS

It's not too late to complete our alumnae census form. We received an overwhelming response to our census request. Thank you to the over 700 alumnae who have updated their records with us. Confirm YOUR data today to ensure you don't miss anything OC in the near future. Scan this QR code to complete your census now!



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 at 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.



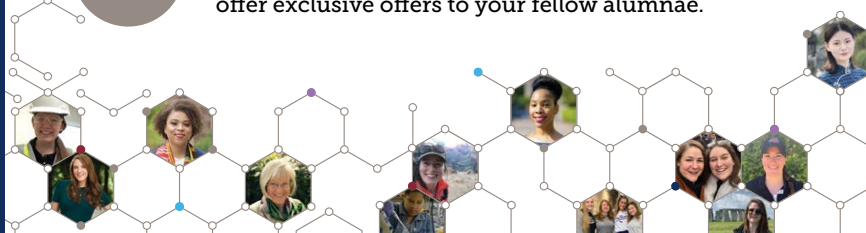
ADVANCE

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.



REUNION NEWS

PAST REUNIONS

SACRED HEART CLASS OF 1968

The Sacred Heart Class of 1968 held their 55th reunion the weekend of November 4. On Friday, they had an informal get together at Pub 333 in Oakmont. On Saturday, 40 classmates gathered at Longue Vue Club in Verona to celebrate their 55 years since graduation and their sisterhood. A lovely commemorative ornament was presented as a class favor.

SACRED HEART CLASS OF 1972

On Saturday, October 21, 51 members of the Sacred Heart Class of 1972 gathered to celebrate their "50+1" reunion. Covid and other health related concerns may have delayed the celebration for a year but it certainly did not dampen the spirits of the attendees. Their honored guest was Sr. Patrice Hughes, whose first year as Principal was their senior year. She shared some memories and then said Grace as a wonderful lunch was served. It was a very special afternoon in a lovely setting with old friends taking advantage of the opportunity to reconnect, reminisce, and coalesce.

OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY CLASS OF 1973

The Our Lady of Mercy Academy Class of 1973 held their 50th reunion on September 24 at Asti-Italian Steak House. More details to follow in the summer issue.

ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL CLASS OF 1983

The St. Paul Cathedral Class of 1983 celebrated their 40th reunion during a weekend in September. Classmates gathered on Friday, September 15 at PNC Park for fun at the Pirates game. Aliya Sewell OCHS'18 (not pictured) joined the group in honor of her deceased mother, Gigi Kane-Sewell. On Saturday, they enjoyed an evening on the rooftop of the Comfort Inn & Suites. Everyone enjoyed being together again!



Sacred Heart Class of 1968 and the Lovely Class Favor



Sacred Heart Class of 1972 at their "50+1" Reunion in October



St. Paul Cathedral Class of 1983 at the Pirates Game in September

OAKLAND
CATHOLIC
gala
2024

Save the Date

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT 6PM
PNC CHAMPIONS CLUB - ACRISURE STADIUM

Calling all milestone alumnae! If your graduation year ends in a 4 or 9, consider hosting your class reunion at the OC Gala! Contact Diane Totten at dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org or 412-682-6633 ext. 1263 to discuss the next planning steps.



CELEBRATING *our legacy...*

Join us for the **ALUMNAE BRUNCH**

Join us as we celebrate who we are and where we come from! Let's honor the tradition of all-girls Catholic high schools as alumnae from Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Sacred Heart, St. Paul Cathedral, and Oakland Catholic High Schools come together as one to 144 N. Craig Street.

**WE ARE THRILLED TO BRING THIS EVENT BACK TO
OAKLAND CATHOLIC ON SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024**

Special Guest Speaker — George Rudolph, WPIAL Hall of Fame Inductee 2024



Registration for this event will open on March 27. Scan this QR code to register or visit oaklandcatholic.org and search for Alumnae Brunch. Register early for this 200-person maximum attendance event. More details to follow on the registration form.



George Rudolph

2024 WPIAL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Congratulations, Coach! You have made a huge, positive impact on many young women as well as setting a standard of excellence for coaches throughout the years.

Great Coach...Better Person! Well deserved.

ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHTS



MARIE LOUISE MURRAY VAUGHN OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY, CLASS OF 1964

My parents respected the Sisters of Mercy, so they chose Our Lady of Mercy Academy for me at the Oakland Campus. I was fortunate to be in the first graduating class of 1964 from the Monroeville Campus. My first memory as a freshman, which has stayed with me all my life, was in homeroom, there were old paper letters above the chalkboard that read, "The woman you will be, you are now becoming." Pretty strong words for a 14-year old. However, these words have stayed with me forever, and I have shared them with my daughters.

I loved both Mt. Mercy campuses and the fabulous personalities of the Sisters of Mercy and all of my fellow students. I do believe the Monroeville Campus allowed more interaction with other students, which made us quite the community. The addition of a drama teacher was brilliant. We learned to speak to a crowd, which served me well. Who knew some very simple phrases from many of the teachings of the Sisters would stay with me for life: *1) Never write anything you wouldn't want your parents or future children to read; 2) If you are going to try something, always try your best; 3) Do good, be good; 4) Yes, these classes are important.*

I have been married 55+ years, raised three children, and enjoy my grandchildren immensely. I have volunteered, worked, and traveled to most states and many countries. All the while, some very simple words from my key mentors have carried me through my life's adventures. My favorite life quotes and lessons from the Sisters are from **Sister Patricia McCann**: "Keep going, keep doing" and Sister Hilda's favorite: "Enjoy Life." I heed their advice every day.



MARY THERESA MARSHALEK METZLER, ESQ. ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL, CLASS OF 1972

There is no doubt in my mind that attending an all-girls Catholic high school provided me with unique opportunities to hold leadership positions and develop self-confidence, as well as a moral code, for dealing with the "real" world. The teaching staff and administrators operated under a common commitment to excellence and integrity. I am forever grateful to these individuals for their dedication. Preparing for Model United Nations' meetings, serving in Student Government, and holding leadership roles in various clubs, all built valuable skills for college, law school, and my professional career. My friends from Cathedral were, and are, an amazing group of women.



As an attorney, I have worked as a Trial Specialist for the federal government, in-house counsel for a corporation, and partner in several large, Philadelphia law firms. Currently, I am a Labor Arbitrator and Mediator. As a neutral, I conduct arbitration hearings in labor disputes between unions and employers. The work is always interesting and challenging because the cases involve a wide variety of industries and labor relations issues. A few years ago, I was honored with admission to the National Academy of Arbitrators. I received my B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and my J.D. from Pitt Law School. I have lived in the Philadelphia area for over 30 years now. Philadelphia is a wonderful area to live and raise a family, but I still love my visits to the 'Burgh. I am proud and happy that Oakland Catholic has flourished in a way which provides greatly expanded service programs, athletics, and academic challenges to the students. Find your passion and enjoy life!

ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHTS

KAREN HAZEL FERRARI SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 1977

Looking back on my time at Sacred Heart High School from 1974-1977 it was such a wonderful time in my life! I remember how excited and nervous I was to attend a “LARGE” school located outside of my familiar Morningside neighborhood at a time when the high school I would have attended—St. Raphael High School—was closing its doors. Most of the girls from St. Raphael Elementary School class attended Sacred Heart too and we embraced the new adventure and met so many girls from many Pittsburgh neighborhoods.



Right from the start of my freshmen year I viewed my high school experience as a party! My favorite class was Home Economics (taught by my favorite teacher **Mrs. Sheedy**). I would spend most of my free time there preparing recipes for our upcoming class meals! To this day, I still enjoy working and socializing in the kitchen!

After high school, I worked at St. Francis Hospital in the Pharmacy department holding a secretarial position for seventeen years, then moved to the St. Francis Hospital Foundation for five additional years. I worked there until the Hospital was about to close its doors. This was very difficult for many of my dedicated colleagues, but the silver lining was that I was blessed with many lifelong friends. I then held a position as an Administrative Assistant at the West Penn Hospital Foundation and found my way to the Advancement Office at Oakland Catholic High School where I have worked as an Advancement & Volunteer Coordinator for the past 19 years. At the end of the 2023-2024 school year, I plan to retire.

Growing up in our big Catholic Irish-Italian family, with my parents, six siblings, and maternal grandparents I would say they had the greatest influence on my life—to this day my sisters, brothers and I share an unbreakable bond. As time went on I married my husband, **Rob**, who I met on a blind date set up by my high school friend of 42 years, **Judy**. We raised an amazing daughter, **Kelsey**, who is my greatest accomplishment!! Kelsey married her high school sweetheart, **Danny Devinney**, and as of this spotlight, has two precious children, **Clara** (named after my mother), and baby brother, **Dylan**.

Being on the other side of the academic world I have seen many wonderful girls pass through the doors of Oakland Catholic High School. I am, and will always be, proud of the Catholic education and foundation I was blessed with in my life. I know without my deep-rooted faith in God, I would not be ME.

My advice to OCHS students is to enjoy the ride, you never know where it may take you...

OOPS! — SUMMER 2023 ISSUE

In Memoriam on page 30, **Janet Davenport SHHS'72** was incorrectly published as being a member of the Class of 1977. She was a member of the Class of 1972. **Catherine Diulus Marshall CHS'83** was incorrectly listed on page 30. It was her mother, **Catherine Diulus**, a parishioner of St. Paul Cathedral, who had passed away last year. On page 34 of the Alumnae News, OCHS'04 alumna, **Christina Catanese's** daughter, **Livia**, was incorrectly listed as Olivia.

On the Scholarship Opportunities and Named Scholarship listing, **The Thomas and Leona Spelman Scholarship** was inadvertently not included on the list on page 57 and on the Named Scholarship list on page 59.

ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHTS



LARAE BOOKER

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2000

“Quiet leader.” Those were the words that Oakland Catholic High School teacher, and later President, **Mary Claire Kasunic** wrote in a letter of recommendation for college on my behalf. I remember the words vividly because, although I had often felt like I had influence among my peers and within the halls of OC, I did not serve in official leadership positions. I was not the basketball or track star under **“Mr. George’s”** (Track coach George Rudolph) coaching. I was in AP classes but not the top academically-performing student. (Mrs. Kasunic’s daughter and my friend, **Raquel**, was!)

And I sang in the choir but was one of many young women with beautiful voices that **“Mrs. Fish”** (Music teacher Mrs. Ruth Gentile) would blend harmoniously together in song.

I was simply me. And this was the first time I felt myself seen as a leader, as well as the first time I received an acknowledgment that it was okay to be a quiet one.

In the years since, there have been research reports, books, and commentary about how leadership comes in different forms. You can lead with humility. You can speak without being outspoken. You can be out front but serve from behind. But at that time around 1999-2000, this was a transformative idea to me, and it followed me throughout college, as I earned a Master of Arts degree from the New York University (NYU) Steinhardt School of Media, Culture and Communication and a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Communication from the Ohio University College of Communication, and well into my personal life and professional career.

Today, I am vice president of partner communication and engagement at 2U, Inc., a global leader in education technology. A writer at heart, I am also an independent communications consultant, specializing in executive communications, corporate messaging and communications strategy. For more than 15 years, I have had the privilege of helping executives and organizations communicate for impact and elevate their brands. Previously, I led the corporate communications function at the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), the world’s largest HR professional association. A seasoned and award-winning speechwriter, I joined SHRM as executive communication manager and speechwriter.

Prior to SHRM, I held speechwriting, communications and public affairs positions with the U.S. federal government, including a political appointee role in the Obama Administration’s Corporation for National and Community Service, and at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I have held additional communications and administrative posts in the private and nonprofit sectors.

I also have a longstanding commitment to philanthropy, community involvement and public service—a commitment that was burnished at OC. I am an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and previously, I served on the Regional Advisory Board of Reading Partners DC and the leadership team of the United Way of the National Capital Area’s Young Philanthropists Society. I was competitively selected as a Partnership for Public Service Excellence in Government Fellow and a Coro Center for Civic Leadership Community Problem-Solving Fellow.

I am proud of these accomplishments and believe that OC was the place that instilled in me the confidence to both serve and to lead...and as authentically me. I hope every young woman attending OC today recognizes it as the special place that it is—a safe and distinctive space that can help shape and empower them for a future they can help make.



BAM! Summer 2024 CAMPS

FOR GIRLS ENTERING 6TH-8TH GRADE

Session Dates

Join us at Oakland Catholic High School from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on the dates below! Specific classes will be announced soon, check the website for more details. Cost is \$100 per session. Pick three for \$275 or choose all six for \$550.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11 | THURSDAY, JUNE 13 | TUESDAY, JUNE 18
THURSDAY, JUNE 20 | TUESDAY, JUNE 25 | THURSDAY, JUNE 27

For more information, visit www.oaklandcatholic.org/admissions/summer



PARENT ***** GUILD

The Oakland Catholic Parent Guild (OCPG), previously recognized as PTG, is dedicated to cultivating a vibrant and supportive community encompassing parents, students, and faculty. Our committee's primary objective is to actively promote community building, fostering robust connections among all stakeholders. By orchestrating various initiatives, events, and social gatherings, we aim to weave a strong and lasting bond within the Oakland Catholic community.

We invite you to be an integral part of our revitalized organization by becoming a member and engaging with other families within our school community. As valued members, you will be invited to social gatherings. We encourage you to share your talents and ideas to contribute to the betterment of our school, faculty, and students. Whether you choose to volunteer your time, skills, financial support, or offer insightful suggestions, every form of contribution is deeply valued and appreciated. Your perspective and participation will play a role in shaping a vibrant and supportive environment for everyone at our school. Join us in making a positive impact and building a community at OC.

Attendance at meetings or social activities are entirely optional, with no obligation or pressure. Participating in this group enables you to contribute to funding upcoming social activities for students or faculty. It is an opportunity to share ideas, showcase your talents, and provide support to our school.

Questions? Contact ocpg@oaklandcatholic.org.



Scan the code to join! The OCPG requires an annual membership fee of \$20.00. If you have already joined the former PTG for the 2023-2024 school year and paid dues, you do not need to rejoin.

www.oaklandcatholic.org/parents/ocpg



Oakland Catholic BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESS AFFILIATES!

Do you own a business? Let us know so the OC community can support you! Whether it's a restaurant, salon, or service provided business we want to promote it! Scan the QR code below to complete the form. All participating businesses will be advertised in the summer issue of the OC Review and on the Oakland Catholic website.



Start Your
Journey Now.

SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE!



APPLY NOW FOR YOUR OC EDUCATION!

Contact the Admissions Office at admissions@oaklandcatholic.org



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UPCOMING EVENTS

OC GIVE DAY

Thursday, March 7, 2024

SENIOR LITURGY & LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

OC EAGLE CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, April 29, 2024

ALUMNAE BRUNCH

Sunday, May 5, 2024

BACCALAUREATE MASS

Monday, May 20, 2024

COMMENCEMENT

Wednesday, May 22, 2024



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 x1263 or dtotten@oaklandcatholic.org.



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

THE PITTSBURGH FIELD CLUB
MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW IN SPRING 2024

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 WINNING TEAMS!



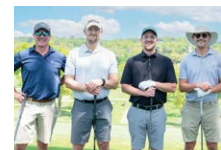
WOMEN'S 1ST PLACE TEAM

Holly Hoff, Rebecca Mousseau,
Annina Silverman & Jen Totten



MEN'S 1ST PLACE TEAM

Joe Gartner, D.J. Miller,
Derek Mousseau & Phil Tedesco



MEN'S 2ND PLACE TEAM

Sean Fagan, Jared Farabee,
Dale Morgele & Johnny Volpi



MEN'S 3RD PLACE TEAM

Peter Leone, David Regan,
T. Brad Totten & Gerry Totten

HONORARY CHAIRS: DEREK & REBECCA OCHS'00 MOUSSEAU