



COLUMBUS: SPANNING FIVE DECADES

1958 - 1968

Located at the western edge of Miami, Columbus was built at a time when the Catholic Church considered Dade County to be missionary territory. The initial construction of the various classroom buildings, gymnasium, cafeteria, and the athletic fields, together with the steady stream of young men coming to Columbus in ever-greater numbers attested to the fact that CCHS had something very special to offer. Enriched by the devoted enthusiasm of the first group of teachers, parents and loyal friends of the school, a unique spirit began to develop, which would grow stronger, deeper and richer as the years went by. Columbus quickly made a name for itself as a first-rate Catholic, academic school, dedicated to the principle of educating young men in all aspects of life.



Construction of CCHS Main Buildings, 1957



Automobile Club, 1959

*CCHS opened in September, 1958
with an enrollment of 139 students and 2 ½ buildings.*



*Fr. Claude Brubaker, 1st Principal,
Greeting Students, 1958*



Mass, 1958

*CCHS was established by the Diocese of Miami to continue
the secondary education program at St. Theresa's School in Coral Gables.*



Rifle Club, 1959

*No evidence exists for naming the school after
Christopher Columbus, but it is thought that the
Knights of Columbus were instrumental in the choice.
They provided substantial funding.*

The Marist Brothers assumed the direction of the school in 1959 under the leadership of Br. Benedict Henry.



Football Team, 1958



Br. Benedict Henry – 2nd Principal, 1959



Tuition at Columbus was \$18 per month in 1960.



Ed Stevenson, (right) & Mike Carricarte (left), 1958



Debaters Placed 1st in the Catholic Forensic League, 1960





Jim Ellison, CCHS' 1st Quarterback & 1st Explorer named to the All-City Team, 1959



Gym Construction, 1961

Students Kenneth Bryan, Frank Lynn, and Marshal Liptak co-authored the CCHS Alma Mater in 1962. The Opening lines are: "Columbus may you always be our alma mater true. The inspiration for our goals, we'll always honor you."



Track Team, District Champions, 1963

The CCHS Gym Made History in 1961. Its pre-cast beams were the largest ever constructed in South Florida.



Log Newspaper Staff, 1963



Br. Leo Francis - 3rd Principal, 1965

In 1963, The Log staff printed a letter from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, who asked High School students to help fight the spread of communism in the U. S.



Richard Pollock, Basketball Coach of the Year, 1964



Basketball Team Wins 2nd Consecutive District Championship, 1965



Carter Burrus '62 & Br. Alan Smith '63, the first alumni to join the faculty, 1968

CCHS' unique academic phasing program was introduced in 1968, it still exists today.



The library was completed in the C building, 1968



Brothers Ken Curtin and John Smith organized the first Marist Encounter, 1968.





1969 - 1978

The turbulent '70s were reflected in every institution throughout the country. Columbus experienced the tensions that impacted all facets of American society, but particularly young people. During this decade the Columbus administration and faculty guided the school through a critical period. Firmly but gently, school regulations kept the basic principles on which CCHS was established and directed student energy towards academics and athletic pursuits with the motto, "A sound mind and a sound body go hand in hand." The administration began the initial steps towards expanding the school. Optimism prevailed as the decade progressed, and bigger and better goals loomed on the horizon. For Columbus High School, the best was yet to come.



*Ralph Penalver & Raymond Dunn –
1st CCHS Silver Knight Award recipients, 1969*

In 1969, Ralph Penalver and Raymond Dunn were the 1st Explorers to receive Silver Knight awards. Penalver was also chosen as "Outstanding Teenager of America." He competed amongst 10,000 high school seniors and was invited to President Johnson's Texas ranch.



CCHS Pop Festival, 1969

*In the spirit of Woodstock,
The Columbus Pop Festival
featured 6 bands, 1969.*



The Adelante Yearbook Club, 1971



Students help poor migrant children in South Dade, 1969



Varsity cheerleaders, 1972



Flying Club, 1970

CCHS started a flying club in 1970, the school owned two planes.



1972 Basketball Team – District Champions



Br. Hugh Andrew becomes the 5th Principal, 1971 - after a brief principal-ship by Br. Norbert Cote

In a mock election, CCHS students favored Richard Nixon for the presidential contest, 1972.



The Odd Couple Performance, 1972 (Bill Dunlevy played Oscar, Brian Morris played Felix)



"Brandy", Br. Eugene's St. Bernard and CCHS Mascot, 1972



The new track was completed in 1971 and squad won the GMAC southern division title



CCHS purchases the largest school bus in the county, 1972



"SAC" Executives Richard Bezold, Miguel Brito, Jorge Echenique, 1973

"SAC" (Student Activities Club) was started by Br. Eugene, 1973.





The school band is established under the direction of Mr. Joseph Zingale, 1973

In 1978 four CCHS students won 1st prize at the Dade County Youth Fair; Mike Slifker, Eduardo Suarez, Thomas Hill, and Bob Brown.



Br. Edmund Sheehan – 6th Principal, 1976

In 1973, the Log recommended the following albums: The Allman Brothers' "Brothers and Sisters", Elton John's "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" and Jackson Brown's "For Every Man".



Sock Hops were popular after basketball games, 1976



Seniors travel to Wash. D.C. to participate in the Close-up Program for the 1st time, 1975

The first computer class is offered at CCHS, 1977 (taught by Mrs. Irene Culmo).



Varsity baseball, led by Hank Klovekorn & Paul Maineri, won the Regional Championships, 1975



Ed Guedes stores information in one of the school's first computers, 1980



1979 - 1988

The 3rd decade started with a concentration on the overall impact that Columbus was having on the community. With the institution of the Development Program, the Anthony Abraham Science Building and the Howard Korth Music and Athletic Center became realities. Academics were enriched; athletics and extra-curricular activities were broadened, the religious program was expanded; and Campus Ministry began. The Genevieve Abraham Chapel was constructed and so was the computer center. New courses commenced and new equipment was purchased. These advancements, in conjunction with the school's continued high performance in academics and athletics, allowed the school to be proud of its growth and high standards. This decade emphasized the body and strength required for educational excellence.



In 1979 tuition was \$1,070 and the enrollment was 960 students.



Forensics Club ranked 1st in the Catholic Forensic League, 1980



The annual Academic Awards Banquet was started by Mrs. Pat Call, 1979.



Eduardo Garcia won the Florida Science Fair's grand prize & the Westinghouse Paige Award for his project on Leukemia, 1980



Varsity Football won the District, Regional, & Sectional Crowns, 1982



Edward Sanchez won the National Merit Scholarship, 1983



The Math Club won the Florida Mathematics League Championships, 1982



Eddie Blanco broke the Dade County home run record, 1982

The Development Program was started by Br. Kevin, 1982



The Abraham Science Building & the Korth Athletic Center were dedicated at the school's 25th Anniversary Celebration, 1984



Br. Francis Garza - 7th Principal, 1985



Soccer Team wins 1st district title, 1984

Campus Ministry implemented Encounter, Kerygma, and Emmaus Retreats to enrich Explorer spirituality, 1981.



Campus Ministry Leaders, 1984



Fr. Dennison Celebrates Mass, 1984



Bowling Team – District Champions for the 1st time, 1985



Champagnat Plaza opens commemorating Cuban Maristas, 1987



Tennis Team captures the 1st state championship by a CCHS team in history, 1987



Legendary Varsity Basketball Coach, Br. Kevin Handibode, steps down to become the 8th Principal, 1988

The restaurant Cherry On Top recieved the Log's highest rating as the place for lunch, 1985. At this time Seniors could leave campus for lunch.

The 1st Columbus Open House is held, 1988.



Baseball wins Regional Championships and played for the State Championship, 1988



Chapel is renovated and dedicated in memory of Genevieve Abraham, 1988

Everyone was listening to Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA" and Prince's "Purple rain", 1985.



1989 - 1998

With the firmly-established ethos that the Columbus community is family orientated, student enrollment increased to new levels, and alumni and parent participation was profound. As a result, expansion of the school facilities was initiated. The constant quest for the highest possible educational objectives and philosophical endeavors was a vital aspect of this decade. These projected goals continued to enrich the lives of the students and helped them to attain their individual aspirations. The decade's main theme was one of deep commitment to furthering the values of a Christian education.



CCHS took 1st place in 3 sections of the Model United Nations Conference, winners were Nick Gunia, George Gonzalez, and Armando Wirshing, 1992



Quarterback Brian Griese set the school record, throwing for 1,400 yards, 1992



Jim Bernhardt Weight Room opened, 1992



Br. Raymond Pasi - 9th Principal, 1993

Dual Enrollment with Barry University was introduced, 1993.



Br. Michael Brady's "Brady Bunch" helped to expand Campus Ministry, 1993



Sam Ancona, 1st CCHS wrestler to win a state championship, 1992

Senator Bob Graham praises and congratulates CCHS for its 30th Anniversary at the U.S. Senate Chamber, 1989.



CCHS' 1st Walkathon raised \$95,000, 1993



Kenji Obata receives a scholarship to Yale University, 1995



LIFE-Living in Faith Experience was organized by Br. Ken Curtin & Fr. Liam Quinn, 1997.

Tuition was \$3,150 and the enrollment was 1,370 students, 1994.



The Squires club under Br. Eladio received the national Corps A Elite Award for outstanding community service, 1994



Lawrence Bell Media Center is built, 1995

Summer School was introduced, 1996.



Br. Angelo Palmieri - 10th Principal, 1995

Br. Julio organized the Parents/Sons Communion Breakfast, 1995.



Official CCHS Uniforms are instituted, 1996



CCNN (Christopher Columbus News Network) began broadcasting news daily under the direction of Mr. Sal Cannella, 1997





Cross Country Team, State Champions, 1997

The CCHS Board of Directors is instituted with Mr. Jim Bernhardt as President, 1998.



The inaugural freshman field day is held, 1998.



87th Avenue is declared St. Marcellin Champagnat Way, 1998



Homecoming King and Queen Ivan Hernandez and Terry Pavon, 1997



Students volunteering in kitchen, 1998

The Key Club initiated 200 members, the largest number in history, 1998.





1999 - 2008

In this decade the school saw the need to update and increase its technological base, but the purchase of new, cutting-edge equipment was only part of the solution. Plans were drawn up for the construction of a new edifice that would accommodate the new technology and the related elements and in 2006 the construction for the Mas Technology Complex began. At the same time, Columbus never lost sight of its fundamental mission: to educate its students according to the traditions of St. Marcellin Champagnat and the Marist Brothers. The goal to make Jesus Christ known and loved in a religious, familial and spiritual environment and to set the highest educational standards possible was pursued with renewed effort.

ADELANTE took on a more profound meaning and a greater significance.



The Knights of Columbus granted the Barnabas Award to the Squires Club, 1999

Holocaust survivors come to CCHS to share experiences with Ms. McCullagh's students, 2000

St. Marcellin Champagnat was canonized a saint by Pope John Paul II, 1999 - Archbishop Favalora celebrated a special Mass at St. Mary's in Miami in his honor.

The Gym is renovated to include full air-conditioning, 1999



Golf & Bowling Teams win State Championships, 1999



Fashion Show 2000



Under Coach Butch Staiano, varsity basketball won the district championships and 26 games, the most in the program's history, 1999



*The President-Principal Model is instituted at CCHS with Br. Kevin as the 1st President.
Br. Patrick McNamara becomes the 11th Principal, 2001*



Swim Team won district and GMAC titles, 2000



*September 11, 2001, Columbus was in 1st period when
U.S. history changed forever.*

*Mr. O'Brien, Isenberg, and Linfors go on the Castaways Against Cancer
inaugural voyage, \$20,000 is raised, 2000.*



*New Technology Director, Mrs. Elena Alvarez, and Mrs. Marta Alday together
obtain a grant from IBM to create the TRC in the media center, 2002*



*Javier Fleitas became CCHS' 1st "Ironman"
during Walk-a-thon, 2001*



*The Varsity Baseball Team, coached by Joe Weber, became the 1st of the major
teams at CCHS to win a state championship, 2003*



*Patrick Lee won the state title in the
long jump with a leap of 24'9", 2003*



Smartboard technology is introduced in classrooms, 2004

Edline (the on-line report of homework and grades) is established at CCHS, 2003.



Mr. Ciocca's micro-economics class had more Hispanic students succeed in the AP exams than any other school in the world, according to the College Board, 2005-07. Ms. McCullagh's government class earned the same honor, 2007

More CCHS students take AP classes than any other Catholic school in Miami-Dade county and their averages are higher than the Florida and National Average, 2007.



Roller Hockey Team wins the Florida Inline Scholastic League Championship, 2005

Tuition cost \$5,850 and the enrollment was 1,340 students, 2004.



New baseball complex opens complete with the blue monster, 2004



Purple Heart Kids is created by seniors Michael Chomat, Jonathan Rodriguez and Ricky Fernandez to provide US savings bonds for the children of disabled veterans, 2006



The Mas Family Scholar's Program started at CCHS, 2005. It was considered to be one of the most challenging high school curriculums in South Florida.



Michael Putnam wins state titles in both shot put and discus, 2006



Ground breaks on Mas Technology Complex, 2006

CCHS is named one of top 50 Catholic High Schools in the U.S, 2004. No other Catholic H.S. in Miami-Dade was selected. The school will go on to consistently receive this distinction.



A crowd of over 10,000 gathered at FIU stadium to watch the CCHS varsity football team defeat Belen 21-7, 2005



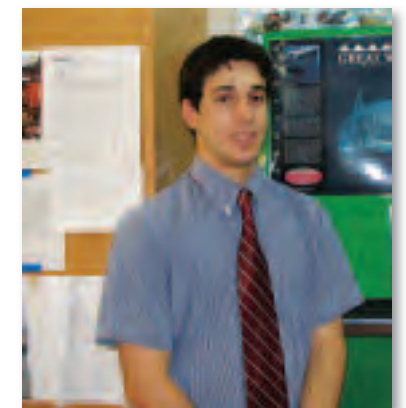
Mark Milani served as a Congressional page in Washington D.C, 2007



The Football field is renovated to include professional synthetic turf and a scoreboard, 2007



The Columbus Band, led by Keith Cooper, won 1st place at the Music USA Festival Competition - 4 years in a row, 2008



Michael Helbig won 4th place at the International Science Fair (over 1,500 students participated from 30 countries), 2008



The debate raged - who's better, Kanye West or 50 Cent? More students were "down with Kanye," 2007.



Under the leadership of Mr. Randall Martinez, the debate team qualified more students to the National Forensics Tournament than any other school in Dade County, 2008



Robotics club members placed 1st and 3rd in the national robotics competition, 2008



Br. Michael Brady - 12th Principal, 2008



The Mas Technology Complex is completed in September, 2008 - marking the close of the 5th decade and the beginning of the next 50 years of Marist Educational Excellence at Columbus.