OC REVIEW

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL | SUMMER 2025

ALL THINGS OC FROM









to











Sponsor-A-Student

- **Make an Impact**
  Directly transform the future of an Oakland Catholic student through the meaningful gift of education

- **Bridge the Gap**
  Ensure that a young woman can access a faith-filled education, that empowers her both academically and personally.

- **Connect**
  As adonor, you will be connected to our school, and the selected student in a unique way, received regular updates on your profound impact

Sponsor Levels

Support an Oakland Catholic High School student through a four-year commitment at any of the following levels annually:

- **$1,500**
- **$3,000**
- **$5,000**
- **$10,000**
- **$15,000**

Choose the level that aligns with your desired contribution and commitment to helping a student—or students—become our future leaders, inventors, and innovators of tomorrow. Together, we can create opportunities that inspire greatness and transform lives.

For further questions or to learn more about the program, please contact Lynn Brown, Director of Advancement, at **lbrown@oaklandcatholic.org** or **412-682-6633 ext. 1229.**

OC REVIEW

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL | SUMMER 2025

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ALL THINGS OC FROM A TO Z

Oakland Catholic is more than a school—it's a community where young women grow into confident, compassionate leaders guided by faith and purpose.

This A-to-Z feature offers 26 glimpses into what makes OC truly extraordinary. From the traditions we honor to the women who inspire, here's Oakland Catholic—letter by letter.

8

THE CLASS OF 2025

On May 21, 2025, the Class of 2025 clad in white caps and gowns and carrying the traditional dozen red roses, celebrated four years of growth, perseverance, and sisterhood—all leading to a beautiful commencement ceremony at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum.

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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.

THE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE COURTESY OF SIMPLY SISTERS PHOTOGRAPHY. MOST CANDID PHOTOS WERE SUBMITTED FROM A NUMBER OF OAKLAND CATHOLIC EMPLOYEES. GRAPHIC DESIGN AND PRINTING BY ALPHAGRAPHICS IN THE CULTURAL DISTRICT.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Pastries with the President: Building Community, One Conversation at a Time

At Oakland Catholic, student voices matter—and *Pastries with the President* is just one of the ways we ensure they're heard. This casual, small-group series invites students to sit down with President Mrs. Lazzara and Director of Advancement Mrs. Brown over breakfast treats and meaningful conversation.

Each session offers students the opportunity to share ideas, raise questions, and provide feedback on their experience at OC, all in a relaxed setting that encourages open dialogue. From discussing ways to strengthen school spirit to exploring ideas for community outreach, the topics are as varied as the students who participate.

Here are some of the students that kicked off the day with donuts, frappuccinos, and great conversation—demonstrating once again that some of the best ideas start with pastries.

Mark Your Calendar

27 SEPT	Saturday	GALA — Doherty Ballroom, Duquesne University
10 OCT	Friday	EAGLE FOR A DAY — Oakland Catholic High School
7 NOV	Friday	GRANDPARENTS DAY — St. Paul Cathedral/OCHS
9 NOV	Saturday	OPEN HOUSE — Oakland Catholic High School
4 MAY	Monday	GOLF OUTING — Edgewood Country Club
18 MAY	Monday	BACCALAUREATE MASS — St. Paul Cathedral
20 MAY	Wednesday	GRADUATION — Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall









A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year in Review:

ALL THINGS OC FROM A TO Z

As we reflect on this past year where our focus was to Lead Like Joan, we take a moment to celebrate the achievements, challenges, and moments of joy that have defined our journey at Oakland Catholic High School. This year has been filled with growth, grace, and countless memories that will last a lifetime. From the chapel to the classrooms, from mission trips in Pittsburgh to Jamaica, from the playing fields and courts to the stage, our school community has embodied the values of our Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service that have been the hallmark of our mission.

In this special edition, we are excited to present our A to Z feature — a comprehensive look at all that makes our school unique, from A for Alumnae to Z for Zeal for Learning. Each letter represents a different facet of our beloved school, showcasing the talents, passions, and commitment of our students, faculty, and staff. Whether it's the creative energy of our art program, the strength of our athletic teams, or the deep faith that guides us, every corner of our school shines with purpose.

So, join us as we walk through the past year, celebrating the unforgettable moments and milestones that have made the 2024-2025 school year one to remember. With hearts full of gratitude, let's relive the best of what it means to be part of this incredible community.

Here's to a year filled with faith, friendship, and future accomplishments. This is just the beginning—I can't wait to see what's in store for the year ahead!

With God's Grace,

Kelly M Lazzara

KELLY LAZZARA
PRESIDENT

Oakland Catholic
High School

OC REVIEW EDITOR IN CHIEF
LYNN BROWN
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

PRESIDENT
KELLY LAZZARA

ADVANCEMENT OFFICE
LYNN BROWN
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

KRISTIE BARNEY
COORDINATOR OF ALUMNAE RELATIONS AND MARKETING

LYDIA DAMOOSE LANGLEY
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

ALESSANDRA PAZZAGLIA
MEDIA AND SCHOOL COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

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Oakland Catholic High School
144 North Craig Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412.682.6633
OaklandCatholic.org

ALL THINGS OC FROM A to Z

A ALUMNAE

B BELIEF



C COMMUNITY



Global Competence Initiative

G GLOBAL LEADERS



H HEART

OC has welcomed students from Turkey, South Korea, China, Italy, Spain, Germany

I INTERNATIONAL



M MISSION AND SERVICE

N NURTURING FACULTY AND STAFF

O OPPORTUNITIES



S SISTERHOOD



T TEACHERS AND STAFF

U UNITY



V VOICE

“TELL ME ABOUT OC.”

It sounds like a simple question—but the answer is anything but simple. Oakland Catholic is more than a school. It’s a community of powerful young women who are spiritual, academic, driven, and compassionate. They are leaders in the making—athletes, scholars, artists, and advocates—who carry themselves with confidence, curiosity, and a deep sense of responsibility.

Our students look to faculty and administration not just for knowledge, but for mentorship and inspiration. They ask big questions and dream even bigger. They seek out opportunities to serve others and make an impact on their peers and the world around them. Every hallway echoes with laughter, education, culture, and the shared experience of becoming women who are ready to take on the world.

From A to Z, Oakland Catholic is full of energy, excellence, and heart. This feature is a celebration of everything that makes OC extraordinary—letter by letter.



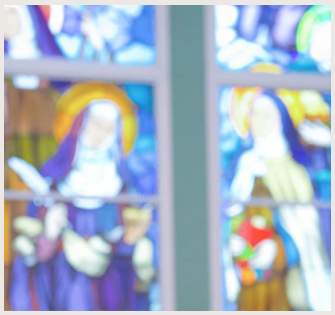




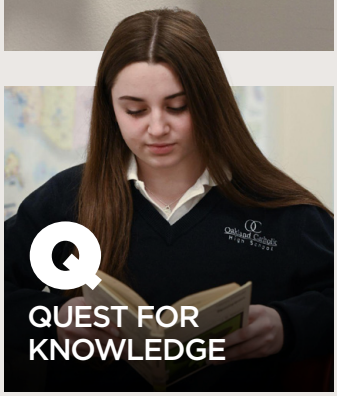


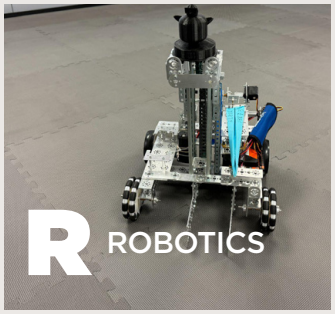












At OC, all positions of leadership are held by women.

W WOMEN







Congrats CLASS OF 2025!

Commencement for the Class of 2025 was held at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum on May 21, 2025. Students donned their white caps and gowns and carried the traditional dozen of red roses. This culminating event where diplomas were awarded, reflective speeches were given by Salutatorian Maia Ramirez and Valedictorian Maria Koltas, and words of wisdom were imparted by Superintendent of Catholic Schools Lauren Martin and OC President Kelly Lazzara were exceptionally special. It marks the official transition from students to alumnae, celebrating the academic achievements, growth, and sisterhood formed throughout high school.

It was nothing short of divine intervention when the heavy rain stopped and a beautiful rainbow appeared to allow for the traditional cap toss on the steps outside of the museum giving the Class of 2025 a special memory.



Honors Convocation 2025

Oakland Catholic High School held its annual Honors Convocation on Thursday, April 24, in the Donahue Pavilion. This meaningful evening celebrated students who demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and a deep commitment to service throughout the year.

During the ceremony, the Class of 2025 Valedictorian and Salutatorian were officially announced. Seniors were also honored for exemplifying the school's core values of scholarship, spirituality, and service—powerful reflections of Oakland Catholic's mission in action.

In addition to school-based recognition, students received accolades from colleges, universities, and outside organizations for their academic excellence and scholarship awards. We are incredibly proud of all our honorees and excited to see the positive impact they will make in the world.



2025 Valedictorian
MARIA KOLTAS

Maria Koltas, the 2025 **Valedictorian** is much more than a scholar, she is a well-rounded student who has a unique blend of creativity and discipline. She comes alive in the classroom and on the stage. Her participation in Kairos, Masque, and as a student ambassador along with her rigorous academic pursuits is why she embodies all three of our tenets of Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service. She plans to study mechanical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University this fall. Congratulations Maria!



2025 Salutatorian
MAIA RAMIREZ

Maia Ramirez, the 2025 **Salutatorian** is an exceptional scholar in all academic areas, but shows a real passion and talent in the arts. She never hesitates to share her ideas but also makes it a point to listen to others as well. Not only does she have a strong work ethic but she is kind, humble, and always greets others with a bright smile. She has been actively involved in Free Verse and our Masque Productions during her four years at OC. This incredibly humble scholar will attend the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Foreign Languages. Congratulations to Maia Ramirez!



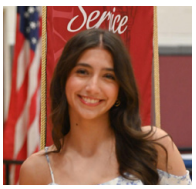
President's Award

Emma Kelley received the **President's Award**, which is given to a senior whose life reflects Christian values. She is a young woman who gives of herself in service to others in the school, church, and community. She is an individual who leads positively by example.



Principal's Award

The **Principal's Award** is given to a senior who has displayed a consistent academic effort, respect for others, service toward the common good of others, and devotion and loyalty to Oakland Catholic High School. This year's Principal Award winner is **Kayla Rembert**.



Thomas J. M. Freyvogel Award

Gabriela Palmieri is the recipient of the **Thomas J. M. Freyvogel Award** for displaying an overall positive attitude, kindness, and dedication to service. She defines all of these qualities and more.



Oakland Catholic Award

This year's **Oakland Catholic Award** is presented to **Katie White**. Katie strives for excellence on an intellectual, moral, physical, emotional, and spiritual level.

HONORS CONVOCATION









The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Honor Cord

Elizabeth Ann Seton is the patron Saint of Catholic schools and she also established the Sisters of Charity, a religious community dedicated to education and service. This honor cord is given to students in recognition for having been blessed to have received 12 years of a Catholic education. While the cord is being given to the students, it is also a visible sign of thanks and appreciation to their parents for making this investment and commitment to Catholic education. The colors interwoven are maroon representing Oakland Catholic, black representing the habit worn by Elizabeth Ann Seton, and white representing all the Catholic elementary and middle schools attended by the recipients. The Class of 2025 had 49 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Honor Cord recipients making up 54% of the graduating class.

Shaina Ballariel
Alyssa Beltz
Sarah Bertocchi
Alexa Bronkaj
Lillian Carr
Sarah Cavanaugh
Hannah Conti
Emily Cooke
Theresa Courtright
Kamya Cousar-Frankliin
Mia Crofford
Cianna Davis
Gigi Easly
Anna Farkasovsky
Antonella Folino
Domenica Folino
Lauren “Izzie” Gallo
Makenzie Gasiorowski
Soldae Givens
Kiyah Gray
Myia Haney
Heather Helwick
Molly Henninger
Olivia Hill
Hannah Jacob
Emma Kelley
Gianna Kennelly
Eila Knapick
Maria Koltas
Grace Kosylo
Adelaide Kreutel
Corinna Martella
Maria Matrascia
McKenzie Morrison
Jacqueline Murphy
Kiersten Olesinski
Zoe Ollis
Leah Olson
Shahrzad O’Connor
Reagan O’Toole
Gabriela Palmieri
Natalie Paluso
Felicity Ravano
Kayla Rembert
Ryann Salvitti
Isabella Siegel
Sienna Stern
Gretchen Waruszewski
Kaitlyn White

100%

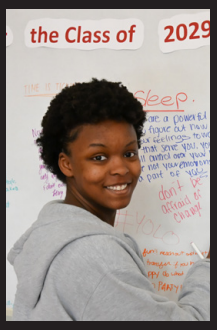
of Seniors planning to attend a 4 year college or university were accepted at a post secondary institution.

To view the full list of 2025 award recipients, please scan the QR code.













Senior Liturgy and Luncheon

Our traditional Senior Liturgy and Luncheon was held on May 1, 2025 at Saint Paul Cathedral. The Class of 2025 celebrated their last all-school Mass and were officially inducted into the alumnae association. Lunch, senior gifts, photo booth, games and fellowship followed in the Auxiliary Gym.

Baccalaureate Mass

Baccalaureate was held on May 19, 2025 at Saint Paul Cathedral. The Mass was held in honor of the graduates, offering thanksgiving for their time at the school and seeking blessings for their future. Student Council President Olivia Hill gave opening remarks welcoming family, friends, faculty and staff who joined this meaningful and reflective celebration.



Over $25 million

in scholarships received by the Class of 2025













Commencement

91 women walked on stage at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum on May 21, 2025, receiving their diplomas. Go forward bravely. Fear nothing. Trust in God. All will be well."
- St. Joan of Arc



















Class of 2025 College Bound

The Class of 2025 will attend **43 colleges and universities**. They were accepted to schools in **32 different states**, Washington D.C., Ireland, Japan and Canada which is a testament to how well our students are valued by institutions of higher learning.

COLLEGE LIST

- Boston College
- Ohio State University
- University of Pittsburgh (Pitt)
- PennWest California
- University of Miami
- Duquesne University
- Marietta College
- West Virginia University
- Denison University
- University of Washington
- Penn State University Park
- Wake Forest University
- Temple University
- Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)
- St. Lawrence University
- Robert Morris University
- Wentworth Institute of Technology
- Penn State
- University of Dayton
- Eastern Michigan University
- University of Rochester
- International Christian University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Gannon University
- University of South Florida
- PennWest Clarion
- University of South Carolina
- University of Kentucky
- University of Chicago
- Vet Tech Institute
- Haverford College
- California State University Sacramento
- Rollins College
- Catholic University of America
- Howard University
- Princeton University
- Fordham University
- Seton Hill University
- Florida International University
- Carlow University
- Villanova University
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)
- University of Toronto









What's Happening on Campus





Biology Collaboration

In an engaging and interactive biology class, Mrs. Falck and Mr. Weiss joined forces to teach students about the law of conservation of mass during photosynthesis. Using model atoms, students explored complex scientific concepts through hands-on activities, combining teamwork and learning for an exciting classroom experience.

Oakland Catholic Speech & Debate Reaches New Heights in 2024

This year, the Oakland Catholic Speech and Debate team soared to new levels of success! From top placements at regional tournaments to an impressive performance at the state level, our students not only brought home accolades, but also built a vibrant, supportive community where they discovered their voices, honed their critical thinking, and mastered the art of powerful communication.

The team earned **over 20 individual awards** across a wide range of events, including Humorous Interpretation, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Dramatic Interpretation.

Standout junior **Aundra Sheridan '26** had a historic season, leading the speech side of the program by qualifying for four prestigious national tournaments, claiming nine first-place finishes at regular season competitions, and placing **4th in the state** in Humorous Interpretation.

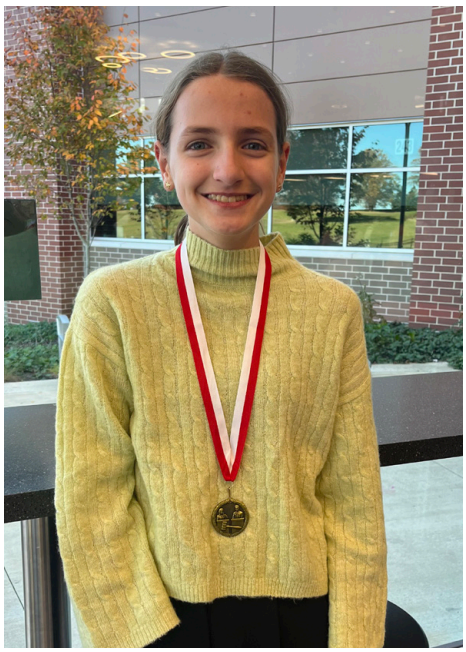
On the debate side, returning Lincoln-Douglas members **Lily Kugler '26, Madeleine Fox '26**, and **Destiny Folks '27** led the charge. Kugler earned the title of **State Champion in Extemporaneous Debate**, while Folks' outstanding regular season earned her an **automatic bid to the state tournament.**

Capping off this remarkable year, **four students** qualified for and competed at the **National Catholic Forensics League Tournament in Chicago**—a testament to the talent, dedication, and growth of this exceptional team.



"As their coach, I couldn't be prouder of this group. From novices to seasoned speakers, their hard work and growth made this a truly remarkable year."

— Mr. Tyler Barkich
Head Coach, OC Speech & Debate | Spanish Teacher









Welcome CLASS OF 2028

Each academic year, Oakland Catholic welcomes a new cohort of students with their own unique backgrounds. The Class of 2028 is no exception. They not only include 30 legacy students, but come from all corners of the Pittsburgh region, representing 25 school districts and 32 elementary schools. They have created a dynamic class fueled by their enthusiasm for meeting new friends, seeking new opportunities and beginnings, learning new subjects, and upholding our pillars of Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service. Now entering their sophomore year, these students have fully embraced life at Oakland Catholic and have already begun to share their new love for OC with prospective students in the Class of 2029 and beyond.

The 61st Medallion Ball

The 61st Medallion Ball, hosted by St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind, was held on November 29, 2024, at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown. This annual event honors young women who have completed the Junior Medallion Program, which requires a minimum of 150 hours of volunteer service over three years. In 2024, 78 young women, including our 8 students pictured below, were recognized for collectively contributing over 13,000 hours of community service. Each honoree received the Joan of Arc Medallion from Bishop David Zubik of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, symbolizing their dedication to service and faith.



Giovanna Easly



Antonella Folino



Domenica Folino



Lauren Gallo



Makenzie Gasiorowski



Molly Henninger



Reagan O'Toole



Isabella Siegel

Photos courtesy of Ron Richards Photography

Formal and Prom at OC

From finding the perfect dress to dancing the night away, Formal and Prom at Oakland Catholic are unforgettable milestones in the high school experience. The excitement begins with getting ready alongside friends, sharing laughs, curling hair, and applying the final touch of lip gloss before stepping into an evening filled with sparkle and celebration.

Photos are a must—whether it's at a favorite picturesque spot or a meaningful location that's part of your OC journey. Dates arrive with flowers in hand, and the night officially begins.

From the music and dancing to the shared memories and joyful moments, these events capture the essence of sisterhood, friendship, and fun. They're more than just dances—they're treasured memories that will stay with us for years to come.

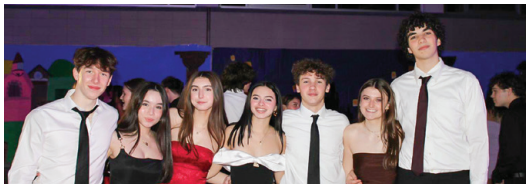




















National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Our annual National Honor Society Induction was held on November 21, 2024. The ceremony serves as a reminder of the standards of excellence they are sworn in to uphold and will carry on the traditions and values of the nation's oldest, largest, and most prestigious student recognition program.

National Honor Society is a significant milestone in the academic journey of the 55 current members and the 69 members inducted that night. It not only acknowledges their outstanding academic achievements but also recognizes their leadership skills, character, and service to others. Their commitment to utilizing their God-given talents sets them apart and inspires others around them.

All NHS members are encouraged to use this platform to embrace the responsibilities that come with this honor, to lead by example, to make a positive impact not only at Oakland Catholic but everywhere life takes them in the years ahead, and to live out our pillars of Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service.

Class Of 2025

Cassidy Byrne
Ava Frank
Dajin (Ruby) Jang
Scarlet McAdams-Otoya
Leah Olson
Ryann Salvitti

Class Of 2026

Jordyn Acie
Lucy Basso
Jacey Bell
Grace Bernacki
Michayla Booth
Melina Bui
Kaitlyn Carnes
Caroline Carney
Madelyn Cobleigh
Sarah Coleman
Caitlin Concannon
Maren Crowley
Zoe Cunicelli
Isabella DePaoli
Anta Helena Disuemi
Anabell Evancho
Maryellen Faus
Chloe Fettis
Nora Flaherty
Josephine Fontana
Madeleine Fox
Margaret Friday
Hannah George
Ma'Ali Gilchrist
Maeve Gleba
Sophia Glosser
Emma Gompers
Lucy Hanser
Giovanna Herron
Nina Hillard
Brynne Huffmyer
Mary Hutchinson
Lucy Hutt
Alexa Kartofilis
Makoto Kowalchuck
Elena Krummert
Lily Kugler
Clara LoPresti
Rylie Loughran
Mary Kathryn Malnight
Teresa Mas Pecina
Chloe McDevitt
Catherine McVicker
Layla Miller
Giavonna Minton
Niko Miyaki
Brooklyn Morgan
Rory O'Connell
Hadley O'Shane
Camille Pawelak
Julianna Phipps
Ava Scott
Elyse Scott
Elliana Smith
Noelle Spears
Maddison Steffey
Laila Strothers
Kya Thayne
Bliss Tilley
Madeline Urso
Casey Walsh
Ellen Wells
Nitiya Wofford

Holidays at OC

The holidays at Oakland Catholic are truly special, creating lasting memories and meaningful connections between students, faculty, and staff. This year was filled with festive moments that reflected the spirit of community and kindness that defines our school.

We kicked off the season with our annual **Halloween Parade,** a fun and spirited tradition that brought smiles and creativity to the hallways. In November, we gathered as a school community for **Friendsgiving**, where students and staff shared a delicious turkey lunch with all the fixings. During this season of gratitude, the **Oakland Catholic Parent Guild (OCPG)** generously gifted every teacher with a pie to show their appreciation.

In the spirit of giving, Oakland Catholic collected non-perishable food items to support those in need during the holiday season. Our students once again demonstrated compassion and generosity in action.

A special highlight this year was the **OC Christmas card**, beautifully designed by senior **Caroline Miller '25**, who captured the holiday spirit through her artwork. December also featured a festive **hot chocolate bar**, adding a sweet touch to the winter season.

The celebrations continued into February with our **"Hearts of Kindness"** initiative, where students shared uplifting messages throughout the school—reminding us all that kindness and community are at the heart of OC.











OCPG

SHARE KINDNESS, ONE HEART AT A TIME

A heartfelt thank you to the OCPG for leading the 'Share Kindness, One Heart at a Time' initiative! Through this wonderful effort, our students filled the halls with encouraging notes and uplifting messages, fostering a school-wide celebration of kindness. Your dedication and enthusiasm have made OC shine a little brighter—thank you for spreading the love!

Grandparents Day

A Celebration of Faith, Family, and Tradition

November 1 was a special day as we celebrated the feast of All Saints' Day and Grandparents Day by attending Mass at Saint Paul Cathedral. Students had the opportunity to give their grandparents a tour of the school, introducing them to friends and faculty. They visited the EagleWear Store, enjoyed coffee at the C3 coffee shop, and shared refreshments in the cafeteria.

Grandparents Day is a beloved tradition at Oakland Catholic—a day that reminds us of the important role grandparents play in shaping the values, faith, and future of our students. It was a heartwarming and memorable celebration of family, community, and Catholic education.









JOIN THE OCPG!

The **Oakland Catholic Parent Guild** 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. **OC parents and supporters ensure the OC legacy and sisterhood will be a network of support for their daughters tomorrow.** We invite you to join the OCPG, see future events or make a general donation to support OCPG.

Memorable Moments

Throughout the school year, the Oakland Catholic Parent Guild (OCPG) played an important role in creating meaningful experiences that supported our students, faculty, and staff. From thoughtful gestures to festive celebrations, scan this code for just a few of the memorable contributions the OCPG made to enhance the OC community this year.

YEAR IN REVIEW

The Oakland Catholic Office of Admissions had a busy and exciting year filled with events and initiatives that highlighted the strength of our community and mission. We began the academic year with our annual Cookie Delivery Tour to local Catholic elementary schools and New Student Orientation for the incoming Class of 2028—both setting a warm and enthusiastic tone for the months ahead.

Throughout the fall semester, we welcomed hundreds of prospective students and families to campus. More than 350 students from 38 different schools participated in our **OC Eagle for a Day** program, offering them the chance to meet current students and faculty, explore classrooms, and engage with each academic department. Shortly after, our fall **Open House** brought prospective families to campus to tour the school, learn more about our curriculum, and connect with representatives from our clubs and athletic teams during the OC Club and Athletics Fair.

Our **OC Shadow Days** ran from fall through spring, providing nearly 170 prospective students with a firsthand experience of a typical day at OC. This year, we also launched our **7th Grade Shadow Days**, welcoming nearly 60 seventh-grade students for an engaging, introductory visit to campus.

Beyond the classroom, prospective students were invited to participate in community events such as our **Spring Art Festival**, as well as cheer on athletes during the **Diocesan Basketball and Volleyball Championships** hosted on campus.

Off campus, the Admissions team remained active throughout the greater Pittsburgh area. We attended high school fairs, visited middle schools, and participated in events such as the **Sacred Heart Elementary Science Fair** and **Blessed Trinity Academy's STEAM Night**. In addition, we hosted middle school students for our **Cross Country Invitational**, **BAM Saturday Workshops**, and **Middle School Nights**, further strengthening our ties with regional Catholic elementary schools.

We concluded the year by welcoming our accepted students from the Class of 2029 to campus for our **Accepted Student Social and Curriculum Night**. We are thrilled to welcome this newest class of Eagles and look forward to supporting their journey through Oakland Catholic High School.

BTA Steam Night



High School Fairs



Spring Lunch Visits





Accepted Student Social







Because Academics Matter (BAM) Camps






Diocesan Elementary School Volleyball and Basketball Championships

Winning teams from left to right: JV Girls Volleyball Dio Champions - Ave Maria, Varsity Girls Volleyball Diocesan Champions - Holy Cross Academy, JV Boys Volleyball Diocesan Champions - Guardian Angel, Varsity Boys Volleyball Diocesan Champions - St. Louise.






Eagle for a Day









Middle School Nights






ADMISSIONS

OC Elementary School Invitational





New Student Orientation





Shadow Days





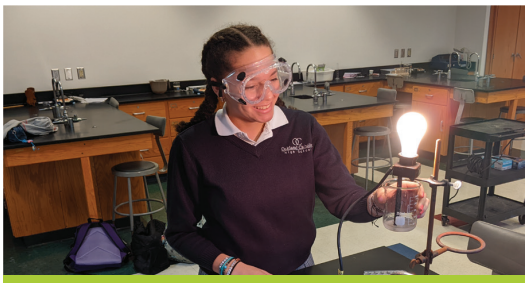
Sacred Heart Science Fair





MCMLXXXIX
OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Spirituality, Scholarship, Service



Scholarship



Service

Rooted in the pillars of *Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service*, Oakland Catholic provides the education and experience of a lifetime. From Campus Ministry, STEM programs, art classes, mission trips, musical theatre, and everything in between, OC is sure to be the right fit for you. Throughout their time here, Oakland Catholic students will create a sisterhood and build a foundation that will last a lifetime.

Join the OC Community!
Learn more and apply today:
www.oaklandcatholic.org/admissions/apply



Spirituality

MISSIONS & TRIPS

At Oakland Catholic, **Campus Ministry** is more than a department—it is the spiritual heartbeat of our school. It brings together faith, fellowship, and service in ways that leave a lasting impact on our students and the broader community. Through a wide range of retreats, mentorship programs, and mission trips, OC students are invited to grow in virtue, strengthen their relationship with God, and discover the joy of serving others.

One of the most treasured opportunities for our freshmen is the **Fiat Mentorship Program**. Inspired by the Gospel of Luke and the relationship between Mary and Elizabeth, Fiat pairs small groups of freshmen with senior mentors who guide them throughout the year. These monthly gatherings are centered around faith, friendship, and growth in virtue. The senior mentors not only offer encouragement and insight, but also embody the values of leadership and sisterhood that define the OC experience.

Spiritual growth at OC also happens within each grade level through annual **class retreats**. Held in the fall, these retreats offer a chance for students to come together as a class and deepen their personal faith journeys. The day includes time for prayer, Mass, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Many students took the opportunity to receive the Sacraments, and each retreat provided a meaningful pause to reconnect with God and their OC community.

In December, students had the opportunity to step away from their routines and embrace "God's time" during **Kairos 42**. This retreat, open to juniors and seniors, welcomed 50 students who spent four days immersed in prayer, reflection, the Sacraments, and small group fellowship. Kairos remains one of the most meaningful spiritual experiences offered at OC, and it continues to touch hearts and deepen students' relationships with God and one another. The weekend was a moving reminder of the profound transformations that can occur when we give God space to speak into our lives.

Mission trips focus on encountering God in others and deepening our relationship with Him. The spirit of service is alive and well at Oakland Catholic. Just before Thanksgiving, 75 students and 10 adult chaperones took part in the **Fall Pittsburgh Mission Trip**. Over two days, they served at 10 local ministries, distributing warm meals, coats, and essential supplies to those in need. In April, 30 students participated in the **Spring Pittsburgh Mission Trip**, volunteering at the Red Door and visiting nursing homes across the city. These students returned to OC for an evening of prayer, reflection, and fellowship, celebrating the bonds formed through shared service.

Over spring break, more than 30 students traveled to **Washington, D.C.** for a weeklong mission trip. Their days were spent assisting in classrooms, teaching



lessons, and supporting local schools. In addition to their service work, students visited several iconic spiritual sites, including the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the Shrine of St. John Paul II. The experience offered both spiritual enrichment and a deeper understanding of the impact their service can have in the world.

Perhaps one of the most profound experiences of the year came when 18 students traveled to **Kingston, Jamaica** to serve with **Mustard Seed Communities**, a nonprofit organization that cares for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Immersed in the daily life of the Mustard Seed mission, students provided compassionate care in residential facilities and offered educational support to local preschools—teaching lessons on manners, shapes, numbers, fruit, and transportation. They engaged in hands-on service, including cementing walls to prevent leaking, and most importantly, offered companionship and joy to the children. Through their selfless giving, students not only made a tangible difference but also encountered Christ in the faces of those they served. The experience was as spiritually enriching as it was humbling, and it left a lasting imprint on each participant's heart.

Whether mentoring freshmen, embracing the quiet of retreat, or serving communities near and far, students involved in Campus Ministry are empowered to become women of purpose—faith-filled leaders ready to love generously, serve humbly, and live courageously. At Oakland Catholic, Campus Ministry is not simply a program—it is a way of life. It calls our students to listen for God's voice, follow His lead, and prepares them to be committed disciples of Christ.

KAIROS

Kairos 42 was held December 12-15 when 50 juniors and seniors spent the weekend growing in faith, friendship, and fun. Kairos means "God's time"; we set aside time for God and He worked in BIG ways this weekend!

The students had time to pray and partake in the Sacraments and grow in friendship through small group sharing and fellowship. Kairos is one of the most treasured spiritual traditions of Oakland Catholic; we are grateful for all who participated, the students who led, and the staff and faculty who continue to make such an impact in the spiritual lives of our students.







PGH Fall Mission

Just before Thanksgiving, 75 of our students and 10 dedicated adult chaperones gave their time and energy to serve the Pittsburgh community through our annual PGH Mission Trip. Over two days, these incredible young women traveled across the city to serve with 10 different local ministries, touching the lives of many. Their hard work helped provide hundreds of people with warm meals, coats, and other essential supplies for the colder months. They made an incredibly impactful difference. Their service truly changed lives!







Fiat Senior Mentors

Bringing faith and fellowship together, OC's Fiat Mentorship program continues to leave a lasting impact on students. Each year, the freshmen class gathers monthly in small groups led by a senior mentor. The program is modeled after the relationship between Mary and Elizabeth in the Gospel of Luke. Although at different stages of life, the two women helped each other grow in virtue and in relationship with God. Fiat groups meet regularly throughout the year to have friendship and grow in virtue.

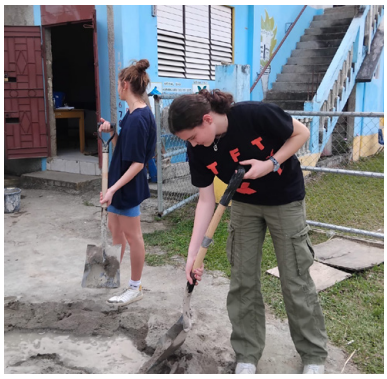
This year's Fiat Mentors:

Alyssa Beltz
Emily Cooke
Ava Frank
Izzie Gallo
Myia Haney
Olivia Hill
Emma Kelley
McKenzie Morrison
Gabi Palmieri
Sunai Partham-Allen
Kayla Rembert
Katie White

Jamaica 2025

Eighteen students traveled to Jamaica to volunteer with Mustard Seed Communities, a nonprofit organization dedicated to caring for children and adults with developmental disabilities. During their time in Kingston, the students worked closely with the children at Mustard Seed's residential care facilities and provided support to two local pre-schools. They spent their days engaging in hands-on service, including cementing walls to prevent them from leaking, assisting with educational activities such as manners, shapes, numbers, fruit, and transportation, and offering companionship to the children. Throughout the trip, these students not only gave their time and effort but also deepened their faith and experienced firsthand the transformative power of selfless giving.











DC Mission Trip

During spring break, over 30 students dedicated their time to serve on a mission trip to Washington, D.C. While there, the students worked in schools, teaching lessons and assisting teachers in their classrooms. They also had the opportunity to visit several notable sites in the city, including the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception—known as the "national church" of the U.S.—and the Shrine of St. John Paul II.





Class Retreats

Each fall semester, OC sets aside one day for each class to spend time away from the classroom and focus on spiritual growth as a class. This fall during class retreats, OC students grew in their love for the Sacraments while on retreat. A majority of students went to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, all attended Mass and encountered God through the many graces in those Sacraments.



March for Life

This year, students from Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic joined thousands of pro-life advocates at the March for Life in Washington, D.C. Students participated in this powerful event, raising their voice for the unborn and standing in solidarity with others dedicated to defending the right to life. It was an inspiring experience, filled with hope and determination for a culture of life!



PGH Spring

During the month of April, 30 of our dedicated students participated in our annual Spring Pittsburgh Mission Trip. They spent their weekend serving our local community, making a meaningful impact at the Red Door and various nursing homes across Pittsburgh. The students not only gave their time and energy to those in need, but also came together in prayer and fellowship upon returning to OC, where they enjoyed a night of fun and reflection. We're incredibly proud of their hard work and commitment to making a difference!



Appalachia Mission Trip

Students from Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic High Schools dedicated a week to serving the community of Huntington, West Virginia, during the annual Appalachia Mission Trip. These young women and men volunteered with various non-profit organizations, engaging in home renovation projects, landscaping, serving meals to the homeless, and enhancing the quality of life for the residents of this region.



Mexico Mission Trip

Eight Oakland Catholic students traveled to Mexico for a powerful mission trip to Chalco Girlstown, part of the Sisters of Mary World Villages for Children.

During their time there, our students are immersing themselves in service and connection—learning from the community, participating in daily life at the school, and growing in faith and perspective.

We are proud to share that Oakland Catholic is also sponsoring a student at Chalco for one year, deepening our commitment to global service and sisterhood.

OC TRIP









Europe Trip

30 Students from OC participated in an unforgettable European adventure, exploring the rich culture, history, and faith traditions across Spain, France, and Italy.

Their journey began in **Barcelona**, where they marveled at Gaudí's iconic Park Güell and Casa Milà before enjoying a beach evening and sampling local paella. From there, they traveled to the **south of France**, discovering medieval Carcassonne, historic Avignon, and the Roman city of Arles. Highlights included exploring the Papal Palace, shopping at lively lavender-filled markets, and tasting escargot. In **Nice**, students soaked in the beauty of the Riviera, hiked to Èze, toured the Fragonard perfume factory, and swam in the Mediterranean Sea.

Crossing into **Italy**, the group began in Montecatini with a visit to its famous thermal baths, historic incline, and scenic village. In **Florence**, they experienced a leather-making demonstration, admired Brunelleschi's Duomo, enjoyed local cuisine, and visited Dante's birthplace.

Their final stop was **Rome**, where students took part in the Jubilee Year by walking through the Holy Doors of St. Peter's Basilica and Santa Maria Maggiore, and visiting the tomb of Pope Francis. They also explored iconic landmarks including the Colosseum, Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, and Pantheon.

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

At Oakland Catholic, we have dozens of clubs and activities to join—there is truly a place for everyone. These opportunities not only foster friendships and a sense of community, they also help students build confidence, leadership skills, and explore their passions beyond the classroom.

EuroChallenge



Oakland Catholic students recently returned from the 2025 EuroChallenge with outstanding results, showcasing not only their knowledge of global economics but also their collaboration, confidence, and poise under pressure. Representing the school and the region on a national stage, the OC team impressed judges with their innovative thinking and well-researched presentation.

Congratulations to **Destiny Folks ’27, Sheridan Cunningham ’27, Kaelyn Kelley ’27, Katelynn Strane ’27, McKenna Crowley ’28, Madeline Sell ’28, Teresa Silvaggio ’27**, and **Caroline Breslin ’27** for placing in **the top 25 in the nation** at EuroChallenge in New York City! Thank you to Ms. Doyle for her dedicated mentorship and guidance.

This incredible achievement is a testament to the strength of our academic programs and the passion and persistence of our students. Well done, ladies!

Speech and Debate



The 2024–2025 season began with a strong start for the Oakland Catholic Speech and Debate Team. At the novice tournament at Peters Township High School, freshman **Lucy Nimmo ’28** earned first place in Lincoln Douglas debate. The momentum continued at the Duquesne University Invitational, where **Aundra Sheridan ’26** placed first in Humorous/Dramatic Interpretation and earned a bid to the state tournament. On the debate side, **Destiny Folks ’27** also took first place, securing her own bid.

To close out the regular season, the team competed at the Seton La Salle “Frosh-Soph” Tournament. **Sarah Hoerster ’28** earned first place in Dramatic Interpretation, while Folks placed first and Nimmo fourth in Lincoln Douglas. At the Three Rivers Invitational, Sheridan claimed another first in Humorous Interpretation, qualifying for the state tournament, NIETOC, and the Tournament of Champions. **Lily Kugler ’26** finished as runner-up, and Folks reached the quarterfinals.





At the PHSSL State Qualifiers, Hoerster and **Hannah Jacob ’25** earned state bids. Alternates included **Madeleine Fox ’27**, Kugler, Nimmo, and **One Sihlangu ’28**. At the NCFL Qualifiers, Folks and Fox advanced to the NCFL Grand National Tournament, and Nimmo was named an alternate.

Sheridan and Hoerster also earned top placements in Dramatic Performance, securing entries to the national tournament in Chicago. Congratulations to all team members on a stellar season—Go Eagles!

Asian Cultures Club



The Asian Cultures Club hosted an engaging and insightful **"Squid Game"-themed session**, offering students a deeper look into the meaning behind the games and the show's cultural significance. Participants also had the opportunity to learn and play some of the most iconic childhood games featured in the series. A special thank you to the club for providing this unique cultural experience and enriching the Oakland Catholic community with meaningful discussions and activities!

Black Student Union (BSU)

Members of the BSU went to the Heinz History Center to experience the *Beyond Adversity* field trip, an enriching experience that connects the students with local history and the resilience of African Americans in Western Pennsylvania over the past 250 years. Throughout the exhibitions, the students gained a deeper understanding of the struggles and triumphs that have shaped the region, from Pittsburgh's role in the abolition movement and the Underground Railroad to its influential jazz scene and legendary sports teams like the Homestead Grays and Pittsburgh Crawfords. This opportunity allowed them to reflect on the human capacity to overcome adversity and walk away with valuable lessons they can apply in their own lives!



Global Competence Initiative (GCI)



On Tuesday, February 25, GCI scholars **One Sihlangu '28, Sonita Rodriguez '26, Laila Strothers '26, Lucy Hutt '26, and Raegan Faulds '27** participated in the 54th annual World Affairs Institute for Changemakers at CMU. This year's event, organized by the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, focused on strategies for transforming Pittsburgh into a global city.

Italian Club



The Italian Club celebrated Valentine's Day by playing Bingo! They listened to music, ate some delicious Italian candy, and made new friends.

In March, the Italian Club gathered to celebrate Fat Tuesday and Carnevale like in Italy by making masks! Thank you to all the students who came to better enjoy this cultural, spiritual, and creative experience.

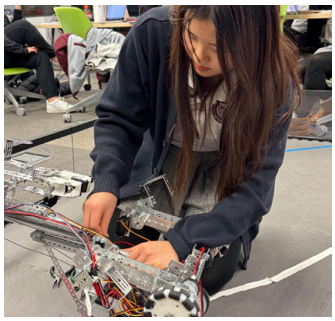
Model UN



The Oakland Catholic Model UN Club delivered an impressive performance at the University of Pittsburgh's Asia Challenge, where 16 students engaged in thoughtful discussions on key global issues, including energy, migration, and demographics.

Sheridan Cunningham '27 and **Hazel Bell '27** earned first place for their position paper, while **Sarah Hoerster '28** and **Victoria Lee '28** secured second place. Additionally, **Adelaide Kreutel '25** and **Lan Anh Nguyen '25** were recognized as Outstanding Delegates for their exceptional diplomacy and debate skills.

Robotics



Congratulations to the Robotics team, "The Flock," who competed at Upper St. Clair for their First Tech Challenge. They have been hard at work as a team all year to get where they are now. From sketches to 3D prints to a physical model, these students are taking STEM to another level!

OC and CC Marching Band



The Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic Marching Band showcased their talent and enthusiasm with a performance in a parade at Universal Studios Orlando. Oakland Catholic students have the unique opportunity to collaborate with Central Catholic's band, performing at sporting events, community parades, and major showcases. Their participation in this event highlights their dedication, musical skill, and passion for performance, reinforcing the important role of music in school and community life.

Milano Exchange 2024-2025

In November, six students from Milano, Italy visited OC as part of an international exchange program. During their 10-day stay, they attended classes, explored American school life, and enjoyed local culture with their host families. The visit began with a welcome assembly and included tours around the city and cultural activities throughout the week.



In March, OC students traveled to Italy for the return exchange, where they experienced Italian language, food, and daily life. Highlights included sightseeing in Verona, Italian lessons, and building lasting friendships abroad.

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 photographer—**Lynda Scahill** documents all major events at Oakland Catholic to capture 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 412-657-7375 with any questions. A 4x6 photograph is reasonably priced, and a portion of all sales comes back to OC!

OCTennis2024
OCSoccer2024
OCVolleyball2024
OCGolf2024
OCCrossCountry2024
OCBand2024
OCFreshmen2024-2025
OCSophomores2024-2025
OCJuniors2024-2025
OCGala2024
OCSeniorFriends2024-2025
OCFieldHockey2024
OCGrandparentsDay2024
OCSigningsFall2024
OCGodspell2024
OCGodspellUnderstudies2024
OCNHS2024
OCBasketball2024-2025
OCCheer2024-2025
OCSwimming2024-2025
OCNewsies2025
OCTrack2025
OCSoftball2025
OCFlagFootball2025
OCLacrosse2025
OCSpiritWeek2025
OCHonorsConvocation2025
OCGCI2025
OCSeniorLuncheon2025
OCGolfOuting2025
OCProm2025
OCBaccalaureate2025
OCGraduation2025
OCTestimonials2025
OCClubs2025
OCArtShow2025

Brewing Opportunities and Creating Fellowship

Leaders are created over time. At OC, our unique E3 (Engaged, Empowered, Empowering) Program offers a clear pathway for eligible sophomores, juniors, and seniors to participate in activities, workshops, and hands-on projects designed to intentionally build confidence and leadership skills across a diverse student community. Students who successfully meet all requirements and submit an application may be accepted into the program and awarded an E3 Leadership Certificate. Becoming a leader involves more than checking off a list of requirements. In an authentic leadership program, opportunities are presented and facilitated; situations that demand leadership, collaboration, and strategy are simulated; actions are taken by the student to demonstrate their understanding of what it means to be a leader.

In the fall, the 2025 cohort finalized their project by opening a school coffee shop at OC. Their vision for the coffee shop was to allow an additional place for fellowship and serve fun drinks to their peers, while learning about communication, how to lean on a team, stay organized, and utilize business management skills. The C3 Coffee Shop is located in a newly renovated space outside of the Donahue Pavilion and is managed and operated by student volunteers. The space is equipped with coffee brewers, a water filtration system, and a refrigerator to store a variety of milks, cold brew concentrate, and cold foam. There's plenty of counter space to build drinks like hot chocolates and cold brew lattes. They offer flavor pumps and syrup additions like vanilla, caramel drizzle, chocolate drizzle, chocolate chip cookie dough syrup, and vanilla cold foam. The girls also serve hot chocolate, strawberry lemonades, and this year's signature drink, "The 26." Junior student, **Josie Fontana '26** stated, "I'm looking forward to seeing the coffee shop expand and become its own club. I'm excited to see how the new leaders and workers will bring their own creative ideas to the table. There has been some talk about adding donations of food and pastry items to the menu, so I am excited to see what the next class leaders develop."

Junior, **Rory O'Connell '26**, played an integral role in the success of C3. She stated, "My favorite aspects of working at the C3 shop are the social elements of it. I love interacting with students and teachers in the OC community who I don't know, as well as working with the members of my cohort. Running a small business has taught me about responsibility through independence and problem solving in times of crisis. I think that everything I've done with the coffee shop has helped me get better at working in a group and prioritizing other people's opinions, as well as using my natural leadership skills to the best of my ability



From left to right - Josie Fontana '26 and Rory O'Connell '26

"Running a small business has taught me about responsibility through independence and problem solving in times of crisis."

— Rory O'Connell '26
Oakland Catholic Junior



to benefit my cohort's success. Being a part of the E3 Leadership Initiative cohort that took over the C3 Coffee Shop and transformed it into what it is today, has helped me grow as a person immensely. Being a part of this project that can have a lasting, positive impact on our school community, was an extremely rewarding experience. Seeing this coffee shop thrive and bring elements of fellowship to the students of OC made me very proud to be so involved! I will always be grateful for this opportunity and remember the leadership, teamwork, and management skills that I learned from C3, which will carry over into my daily adult life."





E3 facilitator and faculty member, **Emily D'Amico**, also shared her thoughts and experience with the leadership program and the C3 Coffee Shop. She said, "As the E3 facilitator, I have the privilege of enjoying a front row seat to the formation of some of OC's most inspiring young leaders. The girls involved with E3 choose to improve OC. I always tell freshmen considering the program that if they want to change something in our school, E3 provides an avenue for one of the most direct impacts. Through the Class of 2025's coffee shop project and the Class of 2026's continuation of the shop, I have seen students step forward to volunteer. They are excited to be involved with something so unique to OC. The coffee shop has become a spot at OC to offer students another place to touch base with friends, study for a quiz, or just unwind midday, before continuing onto their next class. I am proud of all the work that the classes have done to make this space a success. I am so looking forward to hearing the Class of 2027's ideas for their impact on the project."

The C3 Coffee Shop is open two days a week during both lunch periods. There are already new ideas developing for a student designed mural as new decor, a frequent customer reward punch card, and maybe even merchandise available for purchase. In planning for the future, the students would like 75% of their total revenue to be donated to 'The Red Door,' a ministry in Pittsburgh which offers services like providing meals, clothing, tents, blankets, showers/laundry access, and personal hygiene products to those in need. Be sure to follow the C3 Coffee Shop page on Instagram at @c3_2026 for more updates on what's next. We are so proud of our students for their tireless efforts, motivation, and incredible success on the C3 Coffee Shop and look forward to what the future holds for this inspiring OC project!



Spring Art Show



On Tuesday, April 23, Oakland Catholic hosted its annual Spring Art Show, celebrating the incredible talent and creativity of our student artists. The event featured a wide variety of original works, including watercolor pieces, pottery, paintings, drawings, and more. Every creation on display was an authentic expression of student vision and skill, reflecting the dedication and artistic growth fostered within OC's visual arts program. It was an inspiring evening that highlighted the power of imagination and the vibrant spirit of our student body.

Free Verse



Free Verse, a completely student-run a cappella group composed of Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic students, recently competed in the International Championship of High School A Cappella (ICHSA) Midwest Quarterfinal at Hilliard Bradley High School.

Now in its ninth year, with eight years of ICHSA participation, Free Verse continues to showcase student talent through fully student-arranged and choreographed performances. With the motto "Fun, Friendship, Free Verse," the group received high praise from the judges for their creativity and stage presence.

In the coming year, Free Verse will keep sharing their talent and dedication, proudly representing both schools with artistry, leadership, and passion.

Masque Productions

Oakland Catholic/Central Catholic's Masque Productions delivered an unforgettable 2024–2025 season with two standout performances that showcased the passion, talent, and hard work of our student cast and crew.

Godspell

In the fall, the ensemble brought *Godspell* to life with a vibrant and imaginative retelling of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. Through powerful music and meaningful storytelling, the cast captured the themes of faith, friendship, and community in a performance that resonated with audiences.

Newsies



This spring, the stage lit up once again with *Newsies*, a high-energy musical based on the Newsboys' Strike of 1899. Featuring dynamic choreography, memorable songs, and an inspiring message about standing up for what's right, the production was a hit with the Oakland Catholic community.

Both shows were a testament to the creativity and dedication of our students, and Masque Productions once again proved to be a cornerstone of OC's vibrant arts program.



ATHLETICS A to Z

A APPRECIATION NIGHT



This season, our Basketball program proudly hosted a special night of recognition for our dedicated faculty and staff. We are deeply grateful to the educators, administrators, and mentors who go above and beyond to support our students—not only in the classroom, but also in their pursuits beyond it. Your guidance, encouragement, and commitment make a lasting impact. Thank you!

B BASKETBALL



Congratulations to the 2025 **Oakland Catholic Basketball Team** for bringing home the WPIAL Championship! With a 52-50 victory over Blackhawk, they secured OC's 7th WPIAL title—and the first since 2006! Oakland Catholic's six previous titles came in 1999-2002 under coach **Suzie McConnell Serio** and in 2005-2006 under coach **Rich Irr**.

2025 Oakland Catholic Basketball team accomplishments:

- 25-4 record
- Section Title
- WPIAL championship, first in 19 years
- Going 2-1 against biggest rival North Catholic

B BOWLING



Thanks to the leadership and support of Central's Bowling Coach, **Damon Gross**, we've returned to the bowling circuit this year! It's been an exciting season of rebuilding, and we're looking forward to expanding and strengthening the team next year.

C CHEERLEADING



Oakland Catholic is thrilled to announce a new collaboration with our Brother School, Central Catholic. Beginning in Fall 2025, the **Oakland Catholic Sideline Cheer Team** will join Central Catholic on the field, cheering under the Friday night lights at their football games. This partnership not only strengthens the bond between our schools but also gives our students an exciting opportunity to showcase their school spirit and cheerleading talent in a vibrant Friday Night Lights atmosphere.

C CROSS COUNTRY



The **Oakland Catholic Cross Country Team** had an impressive showing at the WPIAL XC Championships, finishing 5th overall—just 10 points shy of qualifying for the PIAA Championships as a team. Juniors **Allie Foster '26** and **Anabell Evancho '26** earned individual berths to the PIAA Championships, where they proudly represented OC and gained invaluable experience competing against the top runners in Pennsylvania.

Congratulations to the entire team on a strong season! We're proud of their determination and are excited to build on the momentum set by our 2024 runners. The future is bright for OC Cross Country!

D DISCIPLINE AND DEDICATION

At Oakland Catholic, student-athletes are called to lead with discipline and dedication—not only on the field or court, but also in the classroom and in their faith.

E EDUCATING

Oakland Catholic is committed to educating young women to be service-minded and actively involved in their communities. They provide opportunities for service, both locally and globally, and encourage students to make a positive impact on the world.



FIELD HOCKEY



Congratulations to **Caroline Miller '25** for making the Field Hockey Class 1A All-Stars Team and to **Myia Haney '25** for being named as an Honorable Mention!

FENCING



In 2024, Oakland Catholic proudly re-ignited its fencing tradition, thanks to the dedication of two trailblazing student-athletes. By 2025, that number had doubled, allowing OC to officially field a varsity team in the Pittsburgh Interscholastic Fencing Association (PIFA).

Led by Captain **Yapa Laoworakiat '27** and foilists **Izzy Echnat '28, Sadie Hanner '28**, and **Lucy Nimmo '28**, the OC Fencing Eagles closed out their season with an impressive 5–4 record, finishing in a four-way tie for fourth place—narrowly missing a playoff spot on a tiebreaker.

Coaches **Julie Polletta** and **Sarah Read** praised the team's grit, growth, and enthusiasm as they embraced a new sport and held their own against experienced competition.

The program continues to grow, and all are welcome to join—no experience necessary. Come try fencing this fall and be part of OC's exciting return to the strip!

GOLF



The Oakland Catholic Golf Team closed out a successful 2024 season with an impressive 10–3 record, finishing in a tie for second place in a highly competitive section and narrowly missing a team playoff berth.

Senior captains **Ryann Salvitti '25** and **Gretchen Waruszeski '25** led the way with steady leadership and consistent play, setting the tone for a season marked by focus and determination. Sophomore **Riley Levers '27** was a standout performer throughout, consistently posting low scores and contributing to the team's overall success. Senior **Theresa Courtright '25** and sophomores **Mackenzie Muir '27** and **Sydney Marrara '27** also played key roles throughout the season.

Four OC golfers—three seniors and one sophomore—competed in the WPIAL Individual Qualifier, with Salvitti, Waruszeski, and Levers advancing to the WPIAL Championship. In the two-round tournament held at Willowbrook and Butler Country Clubs, Salvitti led the Eagles with a strong T-17 finish.

Congratulations to the team on an outstanding season, and thank you to our seniors for their dedication and leadership!

- 2nd in section at end of regular season
- 9-3 in section and overall
- 5 players qualified for WPIAL Sectional which OC hosted at Murrysville Golf Course
- 3 players qualified for WPIAL Individual Championship

GYMNASTICS



Congratulations to **Madeleine Wingerter '27** who absolutely crushed it at the PIAA State Meet, bringing home some incredible results:

- 2nd ALL-AROUND
- 2nd on Vault
- 2nd on Bars
- 3rd on Balance Beam
- 2nd on Floor Exercise

ATHLETICS

HEAD COACH RETIRING



One WPIAL Championship, three Section Titles, and over 100 wins later... Oakland Catholic extends a heartfelt thank you to Coach **Jim Earle** for nine incredible seasons as our Head Soccer Coach.

Your leadership, dedication, and the countless lessons you've instilled—both on and off the field—have left a lasting impact on our athletes and our program. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to excellence and to the growth of every player who had the privilege to be coached by you.

Wishing you all the best in your well-earned retirement. You will always be part of the OC Soccer legacy!

ATHLETIC INTERNS

Oakland Catholic extends a big thank you to our incredible athletic interns for their creativity and dedication in managing sports coverage on social media this year. Their work brought a fresh, dynamic energy to our posts and helped showcase the talent and spirit of OC Athletics.

Dilys Ottii-Boateng '27
Kendall Reilly '27
Yapa Laoworakiat '27

Be sure to follow along for more updates and highlights:
X: @Athletics_OC
Instagram: @ocstudentsection

JAVELIN TRACK AND FIELD TEAM UPDATE



The Oakland Catholic Track team made tremendous strides this season, with athletes continually pushing themselves to take on new events and elevate the team's overall performance. Week after week, team members rose to the challenge, demonstrating determination, versatility, and team spirit.

Several athletes proudly represented OC at major meets, including the Butler Invitational, Pine-Richland Invitational, and the West Mifflin Last Chance Meet.

We're proud of the progress made this season and excited to build on this momentum in the year ahead!

SOCCER IS KICKING OFF THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW COACH



The Oakland Catholic Eagles closed out the 2024 season with a solid 8–8–0 record and a hard-fought appearance in the first round of the WPIAL playoffs. Throughout the season, the team's resilience, dedication, and competitive spirit were on full display. Five players earned All-Section honors—an impressive testament to the talent and hard



work across the roster. With new head coach **Emily Peduto** at the helm and a strong foundation in place, the Eagles are well-positioned for continued success in the year ahead.

All section honors went to

Kaelyn Kelley ’28
Corinna Martella ’25
Noelle Spears ’26
Maddi Steffi ’26
Nica Folina ’25

L LACROSSE



In just Coach Snyder’s second season, the Oakland Catholic Lacrosse team secured a WPIAL playoff berth once again, earning the #8 seed. The Eagles showcased their determination by defeating section rival Franklin Regional in the first round before falling to the eventual champions, Mars High School, in the second.

Congratulations to our six players honored for their outstanding performances:

1st Team:
Tilly Connor ’27
Maggie Friday ’26

2nd Team:
Claire Elder ’27
Caroline Miller ’25

Honorable Mention:
Gigi Easly ’25
Myia Haney ’25

The future looks bright for OC Lacrosse as they continue to build on this momentum!

M TEAM MASS



At Oakland Catholic, everything we do is guided by our Catholic mission. The true heart of any sports team—coaches and players alike—is not just talent, but the love, care, and concern they have for one another. Participation in Mass, receiving the Eucharist, and praying together as a team nourish that heart and root the team deeply in the mission of our school.

This shared spiritual foundation builds trust in God and reminds our athletes that they have the privilege to play not only for themselves but for the greater glory of God.

N NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT



We are so proud of our 10 student-athletes who participated in National Signing Day! This milestone marks their official commitment to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Congratulations to each of you on this exciting next chapter! Read more on page 39.

O OFFICIALS



Oakland Catholic Athletics is proud to honor and recognize the vital role of PIAA officials. Often working behind the scenes and underappreciated, these officials are essential to the fairness and spirit of every game. To show our gratitude, we make it a point to publicly thank and appreciate them before each game.

P PIAA

The PIAA approved Flag Football as a sanctioned sport so our Club Team will be an official Varsity sport next school year. This year’s team earned a playoff spot in the Steelers Girls Flag Football Championship. We are excited for the team to take this next step.

Q QUARTERBACK



Yes we have a Quarterback. Congratulations to the Oakland Catholic Flag Football team on an outstanding season. The school community is proud of the team’s hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship. The student-athletes demonstrated growth both on and off the field, embodying the values of teamwork, perseverance, and school spirit throughout the season.

R RED DOOR



On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a national Day of Service, the Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic Swim Teams came together for a successful Swim-A-Thon, raising a combined total of $1,646 for the Red Door Ministry.

The Red Door Ministry provides two meals a day, six days a week, and a special ‘Sunday Supper’ to support some of Pittsburgh’s residents in need. We are proud of our swimmers for their generosity and commitment to service in honor of this important day.



SOFTBALL



Under the leadership of second-year Head Coach **Kelly Welsh OCHS'05**, the Oakland Catholic Softball team made tremendous strides this season.

The Eagles wrapped up their campaign on a high note with a thrilling 7–6 victory over Ringgold, a game that truly highlighted their determination and teamwork. Congratulations to all the players and coaches on a well-earned strong finish!

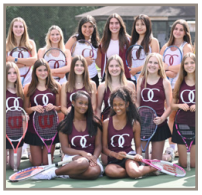
We're excited to see what next season holds for this rising team.

SWIMMING



The Oakland Catholic Swim Team delivered an impressive performance at the State Championships. Congratulations to all our swimmers on an outstanding season filled with hard work, dedication, and achievement!

TENNIS



Oakland Catholic's Tennis Team won the section! 7-0 and 10-6 overall and made it to WPIAL Team Semi Finals.

The Doubles Team qualified for PIAA a second year in a row. Congratulations to **Lucci Easley '26 and Mollie Sclichter '27**.

UGLY SWEATER GAME



We are so grateful to our alumnae who joined us on Monday, December 16, to cheer on the OC Basketball team! It was wonderful reconnecting with each of you and hearing your life updates.

We look forward to staying connected and continuing to work together with our alumnae in the future!

VOLLEYBALL



Congratulations to **Josie Fontana '26** and **Olivia Hill '25** on being named to the WPIAL 3A All-Star Volleyball Teams for 2024! Special recognition to junior Josie Fontana, who earned the distinguished honor of making the 2024 All-State Volleyball Team.

The team finished the season strong, tying for 2nd place in their section with a 9–3 record and an overall 10–8. They secured a first-round victory over Blackhawk in the WPIAL playoffs before falling to Beaver, the eventual runner-up.

WEBSITE

We're excited to announce the launch of our brand-new Athletics website, your go-to spot for all schedules, locations, and important announcements—everything you need, all in one place.

Check it out now at **oaklandcatholicathletics.org** and stay connected with OC Athletics like never before!

X

Follow us on Social Media @Athletics_OC

Y COACH OF THE YEAR



Henry Schechter, Oakland Catholic Basketball Coach

Even though it was a golden first season as coach of Oakland Catholic, there were several hurdles throughout the journey for **Henry Schechter** and his Eagles to clear before raising a district championship trophy.

After dropping two of their first three games—including a tough Section 1-4A opener loss to North Catholic, the team's only defeat to a WPIAL opponent—the Eagles rallied with resilience. Even without star senior **London Creach '25**, OC surged to 11 consecutive wins.

Following a setback against Western Reserve Academy of Ohio, the Eagles went on an impressive 13-game winning streak, culminating in a thrilling victory over Blackhawk in the WPIAL Class 4A finals. This marked OC's seventh district title and their first since 2006—a testament to the team's grit and Coach Schechter's leadership.

Z GEN Z

Generation Z's interest in sports—especially women's sports—is on the rise. This generation is not only actively consuming sports content but also engaging directly with athletes through platforms like social media and podcasts.

Gen Z is playing a key role in driving the growth of women's sports by advocating for increased visibility, better media coverage, and stronger support for female athletes. Their influence is reshaping the sports landscape and paving the way for a more equitable future in athletics.



Top picture from left to right: Alayla Bivins, London Creach, Lily Carr, Caroline Miller, Giovanna Easly, Marina Ripley, and Nica Folino. Bottom picture from left to right: Adelaide Kreutel, Da'Nerah Chisholm, Kamya Cousar-Franklin

NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT

National Signing Day is the official day when high school athletes commit to playing their sport at the collegiate level by signing a **National Letter of Intent (NLI)**. The NLI is a binding agreement between the student-athlete and the college or university. By signing, the athlete agrees to attend the institution for at least one academic year, and in return, the school commits to providing athletic scholarship aid. This formal commitment marks a significant milestone in a student-athlete's academic and athletic journey.

ALAYLA BIVINS
Basketball
Penn West
California University

LONDON CREACH
Basketball
Robert Morris University

LILY CARR
Soccer
Marietta

CAROLINE MILLER
Field Hockey
Catholic University

GIOVANNA EASLY
Lacrosse
Wentworth Institute of Technology

MARINA RIPLEY
Soccer
Penn State Behrend

NICA FOLINO
Soccer
Eastern Michigan University

ADELAIDE KREUTEL
Tennis
Haverford College

DA'NERAH CHISHOLM
Squash
Denison University

KAMYA COUSAR-FRANKLIN
Squash
St. Lawrence University



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2025

JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1, 2025

On Monday, January 27, we welcomed Reverend Bishop David Zubik, who graciously presided over the joint Mass uniting the Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic communities. This beautiful celebration officially launched Catholic Schools Week, setting a tone of faith, gratitude, and togetherness for the days ahead. We are profoundly thankful for this sacred opportunity to come together as one—moments like these remind us of the strength and beauty found in our collective mission through Catholic Education.

Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community







Jack Wallace, Principal of Central Catholic, Kelly Lazzara, President of Oakland Catholic, The Most Revered David A. Zubik, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, Matt Stoessel, President of Central Catholic High School















LEAD LIKE JOAN

This year's guiding principle at Oakland Catholic, **"Lead Like Joan,"** draws inspiration from our patron Saint, **St. Joan of Arc**, a courageous teenager whose unwavering faith and leadership defied societal norms and changed the course of history. Known as the unarmored warrior-maiden, Joan led with conviction, courage, and a deep trust in God. She reminds us that true leadership comes from spiritual strength and a willingness to serve others.

To keep Joan's example close, the Advancement Department gifted every student, faculty, and staff member with a **"Lead Like Joan" bracelet** at the start of the school year. These bracelets serve as a daily reminder to lead with faith, purpose, and bravery. We also share them with community members, donors, visitors, and future students—inviting all who encounter Oakland Catholic to embrace Joan's spirit and lead as she did: boldly, faithfully, and with a heart set on God.





"I'm not afraid, I was born to do this."

ST. JOAN OF ARC

Welcome
TO OUR NEW ACADEMIC LEADERS



KAREN KOLENIK — PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Karen Kolenik has over 30 years of experience as an administrator and teacher in Catholic schools in the Dioceses of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, and Johnstown. Her first teaching position was in social studies and mathematics at St. Benedict School in Johnstown. She then taught social studies and was the assistant volleyball coach at Serra Catholic High School for 12 years before becoming the Assistant Principal at Mother of Sorrows Catholic School in Murrysville. Most recently she has served as the Vice Principal of Academic Affairs at Central Catholic High School.

Mrs. Kolenik has a strong ability to integrate faith and academic excellence, promoting holistic student development rooted in Catholic teaching. With her proven leadership skills she has the ability to build a strong rapport with students, faculty/staff, parents, and the broader community.

A message from Mrs. Kolenik:

I am honored and excited to serve as the principal of Oakland Catholic High School. As a lifelong educator and leader in Catholic education, I am deeply committed to fostering a faith-filled environment that cultivates young women in spirituality, scholarship, and service. Through collaboration with our dedicated faculty, staff, and families, I look forward to advancing the school's mission and inspiring our students to become compassionate, confident leaders.

CHRISTY GILKEY — VICE PRINCIPAL



Mrs. Christy Gilkey also comes to OC with over 30 years of experience in Catholic education. She began her career as a teacher at the Carlow Campus School and at St. Bartholomew School in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Moving to the Diocese of Greensburg, she was a science teacher at Queen of Angels School and most recently at Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School.

A lifelong learner, she is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction. She has devoted herself to inspiring students to advance a lifelong passion for learning through discovery and critical thinking. Her instructional practices focused on promoting students' spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth.

Her extensive classroom experience will enhance her interactions with faculty; and having chosen a Catholic education for her two children, she also understands the parent and student perspective as well.

In Mrs. Gilkey's own words:

"I am thrilled to have been chosen to join the Oakland Catholic leadership team and serve as the vice principal! I look forward to promoting the spiritual, intellectual, and personal growth of our future female leaders."



OC Basketball Faculty and Staff Appreciation Night

OC Basketball hosted the Faculty and Staff for a night of recognition as they defeated Derry High School in their last home game. We appreciate the efforts of all of the educators, administrators, and mentors who support our students both in the classroom and in their extracurriculars!

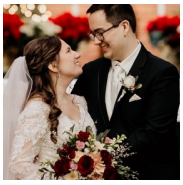


Maura Doyle - History Teacher
Ms. Doyle has been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Study Grant from the University of Pittsburgh to study in Taiwan in June and July of 2025. While in Taiwan, Ms. Doyle will visit museums, universities, K-12 schools, businesses, cultural centers, historic sites, and other institutions to learn about the history, economics, politics, and culture of Taiwan. Ms. Doyle will work with other educators and develop curriculum projects to be used in the classroom, shared, and published upon completing the study tour.

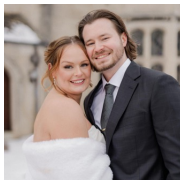
Lydia Damoose Langley - Director of Admissions



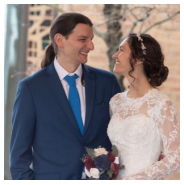
was married on December 7, 2024.



Karen Scott - Religion Teacher
was married on December 28, 2024.



Alexandra Falck - Biology Teacher
was married on on January 25, 2025



Jane Jeffries - English Teacher & OCHS'07 Alumna
was married on February 15, 2025



Steve Graner - Physics Teacher
The Graner family is thrilled to announce the newest addition to their family! Margo Nova Graner was born on December 31, 2024. She is welcomed by her proud older siblings, Duncan (10) and Celia (9).



Alessandra Pazzaglia - Italian Teacher
In 2024, Ms. P served as a presenter at the ACTFL National Language Conference held in Philadelphia, PA. Her session, titled "*Teaching Language Through Cultural Topics: La sostenibilità / L'ambientalismo (Sustainability and Environmentalism)*," highlighted her innovative approach to integrating sustainability and environmentalism into the language classroom to enhance cultural understanding and engagement.



Jared Matis - Math Teacher
Rory, the youngest niece, turned one year old in March. She is the daughter of Jenna Swindlehurst, Mr. Matis' youngest sister, and her husband, Andrew. Rory is expected to become a big sister later this year.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Welcome New Faculty and Staff Members

This year, Oakland Catholic was pleased to welcome a number of new faculty and staff to our community. These individuals bring a wealth of experience, enthusiasm, and fresh perspectives to our school, and we are excited to have them join our dedicated team. Their contributions will no doubt enhance our mission and enrich the experience of our students, staff, and families alike.



Lydia Damoose-Langley
Director of Admissions



Serra Alongi
Campus Ministries



Korie Morton-Rozier
Athletic Director



Amy Langham
Director of Finance



Jude Young
Math Teacher



Claire Hartman
English Teacher



Marcia Becker
Music Teacher



Officer Rick
School Police Officer



Collin Covert
Student Account Specialist



Kristie Barney
Coordinator of Alumnae and Marketing

Congratulations to Our Dedicated Teachers on Their Milestone Years!

We are proud to recognize and celebrate the incredible dedication and commitment of our teachers who have reached significant milestones in their years of service. Your passion for education, unwavering support of students, and continued excellence in teaching have made a lasting impact on our school community.

5 YEARS



Emily D'Amico



Alexandra (Grob) Falck



Sean O'Neil



Jamie Weiss

Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

10 YEARS



Nevanka DePasquale



Maura Doyle

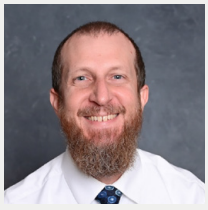


Meg Koroly



Courtney (Ceponis) Murcko

20 YEARS



Jeff Patrizio

SAVE the DATE

Oakland Catholic gala

Scan this code
TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR TO BECOME A GALA SPONSOR

SEPT 27 2025
6:00 pm

DOUGHERTY BALLROOM
AT DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

GiveDay

Together We Soar!

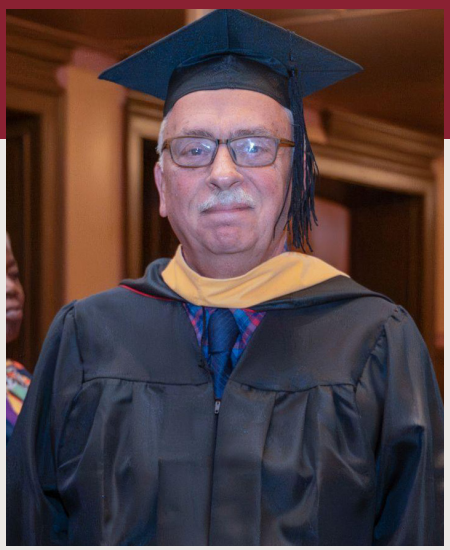
OCFUND
OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026
to participate in this day of support!

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS, AND PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US IN MAKING THIS YEAR'S OC GIVE DAY OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL YET. YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS SHAPE THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW — AND FOR THAT, WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL.

Scan this code
TO LEARN MORE OR TO MAKE A DONATION!

MR. DENNIS DEFILIPPO GRADUATES



After 51 years of service in Catholic education, Dennis DeFilippo is retiring from teaching. He began his career at St. Mary of the Mount High School in 1973, followed by seven years at Sacred Heart, before beginning at the newly formed Oakland Catholic High School in 1989. Over his 36 years at OC, Mr. DeFilippo has been a fixture of the Social Studies Department, teaching upperclassmen, co-coordinating the Senior Interdisciplinary Research Paper, contributing to the evaluation and development of the department's curriculum, and inspiring hundreds of OC alumna. Most recently he has helped students create the Civic Awareness Club. Club founder **Dilys Otti-Boateng '27** noted that Mr. D has been a critical part of the club's success and "encouraged us to make a positive impact on Civic Engagement."



Mr. DeFilippo's dedication to Oakland Catholic extended beyond the classroom. As a faculty member and the parent of an OC graduate—his daughter Aislin is a member of the Class of 2011—he has been deeply invested in the school's mission and growth. His steady presence, thoughtful mentorship, and belief in the importance of developing the whole student have shaped generations of learners and educators. Maura Doyle, Class of 2008 alumna and current Social Studies Department Chair, noted that "Mr. DeFilippo has been an unending source of wisdom and support" throughout her own time as both a student and colleague. His retirement marks the end of an era at Oakland Catholic—one defined by excellence, quiet leadership, and a genuine belief in the transformative power of education.





From left to right: Cathy Fratto, (former teacher of 15 years), Dennis DeFilippo, Zachary Palmer (former teacher of 7 years), Patrick Finnegan (former teacher of 15 years & Mr. DeFilippo's nephew!), Matt Williams (Social Studies Teacher & Director, Global Competence Initiative) Maura Doyle (OCHS'08, Social Studies Department chair)



Dennis, in the Miami Shirt pictured with Ellen (Pietrzak) Kotzin, Sacred Heart 1988

MISS B. GRADUATES MARY PAT BIELICH



After 20 years, Mary Pat Bielich retired in June 2025 from her role as our beloved Health and Physical Education teacher at OC, leaving behind a legacy marked by passion, dedication, and lasting impact. As an educator, she inspired generations of young women to embrace wellness, resilience, and confidence, both in and out of the classroom. Her commitment to our mission reflected the values of the Catholic tradition in her lessons, emphasizing not only physical development but also moral character and spiritual growth.



In addition to her teaching role over the years, she served as an Assistant Volleyball Coach, where her mentorship and team-first philosophy helped cultivate a culture of perseverance, sportsmanship, and unity. Her leadership extended further by serving as the Athletic Director and the Assistant Athletic Director for five years each. She ensured that the school's athletic vision aligned with its mission of strengthening young women through faith and education.



"Miss B." welcomed students every morning during parking lot duty, braving the elements and dodging new drivers learning to park. She always provided words of encouragement including—"you got this" or friendly banter asking—"how much sleep did you get?," "what did you have for breakfast?" or greeting late arriving students with a sarcastic "good afternoon ladies."

We will miss her making the sign of the cross as an affectionate sign of concern and for others needing a double sign of the cross. Mrs. Bielich leaves behind a powerful legacy of strength, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the formation of the whole student.









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 to become competent, confident, ethical, faith-filled, global leaders!

WAYS TO GIVE

OC FUND
OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

PA EITC
PENNSYLVANIA EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

SPONSOR a Student

PLANNED GIVING
The Ultimate Gift

RAINY dayFUND

GIVE DAY
OC FUND

EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM

OAKLAND CATHOLIC gala 2024

Eagle Classic

DESIGNATED GIFTS

Designated gifts are any donations made and earmarked for a specific purpose by the donor. Donors have the ability to designate 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.

ESTABLISHED SCHOLARSHIPS & FUNDS

Establishing a scholarship or fund is a meaningful way to honor, celebrate, or memorialize someone special while creating a lasting legacy. It is one of the most profound ways to impact the educational experience at Oakland Catholic. These scholarships and funds can be funded via an endowment or annual gifts and are designated to a specific purpose and awarding criteria.

We are sincerely grateful for the current Scholarships and Funds that directly impact the students at Oakland Catholic. To learn more about how you can create a Scholarship or Fund please reach out to Lynn Brown, Director of Advancement, at 412-682-6633 ext 1229 or by email at lbrown@oaklandcatholic.org.

Deborah L. Rice Scholarship

Dominic Silvaggio, Sr. Scholarship

Dr. Joanne Marie Andiorio Scholarship

E3 Leadership Fund

George Rudolph Scholarship

Katherine and Thomas J. M. Freyvogel Family Scholarship

Katherine Donahue Freyvogel Scholarships

Leading Ladies Scholarship

Loretto Grecco Scholarship

Louise DiNardo Scholarship

Maribeth and Richard S. Donley Family Scholarship

Our Lady of Guadalupe Scholarship

Penny McKenna Oakland Catholic Scholarship

Ruth Donnelly Egler Scholarship

Sarafina Spoltore Raimondi Oakland Catholic Scholarship

Susan and Ron Petnuch Family Scholarship

Susan McGraw Freyvogel Scholarship

The Denise Hebda Memorial Scholarship

The Dolores Bold Fund

The Mary Claire Kasunic Joan of Arc Award

The Jean Ann Strieff Scholarship

The Mary D. Tamburo Fund

The Patricia and Judith Cawley Scholarship

The Steed Family Scholarship

Thomas and Leona Spelman Scholarship

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Oakland Catholic's Annual Report highlights the generosity of our community and the impact of your support throughout the fiscal year. The report will be **emailed and posted online** for all constituents in **November 2025**. We are grateful for your continued commitment to the mission and vision of Oakland Catholic High School.

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN MULTIPLY THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT?

Many companies offer matching gift programs, allowing employees to increase their personal contributions. Most participating employers will match donations **dollar for dollar,** and some even **double- or triple-match** gifts!

The following companies currently support matching gifts to Oakland Catholic. Check with your employer today to see if they have a matching gift program, and make your gift go even further!

Companies that Currently Match at Oakland Catholic

Abbott Laboratories
Bank of America, Matching Gifts Program
The Bank of New York Mellon
Blackbaud Giving Fund
Cigna
Duquesne Light
Eaton Corp
Google
McKinsey & Company
New York Life
PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.
PPG Industries, Inc.
Royalty Pharma
State Farm
United Health Group

EITC/OSTC 2024-2025 DONOR LIST

Anthony and Connie Folino
Blair and Rubia William
John and Diane Fisher
Doug and Carol MacPhail
Dr. Kiran K. Rajasenan and Mrs. Rosemarie M. Rajasenan
Fat Head's Saloon/ 1805 East Carson St. Corporation
Federated Advisory Services
First National Bank
Francesco and Natalie Tirone
Gary and Megan Doyle
Gavin and Amy Mann
Glimcher Group
Hank and Tina Richard
Hapad, Inc.
Kelly and Thomas McDonnell
Kelly Realtors, Inc.
Maher Duessel Certified Public Accountants
Michael and Lisa Anselmo
NexTier Bank
PA Partners for Education, LLC
Peter and Alice Leone
Thomas H. Ayoob, III and Associates LLC
Tim and Kristie Steitz
United Concordia Insurance Company
Workscape, Inc.

PA EITC PENNSYLVANIA EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

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 $460,000 in tax credits to our young women at Oakland Catholic. Approximately 50% of OC students receive tuition assistance via EITC/OSTC.

To learn more about how you as an individual, or you and your business can participate, please contact the advancement office at 412-682-6633 ext 1231 or by email at advancement@oaklandcatholic.org.

BRiDGE Educational Foundation
Bridging education opportunities through public private partnerships.

Malady & Wooten

RBC Capital Markets

WM



The **Bridge Educational Foundation**, through the support of **Malady & Wooten, RBC Capital Markets,** and **Waste Management**, is donating **$117,200** of scholarship money to the families of Allegheny County. A check presentation was held in December 2024. Some of the attendees pictured include: State Senator Jay Costa, Erika Young from Waste Management, Dan O'Brien from RBC Capital Markets, State Representative Abigail Salisbury, Oakland Catholic President Kelly Lazzara, other school officials from Central Catholic High School, Pittsburgh Urban Christian School, Sacred Heart Elementary School, Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy, St. Edmund's Academy and Waldorf School of Pittsburgh, and students from Sacred Heart Elementary School where the event was held.

THE 2024 OAKLAND CATHOLIC *gala*

The 2024 Oakland Catholic Gala took place on Saturday, October 5, at Acrisure Stadium in the PNC Champions Club from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. This annual celebration brought together alumnae, supporters, and friends of Oakland Catholic High School for an evening of dinner, dancing, friendship, and fundraising in support of our all-girls, college-preparatory school.

The gala welcomed 207 attendees and was supported by 47 sponsors and 85 businesses, reflecting the strong backing from the Pittsburgh community. Special invitations were extended to alumnae celebrating milestone graduation years ending in 4 or 9, including the classes of 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2019. Young alumnae (ages 21–31) and those marking 50+ year reunions were also honored.

The 2024 OC Gala not only celebrated the achievements of Oakland Catholic High School's alumnae but also served as a vital fundraiser to support the school's mission and programs. The success of the event underscores the enduring commitment of the Oakland Catholic community to fostering educational excellence and empowerment for young women.

Special thanks to our Honorary Gala Chairs, **Joe and Pam Silvaggio**, parents of **Teresa Silvaggio, OCHS '27**. Also, thank you to our Emcee for the event, **Susan Koeppen**, parent of **Reagan O'Toole, OCHS '25**.

Our **student ambassadors** played an essential role throughout the evening—selling raffle tickets, greeting guests, assisting with the silent auction, and contributing in countless other ways.

We would also like to thank **Ms. Allmond and the Oakland Catholic Chamber Singers**, who opened the evening beautifully by sharing their voices and talents in song before dinner.

This year marked the inaugural presentation of the St. Joan of Arc Award, created to recognize individuals or families for their dedication and commitment to Catholic education. We are proud to announce that the **first recipients of this honor are Joe and Pam Silvaggio**.

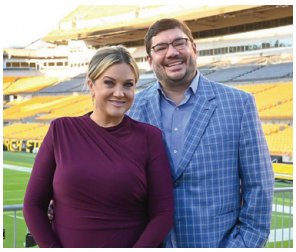


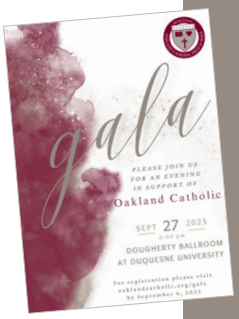












SAVE THE DATE FOR THE OC GALA 2025

September 27, 2025

at Dougherty Ballroom, Duquesne University

Interested in holding your reunion at the OC Gala this year? Please contact Kristie Barney, Coordinator of Alumnae and Marketing at 412-682-6633 ext 1263 or kbarney@oaklandcatholic.org. This year we will be celebrating 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020.

OC EAGLE CLASSIC

What a day on the green! The 22nd Annual OC Eagle Classic was held on Monday, May 5, 2025, at the prestigious Edgewood Country Club in Churchill, PA. The event brought together donors, OC staff, alumnae, families, sponsors, supporters, and golf enthusiasts for a day of camaraderie, competition, and community support.

It was a beautiful, successful event, (and the rain even held off!) as participants enjoyed a round of 18 scenic holes of golf. Whether seasoned golfers or first-time players, all were welcomed to join the fun, while supporting Oakland Catholic's mission of empowering young women through faith-based education and leadership. The day also included a delicious lunch, a 19th hole cocktail reception, raffle baskets, 50/50 raffle, followed by dinner and an awards ceremony to honor our golfers' accomplishments out on the course. We are extremely grateful to each and every one of our sponsors, golfers and our honorary chairs, **Colleen Meyers**, former OCHS Golf coach & OCHS alumnae parent, **Jessica Meyers, OCHS'19** golfer & former OCHS assistant coach and **Paige Meyers, OCHS'24** golfer. We appreciate all who helped make the day so memorable.

















SAVE THE DATE for the **23rd Annual OC Eagle Classic Golf Outing**
Monday, May 4, 2026
Edgewood Country Club



Saint Paul Cathedral High School Class of 1974

The class of 1974 held their 50th reunion on Sunday, September 1, 2024, at The LeMont in Mount Washington. It was a beautiful and memorable event, with 30 classmates in attendance. The joy of reconnecting was evident throughout the evening, as old friends shared stories, laughter, and memories. Some classmates traveled from as far as California, Colorado, and Minnesota to be part of the celebration, making the occasion even more special. It was truly heartwarming to see so many familiar faces gathered together once again.

"Relive the Glory" Oakland Catholic Honors 2005 State Champion Basketball Team

Oakland Catholic High School celebrated a special homecoming on January 29, honoring the legendary 2005 WPIAL and PIAA State Championship Basketball Team. Players, coaches, and their families gathered in the Auxiliary Gym before Oakland Catholic's game against North Catholic, reminiscing over pizza, snacks, and cherished memories. The evening was filled with excitement as teammates reconnected, shared stories, and even found themselves back in the spotlight—some were featured on the news, with a few taking part in interviews. Oakland Catholic extends its gratitude to the incredible alumnae, coaches, and families who attended, making the night a truly memorable celebration of the team's historic achievements.





Kathleen Foley-Hughes SHHS'78

Kathleen came to speak to the sophomore and junior cohorts of E3, along with her son Charlie Hughes, about her restaurant in Palo Alto, CA called Ada's Cafe. Ada's Cafe focuses on employing adults with disabilities and serves the community by proudly producing top quality food and coffee. Kathleen is a trained chef and has helped to design the menu, but she said that she identifies as a servant leader and is never too proud to sweep the floors. She shared her leadership experience and provided advice about opening and running a cafe. She even shared a special treat with the girls from the restaurant-homemade granola!



Maya Giurgi OCHS'22

Maya Giurgi is a rising senior at Parsons School of Design, pursuing a BFA in 4th Dimension Fine Arts, with a focus on time-based media including film, performance art, sound design, and installation work. Over the past three years, her artistic practice has evolved to include production and arts administration, reflecting a deep investment in both creative expression and community collaboration.

In spring 2024, Maya curated a large-scale gallery exhibition at Kestrel's BK, featuring over thirty performers, fine artists, musicians, and collaborators. This event was created to spotlight emerging NYC artists and offered a platform for them to showcase work free of charge. Maya handled all aspects of the production from budgeting and scheduling to recruitment and creative direction, ensuring the show's success with over 70 attendees and a sold-out space. She also debuted her choreographed performance piece, *All The Ways To Be Held*, as part of the exhibition.

In fall 2024, Maya shifted her focus to film production and directed two short films, leading her to apply and be accepted to FAMU International, Europe's most historic film school, in Prague. During her time there, she has worked on four sets and served as director of photography on her own film, gaining hands-on experience in every facet of production.

Maya often reflects on her early leadership at *Forte Magazine* during high school, which inspired her to explore creative technical roles outside of the classroom. Her most recent short films exploring themes of girlhood and growth are available on her YouTube channel (http://www.youtube.com/@mayagiurgi6250). Her current project with FAMU was released in May 2025. Behind-the-scenes photos and past work continue to document her evolving voice as a multidisciplinary artist.

Penelope Means OCHS'19

Penelope started a new job as an architectural drafter/designer at Ryan Homes.

HELP US STAY CONNECTED - UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

We are proud of our ever-growing alumnae community and all the incredible things you've accomplished. To keep you informed about reunions, newsletters, networking opportunities, and school updates, we want to ensure we have your most current contact information.

It only takes a few minutes, and it helps us keep our records accurate so we can stay in touch and celebrate your milestones together.

You can scan the QR code to complete the on line form.

Or, feel free to send an e-mail to Kbarney@oaklandcatholic.org

Sophia Means OCHS'14
Sophia is a Nurse Practitioner at UPMC Children's Community Pediatrics – Pittsburgh Pediatrics. Working with children has always been her passion, and she feels incredibly grateful to dedicate her career to their care and well-being. She loves her role and finds deep fulfillment in supporting the health and growth of her young patients every day.

Alexis Gohring OCHS'19
Alexis started a new job as an Analytical Technician at Westmoreland Mechanical Testing & Research.

Alissa Buck OCHS'13
Alissa is a Lead UX Designer at IBM, based in New York City. She holds a patent with IBM and brings a strong focus on innovation and user-centered design to her work. In addition to her professional achievements, she serves as a board member for both the Penn State NYC Alumni Chapter and the NYC Caledonian Club, reflecting her active engagement in community and cultural initiatives.

Janet Bender Jacoby SHHS'70
In June 2024, Janet was deeply honored to receive the Distinguished Alumni Leadership Award for Service from Seton Hill University, recognizing her outstanding leadership and commitment to service.

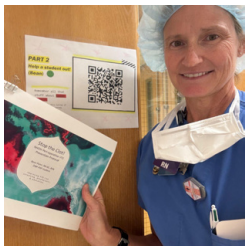


Donna Palfreeman Willard SPCHS'85
Donna graduated from the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics in 1987 and began her career at Sikorsky Helicopters in Connecticut, where she worked for nine years. In 1996, she returned to Pittsburgh and has since spent 27 years at Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory, building a long-standing and respected career in the aerospace and nuclear industries. Beyond her professional life, she is a proud mother of five and a grandmother to eight, with one more grandchild on the way. She considers herself incredibly fortunate and grateful for the life she's built.

Morgan Casciato Barkhymer OCHS'11
Morgan and husband, Luke Barkhymer, welcomed a baby girl in August 2024, Freya Anne Barkhymer. Grandmother is **Christine Abruzese Casciato, SHHS'86**.



Mary Claire Doyle Schneider OCHS'11
Mary Claire and her husband, Erik, welcomed their second daughter, Joan, in October 2024. Joan's older sister, Lucy, has stepped into the big sister role beautifully.



Maureen "Bean" Flynn OCHS'96
After receiving a strong academic foundation at Oakland Catholic High School, Maureen pursued her passion for science and healthcare at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, earning a BS in Biology in 2000. She later completed her Associate Degree in Nursing from Cape Fear Community College in 2007 and returned to UNCW to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in 2016.

In May 2025, she will graduate from UNCW once again, this time with a Doctor of Nursing Practice, Family Nurse Practitioner (DNP-FNP) degree. Her goal is to transition into a Family Nurse Practitioner role, with a special interest in orthopedics, surgery, and trauma care, where she can continue delivering patient-centered, evidence-based care and contribute meaningfully to her community's health.

She remains deeply grateful for the early foundation of academic excellence, service, and leadership instilled in her during her time at Oakland Catholic, which continues to guide her professional journey.

Tara Ponitz OCHS'18
Tara graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, a minor in Architecture, and a certificate in Sustainability. She is currently a Project Engineer at Massaro Corporation, where she plays a key role in managing and building construction projects throughout the Pittsburgh region. Passionate about sustainable design and construction, she is also an active member of the Green Builders Committee within the Master Builders' Association of Western Pennsylvania (MBA).

Heidi Monroe Digennaro OCHS'90
Heidi will be graduating from Kent State University's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program this spring. This milestone marks a significant achievement in her professional journey and reflects her dedication to advancing her expertise in nursing practice.

Alicia Cole OCHS'04
Alicia welcomed her son, Kai Quinerly, on March 6, 2024.



Katherine Diegelman and Maeve Shaughnessy OCHS'24
After months of training and preparation, Katherine and Maeve proudly completed the 2025 Pittsburgh Half Marathon. This achievement taught them valuable lessons in self-discipline, consistency, and maintaining a positive mindset, while revealing the extent of their own capabilities. They are excited to have reached this significant milestone and look forward to continuing to challenge themselves in future endeavors.

Cecelia Cecconi OCHS'18
Cecelia recently became one of four subject matter experts at Kennametal, taking a leading role in launching a new material product line in the United States. As part of this initiative, she traveled to Germany to collaborate with established experts and brought that knowledge back to the U.S. to guide product development efforts. She has led multiple new product development projects, regularly reporting to plant management and playing a key role in decision-making for multimillion-dollar investments. In addition to her leadership in this new product line, she is also working on the development of unique systems designed to produce advanced metallurgical products, contributing to the continued growth and diversification of Kennametal's product portfolio.

Kelley Miggin Politi OCHS'06
Kelley welcomed her daughter, Olivia Rose Politi, on July 20, 2024.



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**!

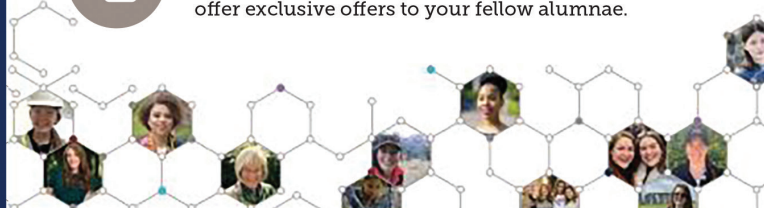
RECONNECT
Find and reminisce with fellow graduates, see what they have been up to and stay in touch.

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.



Addi Watters Georgantzis OCHS'10
Addi earned her Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) from the University of Pennsylvania in 2025. She and her husband live in New Jersey with their daughter, Adriana, who is 22 months old. The family is excitedly expecting their second child, a baby boy, in June.

Lily Jensen OCHS'05
Lily was promoted to Assistant Director of Advancement, Major Gifts & Horizons at Cristo Rey Philadelphia after joining the organization as a Philanthropy Associate in 2022. In this role, she leads major gift initiatives and advancement efforts to support the school's mission.



Nicole Johnson-Richardson OCHS'95
Nicole currently serves as the Director of Admissions, Interns, and College and Career Readiness at Nazareth Prep.

Regina Kuszajewski OCHS'19
Regina earned her MA in Linguistics from Syracuse University in December 2024. She has since begun working in Sydney, Australia, in the study abroad field, combining her passion for language and international education.

Lauren Lakdawala OCHS'00
Lauren welcomed a son, Mason Adamji Melkus, on February 19, 2025.



Chelsea Schieneman-Radovic OCHS'09
Chelsea went on to graduate from John Carroll University with a Bachelor's in Business Administration and an MBA, focusing on accounting and entrepreneurship. During her junior year, Chelsea traveled to France, an experience that deepened her love for European culture.

In 2013, she met her husband while traveling in Croatia, and in 2017, she moved there to start her luxury travel company, Olive and Spice Croatia. Specializing in luxury women's retreats and unique rental properties, Chelsea's work has earned features in Travel + Leisure magazine, and she has become an expert travel advisor for both Croatia and Italy.

Chelsea's passion for planning women's retreats grew from the sense of sisterhood she cherished at Oakland Catholic. Her first retreat will be held in September 2025 in Istria, Croatia, at a five-star boutique hotel. For more information, contact her at maslina_retreats@oliveandspicecroatia.com.



Lilia Stone OCHS'20
Lilia graduated with honors from the College of Charleston, South Carolina, with a degree in Arts Management. She is currently pursuing graduate studies at the University of Bologna in Italy, focusing on Italian Studies and European Literary Cultures. Her passion for Italian culture and the arts was deeply inspired by her teachers at Oakland Catholic, particularly Ms. Pazzaglia and Mrs. Koroly. She is excited to share this enriching experience abroad alongside fellow Oakland Catholic Class of 2020 alumna, Ashley Sullivan.

Charlotte Devlin OCHS'23
Charlotte will spend the summer of 2025 studying abroad in Madrid, Spain, to complete her minor in Hispanic Studies and enhance her Spanish language fluency. In the fall, she will join the Bhatia Laboratory at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where she will assist with neuroradiologic research focused on pediatric CNS tumors.



Helena Elko OCHS'99
After living in Los Angeles and New York City, Helena returned to Pittsburgh three years ago. She currently teaches Upper School Art at The Ellis School and recently became a real estate agent with Howard Hanna in Shadyside. She is excited to be back in her hometown, contributing to the community through both creative education and helping others find their perfect homes.



Kristin Effland OCHS'98
Kristin is an Assistant Professor and the Director of the Maternal-Child Health Systems Program at Bastyr University. Her recent publication, *"Prescriptive Authority for Direct Entry Midwives in Washington State: Increasing Client Access,"* appeared in the Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health.



Isabel Cardenes OCHS'21
Isabel graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Classical Harp Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. Beginning this fall, she will pursue her master's degree at the Curtis Institute of Music, where all students receive merit-based, full-tuition scholarships, making talent and artistic promise the sole criteria for admission.

Mary Virginia Chiccarella-Easton CHHS'53
Mary Virginia has lived in the Tulsa, Oklahoma area for 55 years. A proud alumnus of Oklahoma State University, she recently celebrated her 89th birthday in March 2025. Still an avid fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Mary Virginia enjoys staying connected to the team and community.

Lisa Ware-Blackwell OCHS'90
Lisa was honored to be part of the first graduating class of Oakland Catholic in 1990. Prior to that, she attended Sacred Heart High School for three years before it closed. She has been an LPN for 25 years and has worked in healthcare for a total of 33 years. Lisa is the owner and lead trainer of One Pulse CPR LLC, providing mobile and private CPR, BLS, AED, and First Aid training certified by the American Heart Association. For more information, visit www.onepulsecpr.com.



Judy Berry-Gerger SHHS'77
Judy has retired from full-time employment but continues to run her embroidery business, which she started in 1999. Her greatest accomplishments are her three children; Sam, Jake, and Michael and her two beautiful grandchildren, Lainey and Ben, with another grandchild expected in June. She and her husband, Jeff, feel truly blessed and cherish their family life.



Allison Nedrow OCHS'13
Allison began working at the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium as a marine mammal keeper and trainer and recently transferred to the mammal department, where she now works with small mammals and primates. This role has been a dream job since childhood.

JoAnne Klimovich-Harrop SHHS'81



JoAnne is the author of *A Daughter's Promise*, an Edward R. Murrow award-winning story that inspired the book of the same name. The narrative recounts the 85 days she quarantined with her 93-year-old mother, Evelyn, in a Squirrel Hill nursing home during the 2020 pandemic. Throughout those challenging months, they relied deeply on their Catholic faith, frequently praying the Rosary. The book is available on BookBaby and Amazon.

Cherokee Billings OCHS'23
Eve Majewski OCHS'24
This spring, Cherokee Billings and Eve Majewski founded the Women's Flag Football Club at the University of Pittsburgh. With over 20 women joining the club, they have already competed in three tournaments and secured a $7,500 grant from the Pittsburgh Steelers to support the club's growth. Cherokee and Eve have exciting plans for the future of the team.

PLANNING A REUNION?

Let us help!

MILESTONE REUNIONS

If this is your milestone year (graduating year ending in 0 or 5) consider hosting your reunion at the OC Gala on September 20th at the Dougherty Ballroom, Duquesne University Attendees will receive discounted tickets, dinner, dancing and reserved seating for your class.

ALL REUNIONS

Host your reunion at Oakland Catholic. OC is more then ready to welcome you back. Whether you are planning an intimate gathering of old friends or a large celebration, we have the space, support, and spirit to make your reunion unforgettable.

For more information and to start planning contact Kristie Barney, Alumnae Coordinator at 412.682.6633 ext.1263 or Kbarney@oaklandcatholic.org

Cecilia Kitchen SHHS'64
Cecilia is a proud graduate of Sacred Heart High School, Class of 1964. She has three amazing children: two sons who are career firefighters and a daughter who serves as a volunteer firefighter and is deputy of her fire department, and works for Highmark. Cecilia dedicated 27 years to Medical Rescue Team South, starting as a volunteer EMT and later serving as Human Resources Manager. She also worked as a paramedic with Scott Township EMS and as a firefighter and Safety Officer, and at one time Captain, with Bower Hill Volunteer Fire Department.

In addition to her extensive emergency services career, Cecilia continues to teach CPR, First Aid, Fire Safety, Bloodborne Pathogens, and Emergency Vehicle Driver Training. She also participates in craft fairs showcasing her homemade sewn items. Although she did not attend college or technical school due to family financial responsibilities, she began her career at Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania to support her widowed mother.



Abigail Robinson OCHS'19
Abby completed her Master's program in Physician Assistant Science from Saint Francis University in 2024. She is currently employed by UPMC as a Physician Assistant in Dermatology.



Caroline Walker-Sczweck OCHS'11
Caroline graduated from Duquesne Kline School of Law in May 2025 and will be joining Abernethy & Hagerman, LLC Elder Law as an associate, specializing in estates, trusts, elder law, and corporate law.

Upcoming Class Reunions

SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1965
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025
Time: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Location: Asti's Italian Steak House, Grand View Golf Club
1000 Clubhouse Dr. North Braddock PA
Contact: Maureen Pedzwater (maureenpedzwater01@gmail.com)

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1995
Date: September 27th, 2025
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: OC Gala, Dougherty Ballroom at Duquesne University
Contact: Sumer Panza (sumerpanza@gmail.com/412.716.7643)

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2015
Date: September 13, 2025
Location: Cinderlands Warehouse
Time: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Casual meet up, no RSVP needed

**For information on hosting your class reunion at the OC Gala on September 27th please contact Kristie Barney, Alumnae Coordinator at Kbarney@oaklandcatholic.org/412.682.6633 ext. 1263*



Jonelle Menner OCHS'18
In 2024, Jonelle competed in the Montgomery County, Pennsylvania District Attorney Mock Trial Competition, earning first place and receiving a premium BARBRI bar prep course as the prize. That same year, she also competed with her team at American University's Capitol City Challenge, where they won first place, with Jonelle and her co-counsel successfully arguing the final round.

She has accepted a position as an Assistant District Attorney at the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office, which she will begin in August 2025 following the bar exam. Janelle will graduate from Temple University Beasley School of Law on May 22, 2025, with a Juris Doctor and a certificate in Trial Advocacy, at the age of 24. Additionally, she was awarded a scholarship providing $1,250 toward bar preparation expenses.

Darbi Mercer OCHS'16
Darbi is currently a NICU nurse at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital and is pursuing her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) at Vanderbilt University, specializing as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner. She is on track to graduate next year and plans to continue her career at Vanderbilt, providing expert care to newborns and their families.

Dr. Jacqueline Schneider-Eacret OCHS'09
Jacqueline is an Associate Principal Scientist at Merck & Co., Inc., where she focuses on evaluating immune responses to vaccines targeting infectious diseases and personalized cancer vaccines. She earned her PhD in Microbiology & Immunology from Drexel College of Medicine and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. In August 2024, Jacqueline and her husband, Darrell, welcomed their first child, Camille. Passionate about supporting women in STEM, she actively encourages and mentors the next generation of female scientists and is happy to discuss career paths for women in science.



Ondrejana Zatek OCHS'01
On August 3, 2024, a long-time dream became reality when Ondrejana opened the Vital Sips Coffee Truck. Housed in a creatively repurposed ambulance, this mobile coffee shop was given a new life—and a new mission.

Vital Sips stands out as a community-focused business. All products and supplies are sourced exclusively from small local businesses, reinforcing a commitment to supporting the local economy. Used coffee grounds are donated to a community garden, promoting sustainability. Most importantly, a portion of the profits each quarter is donated to a local nonprofit, making every cup of coffee part of a bigger purpose.

Driven by the belief that "We are vital to OUR community," Vital Sips is more than just a coffee truck—it's a movement with heart.

Each day on the road fills Ondrejana with purpose and pride, sharing the mission, serving great coffee, and striving to make a difference—one cup at a time.

Elizabeth Barbarita-Halter SHHS'72
Elizabeth works two days a week as a pharmacy technician, a role she has enjoyed for over 25 years. She and her husband celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year, having been married since 1974. They have three grown children and are proud grandparents to six grandchildren.

Pamela Benson-Williams SHHS'81
Pamela has retired from work due to a medical condition. Now, she stays very busy at home and truly enjoys life.



Oyinkansola Adebajo OCHS'20
Oyinkansola was accepted into NYU for Graduate Musical Theatre Writing and will be attending this coming Fall.

Rosemary Zlokas-Rapolla OCHS'09
Rosemary works as the Registrar and Manager of Collection Access at the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum in Nashville, TN. She also serves as Chair of the Next Chapter Society, a volunteer group that fundraises and advocates for the Nashville Public Library Foundation.

Tina Ranalli-Freund OCHS'90



Tina is married with two children and two grandchildren. She is a Property Manager and lives in Finleyville, PA.



Lauren Bell CHS'19

Lauren has been passionate about veterinary medicine since elementary school. After graduating from Oakland Catholic, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences from Penn State in 2023. While at Penn State, she worked for several years at the Penn State Dairy Complex, where she discovered a strong interest in large animal medicine and dairy management.

Since returning to Pittsburgh two years ago, Lauren has been gaining experience in small animal medicine as a veterinary technician at North Boros Veterinary Hospital in Ross Township.

In spring 2025, her dedication and experience earned her acceptance to the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. She is excited to begin her studies this fall as a member of the Class of 2029 and is especially looking forward to working with the university's dairy herd.

Lauren plans to pursue a career in mixed animal private practice, where she can treat both companion animals and livestock, combining her love for dogs, cats, and cattle.

Madison Zegeer OCHS'17

Madison is currently pursuing a PhD in Renewable Energy Engineering at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. In March, she reached a major milestone by passing her PhD confirmation (qualifying exam) and is now continuing her research in sustainable energy systems—specifically focusing on modeling climate uncertainty to inform future energy planning.

This October, she will present her research at the Adaptation Futures Conference 2025, one of the leading international conferences on climate adaptation. She's grateful for the strong academic foundation she received at Oakland Catholic and is proud to carry that forward. Go Eagles!

Karen Conway-Enwright SHHS'89



Karen has served as the Exhibition Director at the Jamestown Arts Center in Rhode Island since 2014, where she has curated numerous exhibitions. Over the course of her career, she has held a variety of roles—including curator, gallery director, collections manager, program coordinator, and research consultant—at institutions such as the Whitney Museum of American Art, Vivian Horan Fine Art, Newport Art Museum, and Heritage Museums and Gardens. She has also worked with several private collections and has served as curator to Edwin Schlossberg since 2017.

She holds a graduate certificate in Museum Studies from Harvard University and a Master's degree in Art History and Feminist Theory from the University of Leeds in the UK, where she studied under renowned art historian Griselda Pollock.

Karen currently lives in Newport, RI with her husband, Jack, and their two children: James, 19, a sophomore at St. John's University in New York City, and Alessandra, 16, a high school junior.

Sr. Donna McGartland SHHS'79

Donna is celebrating 40 years with the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, formerly the Sisters of St. Francis of Millvale, PA. She currently serves on the congregation's Leadership Team.

Francesca Wilbert-Vitagliano SPCHS'54

Francesca and her husband of 53 years, Bob, live in Wilmington, NC, where they enjoy spending time with their growing family of four children, eleven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren (and counting!). Over the years, their travels have taken them around the world, including visits to Australia, Europe, Mexico, New Zealand, Japan, and the Bahamas. Now 91 and 88, Bob and Francesca are happily settled at home, cherishing a lifetime of memories.

Before marriage, she led a dynamic professional life—working for four years as an airline stewardess with National Airlines, eight years as an executive assistant in New York City, and five years as a foundation grant writer.



Michelle Hardy OCHS'92

After dedicating 28 years to a career in education, Michelle

recently retired and began an exciting new chapter as a small business owner. Although she hasn't lived in Pittsburgh for nearly three decades, her roots still run deep, and her commitment to making a difference in the metro Pittsburgh area remains strong. Now focused on developing affordable housing solutions, she continues to pursue her lifelong passion for helping others—only in a new form. Where she once shaped young minds in the classroom, she is now working to strengthen communities by creating accessible housing opportunities. Her mission hasn't changed; it has simply evolved. To follow her journey, find her on Instagram at @msmochateacher.

Micaela (aka Marilyn) Young SPCHS'63

Micaela's academic journey reflects a lifelong commitment to learning and creativity. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in French and Education from Mount Mercy College, followed by a Master's degree in French Language and Literature from McGill University in Montreal. Later, she pursued an Associate's degree in Photography and Video Production from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, blending her love of language, storytelling, and visual media.

Her professional career began in education, with teaching roles at St. Xavier Academy in Latrobe and Our Lady of Mercy Academy in Monroeville. She was part of the administrative team involved in the difficult process of closing the Academy. Transitioning from education to communications, she joined the staff at Mercy Hospital, where she captured life inside the hospital through photography—shooting in black and white, processing film, and producing prints that were displayed throughout the facility.

She briefly worked at Skutski & Associates, a downtown Pittsburgh advertising agency, before founding her own communications business. Operating from her home, she managed projects for nonprofit organizations, wrote extensively, and produced video content. One of her most significant projects was for Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, FL, where she developed and oversaw the creation of a multi-panel etched glass history wall that now greets visitors in the hospital lobby.

Her storytelling extended to film with the production of *Going West on the Journey*, a 40-minute documentary filmed in Ireland and Pittsburgh. The film, available on YouTube, tells the compelling story of the Sisters of Mercy, who were founded in Ireland and established their first U.S. foundation in Pittsburgh in 1843.

She concluded her career with a brief tenure as assistant to the President of Pittsburgh Mercy before retiring in 2019. Her work across education, communications, and nonprofit service has left a meaningful legacy rooted in mission, creativity, and compassion.

Danitza Zatek-Nicklow OCHS'03

Danitza is currently working as a real estate agent with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and has achieved significant recognition for her performance. In 2024, she was ranked in the top 9% of all BHHS agents nationwide—a testament to her dedication, professionalism, and results-driven approach. Additionally, throughout the year, she consistently ranked among the top 100 individual agents within the local Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices The Preferred Realty franchise, which includes over 2,000 agents. Her success reflects a strong commitment to client service and excellence in the real estate industry.



Dr. Olivia Ciroli OCHS'19

This May, Olivia graduated with honors from the six-year, direct-entry medical program at University College Dublin in Ireland. Olivia will complete her intern year in Castlebar and Galway, and will stay in Ireland to practice internal medicine.



Mary Martha Nunlist-Homa SHHS'56

In 1956, Mary Martha enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh as a Physical Education major, where she met Ron. The following year, she danced in the Pitt Players' *Brigadoon*, which toured military bases with the USO. She and Ron became engaged in 1959 and married in 1960, the same year she earned her Bachelor of Science in Education and began teaching girls' swimming and PE at Duquesne High School.

There, she revitalized a neglected program by introducing Red Cross swimming skills and field hockey, organizing inter-school events, and founding

a Leaders Club that hosted monthly activities like ice skating and banquets. Her students gained confidence and leadership, and her two years at Duquesne were among her most rewarding.

In 1962, the family moved to Long Island, where she taught PE to grades 1–4. They settled into their new home in 1964, joined St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, and welcomed three sons: Ronald (1964), David (1968), and John (1971).

Mary Martha returned to education in 1976, working as an instructor, assistant director, English teacher, and nursery school director. In 1983, she earned a Master of Arts from Stony Brook University and later served as a remedial reading and math teacher before retiring in 1999.

She was deeply involved at St. Margaret's, serving as church council vice president, religious education coordinator, newsletter editor, Eucharistic Minister, and founding member of the Ministry of Hope. She also served as a hospital Eucharistic Minister for 23 years.

In 2025, she and Ron celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary, proud of their three sons, their wives, and seven grandchildren.



Sarah Richards OCHS'13
This past fall, Sarah became the Soprano section leader in the Professional Vocal Core at the Pittsburgh Oratory of St. Philip Neri and made her professional opera debut as Monica in GianCarlo Menotti's *The Medium* with SERIO Opera in Pittsburgh. She will perform as a soloist with the Pittsburgh Historical Music Society Orchestra in a concert of Baroque French and English selections at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.



Cherokee Billings OCHS'23
Elisa Tolomeo'23
Cherokee and Elisa are studying and rooming together this summer in Florence, Italy with the University of Pittsburgh. They are learning the art, food, and culture of Italy!



Olivia Garver Cornwell OCHS'19
Olivia Garver was married on May 31, 2025, to Liam Cornwell. The Maid of Honor was Ella Klaus (OCHS '19).

Alonie Ashley OCHS'24
Alonie has been selected as a 2025 RI-INBRE STAR Fellow at Providence College. This summer, she will be joining Dr. Ryan Post's neuroscience lab to conduct research on the neural circuits involved in motivated behavior. This fellowship offers an exciting opportunity to explore the brain's decision-making pathways and contribute to meaningful scientific discovery in the field of neuroscience.

Alonie will be presenting her research at the RI-INBRE Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium in August, and connecting with fellow student researchers from across Rhode Island.



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:

OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY

Phyllis Aiello Coates OLOMA'43
Anne Thel Driscoll OLOMA'59
Carolyn A. Pivirotto Lecce OLOMA'59

SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL

JoAnne Farrell DeLuca SHHS'75
Mary Chiorazzo Ervin SHHS'59
Barbara J. George SHHS'70
Margaret A. Mariuzza Gift SHHS'73
Valerie Ann Grada SHHS'76
Sr. Brigid Marie Grandey SHHS'52
Adelaide Briley Smith SHHS'50
Christina M. Yancy SHHS'83
Michele Gittens Yann SHHS'57

ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL

Anna Caruso Casciato CHS'51
Mary Ida Diulus Degener CHS'49
Janet O'Donnell Fiore CHS'60
Carol Patricia Golebiewski CHS'75
Nancy Claire Curtin McGuire CHS'56
Adele Roberts McKeever CHS'54
Diane Hergenroeder Palmer CHS'64
Joann Pison CHS'62
Geraldine Rihn Rigante CHS'56

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Kristi M. Brecht OCHS'98

List includes names of deceased alumnae as of May 28, 2025.



If you know of an alumna who has passed away, we kindly ask that you notify the school. It is important to us to honor the lives and legacies of our alumnae and to share this news with our community when appropriate. You may scan the QR code to submit an online form or you are welcome to contact Kristie Barney; Alumnae Coordinator at 412.682.6633 Kbarney@Oaklandcatholic.org

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November 9th, 2025

11:30 am – 1:30 pm