SPRING/SUMMER 2023

THE QUADRANGLE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

THANK YOU, COACH!

PAGE 32:

TERRY TOTTEN, '76 RETIRES FROM THE GRIDIRON

PAGE 10:

FORENSICS SOCIETY BACK-TO-BACK STATE CHAMPS

VARSITY BASKETBALL WINS WPIAL TITLE: PAGE 20

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2023

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Lettermen's Club President: Steven Massaro, '84

Central Catholic High School Lettermen's Club EST. 1993

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Have news to share for the next edition of The Quadrangle?

Send it to us via email at quadrangle@centralcatholichs.com

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WELCOME LETTER

MAY 2023

DEAR FELLOW VIKINGS AND FRIENDS OF CENTRAL CATHOLIC,

This time of the year always reminds me of the lyrics to a 1965 hit by the Byrds: Turn! Turn! Turn! Many of you know that it is based on the Scripture passage from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8: "There is an appointed time for every purpose under heaven. A time to be born, a time to die, a time to weep, a time to laugh…" etc. Commencement denotes a time for new beginnings. A time of great joy and, at the same time, a sense of loss and moving on in life. I am reminded of the many classes that have come and gone over my thirty-five years in Catholic education. There is great joy, a sense of new life with the outgoing class, and a sense of loss each time. For the Class of 2023, their time here is done, and they are moving on to do great things in life. We expect nothing less from our alumni!

We offer congratulations and prayers to the graduating Class of 2023 from the Central Catholic community. May they continue to take the good work instilled in them at Central and renew the face of the earth with creativity, new life, a better world order, and never forgetting to give back in any way they can to help those most in need.

In addition to graduation, the past several months have flown by and have been marked with many accomplishments by our young men. A WPIAL Basketball Championship, a State Championship by our Forensics Team for the second consecutive year, a trip to the White House by our Black Student Union, mission trips to the southern border and Appalachia, and outstanding performances by the Masque of Les Misérables, to name a few. We are incredibly proud of our young men who continue to go above and beyond the classroom to claim knowledge and experiences of lived reality that will serve them well throughout their lives.

This year was a new beginning for me as well. I am sincerely overwhelmed by all the support, community, and true stewardship of many of our friends and graduates. No one accomplishes any good on their own. This year had its challenges as well. The March 29 hoax threat incident reminded us that we live in a volatile, hostile, and confused world. How our faculty and staff handled that day reminded me that Central is truly a beacon of hope for the young people who are confided to our care.

By the grace of God and through persons of goodwill, Central is a place where good things continue to happen daily through a group of Lasallians dedicated to the lives of young people. We are most grateful for all the support we have received to make the mission of forming young men who will make a difference in the world a tradition that will continue long into the future.

As we begin the 2023 summer season, it is a prayer of gratitude I have for each of you who continually support Central Catholic!

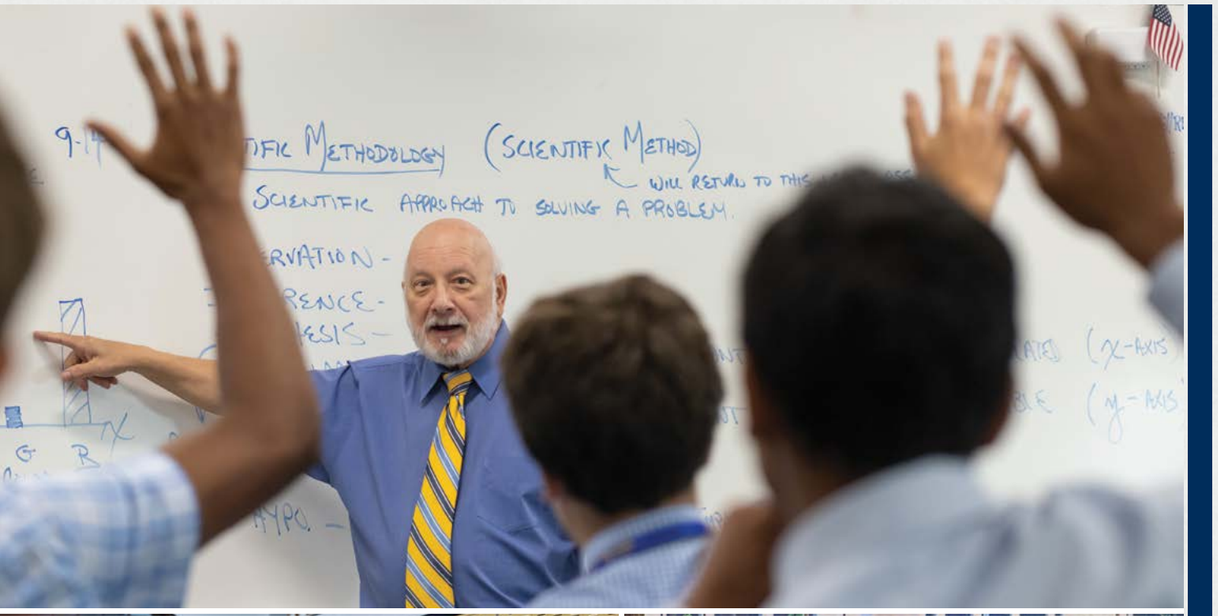
May Jesus live in your hearts forever!

In the Founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle,

Brother Mike Andrejko, FSC, '86

Principal, Central Catholic High School

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



DAVID BODROG POSES WITH HIS FORMER STUDENTS WHO ARE NOW FACULTY AND STAFF.

It all started in the fall of 1980. Mr. David E. Bodrog, a lover of science and a connoisseur of the historical (and current) aspects of the earth, made his way to Central Catholic's campus as a teacher. His educational prowess landed him teaching pupils in the following courses: Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Physics.

Bodrog served as chair of the science department for 30 consecutive years and was a part of the implementation of the robotics program alongside Mr. Napovanic (1949 - 2019), which now travels and competes nationally.

"I BECAME A TEACHER TO CHANGE AND INSPIRE LIVES. I DIDN'T BECOME A TEACHER FOR THE MONEY OR TO GIVE TESTS. MONEY AND TESTS DON'T CHANGE PEOPLE, TEACHERS CHANGE PEOPLE," said Bodrog.

In part of a heartfelt message to his former students and all of those aspiring to attain their overarching goals in life, Bodrog leaves Central with the following quote, "THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTION FOR HARD WORK AND SUCCESS. ALWAYS BE HUMBLE AND HUNGRY."

Happy trails, Mr. Bodrog. Thank you for your service to educating our students. Your presence will always be felt at Central Catholic.

PICONE RETIRES

Mr. Charles Picone, '80, has been with Central Catholic as a French teacher for one year. However, his presence has been felt for 4 decades. He walked across the stage as a graduate in 1980, traveled the world, and would return to Central to share his experiences with our students.

"Electronics were not yet in the building and as a freshman, I took typing with Brother Michael "'Typin Mike,'" said Picone. "It was a 'pinch me' moment as I strolled through the hallowed halls of Central, again." Mr. Picone has had a lasting impression on his colleagues and students. "Central will always have a special place in my heart and I am honored to have been afforded the opportunity to perhaps make a small difference in some lives."

For your undying dedication to our community and service to Central, merci beaucoup!

BROTHER PAUL REASSIGNED

Since 2021, Brother Paul Avvento, FSC, has been a part of Central Catholic's fabric as a history and religion teacher. His new appointment as Director of the Office of Vocation Ministry starts this summer.

THE FOLLOWING IS HIS MESSAGE TO THE CENTRAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY:

"It has been a blessing to have been assigned to Central Catholic and to serve alongside you in our shared mission for the past two years. I am grateful for the welcome and acceptance I received and to have been a part of this tradition. One promise within the Brothers' vows, as professed during our Founder's Day Mass, is "TO GO WHEREVER I MAY BE SENT AND TO DO WHATEVER I MAY BE ASSIGNED…"

I have recently been asked to serve as the Director of the Office of Vocation Ministry for our District with a community assignment of downtown Manhattan. While I am excited for this opportunity of sharing our vocation with others, I am also sad to leave this community and school. I ask for your prayers as I seek out those who have been called by God to be a Brother and assist them in their discernment."

LEFT TO RIGHT: MICHELLE CARNES, TIFFANY NIX, JACKIE RIVETT, JAMIE MURPHY AND JENNIFER GRIFFIN

MOTHERS' GUILD SUPPORTS MENTAL HEALTH

Central Catholic's Mothers' Guild, one of the school's oldest organizations, thrives to support the students and faculty of Central Catholic through fundraising endeavors and morale-building social events. For many years, the Mothers' Guild has held a yearly fashion show, their largest fundraiser, to fund a mission of Central Catholic. For the third consecutive year, the Mothers' Guild, in conjunction with the administration, has raised funds for the school's mental health and wellness initiative. This year, the event raised $25,000 to support the social and emotional needs of our Central Catholic students. This is in addition to the $50,000 raised in the prior two years.

"AS A PARENT AND FELLOW EDUCATOR, I CANNOT EXPRESS HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE KNOWING THERE IS A TEAM OF PEOPLE AT CENTRAL CATHOLIC DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL," said Tiffany Nix, co-president of the Mothers' Guild and parent of recent graduate Cole Nix, '23.

NIX WAS JOINED BY FELLOW MOTHERS' GUILD BOARD MEMBERS: Jennifer Griffin, Jackie Rivett, Jamie Murphy, and Michelle Carnes, who made the check presentation. Nix went on to share how "HIGH SCHOOL CAN BE A TRYING TIME FOR STUDENTS. ACADEMIC PRESSURES, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND THE AFTERMATH OF COVID HAVE HAD A TREMENDOUS, AND OFTEN NEGATIVE, IMPACT ON OUR YOUTH. THE MOTHERS' GUILD HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY TO CREATE A GROUP OF PARENTS THAT PROVIDE VALUABLE TIME AND COUNTLESS EFFORTS TO CENTRAL CATHOLIC. ASSISTING TO FUND MENTAL HEALTH IS JUST A SMALL PORTION OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE. WE ARE VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE TRADITIONS THAT MAKE CENTRAL CATHOLIC SO AMAZING. THE BEST IS YET TO COME."

Your connection to Central Catholic makes you part of something big.

You are connected to the Christian Brothers, faculty members, your classmates and the brotherhood of alumni that attended before and after you.

Perhaps your most impactful connection is to our current students. Like you, they came to Central because someone believed in them. Someone knew a Central Catholic education would prepare them for greatness.

Show our students that you value your connection to them with a gift to the annual fund. Your support provides a current Viking the same opportunities given to you at Central Catholic.

THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

YOUR CONNECTION *MATTERS*

45%

750 students currently enrolled with over 45% receiving tuition assistance made available by contributions.

$3.2 million

Our connected community of alumni, parents and friends allows us to distribute over $3.2 million in tuition assistance annually.

–$2K

Did you know tuition is $2,000 less than our actual cost per student? Keeping Central accessible keeps us connected to our mission.

Every gift counts.

100% of your contribution stays here. Fill out, detach, and mail the form below or give securely at centralcatholichs.com/give

Please call the Office of Advancement at 412-622-6171 for additional information.

SCAN CODE to give securely online

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❑ **$1,200** ❑ **$250** ❑ **Other**

❑ **$500** ❑ **$100** $

❑ I'd like to make a monthly recurring gift of:

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❑ **I'm a Parent of a Viking Student**

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

CENTRAL CATHOLIC FORENSICS WINS 2ND CONSECUTIVE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

BY: PAUL BEER, '19, HEAD FORENSICS COACH
CENTRAL CATHOLIC FORENSICS SOCIETY

Ending the last season with a state championship, a nationals semifinalist, and countless local victories — perhaps our best competitive season ever — we knew we had expectations to live up to, so work began early. As always, the year's first tournament is M&M Behrend in Erie. With numerous top 6 placements and Amari Smith in first, we secured a second-team victory at the tournament, setting the tone for the rest of the year.

MEMBERS AND COACHES OF THE CENTRAL CATHOLIC FORENSICS SOCIETY. COACHES: (LEFT TO RIGHT) JOHN HOLLIHAN, '20, ASSISTANT COACH, MIKE DEPASQUALE, '15, HEAD COACH, AND PAUL BEER, '19, HEAD SPEECH COACH

FORENSICS COACHES

After some local tournaments, the team traveled to La Salle College High School in Wyndmoor. With Jack Sabo, '23, and Amari Smith, '23, in first place and Santino Balistrieri, '26, and the team of Michael Brienza, '24 & Michael Murphy, '24, in second place, we took third place as a team.

After Christmas came the Dalmasse Sterner Steel City Invitational, hosted by Central Catholic. With over 40 alumni returning and parents helping out, we expanded and had one of the best competitive local tournaments this season. Santino, Amari, Aidan Nicholas, '23, and Matthew Evans, '25, coming in first, our team took second in Speech, making our alumni and parents proud.

The conclusion of our tournament meant that the primary season had truly begun. Local tournaments grew in size, and our team began hunting for coveted Tournament of Champions bids: only given out at large national tournaments across the country. For our varsity, that meant competing in two different tournaments almost every weekend, one in-person and one virtually. At the St. Genesius Invitational (held virtually in Atlanta), Aidan and Amari took first place against national competitors. The conclusion of our tournament meant that the main season had truly begun.

We brought a smaller portion of our team to our second major travel tournament: Pennsbury in Fairless Hills. Amari, quadruple-entered, acted as a one-man army. He made it to the final round in all four events and won one. Aidan also took first in his event, granting us the second-place trophy in Speech.

Soon after, national qualifiers were upon us. At CFL (Catholic Forensics League) Qualifiers, our team qualified ten students to compete at the national tournament in Louisville, KY, in late May. At the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) Qualifiers, Central Catholic qualified six students to compete in Phoenix, AZ, in June, the most out of any school in Western Pennsylvania, and won 1st place in Speech as a team. Building on this momentum, Central Catholic landed in Bloomsburg, PA for the State Championship tournament, hungry for another win.

Our team knew exactly what to do this year to secure another victory: give it all on Day 1 to ensure the most points. We were prepared with students strategically placed in the largest events to gather the most points. At the end of the first day, our team had two students in first, two in second, and two in fourth. We did not know it yet, but we had already won the tournament based on the first day's points. On the second day, our students competed in elimination rounds for their own success. Four students made it to the final round. When the dust settled, Amari Smith, Aidan Nicholas, and Luka DePasquale, '24, (a two-time champion) won their events, with Jack Sabo, '23 finishing as a runner-up.

THE **2022-23 SEASON MARKS THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE 1970s** THAT CENTRAL CATHOLIC HAS WON BACK-TO-BACK STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW WHERE OUR TEAM PRODUCED THE MOST INDIVIDUAL STATE CHAMPIONS, WITH THREE.

AMARI SMITH, '23, BREAKS CENTRAL CATHOLIC'S ALL-TIME FORENSICS RECORDS

Amari Smith, '23, is a once-in-a-generation competitor. In his four years of speech competition, Amari has accumulated 2,205 overall points (at the time of this publication's release) and numerous accolades at major tournaments across the country. Throughout his high school career, Smith was able to achieve the most points in Central Catholic history! The previous record was set by Will McCarthy, '16, who previously held the record with a score of 1,685.

Since his sophomore year, Amari has always double, triple, or even quadruple-entered every weekend. Most students choose to perfect just one event, on average doing about 4 rounds per tournament. For comparison, at the Pennsbury Falcon Invitational, Amari competed in 23 rounds.

Just this year, Amari proved that he is a competitive powerhouse by placing in the final round of 4 events at the Pennsbury Falcon Invitational and placed first in two events at the Upper St. Clair Three Rivers Invitational. At this year's highly prestigious Tournament of Champions, he took 2nd place in his primary event. CONGRATULATIONS, AMARI!

FORMAL AND FABULOUS!

(left to right) Amari Smith, ’23, Jalen Hollins, ’24, Joshua Wade, ’23, Morris Turner, ’23, and Quincy McCormick, ’24, were recognized in the Jack and Jill of America’s Biennial Presentation Ball. The formal event honors the achievements of junior and senior high school students who make significant contributions to their communities, achieve high academic standards, and raise money for charities and foundations in the city of Pittsburgh. We are proud to have FIVE students recognized in the same year!

VOLUNTEERING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Central freshmen and graduates of Blessed Francis Seelos Academy, volunteered with the school's food collection during Catholic Schools Week. The students delivered donations to The Red Door, located in Downtown Pittsburgh, which is regularly used to help stock food pantries to aid the homeless.

MISSION TRIP AT THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER

In February, eight junior and senior students and two faculty members traveled to El Paso, Texas, to take part in the El Otro Lado Program, hosted by fellow LaSallian school Cathedral High School. Through El Otro Lado, students gained a deeper understanding of the complexities of the US-Mexico border region and culture. Students experienced a variety of perspectives from the region. During the week, the group met with humanitarian organizations, Border Patrol agents, El Paso Bishop Mark Seitz, and served refugees at a local migrant shelter.

CHEMICAL BOND

The Society of Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) Essay Contest had two winners from Central Catholic! John Beeson, '24, and Justin Walsh, '25, Beeson placed second overall with a $300 prize, Walsh received an Honorable Mention and $100.

VIKINGS VISIT THE COLONIALS

Members of the Viking News Network and Viking Productions visited Robert Morris University and shadowed Ian Connolly, '20, and the RMU gameday production crew, receiving hands-on experience with the broadcast equipment.

LIONS, TIGERS, AND EDUCATION, OH MY!

The senior Environmental Science class went on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium. During the tour, students learned about various careers at the zoo, discussed the impact climate change is having on various animals and their habitats, and learned firsthand how zookeepers care for the animals! Our students were enlightened and enjoyed their experience.

SURPRISE FULL RIDE

Surprised with balloons, some [always welcomed] treats, and a big check donned with the word “priceless,” Aaron Grant, ’23, received a full scholarship to St. Vincent College this year! Representatives from the school and his closest friends at Central Catholic were on hand to surprise the senior who will further his education at the legendary institution.

LES MISÉRABLES

Central Catholic-Oakland Catholic Masque presented a riveting performance of Les Misérables in the McGonigle Theater.

LESSONS IN DECISION MAKING

On our campus, we recognize Destructive Decision Awareness Week which is designated for students to learn responsibilities related to safe driving. For the fourth year, the Grim Reaper Experiment accentuates the many dangers associated with distracted driving and teaches our students how to be safe on the road.

Motivational speaker Jimmy Woods and Fr. Michael Decewicz spoke to students about avoiding drug and alcohol addiction and gave a first-hand account of faith and the road to recovery. Both programs were led by our counseling department.

GOOD LUCK CHARM

We honored and recognized St. Patrick's Day with Andrew Engelhardt, '23, who performed the Irish ballad "Danny Boy" during the school day. He brought cheer to all – who were walking or driving by – and heard his rendition of the legendary tune!

BEST BAND IN THE UNIVERSE

The Viking Marching Band traveled to Orlando, Florida, and participated in a parade through Universal Studios titled The STARS Performance Program! While there, the band enjoyed time in Walt Disney World, all while proudly representing Central Catholic.

LAW AND ORDER

Students and faculty visited the courtroom of Judge Elliot Howsie, '86, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Family Division, and the office of Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, '77. During the field trip, students received real-world accounts of what happens inside courtrooms during the judicial process. Both Howsie and Fitzgerald spoke with students and gave them an overview of the political processes in our region. Both shared their personal stories of their experiences on the job and attributed their time at Central Catholic as the most significant basis of their successful careers!

PROM 2023

VOCATION RETREAT IN BUFFALO

Twenty-four students from Central Catholic High School and St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute gathered in Buffalo for the Spring Discernment and Vocation Retreat. The retreat, for juniors and seniors, allowed the young men from these two Lasallian schools to strengthen their brotherhood through the sacraments, prayer, discussion, and activities. They learned how to include God when making difficult or major decisions and enjoyed an 'inside look' at religious life and the priesthood. The students from Central were also able to experience the best parts of Buffalo – wings and Niagara Falls!

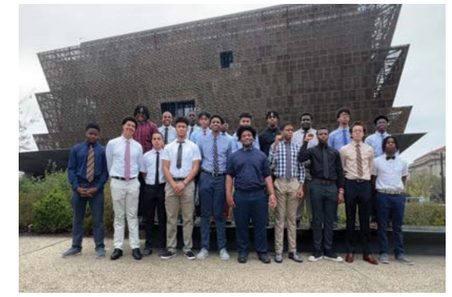
CEOs IN TRAINING!

Central Catholic's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter qualified 56 students for the State Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA, in April and was recognized as the sixth-largest Pennsylvania chapter, with 116 members with a 17.21% market share.

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS RECEIVED NOTABLE ACCOLADES:

- Matthew Aluise, '25
- Nicholas Athanassiou, '26
- Anthony Frank, '23
- Maxwell Kimbrough, '23
- Noah Mason, '23
- Charles Mehta, '23
- Cole Nix, '23
- Gabe Primrose, '23
- Jack Sabo, '23
- Dante Scalise, '23
- Shreyas Sengupta, '25
- Matthew Weber, '25

Black Student Union Makes Historic Visit to the Executive Office



2023 marks the first time current students visited The White House in Central Catholic's 96-year history! It stemmed from an invitation by Dr. Ron Layton, '83, a long-time United States Secret Service agent and Deputy Assistant Director who dedicated a large part of his career to keeping our country's leaders safe while protecting our homeland.

His vision of inviting Central's Black Student Union to witness our democracy at the highest level, came to fruition in March. During the tour, students viewed the Blue Room's striking beauty and artwork, the alluring appearance and antique furniture of the Red Room, and the East Room, where the President of the United States hosts foreign leaders for State Dinners. Our students were thoroughly impressed and in awe while touring this magnificent structure which has been standing since 1800.

To round out the experience, students and chaperones visited Arlington National Cemetery and the National Museum of African American and Culture.

FARON PARAMORE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE, SPEAKS WITH STUDENTS ON WHITE HOUSE PROTOCOL

STUDENT QUOTES:

Maceo Marshall, '23, the lone senior student on the trip, said, "Traveling to the White House was an unforgettable experience that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I feel incredibly privileged to have been a part of the first group in Central Catholic's history to visit such an iconic landmark."

"My personal experience of the White House trip was inspirational and touching! The opportunity to make history and experience a once-in-a-lifetime, in-depth visit was magnificent. The trip showed me that we are indeed regular people who choose to do special things through the connections and relationships we build," said Arii Metz, '24. "With the help and guidance of Dr. Layton, I was enthralled by our time spent in our nation's capital, and I thank my brothers for taking the trip alongside me."

"Being a part of a trip to the White House was an experience of a lifetime! Knowing that I may never be able to get this opportunity again, it was great to be there during my high school years," said Samir Grayson, '24. "It was so cool being inside the historical place where our President lives and runs the country. The man who protects our nation & the people who have protected our freedoms over the years walked a similar path that I did this semester, which blows my mind!"

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM DR. RON LAYTON, '83

"This trip was intended to provide significant long-term value for Central Catholic. I wanted to engage the students in the area of leadership development while simultaneously exposing them to an environment that very few Americans will experience.

When I think about how to develop young people, my personal motto is: **"YOU WANT TO BE WHAT YOU SEE,"** and I wanted our young men to see one of the iconic symbols of our great nation and the multitude of servant leaders who keep us safe by their commitment to duty.

The 'eloquence of example' is one of the best ways to mold young leaders and this trip provided numerous first-hand examples. It was a special treat to have the United States Secret Service Deputy Director, Faron Paramore provide our students with a personal White House escort while sharing stories about his unique journey across an illustrious career of service and sacrifice.

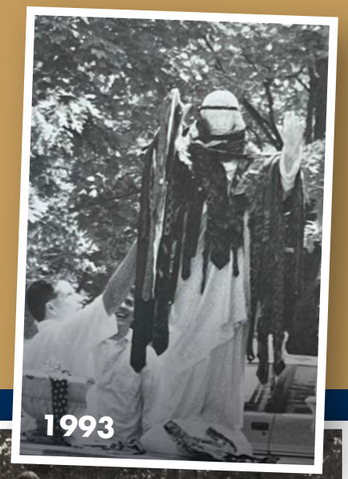
> **ONE OF THE THINGS THAT CENTRAL DOES IS BUILD LEADERS THROUGH LASALLIAN VALUES.**
>
> The message to the students was simple:
>
> **LEADERS ARE REGULAR PEOPLE WHO CHOOSE TO DO SPECIAL THINGS. LEADERSHIP ISN'T FREE; YOU PAY FOR IT WITH THE CURRENCY OF YOUR BEHAVIOR THROUGH SERVICE AND SACRIFICE.**

I retired from the Secret Service in 2018 as the Deputy Assistant Director, and much like Central, I've gotten more from these institutions than I was able to give. The White House trip was a small effort to make a big impression on some of our young students. This was a total team effort. I want to personally thank Brother Mike Andrejko, FSC, '86, Mrs. Brandy Gershon, Mr. Brian A. Cook Sr., '98, Mr. Matthew Stoessel, '95, Mr. Brandon Haburjak, '06, and Deacon Mike Fekete, '87, as I could not have done this without them. I suspect that as time passes, everyone in attendance will fully appreciate our history-making event and the lessons derived from our unique experience."

30 YEARS OF TRADITION LIVES ON

With extreme jubilation on their final day of classes, Central Catholic's seniors traditionally head to the Quadrangle and ceremoniously cover the statue of Jesus with neckties! The class of 2023 didn't disappoint!

This year marks the 30th anniversary of when the class of 1993 made their way to the Quad for what some say was a senior prank; others proclaim it was a sign of appreciation for what Central did for their lives and paying it back to the school. Nonetheless, the young men beginning their transition to the next phase of life have done it ever since – and will for the foreseeable future!



"I think it was just something we wanted to try," said David J. Donkin Jr., '93. "It started with a few people, and before we knew it, the entire class had followed. I don't think anyone at that time could have imagined that this would be a Central tradition that would last. Especially for three decades!"

- DAVID J. DONKIN JR., '93.

ATHLETICS

FULL COURT PRESS

VARSITY BASKETBALL CLAIMS WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

BY: BRIAN A. COOK SR., '98

OVERALL RECORD 61-39
1 WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The tone was set by Coach Brian Urso the moment he set foot onto Central Catholic's campus in 2019! Determination, success, and the will to win was the [unspoken] mantra, and building a basketball program that exudes success, was only a matter of time!

THAT TIME ARRIVED FASTER THAN HE IMAGINED!
In only his fourth year as head coach, Urso led the varsity basketball team to bring home one of the most coveted awards in our region, the WPIAL 6A Championship! However, winning is never the story. IT'S THE JOURNEY!

"IT'S NEAT TO SEE WHERE THE PROGRAM HAS GONE FROM DAY ONE. WALKING INTO 4720 [FIFTH AVENUE] – ALMOST 4 YEARS TO THE DAY OF BEING HIRED – WITH A BIT OF UNCERTAINTY, GETTING A FEEL FOR THE SCHOOL, THE GYM, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, A FEEL FOR THE GUYS THAT I AM TO COACH," said Urso.

"IT WAS SURREAL FOR ME BECAUSE CENTRAL CATHOLIC IS LEGENDARY, AND THERE IS A STANDARD. THERE ARE HIGH EXPECTATIONS, AND I WANTED TO LIVE UP TO THAT."

Assistant Coach Kyle Goldcamp, '04, has been an integral part of the team's success. His skills and knowledge of the game, having played professionally, has been a prodigious asset to the coaching staff. With both Urso and Goldcamp coaching in tandem, the Vikings made it to the postseason every year. However, they came up short in the 2022 semifinals against Fox Chapel, coached by Central Alumus Zachary Skrinjar, '97, who applauded Central being well coached. Skrinjar saw great potential in his alma mater even predicting a Vikings championship the following year, despite the rivalry. "DURING THE POSTGAME HANDSHAKE," Urso said, "SKRINJAR SAID TO ME, 'THIS WILL BE YOU NEXT YEAR!'

"I TOOK THAT TO HEART," Urso said.

Knowing that his team was on the cusp of reaching the pinnacle, Urso said, "WHEN I TOOK THE JOB, THE FIRST THING I ASKED JOEY DAVID, CURRENT HEAD COACH AT MOUNT LEBANON, 'WHAT CAN I DO DIFFERENTLY TO GET OVER THAT HUMP? HE REPLIED, ENHANCE SKILLS. FOCUS ON FUNDAMENTALS. AND WHEN IT COMES TO THE [OVERALL] SPORT, TEACH! TEACH! TEACH!'"

THE PREPARATION FROM ON-COURT ACTIVITIES CONTINUED TO EXPAND TO EXTENSIVE OFF-COURT TEAM-BUILDING EXERCISES, COUPLED WITH MORE TEAM DINNERS AND PRAYER.

The 2022-23 season was monumental on many levels as the sweat equity gained to this point was made from a team who jelled for four years as a cohesive unit.

"I REMEMBER MY DAYS OF BEING A FRESHMAN IN 2019. I'M PLAYING ON A BIGGER STAGE, THE CHANGE OF PACE, THE SIZE OF THE PLAYERS. EVERYTHING IS FASTER," said Dante DePante, '23 (Guard, #11). "FROM DAY ONE, WE WERE TOLD THAT OUR GOAL WAS TO HAVE A WINNING ATTITUDE IN BASKETBALL AND IN ACADEMICS. THE WHOLE TIME, WE WERE BEING TRAINED FOR LIFE LESSONS!"

The benefits of their labor took Central Catholic to the WPIAL Championship game at the Petersen Event Center against New Castle, to whom they lost in regular season play. "I KNEW THEY WOULD BE TOUGH, BUT WE WERE UP FOR THE CHALLENGE," said Coach Urso.

The Vikings held the lead for the first half but allowed New Castle to narrow the advantage slightly in the 3rd quarter. Ultimately, Central Catholic was victorious 61-52, and the culmination of hard work was enjoyed at that moment!

RANDY WILKERSON, '23 (GUARD, #1) SAID,

"IT'S ALL ABOUT HAVING YOUR MIND SET ON EXECUTING THE TASK AT HAND. WE DIDN'T TRY TO THINK TOO FAR AHEAD BECAUSE THAT'S WHEN THINGS CAN GO BAD. WE WERE ABLE TO REMAIN STRONG AS A TEAM, AND WE REACHED THE GOAL OF BECOMING CHAMPIONS."

DANTE DEPANTE, WHO SCORED 29 POINTS IN THE GAME, SAID,

"IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME, WE KNEW THAT IT WAS A DO-OR-DIE MOMENT! THIS IS WHAT YOU WORK FOR. THIS IS WHY YOU HAVE THOSE PRACTICES. THIS IS WHY YOU HAVE TEAM DINNERS. THIS IS WHY YOU BUILD CHEMISTRY…FOR MOMENTS LIKE THAT! WE DID IT FOR EACH OTHER!"

The Vikings finished the season with a record of 17-10 overall, 7-3 within the conference, and a trophy to show for it. Alumnus Ben Sarson, '20, who played forward for the Vikings (currently playing at West Liberty University), watched and cheered from afar. "I ONLY SUITED UP ONE YEAR WITH THE CURRENT PLAYERS AND COACHING STAFF DURING MY SENIOR YEAR. I LIKED THE DIRECTION OF THE TEAM AND COULD TELL THAT THEY WOULD DO GREAT THINGS."

> "I TELL EVERYBODY IT WAS A FAIRY TALE OR A MOVIE-LIKE ENDING FOR ME. WHEN THE CLOCK WAS TICKING DOWN AND WE HAD THE LEAD, EVERYTHING WENT SILENT. WHEN COLE SULLIVAN SLAMMED THE LAST POINTS AND SOLIDIFIED THE GAME, IT WAS TIME TO CELEBRATE. I'M JUST HAPPY THAT THE SENIORS CAN LEAVE CENTRAL WITH A CHAMPIONSHIP."
>
> - COACH BRIAN URSO

High School days swiftly pass but are imbued with fond memories of camaraderie! Nine seniors can ride into the next phase of their lives knowing that they made history, being only the second basketball team in school history (2008) to win a WPIAL title. Something they will cherish for life.

WPIAL 6A CHAMPIONSHIP SENIORS:

- WILL COLLINS
- DANTE DEPANTE
- TOMMY KRISTIAN
- NOAH MASON
- PATRICK NEWELL
- NICK PETRUNIA
- BRADY SULINSKI
- DEBABA TSHIEBWE
- RANDY WILKERSON

NEW COACHES TAKE THE HELM

CENTRAL CATHOLIC VIKINGS

KEVIN HEID
TRACK AND FIELD

For the past four seasons at Central Catholic, Coach Heid has been an assistant coach in shot put, discus, and javelin. A graduate of Baldwin High School in 1992 and Edinboro University in 1996, he participated in track and field at high levels. Coach Heid has been a teacher in the Diocese of Pittsburgh for the past 26 years and joined the Central Catholic community in 2018.

As a first-year head coach, he led an 80+ athlete team to an undefeated section championship and advanced individuals to the WPIAL and Pennsylvania State Championships. "I TRULY CARE ABOUT IMPROVING AND ACHIEVING STUDENTS' PERSONAL GOALS THROUGH HARD WORK, DEDICATION, AND PERSEVERANCE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF BOTH ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS!"

RYAN LEHMEIER
FOOTBALL

Ryan Lehmeier became Central Catholic's new Head Football Coach in January. After a thorough search of applicants across the region, Lehmeier comes to Central by way of Seneca Valley, where he served as both offensive coordinator and quarterback's coach. He plans to contribute significantly to the traditions that are known to make our school uniquely Catholic and Lasallian.

Coach Lehmeier said, "I TRULY APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY GIVEN TO ME BY THE CENTRAL CATHOLIC ADMINISTRATION TO LEAD THE VIKING FOOTBALL PROGRAM."

Lehmeier began his position immediately after the announcement and started preparing for the upcoming 2023 season.

THREE FIGURES WITH THE STICK

Will Speers, '24, captain of the lacrosse team, achieved his 100th point so far in his high school career. Reaching this milestone is a difficult feat, and he still has his senior season to go. **GREAT JOB, WILL!**

WILLIE THROWER AWARD NOMINEE

Payton Wehner, '24, was nominated for the 2023 Willie Thrower Award as one of the top quarterbacks in the Pittsburgh region. High school football historian Mr. George Guido made a special trip to our campus to present Wehner with a plaque.

TRACK AND FIELD

Slippery Rock University was the venue for the 2023 WPIAL Track and Field Championships in May. Central Catholic had a strong showing at the meet.

- Xxavier Thomas, '25 - First place in Triple Jump
- JP Byrnes, '23 - Second place in the 800m Run
- Luke Henne, '23 - Fourth place in the 300m Hurdles
- Luke Henne, '23, Xxavier Thomas, '25, Maceo Marshall, '23 and Peter Gonzalez, '24 - placed fifth in the 4x100m Relay

FIRST PLACE IN TRIPLE JUMP: XXAVIER THOMAS, '25

FIFTH IN THE 4X100M RELAY: MACEO MARSHALL, '23, XXAVIER THOMAS, '25, LUKE HENNE, '23, AND PETER GONZALEZ, '24

JUNIOR VARSITY INLINE HOCKEY TEAM REIGNS

The Central Catholic Inline Hockey team won the championship against Pine Richland! The final score was 5-4 with a dramatic finish in overtime!

THE FOLLOWING IS A HEARTFELT MESSAGE FROM HEAD COACH ZACHARY DEJAMES, WHO SEES A WEALTH OF POTENTIAL FOR HIS PLAYERS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE!:

"This entire year of Inline Hockey has been a huge accomplishment. Last year our Varsity team won their championship, and this year was the first time in program history our varsity went to back-to-back championships even though they fell short.

Winning the JV championship was a massive deal for the organization. We are slowly building the inline hockey program to be one of the best in the league. 4 years ago, our JV team won 5 games all year, and this year we finished 14-3. I could not be more honored or proud to be the head coach of this team, and I look forward to leading the Vikings to many more."

CPR TRAINING COMES TO CENTRAL

UPMC Sports Medicine's athletic trainers visited our campus to train coaches from Central Catholic's sports teams on best and critical CPR practices in case of an emergency in competition or during practices.

COLLEGE SIGNINGS

CLASS OF **2023**

DILLON MADDIGAN, '23,
Rowing, University of Pennsylvania

MACEO MARSHALL, '23,
Football, University of Chicago

MAX MCCORD, '23,
Rugby, Brown University

NICK PACHETE, '23,
Rowing, Marietta College

KIAYUAN BASKERVILLE, 23,
Baseball, John Carroll University

J.P. BYRNES, '23,
Cross Country, Bucknell University

ANTONIO CORDEIRO, '23,
Baseball, St. Bonaventure University

CHRIS PALUSELLI, '23,
United States Airforce, Special Warfare

MATT PETRUZZI, '23,
Football, Westminster College

GABE PRIMROSE, '23,
Football, Case Western Reserve University

NICHOLAS ROBERTSON, '23,
Baseball, Lafayette College

DAN DONAHUE, '23,
Golf, John Carroll University

ELI DROLZ, '23,
Football, PennWest Clarion

JACKSON FARRELL, '23,
Football, Duquesne University

ROCCO SALVITTI, '23,
Golf, University of Notre Dame

DARON SMITH, '23,
Football, PennWest Clarion

LOGHAN STROHM, '23,
Baseball, Gannon University

DANTE TALERICO, '23,
Golf, Saint Vincent College

DREW FONTANA, '23,
Football, United States Naval Academy

TOMMY KRISTIAN, '23,
Basketball, Franciscan University of Steubenville

ETHAN LEVY, '23,
Football, Saint Francis University

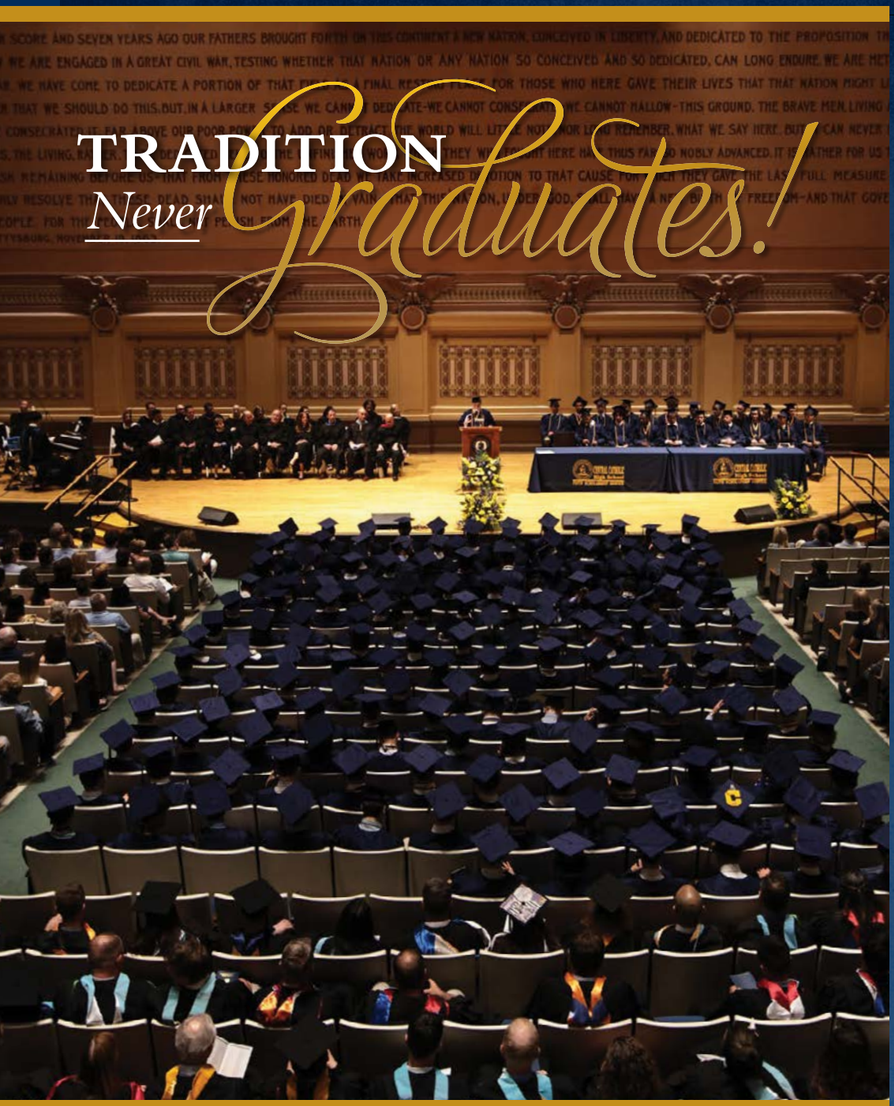
IAN TROTT,, '23,
Baseball, John Carroll University

SONNY VARRATI, '23,
Lacrosse, Heidelberg University

ANDREW WALSH, '23,
Soccer, Marietta College

RANDY WILKERSON, '23,
Basketball, Saint Vincent College

TRADITION *Never* Graduates!



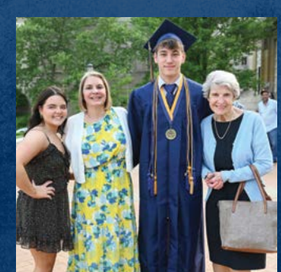
THE CLASS OF 1973 CELEBRATED THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

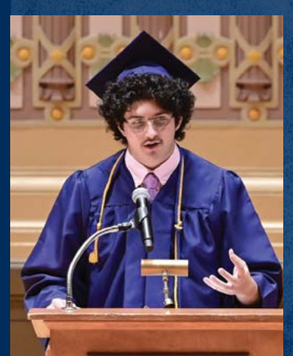
MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1973. TRADITIONALLY, THOSE WHO ARE CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY ARE RECOGNIZED DURING THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY.

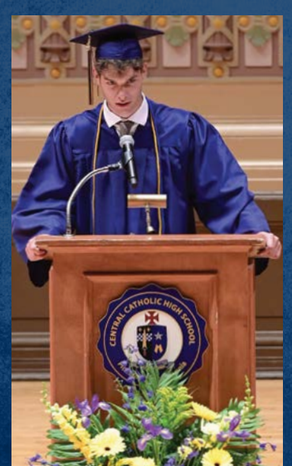
On May 23, we welcomed the Class of 2023 to the Central Catholic Brotherhood in the Ninety-Third Commencement exercises! Graduates and guests enjoyed a combined Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Ceremony at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall.

194 students have successfully completed their required duties, and we are confident of their success in the immediate and long-term future. As we celebrate our newest alumni, we pray for their well-being and eternal connection to our community!

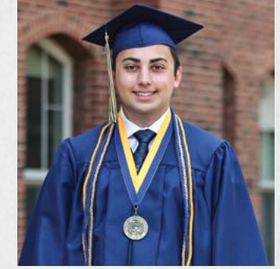
Congrats, gentlemen and GOD BLESS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!







JACK SABO VALEDICTORIAN OF THE CLASS OF 2023



Q. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE YOU RECEIVED MOST OUT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AT CENTRAL CATHOLIC?

A. Coming to Central Catholic taught me the importance of being a part of something much bigger than yourself. One day as a Viking and you realize that your story intersects with thousands of stories that have been written at 4720 Fifth Ave.

Q. WHAT ABOUT BEING A CENTRAL CATHOLIC ALUMNUS EXCITES YOU THE MOST?

A. I'm really excited to see the brotherhood in action. Volunteering at the Viking Victory Auction and listening to the plethora of alumni that come back to speak to students has been really impactful, and I'm excited to give back to Central in a similar way.

Q. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE VALEDICTORIAN OF A SCHOOL LIKE CENTRAL?

A. It's a testament to my classmates and my teachers. In my experience, Central is much more collaborative than it is competitive—my classmates and I push each other to be our best in the classroom, but we also genuinely care about each other as people. That, to me, is much more valuable than any GPA or class rank.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR FUTURE STUDENTS?

A. I would tell the future students of Central Catholic to enter high school with a profound sense of exploration. Even if you don't see yourself joining robotics, Masque, or the golf team, you might surprise yourself and end up discovering a new passion.

Q. ANY ORIGINAL QUOTE OF YOURS THAT YOU WISH TO SHARE?

A. I was once asked an impossible question—how would I define the Central Catholic Brotherhood. Looking out for one another when no one is watching. Showing up. Checking in. Giving back. That's what it means to be a Central Catholic Viking.

THE 33RD ANNUAL VIKING VICTORY AUCTION

The 33rd Annual Viking Victory Auction took place on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Over 650 individuals were in attendance to join us in our Salute to Service. Chaired by Bill, '81 and Amy Garrison, this year's event included silent and live auctions, a homeroom basket raffle, an inspiring speaking program, and the evening concluded with guests dancing the night away to the music of the Finesse Band!

"Amy and I were honored to be asked to chair this amazing event! We are incredibly thankful to everyone who attended, made donations, bid on auction items, and volunteered their time and talents to make this night a tremendous success. On a personal note, our family is forever grateful for this night of remembrance for Paul J. Sciullo, II, '91, and all of those who dedicate their lives to serving others."

– Bill, '81 & Amy Garrison, Chairs, 2023 Viking Victory Auction

SALUTE TO SERVICE

THE EVENT'S NET WAS **$320,000**, WHICH IS THE **SECOND HIGHEST EARNING AUCTION IN CENTRAL CATHOLIC'S HISTORY**!

This included a record-breaking Fund the Mission total of $159,000, which will benefit the Paul J. Sciullo II Scholarship for First Responders and the James C. Wheeler Scholarship Fund for Military Heroes.

SAVE THE DATE

34TH ANNUAL
VIKING VICTORY AUCTION

Saturday, April 27, 2024
Westin Convention Center Hotel
1000 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

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CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

JUNE 2023

LOYALTY!

CENTRAL CATHOLIC VIKINGS FOOTBALL 2005-2023

Terry Totten, '76 Etched into Central Catholic's History Books

BY: BRIAN A. COOK SR. '98

Terence M. Totten

HIS OFFICIAL CENTRAL CATHOLIC JOURNEY STARTED IN 1972 AS A FRESHMAN HAILING FROM POINT BREEZE.

His unofficial entry began as a ball boy in the eighth grade while working with the Central Catholic football team.

In his early years, Terry Totten, '76, started cutting his teeth and learning how significant Central Catholic football was in Pittsburgh. He also began to see firsthand that the spirit of brotherhood among the players and the entire school community was extraordinary. It quickly became apparent that humility and loyalty were a direct path to success.

LITTLE DID HE KNOW THAT OVER 50 YEARS LATER, HE WOULD BE AMONG THE SCHOOL'S MOST LEGENDARY FIGURES.

"I really looked up to those guys and was excited to enroll at Central.

Obviously, like every other young man who walks through these doors, my life was changed," said Totten.

"That's a credit to the teachers I had, my coaches, and especially the Christian Brothers. The time, energy, and love they put into our school, sometimes at their own expense, was just incredible."

TOTTEN RECEIVED THE TRADITIONAL CENTRAL CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE; discipline in the classroom and on the gridiron, where he played football all four years.

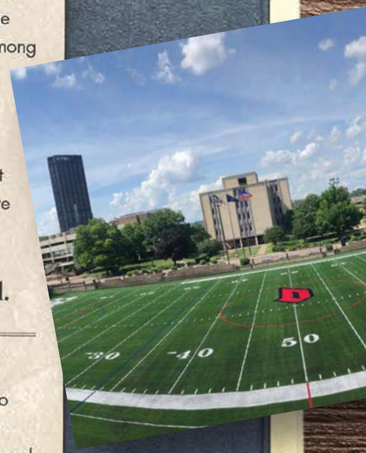
"It prepared me for the next phase of my life," **TOTTEN SAID.**

Central Catholic runs deep in the Totten family. Terry falls in the middle of siblings: Joe Totten, '70, Jerry Totten, '74, and Brad Totten, '80, all of whom played football. His stepsons Marshall Schmidt, '07, and Josh Schmidt, '16, and a host of nephews: JT Totten, '02, Charlie Totten, '05, Casey Totten, '08, and Brian Totten, '15 are also among the extensive list of alumni.

HIS FATHER, JOE TOTTEN SR., IS A MEMBER OF THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS IN 1931.

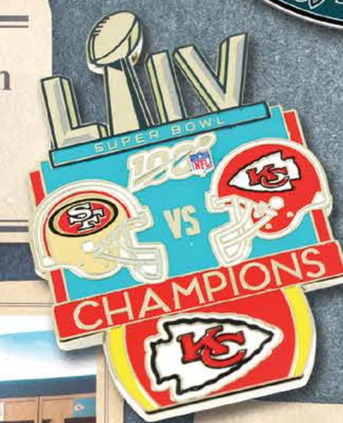
Thanks to his Central Catholic education and its longstanding tradition of service, Totten knew at anearly age that he wanted to give back to young people.

He came to realize that his calling was to coach football.

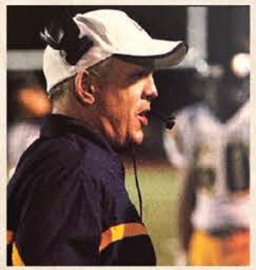


His prowess took him around the region, managing sidelines Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Duquesne University, and also Seton LaSalle High School. Upon returning to Central Catholic in 2002, he served as defensive coordinator, where he was an integral part of two Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic League (WPIAL) titles and a Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) State Championship.

HE HAS ALSO COACHED FIVE YOUNG MEN WHO SUCCEEDED AS PLAYERS IN THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE four of whom are active, which is currently the most of any high school in Pennsylvania.



TOTTEN WAS PROMOTED TO BECOME THE HEAD COACH OF THE VIKINGS IN 2005, AND HIS TEAMS ACHIEVED A HOST OF ACCOLADES.



INCLUDING

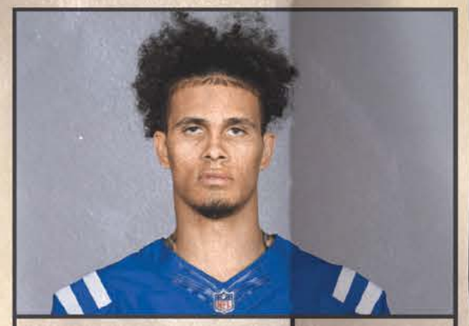
2 PIAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

AND

6 WPIAL TITLES

CAL ADOMITIS, '17

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
CINCINNATI BENGALS



RODNEY THOMAS, '17

YALE UNIVERSITY
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

STEFEN WISNIEWSKI, '07

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY
SUPER BOWL LII & LIV CHAMPION
RAIDERS, JAGUARS, EAGLES, CHIEFS, STEELERS
(RETIRED)

DAMAR HAMLIN, '16

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH | **BUFFALO BILLS**

KURT HINISH, '17

NOTRE DAME
HOUSTON TEXANS

After a 21-year storied career in the position, Totten retired with an overall record of 188-40.

It was a very long and successful run. While enjoying the journey, Totten came to meet and work with so many dedicated Central Catholic alumni whose help was instrumental in the team's success.

TOTTEN SAID,

"I'd like to particularly mention Mike Kennedy, '75, as my right hand, plus Ron Fuchs, '82, Steve Bezila, '99, and Dave Fleming, '92. They were guys that were devoted not only to the game of football but also to Central Catholic."

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL JUNE 2023

PRESS RELEASE

TOTTEN IS NOTED AS ONE OF THE MOST DECORATED AND HARD-NOSED COACHES IN CENTRAL CATHOLIC'S 96-YEAR HISTORY.

HE ALSO SERVED AS A MENTOR TO MANY WHO HAVE COME THROUGH HIS PROGRAM.

STEVE BEZILA, '99, SAYS:

"Terry is the definition of Central Catholic through his faith, loyalty, and pride to not only the football program but Central as a whole.

He built a strong football program through hard work and dedication. He believed in his players and guided them. I had the privilege of coaching with him [as offensive coordinator] for 20 years. He is a mentor and friend who I will always look up to and cherish the celebrations we experienced together."

COLE SULLIVAN, '24, A STANDOUT TIGHT END AND LINEBACKER FOR THE VIKINGS, SAYS:

"Coach Totten was the ultimate role model, not only as a football coach but as a person. He's well-known historically and has had great success here. He's someone that all of us looked up to."

Sullivan, who committed to Michigan to play football, enjoyed his time under the tutelage of Coach Totten and gives a great deal of credit to his system. *"It was sad to see him retire, but I am happy for him. He really deserves it because he paid his dues."*

TO THIS DAY, TOTTEN OFTEN MENTIONS THE PLAYERS WHO HAVE COME THROUGH THE RANKS AND REACH BACK TO GIVE WORDS OF WISDOM TO CURRENT STUDENTS.

"He is a selfless man that wanted nothing but the best for all of his players," **SAID KURT HINISH, '17 (DL, HOUSTON TEXANS, #93)**. *"He is someone who gave every bit of his being for something that's bigger than all of us!"*

CENTRAL CATHOLIC PRINCIPAL BROTHER MIKE ANDREJKO, FSC., '86, in a public statement on the day of Totten's retirement announcement, *"We are grateful for his service and devotion to our young men as well as his commitment of excellence to the program."*

TOTTEN SAID,

"The building changes, the teachers and administration changes, even coaches change – including me - but the tradition does not. I am happy to have done my part in Central's history. Central Catholic is a special place."

"THANKS TO THE HUNDREDS OF FANTASTIC YOUNG MEN I HAVE HAD THE HONOR TO COACH!"

- TERRY TOTTEN, '76

TOTTEN IS **LOYAL** to Central Catholic, loyal to his family, loyal to his colleagues in the rise to success, and most importantly, loyal to his faith and belief in Jesus Christ.

HAPPY TRAILS, COACH.

Your LOYALTY will be etched into Central Catholic's fabric for years to come!

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

WARRIOR BOUNCES BACK

Damar Hamlin

Damar Hamlin, '16, a highly respected alumnus who has been an integral part of our Lasallian Community, sustained a serious injury that brought the world together. Hamlin, a rising NFL defensive back with the Buffalo Bills, suffered cardiac arrest during Monday Night Football on January 2, against the Cincinnati Bengals, after what appeared to be a routine tackle. After being hospitalized in intensive care for several days from the potentially life-threatening hit, his resilience showed through; and his ability to show strength, both physically and spiritually, was apparent.

Hamlin's last memory was playing on the field moments before the hit. When he woke up several days after being heavily sedated,

Hamlin asked:
"WHO WON THE GAME?"

Doctors responded,
"YOU DID. YOU WON THE GAME OF LIFE!"

The Central Catholic Community lifted him up in prayer, held a vigil, and dedicated a home varsity basketball game to him. Most importantly, it was through the grace of God that his recovery was not only successful…but exceptional!

Hamlin continues to give back to Central by speaking with participants of the football summer camps and during the football program's summer conditioning.

NEWS FROM VIKING NATION

1950s { Central Catholic hosted our ***alumni basketball players from the classes of 1953-2022*** on campus in the Zupancic Family STEM Center. It was a tremendous showing of fellowship and camaraderie! [1]

1960s { ***Richard Hamilton, '63,*** recognized for 60 years of service to AAA along with Tony Buzzelli, '67 who recently concluded his two year term as Chair of the AAA Board of Directors.

Brother V. Kenneth Curley, FSC, '69, is celebrating three years of service as an educator at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory School in San Francisco. He taught in various schools across the country, including Central Catholic from 2010-2015.

Howard "Hoddy" Hanna III, '65, was honored as the newest member of the RISMedia Real Estate Hall of Fame which recognizes key influencers that impacted the real estate industry in the following categories: Influencers, Trailblazers, Futurists, Achievers, Crusaders, Inspirations, Luminaries and Trendsetters. [2]

Sam McDowell, '60 was honored with Baseball Assistance Team (B.A.T.) Lifetime Achievement Award for his service. [3]

Jack McGinley, '61, has been recognized with a 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award from The Legal Intelligencer. As part of the publication's Professional Excellence Awards, the Lifetime Achievement accolade honors attorneys from all corners of the legal profession who have left an imprint on the legal history of Pennsylvania during their careers.

1970s { ***Tom Loughran,'71*** has announced his retirement from coaching at Fox Chapel Area High School. Congratulations on your retirement, Tom! [4]

Congratulations to ***Bob, '76, and Marilee Tudi*** on receiving Lifetime Achievement Award at Larry and Marty's Hometown Heroes event. [5]

1980s { ***Members of the Class of 1980*** got together at the Harp & Fiddle for their annual Christmas gathering. [6]

1990s { ***Matthew Kurlfink, '97,*** was one of eight City of Pittsburgh Paramedics recognized by UPMC with the "Prehospital Delivery Commendation Award" for assisting with the delivery of two baby girls. [7]

2000s { ***Jeffrey Antico, '07*** received his PhD in Education from Notre Dame of Maryland University. His doctoral dissertation was entitled *"Stress and Life Satisfaction: The Impact of a Gratitude Journal on Students Enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program."*

Congratulations to ***Noah Karn, '07*** has been named to the 2023 Pennsylvania Government Relations Power 100 list. [8]

Kellen Petrone, '04 received a promotion to Associate Head Coach of the University of Pittsburgh's Volleyball team! [9]

Graham Rihn, '05, was named to the 2023 Waste360 40 Under 40 Awards! Rihn also received a Changemaker Award, recognizing his positive impact on the waste, recycling, and organics industry. [10]

Detective Matthew Tracy, '07 of the Pittsburgh Police Computer Crimes Unit was honored by the United States Secret Service for placing among the top 20 cyber forensics examiners in the country! [11]

2010s { ***Damar Hamlin, '16*** received the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) Alan Page Community Award, the organization's highest honor which, "Annually recognizes one player who demonstrates a profound dedication to positively impacting his team's city and communities across the country." The NFLPA donated $100,000 to Hamlin's Chasing M's Foundation. [12]

Dom Means, '17 is etched into the history books after becoming an all-american in wrestling during his time at Gannon University. He finished 11th overall in the school's history with a record of 74-26 during his college career. [13]

Marcos Zegarra, '18, finishes higher education after completing a 3-2 program with a Bachelor of Science in Physics with a Mathematics minor from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (summa cum laude) and also graduating from the Honors College. Zegarra also received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Bioengineering from the University of Pittsburgh (cum laude). [14]

CONGRATULATIONS JIMMY MEYERS, '19

for being named Penn State's recipient of the Big Ten Sportsmanship Award!

2020s { ***Austin Aikins, '20*** was featured in a TribLive article for his plans to pursue a professional career in fishing. He graduates with a degree in sports management from Bethel where he received a scholarship. [15]

College hockey players ***Dayne Martin, '20 & Joseph Palahunik, '21*** won the Atlantic Coast Collegiate Hockey League (ACCHL) Championship as members of the West Virginia Mountaneers' team! [16]

Daimere Stephens-Stewart, '20 was named the River States Conference Men's Track Athlete of the Week for March 13-19. [17]

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Hall of Fame!

Nominations for the 2024 induction to the Hall of Fame are now being accepted!

PURPOSE

The Central Catholic Hall of Fame was established to recognize and honor alumni who exemplify the traditions and values of our school. No matter their profession, these men have been honored for their character, lives of service to others, and being men of integrity.

HALL OF FAME NOMINATION CRITERIA

- The nominee is a graduate of Central Catholic High School.
- The nominee is not currently a member of the school Administration, Board of Directors, or a member of the Advancement Hall of Fame sub-committee.
- The nominee to the Hall of Fame must have graduated at least 25 years ago.
- The nominee should demonstrate personal integrity, service to the community, and meritorious professional achievement.
- The nominee has contributed meaningfully, but not necessarily financially, to Central Catholic.
- A Central Catholic alumnus has submitted the nominee.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE BY
BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2023
www.centralcatholichs.com/nominations

VIKING MATCH

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 1968!

VIKING MATCH

Central Catholic is deeply grateful to everyone who donated during the Viking Match of 2023. We raised $206,457 to benefit tuition assistance and student programs. Our young men are fortunate to have such a loyal community of alumni, parents, and friends supporting them.

In the class competition, the Class of 1968 can officially claim a "three-peat" with 84 gifts! Thank you for this record-breaking total! And special recognition to our former champs, the Class of 1960, for always putting in a great effort and finishing in second place. Your dedication to Central Catholic is genuinely something special.

ON BEHALF OF OUR YOUNG VIKINGS, THANK YOU! **ROLL VIKES!**

SAVE THE DATES

IMPORTANT SUMMER/FALL 2023 DATES

JOIN US FOR OUR SUMMER & FALL EVENTS!

JAM ON THE QUAD: CIGAR & BOURBON NIGHT
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD,
6:30pm-8:30PM, Quad

FIRST ANNUAL CLASS OF 2008 BROTHERS WITH WINGS SCHOLARSHIP FUND GOLF OUTING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD,
7:15am REGISTRATION – 8:00am Shotgun Start
Birdsfoot Golf Club: 225 Furnace Run Road, Freeport, PA 16229
19th Hole, Bulldog Pub: 1818 Morningside Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

For additional information, please contact Brendan Marchione at Brendan.paul.marchione@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1961 80TH BIRTHDAY PARTY
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND,
6:00pm – 9:00pm, STEM Building

ALUMNI REUNION DATES

CLASS OF 1958 65TH REUNION
FRIDAY, JUNE 2ND
6:00pm – 9:00pm, STEM Building

CLASS OF 1963 60TH REUNION,
TUESDAY, JUNE 20TH
6:00pm – 9:00pm, Dining Hall

CLASS OF 1953 70TH REUNION
SATURDAY, AUGUST 5TH
3:00pm – 6:00pm, STEM Building

CLASS OF 1998 25TH REUNION
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND
6:00pm – 9:00pm, STEM Building

CLASS OF 2003 20TH REUNION
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH &
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH
6:00pm – 9:00pm, STEM Building

CLASS OF 1968 55TH REUNION
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH
6:00pm – 9:00pm, STEM Building

CLASS OF 1978 45TH REUNION
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH
6:00pm – 9:00pm, STEM Building

CLASS OF 1973 50TH REUNION
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH &
SATURDAY, 30TH
6:00pm – 9:00pm, Dining Hall

CLASS OF 1988 35TH REUNION
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH
6:00pm – 9:00pm, STEM Building

CLASS OF 1983 40TH REUNION
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH
6:00pm – 9:00pm, STEM Building

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT: CENTRALALUMNI.COM

CAREER DAY

For the 5th time, Central Catholic welcomed 55 alumni back to campus for Viking Career Day! All sophomores and juniors were able to attend sessions led by successful members of our community to discuss their day-to-day duties as a professional and what it took to achieve their goals.

THE EVENT ALSO FEATURED A KEYNOTE ADDRESS, DR. RON LAYTON, '83, WHO GAVE A RIVETING AND INTERACTIVE LECTURE ABOUT HIS DAYS AS A SECRET SERVICE AGENT AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.

ALUMNI

BROTHERHOOD, BASEBALL, AND BEAUTIFUL WEATHER!

It was a great time had by all who attended the SOLD-OUT Pirates' Spring Training reception in Bradenton, FL, this year.

Alumni and their families always look forward to this annual event, and couldn't have asked for a more perfect outcome!
#ROLLVIKES

TALK WITH YOUR ACCOUNTANT
or tax advisor to ensure a Viking education today!

Decide how your tax dollars are used. Through the EITC/OSTC programs you can give the money you owe to the State of PA to Central Catholic students instead!

More than 200 students receive need-based scholarships from tax dollars designated to Central Catholic through contributions to the Diocese of Pittsburgh's SOS Fund.

When you make a 2-year commitment, **90% of your gift is applied as a credit to your state tax liability.** Your tax dollars, invested in young Vikings, have the power to change lives.

A WIN FOR YOU.
A WIN FOR CENTRAL STUDENTS.

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Pro Deo et Patria
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

"We are happy to support Central Catholic through this program. Receiving tax credits for a contribution to the school is a "win-win", and we get the satisfaction of knowing exactly how our state tax dollars are being used. We love knowing that young men are benefitting from a Central Catholic education thanks to our support."

- Mr. & Mrs. James Meyers, '88, P '19, '21

For additional details and to find out how to participate, please visit **www.centralcatholichs.com/taxcredits** or email **csteffey@centralcatholichs.com**.

CENTRAL CATHOLIC
THANKS
THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & INDIVIDUALS

who put their state tax dollars to work for Central Catholic students through the Pennsylvania DCED's EITC and OSTC programs:

Anonymous
Ms. Valerie Blatt
Bridge Foundation
CentiMark
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Cestra, '67
Mr. Gennaro Dibello
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Donahue, '98
Mr. and Mrs. William Donahue, Jr., '74
Fazio Mechanical Services, Inc.
Federated Hermes/Federated Advisory Svcs.
First National Bank
Mr. and Mrs. John Fisher, '74
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Friel, '84
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Garver, '79
James and Karen Greb
Glimcher Brokerage Group
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Hanna III, '65
Hapad Inc.
Henne, Inc.
J.J. Morris & Sons, Inc.
John Marshall Grady, DMD
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kelly, '78
Kelly Realtors, Inc.
Mr. Scott Lammie
Louis F. Leeper Company
Mr. James Leeper, '70
Mr. Mark Loskamp
Maher Duessel
Mr. and Mrs. Gavin Mann
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Massaro, '84
Mr. and Mrs. William McCrady
Mr. John McGinley, '61
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Meyers, '88
Mid-Atlantic Trust Company
(in memory and honor of J.R. Friday and Sons)
NexTier Bank
PA Partners for Education, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. William Rielly, Jr., '79
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Rossi
Mr. and Mrs. John Staley, IV, '61
Sterling Land Co. - Mr. Blake Stanton
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Steitz, '82
Mr. Daniel Stuthers, '54
Super 8 Corporation
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Tabaka Jr., 87
Mr. and Mrs. Francesco Tirone
Trumbull Corporation
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Tunno
W.N. Tuscano Agency, Inc.

Please call the Advancement Office at 412-622-6171 for details on how you or your company can join this list and turn tax dollars into tuition assistance funds for Central Catholic.

CENTRAL CATHOLIC IS HONORED
TO BE AMONG SCHOOLS IN THE PITTSBURGH AREA AS PARTIAL RECIPIENTS OF

THE BRIDGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION & U.S. STEEL'S DONATION OF OVER $465,000

Scholarship funds are made possible through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. The formal presentation took place on the Cornerstone Christian Preparatory Academy's campus in West Mifflin, and brought together each school's leadership and local government officials.

CENTRAL CATHOLIC GIFTS

THE CENTRAL CATHOLIC BOOKSTORE IS OPEN ON REGULAR SCHOOL DAYS:

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR STORE HOURS

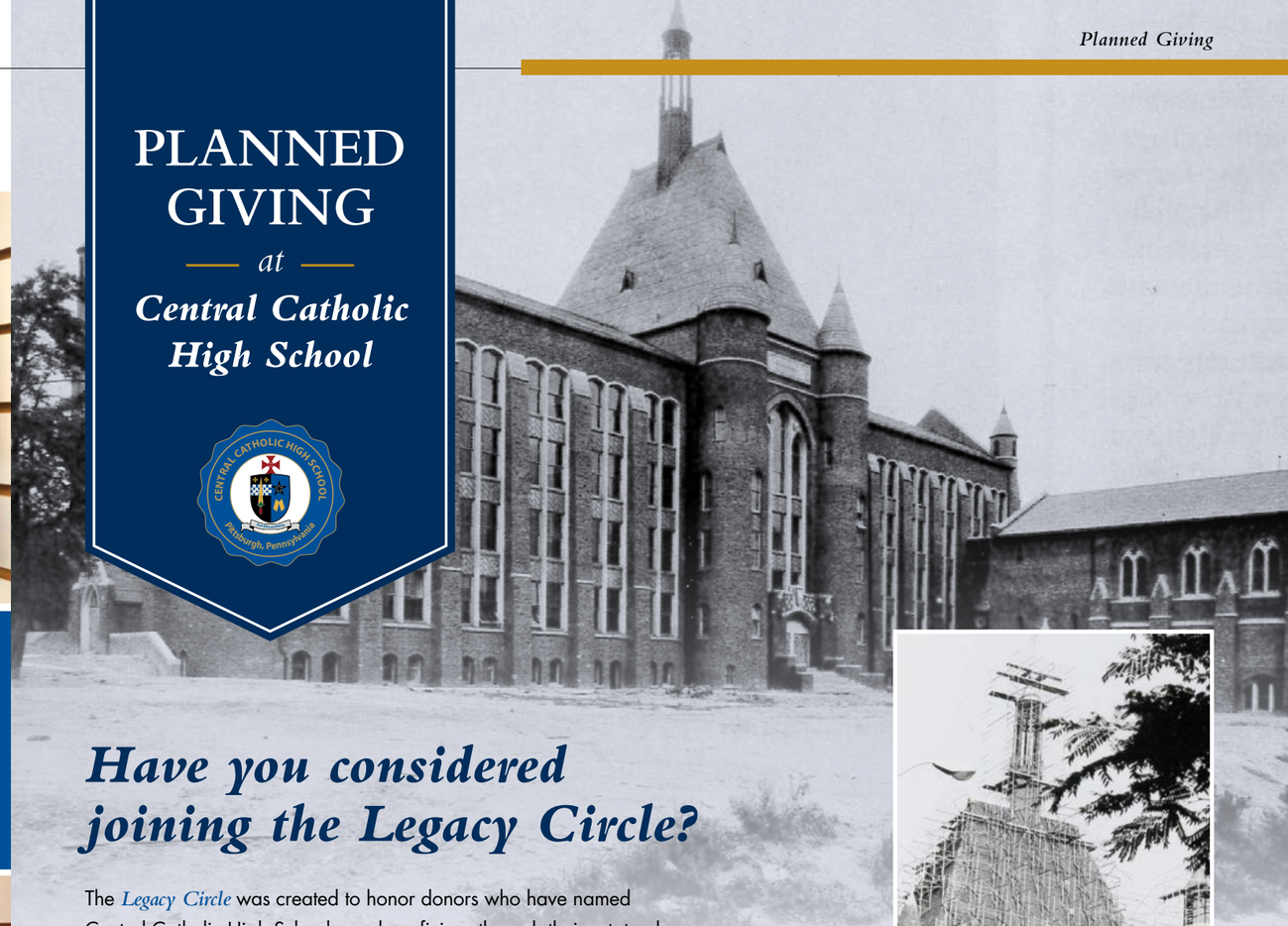
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. or by appointment.
412.208.3498 | *bookstore@centralcatholichs.com*

Shop online at **centralcatholichs.com/bookstore**

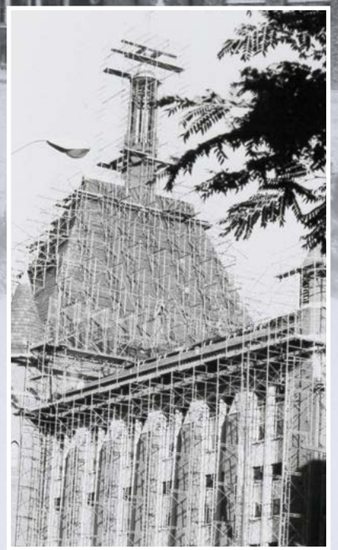
VISIT CENTRALCATHOLICHS.COM/GIFTS

Have questions about ordering a bench?
Contact: Mr. Mark Burnett, '00 - 412.208.3443 or mburnett@centralcatholichs.com

PLANNED GIVING
at
Central Catholic High School



Have you considered joining the Legacy Circle?



The *Legacy Circle* was created to honor donors who have named Central Catholic High School as a beneficiary through their estate plan.

Current members of the Legacy Circle have made a planned gift(s) for the benefit of Central Catholic High School via their:

- *Wills*
- *Retirement Accounts*
- *Charitable Gift Annuities*
- *Charitable Trusts*
- *and/or Life Insurance Policies*

This extraordinary group of benefactors can make their giving a perpetual legacy for themselves and an example for alumni, friends, and family to follow. It also creates a means of support that makes Central Catholic stronger and better prepared to thrive for generations to come.

If you have already made this provision through your estate plan, please let us know so that Central Catholic High School can include you among the *Legacy Circle* members. If you have any questions, please contact Matthew J. Stoessel, '95, in the Office of Advancement at 412-622-6184. You can also visit our website at *www.centralcatholichs.com/pages/planned-giving* for more information and to download/complete the Bequest Intention Form.

Live Jesus in our hearts … Forever!

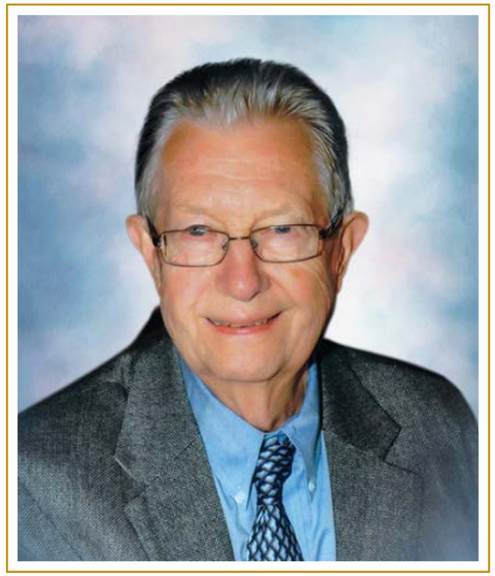
IN MEMORIAM

Remembering

Brother Edward J. Sheehy, FSC, Ph.D.

1946 - 2022

Brother Ed who served as principal of Central Catholic High School from 1983 to 1988, passed away at age 76. He was loved by all who benefited from his in-class instruction at both La Salle University in Philadelphia and his leadership at Central.



Remembering

Mr. Fred de Groot

1926 - 2023

A long-time educator at Central Catholic, Fred de Groot, passed away at the age of 97. He was a beloved art teacher and also coached Track & Cross-Country for more than 30 years. de Groot was a friend to many within the Central Catholic Community after retirement and continued to express his love for his former students, fellow teachers and his time at Central Catholic.

Remembering

Brother William Fealy, FSC

1942 - 2022

Brother Bill was an economics teacher, bookstore manager, and soccer moderator at Central Catholic from 1979 to 1992. He was also involved with the World Affairs Council, where he was recognized as an excellent moderator at the high school level. It was also in Pittsburgh that Brother Bill got involved with the People-to-People program started in 1956 by President Eisenhower.

Remembering

Rhodora Donahue

1925 - 2022

For years, Rhodora was an ardent supporter of Central Catholic High School. Rhodora, the wife of the late John F. "Jack" Donahue '42, dedicated a large part of her life fervently promoting the benefits of Catholic school education and insisted that participating in community service was an integral part of one's upbringing.

"Beauty has its own excuse for being," as poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote. My grandmother lived a beautiful life. I miss being around her. But when I reflect on my grandmother, I am filled with joy and gratitude. Her grandness, the generosity of her spirit, and the legacy of her maternity are something worth celebrating.

- James Donahue '03, Assistant Principal of Student Affairs

"Eternal rest grant to them O' Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them forever. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen."

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THESE RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY.

1943
August Friedrich, '43
Arthur Hamilton, '43

1945
Robert Leonard, '45
Elmer Rudzke, '45

1946
Alfred Imgrund, '46

1948
Roman Jendrasik, '48
Donald Scheeser, '48
Robert Tenner, '48

1950
Richard Mamajek, '50

1951
Paul Signore, '51

1952
Joseph Argentine, '52
William Gazica, '52
Vincent Tamburo, '52
Wilbert Whalen, '52

1953
Michael Catanzaro Jr, '53
Frank Dascola, '53
Robert Maher, '53
Terrence Mahoney, '53
Stephen Patrick, '53
John Shields Jr, '53

1954
Robert Nestler, '54

1955
Richard Caito, '55
Martin Cooney, '55
William Kavchak, '55
Thomas Murphy, '55
Bernard Popovic, '55

1956
Eugene Bromberg, '56
Frederick Isabella, '56
William Matesich, '56
James McCarthy, '56
John O'Carroll, '56

1957
William DeSantis, '57
John Wersing, '57

1958
Rev. Edward Schleicher, '58

1959
Paul Bametzreider, '59

1960
Richard Bona, '60
Henry J. Gailliot, '60

1961
Ronald Antoszewski, '61
Sean Connolly, '61
Lawrence Demonaco, '61
Lawrence Gasior, '61
Lawrence Sadowski, '61
Robert Steffan, '61

1962
Robert Zolnowski, '62

1963
Dennis McFadden, '63
Dennis Powell, '63
John B. Stack, '63
Richard Wegrzyn, '63

1964
David O'Connor, '64

1965
Thomas Farrell, '65
Robert Jablonowski, '65
Anthony Lollo, '65
Dennis O'Brien, '65
Nicholas Tallo, '65

1966
Gerald Buffo, '66
Carl Marcus, '66
Stanley States, '66

1968
James Kearns, '68
Franklin Kelley, '68
James Tarrant, '68

1969
Thomas Crimmins, '69

1970
Robert Kreke, '70

1974
John Brickley, '74
Douglas Mildner, '74

1975
Ronald Hohman, '75

1980
John Dobransky, '80

1995
Michael Junker, '95
Christopher Laface, '95

1997
Philip Calabrese, '97

1998
Reid Malvin, '98

2001
Michael Kennel, '01

2003
Andrew Homyak, '03

2006
Lawrence Chertik, '06

2016
Jason Huntermark, '16

*As of April 30, 2023

Save THE Date

34th ANNUAL VIKING VICTORY AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

THE WESTIN PITTSBURGH

1000 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

AUCTION CHAIR – MELISSA MADURA ANDERSON, P '24

Since the first auction in 1990, the event has raised over $6.3 million to benefit the young men of Central Catholic High School.

For more information or to join the auction committee, please email: Events@CentralCatholicHS.com.

SIGNATURE SPONSOR

(as of May 30, 2023)

HIGHMARK®

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Our MISSION

Central Catholic High School, a college preparatory school for boys, is guided by the educational principles of St. John Baptist de La Salle.

The school strives to provide a challenging, relevant, and diverse program of studies and extracurricular activities in an environment that fosters a life of faith and learning and develops leaders rooted in the Gospel values of integrity, respect, service, justice, and peace.

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
4720 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2952

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SAVE THE DATES!

WE ARE INVITING PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES TO JOIN US FOR TWO IMPORTANT DATES DURING THE FALL OF 2023!

"Viking for a Day" allows eighth-grade boys to visit Central Catholic and shadow a current student throughout the school day. The experience gained will give Future Vikings a dynamic perspective of the day-to-day operations on our campus and showcases the curriculum that we offer to our students.

We also invite families and children of all ages to our Open House, which includes campus-wide tours and activities to show the true essence of Central Catholic High School!

VIKING FOR A DAY: OCTOBER 13
OPEN HOUSE: NOVEMBER 5

CENTRALCATHOLICHS.COM/ADMISSIONS FOR MORE INFORMATION!

PARENTS:

*If your son has moved from your home, please notify Brandon Haburjak, '06, Director of Alumni Engagement & Giving at **412.208.3488** or **bhaburjak@centralcatholichs.com**.*

*Connect with more than 3,500 other alumni at **centralalumni.com**!*

@CCHSVIKINGS | @CENTRALVIKINGS | @CENTRALVIKINGS

The Central Catholic Promise:
To inspire boys to become Men of Faith, Men of Scholarship, Men of Service.