

CCREVIEW

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL | SUMMER 2026

ROOTS & Wings

Grounded in a foundation of faith,
soaring with a purpose.



Sacred Heart
High School



St. Paul Cathedral
High School



Our Lady of
Mercy Academy



Oakland Catholic
High School



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 inspires her both academically and personally.

♦ Connect

As a donor, you'll build a special connection with our school and your sponsored student, receiving updates that show the meaningful impact of your generosity.

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 future leaders, inventors, and innovators of tomorrow. Together, we can create opportunities that inspire greatness and transform lives.

For more information, scan the QR code or contact
Lynn Brown, Director of Advancement, at
412.682.6633 x 1229 or lbrown@oaklandcatholic.org



OC REVIEW

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL | SUMMER 2026

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Roots and Wings

Oakland Catholic is more than a school—it's the culmination of three proud traditions and generations of young women whose experiences laid the foundation for the community we know today.

This feature looks back at the roots of our shared legacy and celebrates the history that continues to shape Oakland Catholic.

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THE CLASS OF 2026

On May 20, 2026, Oakland Catholic celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2026 at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum. The ceremony honored 104 graduates, who proudly processed in traditional white caps and gowns while carrying the school's signature red roses.

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OUR MISSION

Oakland Catholic is a Christ-centered school for young women of diverse backgrounds, forming them under the patronage of St. Joan of Arc into women of Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service.

THE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE COURTESY OF SIMPLY SISTERS PHOTOGRAPHY, TKMEDIA, AND STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHERS, GIAVONNA MINTON '26, HARPER CARENBAUER '28. MOST CANDID PHOTOS WERE SUBMITTED FROM A NUMBER OF OAKLAND CATHOLIC EMPLOYEES. GRAPHIC DESIGN AND PRINTING BY ALPHAGRAPHS PITTSBURGH.



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Be Bold. Be Faithful. Be the Light.

As we reflect on this past year, I am filled with deep gratitude and immense pride for our school community. Our theme — *Be Bold, Be Faithful, Be the Light* — was not simply a slogan; it became a way of living for our students, faculty, and families. Each day, I witnessed young women stepping forward with confidence, embracing the values and mission of Oakland Catholic, and sharing their unique gifts in ways that strengthened both our school and the world beyond our doors.

To **be bold** is to believe that your voice matters. This year, our students pursued academic excellence, artistic expression, athletic achievement, and leadership opportunities with determination and purpose. They asked thoughtful questions, explored new ideas, and discovered talents they may not have realized they possessed. Boldness was present in classrooms, on stages and playing fields, and in acts of service that reminded us that growth begins when we dare to try.

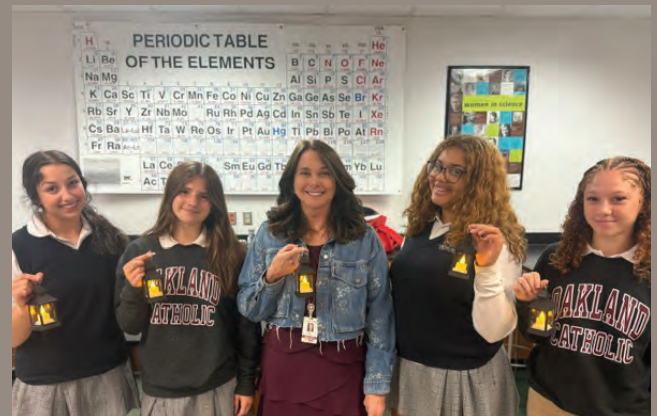
To **be faithful** is to remain committed to the mission and values that define Oakland Catholic. Throughout the year, our community lived out our pillars of Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service through prayer, learning, leadership, and service to others. Inspired by the example of St. Joan of Arc, our students embraced opportunities to grow in faith, character, and purpose. Faithfulness means carrying our mission forward each day, ensuring that every young woman is prepared to lead with integrity, compassion, and courage.

And finally, to **be the light** is to live our mission each day. Through prayer, service, and sisterhood, our students carried Christ's light into our school, our city, and our broader community. They served those in need, welcomed others with generosity of spirit, and modeled the values of faith, scholarship, and service that define who we are. In a world that often longs for hope, our students reminded us that light grows brighter when it is shared.



Mark Your Calendar

11	Friday	GRANDPARENTS DAY	St. Paul Cathedral / OCHS
3	Saturday	GALA	Dougherty Ballroom, Duquesne Univ.
9	Friday	EAGLE FOR A DAY	Oakland Catholic High School
8	Sunday	OPEN HOUSE	Oakland Catholic High School
10	Monday	GOLF OUTING	Edgewood Country Club
24	Monday	BACCALAUREATE MASS	St. Paul Cathedral
26	Wednesday	GRADUATION	Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall





A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

ROOTS AND WINGS

At Oakland Catholic High School, every year tells a story, and those stories are grounded in tradition and full of opportunities. This year's OC Review celebrates our theme, **"Roots and Wings,"** a reflection of where we came from, who we are, and who our students strive to become.

Our **roots** run deep. Our foundation comes from the alumnae from Oakland Catholic High School, Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Sacred Heart High School, and St. Paul Cathedral High School. We are all rooted in history, traditions, and commitment to educating young women in spirituality, scholarship, and service. These beliefs continue to shape our identity today. The values established by our founding communities remain firmly planted at the heart of our mission, reminding us that strength comes from knowing where we began.

Yet roots alone are not enough. Strong roots give rise to **wings**.

The wings of Oakland Catholic are visible in the accomplishments of our students in classrooms, on stages, on athletic fields, in service to others, and in leadership throughout our community. Our young women soar because they are supported by a foundation built on faith, academic excellence, and unwavering belief in their potential. They carry forward the legacy entrusted to them while boldly creating something new.

Growth requires both stability and courage: roots to anchor us and wings to lift us. This past year has demonstrated how our heritage continues to nurture innovation, compassion, and achievement. Guided by those who came before and inspired by the promise ahead, our students embody the living mission of Oakland Catholic. Our students are deeply grounded in faith, confident in purpose, and are ready to lead.

As you explore these pages, we invite you to celebrate the enduring roots that sustain us and the remarkable wings that allow our students to soar. Together, they tell the story of a community that honors its past while joyfully embracing its future.

With God's Grace,

KELLY LAZZARA
PRESIDENT

OC REVIEW EDITOR IN CHIEF

LYNN BROWN
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

PRESIDENT

KELLY LAZZARA

ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

KRISTIE BARNEY
COORDINATOR OF ALUMNAE
RELATIONS AND MARKETING

LYNN BROWN
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

ALESSANDRA PAZZAGLIA
MEDIA AND SCHOOL
COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

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Oakland Catholic High School
144 North Craig Street
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412.682.6633
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ROOTS



Sacred Heart
High School



St. Paul Cathedral
High School



Our Lady of
Mercy Academy



Oakland Catholic
High School



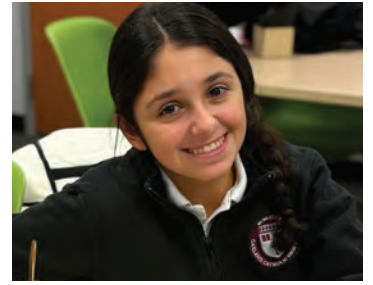
BEYERL CHEVROLET, INC.
Turtle Creek, Penna.



1947 OLOMA
Students



Students
at Mass



Oakland Catholic

HONORING
THE PAST.
CELEBRATING WHAT
WE'VE BECOME.

Oakland Catholic did not begin in 1989. It began decades earlier—in three different places, with three distinct communities, and generations of young women whose experiences were deeply their own. These are the roots that set the strong foundation of a legacy that continues to grow.



At **Sacred Heart High School**, founded in 1915 by the Sisters of Charity, students found a close-knit community grounded in faith, discipline, and a strong sense of belonging. It was a place where sisterhood was not just encouraged—it was lived daily.

At **St. Paul Cathedral High School**, established in 1913 in the heart of Oakland, young women were shaped by the energy of a growing city and the spiritual presence of St. Paul Cathedral itself. With deep ties to the Diocese of Pittsburgh, it fostered both academic strength and a proud sense of tradition.





At **Our Lady of Mercy Academy**, founded in 1844 by the Sisters of Mercy, students were formed in an environment rooted in compassion, service, and leadership. Mercy women were known for their commitment to others and their strength of character—values that extended far beyond the classroom.

For many alumnae, those identities remain just as meaningful today. When these three schools came together in 1989 to form Oakland Catholic, it was not simply the opening of a new school. It was the closing of three beloved chapters—chapters filled with memories, friendships, and traditions that could never be replicated in exactly the same way.

For some, that transition was difficult. And, that truth deserves to be acknowledged with respect. Sacred Heart, St. Paul Cathedral, and Our Lady of Mercy were not stepping stones. **They were homes.**

What emerged from that moment was not a loss of identity—it was the planting of something new.

Three strong roots, intertwined.

- **The nurturing sisterhood of Sacred Heart.**
- **The enduring faith and presence of St. Paul Cathedral in Oakland.**
- **The service-driven mission of the Sisters of Mercy.**

Together, they formed the foundation of Oakland Catholic. Nothing was erased. **Everything was carried forward.**

Each school had its own identity. Its own traditions. Its own pride.

Today, Oakland Catholic stands as a school built on those very roots. You see it in the strength of its community. You feel it in its commitment to faith and service. You recognize it in the confidence and leadership of its students.

Every hallway, every tradition, every student experience is shaped by what came before. While the name on the building may have changed, the spirit has not disappeared—it has grown. **This is the meaning of Roots & Wings.**

The roots ground us in history—in the schools that formed generations of women and built a foundation strong enough to last. The wings carry that legacy forward—into Oakland Catholic classrooms, Oakland Catholic traditions, and Oakland Catholic generations who continue to write the story of Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service.

Oakland Catholic is not separate from Sacred Heart, St. Paul Cathedral, or Our Lady of Mercy. It is because of them. In that way, their stories are not over.

They are still unfolding—every single day.



Congrats **CLASS OF 2026!**



“Think Big, Lead Like Joan, and Be the Light.”

PRESIDENT KELLY LAZZARA

Graduation Day!

On May 20, 2026, Oakland Catholic celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2026 at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum. The ceremony honored 104 graduates, who proudly processed in traditional white caps and gowns while carrying the school's signature red roses.

Valedictorian Rylie Loughron, Salutatorian Hannah George, and commencement speaker, Meg Bulger OCHS '03 offered reflections and words of encouragement to the graduating class. In her address, President Kelly Lazzara challenged the graduates to embrace the call to **"Think Big, Lead Like Joan, and Be the Light."** Drawing inspiration from St. Joan of Arc, she encouraged the young women to pursue their dreams with confidence, lead with courage and conviction, and be a source of hope and light in the world.

Principal Karen Kolenik presented diplomas to the graduates, while Vice Principal Christy Gilkey proudly called each student forward to receive her diploma. The ceremony celebrated not only the accomplishments of the graduates but also the strong bonds of faith, scholarship, and service that unite the Oakland Catholic community.

Fortunately, the rain held off to only a light sprinkle, allowing graduates, families, and friends to enjoy the traditional cap toss outside following the ceremony. A joyful conclusion to a memorable day celebrating the achievements and bright futures of the Class of 2026.



Carrying roses at St. Paul Cathedral High School Graduation circa 1950's

ROOTS & Wings



Honors Convocation 2026

Oakland Catholic High School held its annual Honors Convocation on Wednesday, April 22, 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 2026 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.

2026 Valedictorian RYLIE LOUGHRAN



The 2026 Valedictorian is a gifted and intellectually curious student who has distinguished herself at the highest level in all courses, excelling in advanced coursework across STEM and the humanities. Her passion for computer science and engineering is matched by her leadership as a key member of the OC robotics team and

as a mentor, where she uplifts and inspires others. Beyond the classroom, she is a dedicated servant leader, volunteering extensively, supporting STEM outreach initiatives, and actively engaging in our faith community at Oakland and in her home parish. Known for her maturity, resilience, and genuine enthusiasm for learning, she approaches every challenge with determination and integrity. She plans to continue pursuing her passion for computer science in the Honors College at the University of Pittsburgh. Congratulations to **Rylie Loughran!**

2026 Salutatorian HANNAH GEORGE



The 2026 Salutatorian is an exceptional scholar who embodies both academic excellence and strength of character. She has excelled across OC's rigorous academic program, consistently demonstrating a commitment to high achievement and a love of learning. A kind, empathetic, and hardworking young woman,

she consistently strives to better herself while remaining humble and deeply committed to her community. She is actively involved in numerous clubs and activities, including the Global Competence Initiative and the E3 Oakland Catholic Leadership Initiative, and dedicates her time to meaningful service both within Oakland Catholic and in the broader community. She will continue to pursue her academic career as an engineering major and member of the Honors College at the University of Pittsburgh. Congratulations to **Hannah George!**



To view the full list of 2026 award recipients, please scan the QR code.

CC HONORS CONVOCATION

President's Award



Madelyn Cobleigh 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 and on mission trips and retreats. She is an individual who leads positively by example.

Thomas J. M. Freyvogel Award



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

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 **Margaret Friday**.

Oakland Catholic Award



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

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Honor Cord

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Honor Cord recognizes members of the Class of 2026 who have been blessed to receive a full 12 years of Catholic education. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the patron saint of Catholic schools, devoted her life to faith-filled learning and founded the Sisters of Charity, a religious community committed to education and service to others.

This cord serves not only as a symbol of the students' dedication to Catholic education, but also as a tribute to the families who made this meaningful investment and commitment throughout their daughters' academic journey. The intertwined colors hold special significance: maroon represents Oakland Catholic, black symbolizes the traditional habit worn by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and white honors the Catholic elementary and middle schools that helped shape these graduates.

The Class of 2026 proudly recognizes 64 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Honor Cord recipients, representing 62% of the graduating class.

Jordyn Acie
Lucy Basso
Jacey Bell
Grace Bernacki
Michayla Booth
Mary Borish
Melina Bui
Virginia Burkley
Kaitlyn Carnes
Madelyn Cobleigh
Sarah Coleman
Caitlin Concannon
Olive Cooney
Maren Crowley
Rhyann DePante
Isabella DePaoli
Luciana Easley
Maryellen Faus
Natalia Fazio
Chloe Fettis
Nora Flaherty
Josephine Fontana
Allie Foster
Margaret Friday
Hannah George
Ma'Ali Gilchrist
Solbrae Givens
Maeve Gleba
Sophia Glosser
Emma Gompers
Giovanna Herron
Nina Hillard

Mary Hutchinson
Lucy Hutt
Abigail Janicky
Alexa Kartofilis
Saige King
Makoto Kowalchuck
Elena Krummert
Lily Kugler
Clara LoPresti
Rylie Loughran
Mary Kate Malnight
Teresa Mas Pecina
Catherine McVicker
Layla Miller
Giovanna Minton
Niko Miyaki
Madeline Moore
Brooklyn Morgan
Rory O'Connell
Anani Pace
Elliah Phaneuf
Juliana Phipps
Calli Rajasenan
Sonita Rodriguez
Ava Scott
Elyse Scott
Aundra Sheridan
Elliana Smith
Gemma Spadacene
Kya Thayne
Bliss Tilley
Scarlett Zoracki

Senior Traditions

Dozens of Red Roses at Graduation

Since 1989, one of Oakland Catholic's most meaningful graduation traditions has been the presentation of a dozen red roses to each graduating senior. Inspired by a time when flowers sent to students often reflected popularity or public attention, the tradition was thoughtfully reimagined to ensure that every young woman would be equally celebrated, honored, and cherished on her graduation day.

Today, each senior receives the same dozen red roses as a symbol of her accomplishments, dignity, and the sisterhood shared among Oakland Catholic students. The tradition creates a quiet but powerful moment of recognition before students leave high school and begin their next chapter.

The tradition was established through the generosity of an anonymous donor and the school carries on this tradition as a cherished symbol of the heart of the Oakland Catholic community.



Last Bell

"Last Bell" is another beloved Oakland Catholic senior tradition, held on the final full day of classes. Seniors gather in the courtyard to count down the last 30 seconds before the final bell rings, then celebrate together with hugs, photos, music, and time with classmates, faculty, and staff. Seniors also decorate their uniform skirts to represent their future colleges and tie-dye their school shirts to match. New this year, the entire student body joined the seniors in the courtyard to share in the excitement and cheer them on during the countdown.





Senior Sunrise

The Oakland Catholic Class of 2026 gathered for the traditional Senior Sunrise, marking the beginning of their final year together. Beginning at 7 a.m. in the parking lot before school, seniors arrived with blankets, snacks, signs, and cameras to celebrate alongside friends as they watched the sunrise.

Students were also surprised with a special pancake breakfast and coffee in the courtyard, graciously served by Oakland Catholic faculty and staff.



Class of 2025



Class of 2024



Class of 2023



Baccalaureate Mass

Baccalaureate Mass was held on May 18, 2026 at St. Paul Cathedral, where members of the Class of 2026 gathered with family, faculty, and friends to celebrate this meaningful milestone. Students heard speeches from Executive Board President Michayla Booth and Senior Class President Mary Hutchinson, both of whom reflected on their high school careers and emphasized the importance of faith and perseverance. We were honored to have Bishop Eckman serve as celebrant for the Mass as we reflected on the accomplishments and bright futures of our graduating seniors.



Senior Liturgy and Luncheon

On April 23, 2026, the Class of 2026 gathered for their Senior Farewell Liturgy and Luncheon, a special day of reflection, celebration, and sisterhood as they prepared for graduation. The day began with Mass at St. Paul Cathedral, followed by farewell remarks from faculty and staff, and time together in the DP enjoying music, cornhole, a photo booth, and creating an "Advice to Freshmen" banner.

The celebration concluded with lunch. Students received several meaningful keepsakes, including letters from freshmen as a reminder of the lasting sisterhood they helped shape, a St. Joan of Arc pendant from the sophomore class symbolizing courage and faith, and a crucifix from the junior class to serve as a reminder of guidance and faith in the years ahead. Seniors were also gifted freshman and senior class photos reflecting on their journey together, along with their official Alumnae Pin, symbolizing their lifelong connection to Oakland Catholic.



100%

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

Over \$25 million

in scholarships received by the Class of 2026

Class of 2026 College Bound

College Decision Day

On May 1, 2026, Oakland Catholic seniors celebrated “College Decision Day,” a special tradition recognizing the exciting next step in their journey. Organized by Mrs. Kemmer, Director of College Counseling, seniors proudly wore college t-shirts and sweatshirts representing their future schools.

The celebration included personalized cupcakes featuring each student’s chosen college or university, music, balloons, cornhole in the Senior Lounge, a photo booth, and opportunities for students to create thank-you cards for faculty and staff. Officers from the Carnegie Mellon Police Department also led a self-defense class, while Oakland Catholic alumnae returned to share advice and experiences from their first year of college.



Accepted Colleges

The Class of 2026 will attend 57 colleges and universities as well as West Penn Hospital School of Nursing and the Pittsburgh Institute for Mortuary Science. They were accepted to schools in 35 different states, Washington, D.C., France, Spain, and Canada.

COLLEGE LIST

Arizona State University
Boston University
Carleton University (Canada)
Carnegie Mellon University
Chatham University
Clemson University
College of Charleston
CUNY Hunter College
Davidson College
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duquesne University
D’Youville University
Fordham University
Georgia Tech
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Grove City College
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
La Roche University

Loyola University Chicago
New York University
North Carolina State University
Nova Southeastern University
Ohio University
Old Dominion University
Penn State University (Behrend)
Penn State University (University Park)
Point Park University
Purdue University
Robert Morris University
St. Vincent College
Slippery Rock University
Spelman College
St. John’s University
St. Thomas University
Susquehanna University
Temple University
Thiel College
The Ohio State University

University of Arizona
University of Central Arkansas
University of Cincinnati
University of Dayton
University of Richmond
University of Kentucky
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Notre Dame
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of South Carolina
University of Tampa
University of Tennessee
Virginia Tech
Wake Forest University
Winston-Salem State University
West Virginia University



Virginia Burkley



Kaitlyn Carnes



Madelyn Cobleigh



Rhyann DePante



Luciana Easley



Maggie Friday



Emma Gompers



**Brynne
Huffmyer**



Sarah Lynch



**Giavonna
Minton**



**Aundra
Sheridan**



**Gemma
Spadacene**



Bliss Tilley



Casey Walsh

62nd Medallion Ball

Fourteen students from Oakland Catholic High School were among the 98 young women honored at the 62nd Medallion Ball, a celebration of faith, service, and community held the day after Thanksgiving. As members of the Ball Class of 2026, these students received the Joan of Arc Medallion from **Bishop Mark Eckman** after contributing a remarkable 16,833 hours of volunteer service across Pittsburgh and beyond.

While the numbers are impressive, it is the personal impact of that service that tells the real story. Through experiences both within their own communities and across the wider world, students from OC encountered opportunities that both challenged and inspired them, ultimately shaping who they are becoming.

Through their participation in St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind and their recognition as Joan of Arc Medallion recipients, these young women have come to a deeper understanding of what it means to live their faith in action—responding to God's call through service to others. In doing so, they have discovered that a life of service—offering time, love, and talents—not only changes the world but also changes the one who serves.

For **Brynne Huffmyer '26**, that realization came through her time serving at Mustard Seed Communities in Jamaica. "It taught me to live in the moment and thank God for everything," she shared, reflecting on how the experience deepened both gratitude and faith.

For **Emma Gompers '26**, service became a source of both connection and empowerment. Through

volunteering at OC's summer basketball camps, she found joy in welcoming younger girls and helping them feel part of the community. She shared that these experiences pushed her beyond her usual circle, allowing her to connect with new people and grow in confidence as she embraced opportunities to lead and serve.

This year, St. Lucy's Auxiliary is led by **President Rhodora Noethling, OCHS '94**, alongside ten women serving on the board who are graduates of Oakland Catholic High School and its legacy schools, including Sacred Heart High School and Our Lady of Mercy Academy. Their continued involvement reflects the enduring impact of a formation in service that began in their school years.

It is a quiet but powerful reminder that the foundation built during their high school years continues to grow and take shape over time.

This moment is not simply a recognition of 150 hours completed, but a reflection of who these young women are becoming. Through opportunities like this, Oakland Catholic High School continues to form leaders who live with faith, serve with purpose, and lead with compassion. We are incredibly proud of our students and all they have accomplished.



Photos courtesy of Ron Richards Photography



National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Our annual National Honor Society Induction was held on November 13, 2025. The ceremony serves as a reminder of the standards of excellence the student members 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 **63 current members**, and the **54 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.



STUDENT SPEAKERS:

LEADERSHIP:
Michayla Booth

SCHOLARSHIP:
Rylie Loughran

SERVICE:
Madeleine Fox

CHARACTER:
Mary Hutchinson

Class of 2026
Solbrae Kelli Givens
Saige Anaya King
Elliah Ann Phaneuf
Chelsea Wikerson

Sydney Paige Marrara
Raegan Catherine Mascaro
Luciana Mazurek
Kaitlyn Ann Miller
Jordan Mitchell
Mackenzie Garahan Muir
Madeleine Claire Naeser
Dilys Otti-Boateng
Madison Michelle Pullen
Anna Elizabeth Rembert
Katherine Anne Richardson
Honorina Amani Saxton
Samantha Nicolle Schork
Mollie Isabelle Sclichter
Teresa Cristina Silvaggio
Lotus Soletti
Katelyn Strane
Averie Elizabeth Strohm
Julia Adele Tuite
Madelyn Rae Vernon
Kennedy Ann Waffensmith
Madeleine Frances Wingerter
Sasha Jane Wozetek
Sara Zagrocki

Class of 2027
Lienna Jade Bassano
Hazel Bell
Marin Grace Best
Carys Elizabeth Blough
Caroline Elizabeth Breslin
Jalise LaDawn Brown
Eliza Jane Kennedy Burgess
Hailey Theresa Chase
Ainsley Vilma Cook-Baldauf
Grace Angelina Cramer McClintock
Sheridan Grace Cunningham
Leah Margo Cutitta
Marissa Jacob Donley
Claire Rielly Elder
Raegan Marie Faulds
Destiny Scherrie Folks
Layla Friebling
Jules Addison Georgescu
Sydney Lynn Gillen
Julianna Marie Hamrock
Elizabeth Ann Kaczmarek
Kaelyn Marie Kelley
Yapa Laoworakiat
Anna Lapinsky
Lada Skye Leazier
London Lewis



OC NHS Throwback

E3 – The OC Leadership Initiative

E3 – The OC Leadership Initiative

provides a clear path for eligible sophomores and juniors to engage in activities, workshops, and concrete projects that intentionally build confidence and leadership skills across a diverse segment of the Oakland Catholic student population. Rooted in the Catholic tradition and inspired by the example of St. Joan of Arc, the program encourages students to view leadership as a vocation of service.

Guided by the facilitation of the program's director and with a deeper understanding of leadership skills and practices, students in the program are expected to demonstrate how, as leaders, they can serve and embolden others for the greater good of the school and the broader community.

Those who successfully fulfill all requirements earn an **E3 – The OC Leadership Initiative Certificate** and will be recognized formally at Honors Convocation and graduation ceremonies.

As the Junior E3 students began discussing potential projects, it quickly became clear that there was strong enthusiasm for two very different ideas. In response, the class split into two cohorts, allowing students to pursue both visions while demonstrating the collaboration, leadership, and problem-solving skills that are central to the E3 experience.

E3 Wellness Cohort Transforms Oakland Catholic Weight Room

One cohort of Oakland Catholic's Junior E3 program focused on student wellness with a goal of improving the school's weight room. Used by all 18 athletic teams as well as students throughout the school, the space had not been updated in many years. The students envisioned a brighter, more welcoming environment complete with new equipment, upgraded flooring, a speaker system, and other modern enhancements.

When initial estimates for the project exceeded \$40,000, the students quickly realized their vision would require creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving. Rather than giving up, they adapted their plans and focused on improvements they could accomplish with the resources available.

The cohort began by completely refreshing the space. With donated primer and guidance from a professional painter, students learned how to prepare and paint the room themselves. They also cleaned and organized existing equipment and developed plans for motivational murals and wall graphics. While proud of the progress they had made, the students continued searching for ways to further improve the space.

Then an unexpected opportunity arose. During a conversation unrelated to the weight room project, a longtime supporter of the E3 program learned about the students' vision and generously donated \$15,000 toward the project. The news was met with excitement, gratitude, and renewed determination from the cohort.

The students immediately began evaluating how to maximize the impact of the donations received. After thoughtful discussion and collaboration, they identified new flooring as the project's top priority. The upgraded flooring enhances student safety, reduces impact on joints during training, improves traction and stability, protects equipment and facilities, and creates a more comfortable environment for strength training, conditioning, and athletic development.

Today, the new flooring is installed, along with several additional improvements. More importantly, the project provided students with a real-world leadership experience that challenged them to dream big, adapt when faced with obstacles, work as a team, and make thoughtful decisions for the benefit of the entire Oakland Catholic community.

The Wellness Cohort is grateful to everyone who supported the project and helped bring their vision to life especially **Averie Strohm '27, Kennedy Waffensmith '27, Kaitlyn Miller '27, Caroline Breslin '27, Elizabeth Kaczmarek '27, Madelyn Vernon '27, Lenna Birchard '27**. Their work stands as a lasting example of the leadership, collaboration, and problem-solving skills that are at the heart of the E3 program.





Oakland Catholic Celebrates the Dedication of New Marian Grotto

Oakland Catholic recently celebrated the formal consecration and dedication of its new Marian Grotto, located just outside the JOA

Building. The blessing and consecration were led by Bishop Waltersheid and concluded with the praying of decades of the Rosary, creating a beautiful moment of faith and reflection for the OC community.

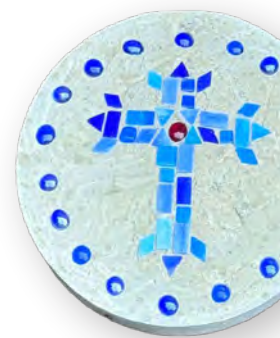
The grotto features a restored statue of the Blessed Mother, a gift from St. Paul Cathedral. The statue once stood in the hallways of the former elementary school at St. Rosalia Parish in Greenfield, Pittsburgh. Carved from Carrara marble, the same Italian stone used by Michelangelo to create the Pietà, the statue is believed to have been crafted in the early part of the last century and brought to Pittsburgh around that time. Its presence on campus brings a remarkable piece of sacred art to Oakland Catholic and offers students, faculty, staff, and visitors a peaceful space for prayer and intimacy with the Blessed Mother.

The Marian Grotto was made possible through the extraordinary generosity of benefactors Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel J. Hudock, as well as the vision and hard work of students in the E3 cohort and their moderators Dorrie Donahue and Jayna Palumbo. The students wanted to create a lasting beautification project for the school, and a Marian Grotto had long been on Oakland Catholic's wish list. With the guidance of mentors, donors, masons, and landscapers, the students helped bring the project to life.

Beginning after Christmas, the **E3 Cohort** worked on plans for the grotto, carefully considering where the statue would be placed, which way the Blessed Mother Mary would face, and what landscaping would surround her. They met with the masonry team to share their drawings and vision, reviewed technical plans, and later worked with landscapers to select three different bushes for the area. When the landscaping work began, the students arrived ready with shovels in hand, even working in the rain, to help prepare the sacred space.

The students also designed and created five mosaic stepping stones to be placed near the grotto. Each stone represents both Mary and Oakland Catholic, featuring a cross, rosary, rose, Sacred Heart, and the OC crest.

Special thanks to **Jules Georgescu '27, Kaelyn Kelley '27, Luci Mazurek '27, Phoebe Siebold '27, Sheridan Cunningham '27, and Carys Blough '27** for their leadership, creativity, and dedication to making the Marian Grotto such a meaningful and beautiful addition to campus. Their work is a true example of faith-centered service, collaborative leadership, and Marian devotion at Oakland Catholic.



Our Family Roots

Grandparents Day

Oakland Catholic welcomed more than 200 grandparents and special guests for its cherished annual Grandparents Day celebration, a tradition that highlights the faith, fellowship, and strong sense of community at OC. The morning began with check-in on campus followed by an All-School Mass at St. Paul Cathedral, where students and their guests gathered in prayer and celebration.

Following Mass, guests returned to Oakland Catholic for coffee, donuts, refreshments, and campus tours led by their granddaughters, as well as opportunities to take photos and visit the EagleWear Store. The event provided grandparents and special friends with a meaningful glimpse into student life while creating lasting memories with their loved ones.

Grandparents Day continues to be one of Oakland Catholic's most treasured traditions, celebrating the love, support, and connection that strengthen the OC sisterhood and community.



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, attend future events or make a general donation to support OCPG.



Wellness Days at Oakland Catholic High School

This school year, therapy dogs were brought into Oakland Catholic High School once a month to engage with students, faculty, and staff. The therapy dogs visited during all lunch periods to provide students with a calm, comforting space to decompress and reset. These visits give students an opportunity to relieve stress, regulate emotions, and take a mindful break when they are feeling overwhelmed by academics, social pressures, or daily responsibilities. Beyond stress reduction, therapy dogs can support emotional regulation, encourage positive social interactions, boost mood, and help students feel more connected and supported within the school environment.

In addition to the therapy dogs, the counseling office hosted a variety of wellness and self-care events throughout the school year. In January, the self-care table encouraged students to pause, reset, and prepare for a new semester filled with new opportunities, routines, and goals that support growth and success. Students created sand art keychains, using different colors of sand to represent personal strengths and coping skills. The activity aimed to reduce stress and anxiety, boost emotional well-being, encourage positive social interaction, and create a more connected and supportive school environment.

In February, students participated in Random Acts of Kindness Week by creating a kindness chain that promoted encouragement, motivation, and positive acts toward others.

March focused on the John Gottman 5-to-1 Principle, which emphasizes the importance of five positive interactions for every one negative interaction. Students learned how positive communication, encouragement, and support can strengthen relationships and improve overall well-being.

The final wellness event highlighted Mental Health Awareness Month through an activity centered on positive affirmations and reminders that everyone is enough. The goal was to spread awareness and encourage a supportive school culture. At each wellness table, students also had access to a variety of mental health and support resources.

We look forward to continued wellness events for the students at Oakland Catholic High School.



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.



Events

Prom

Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic celebrated Prom 2026 at The Westin in downtown Pittsburgh. In the first combined prom between the two schools, more than 550 students enjoyed an unforgettable evening filled with great food, dancing, a photo booth, and lasting memories with friends. The beautifully decorated venue provided the perfect setting for students to dress up and celebrate the end of another successful school year together. The collaboration between Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic made the evening one that students will remember for years to come. A special thank-you to the organizers from both schools for planning a memorable night for our students.



Winter Formal

Oakland Catholic students enjoyed a memorable evening at this year's Winter Formal, hosted by the OC Student Council. The gymnasium was transformed into an elegant masquerade-themed venue where students spent the night socializing, dancing to music from multiple eras, enjoying refreshments, and capturing special moments with friends.



Holidays at OC

Oakland Catholic loves the holiday season, and this year was no different. From favorite school traditions to opportunities to give back, students, faculty, and staff celebrated together throughout the fall and winter months.

The season began with the annual Halloween Parade. After the parade, everyone was able to pick their favorite full-size candy bar, compliments of the Oakland Catholic Parent Guild (OCPG). In November, the school gathered for Friendsgiving and enjoyed a turkey lunch with all the fixings. During the season of gratitude, the OCPG also gifted every teacher with a pie to thank them for all they do.

Oakland Catholic also gave back to the community through its Thanksgiving Drive, collecting food, clothing, coats, shoes, and other essentials for Birthright and Catholic Charities.

A special highlight of the season was the Oakland Catholic Christmas card, beautifully designed by senior **Jamison Murphy**, whose artwork captured the spirit of Christmas at OC.





Soaring Beyond the Classroom

ST. ANTHONY CHAPEL VISIT



The junior class visited St. Anthony Chapel in Troy Hill, where they experienced one of the most remarkable collections of religious relics in the world—second only to the Vatican. The visit provided students with a meaningful opportunity to connect with history, tradition, and the

rich heritage of the Catholic faith. Experiences like this reflect the many ways Oakland Catholic students are encouraged to live out the pillars of Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service each day.



Back to School Picnic

The OC Picnic returned this year with incredible energy and excitement as students came together to celebrate one of Oakland Catholic's favorite traditions. Students enjoyed a day filled with school spirit, friendly competition, and fun activities, including Tug of War, the Gong Show, and the opportunity to dunk some of their favorite teachers. Special thanks to Student Council for organizing another memorable event for the entire school community.

Spirit Week

Oakland Catholic students celebrated Spirit Week with a variety of themed activities, friendly competitions, and dress-down days that brought OC together. Monday featured "Viking for a Day," Tuesday focused on "Friendship Bracelet Day," Wednesday encouraged students to "Dress Like a Celebrity," and Thursday's "Circle of Life" theme highlighted different stages of life by grade level. Spirit Week concluded on Friday with the Student vs. Faculty Basketball Game and a class color day, everyone's favorite, as students proudly showed their school spirit throughout the week.



EDUCATION POLICY EVENT WITH U.S. SENATOR DAVID MCCORMICK



Oakland Catholic was honored to participate in a special event at The Oaklander Hotel, featuring U.S. Senator David McCormick and hosted by the Invest in Education Foundation. The event centered around the important topic of expanding school choice and increasing

access to high-quality education for all families. Discussions highlighted the role of new scholarship opportunities in empowering students and supporting educational equity.

HOVER IN THE GYM

The first semester EPIC class built leaf blower hovercrafts. The leaf blowers forced air down which hovered the kids' crafts. They were able to cruise around the gym with a small push.



WEATHER BALLOON LAUNCH



Students in Oakland Catholic's Engineering Design (EPIC) second semester class launched a weather balloon nearly 100,000 feet to the edge of space this spring after spending the semester designing and building a payload to collect atmospheric data and record

video footage. Although a GPS failure prevented recovery of the payload after launch, the project provided valuable hands-on experience in engineering, problem-solving, and teamwork. Led by engineering teacher Steve Graner, the class successfully launched the balloon from the Allegheny Observatory and embraced the challenges that come with real-world engineering. Graner noted that while the payload remains missing, the experience was an incredible success and a meaningful learning opportunity for students.



Welcome **CLASS OF 2029**

Each year, Oakland Catholic welcomes a new class of students who bring their own talents, experiences, and excitement to our school community—and the Class of 2029 has already made a remarkable impression. Representing 27 school districts and 28 elementary schools across the Pittsburgh region, this class includes 37 legacy students.

From the moment they arrived on campus, the Class of 2029 embraced the opportunities that define the Oakland Catholic experience. Whether building new friendships, exploring academic interests, participating in student life, or living out our pillars of Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service, these students have quickly become an integral part of the OC community.

Now preparing to enter their sophomore year, the Class of 2029 has already begun sharing their enthusiasm and pride for Oakland Catholic with prospective students and future Eagles in the Class of 2030 and beyond.

Year in Review

Oakland Catholic admissions had an exciting year filled with both long-standing events and new opportunities. Throughout the year, the admissions team worked hard to share the mission of Oakland Catholic High School with prospective families, reviewed many strong applications, and welcomed numerous future Eagles to campus.

The year began with the Summer Family Celebration, Mass at St. Paul Cathedral, and New Student Orientation as the school celebrated the start of a new school year and welcomed the Class of 2029 and their families to campus. While many of these students had previously visited Oakland Catholic, these events marked the start of their time together as OC Eagles. The Admissions team also continued its annual Cookie Tour Delivery to local Catholic elementary schools, welcoming school staff back for another great school year and inviting schools to participate in fall events.

During the fall semester, Oakland Catholic hosted its annual 8th Grade Eagle for a Day and Open House events for prospective students and families. At Eagle for a Day, the school welcomed 250 8th-grade students from 32 different schools for an immersive experience that allowed them to learn more about Oakland Catholic

High School, meet OC students and faculty, and interact with students from around the region. The Open House welcomed nearly one-hundred families from the Greater Pittsburgh region to tour the school, interact with OC student ambassadors and administration, explore clubs and athletics at the activity fair, and learn more about the many financial aid and tuition assistance opportunities available to help make Catholic education more affordable.

Shortly thereafter, Oakland Catholic began hosting its Shadow Days, during which prospective students were paired with current Oakland Catholic students to attend classes, eat lunch, and experience a typical day at Oakland Catholic. Throughout the school year, the school hosted six 8th-grade shadow days and welcomed 100 8th-grade students to campus, while continuing to grow its recently established 7th-grade shadow days, hosting four sessions and nearly 60 students as well.

The Admissions team also remained active throughout the year by hosting a variety of events, including the Oakland Catholic Cross Country Invitational, Middle School Nights and a variety of athletic camps, Accepted Student and Parent Social and Curriculum Nights for

SPIRITUALITY. SCHOLARSHIP. SERVICE.



Only
ALL-GIRLS
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
IN THE REGION

OFFERING

- 18 AP COURSES
- 10 CHS COURSES
- 41 HONORS COURSES
- 33 CLUBS & ACTIVITIES
- 12 ATHLETIC PROGRAMS
- 6 MISSION TRIPS

100%
COLLEGE
ACCEPTANCE

Experience the Best
IN GIRLS' CATHOLIC EDUCATION

FAITH-FILLED COMMUNITY

PREPARING LEADERS FOR TOMORROW

Scan to LEARN MORE



www.oaklandcatholic.org/admissions



7TH GRADE SPRING LUNCH VISITS



ACCEPTED STUDENT SOCIAL



CENTRAL
CHEER CLINIC



EAGLE FOR
A DAY



2029
FRESHMEN FIRST DAY
CLASS OF 2029

the incoming Class of 2030, and Summer BAM Camps. The team also visited local middle schools through 7th-grade lunch visits and several high school fairs.

The 2025-2026 school year also brought several new events to Oakland Catholic Admissions, including a Middle School World Languages Night, a Middle School Night at the Masque, and a Faith and Fine Arts Camp.

During the Middle School World Languages Night, students in grades 5-8 learned how to salsa dance, played games, tasted sauces from around the world, and more. This event was led by **Gretchen Anselmo**, OC Spanish Teacher; **Alessandra Pazzaglia**, OC Italian Teacher; and **Helene Valescant-Shaffer**, OC French Teacher, with assistance from current OC students.

The Middle School Nights at the Masque gave middle school students the opportunity to attend the Oakland Catholic-Central Catholic dress rehearsal performance of *The Addams Family* prior to the start of the weekend performances.

The new Faith and Fine Arts Camp, held in June and hosted by **Dorrie Donahue**, OC Director of Mission Integration; **Natalie Santucci**, OC Religion Teacher; and **Meg Koroly**, OC Art Teacher, welcomed students in grades 3-5 for a week-long camp in which students had the opportunity to explore their artistic talents and faith through a variety of fun, creative activities.

In addition to these many new programs and opportunities, Oakland Catholic also welcomed its new Director of Enrollment, **Leslie Williams**.

Overall, it was a fruitful year for Oakland Catholic Admissions. The team looks forward to continuing its mission and welcoming another strong class of faith-filled leaders—the OC Class of 2030—to the Oakland Catholic community this fall.



FAITH AND
FINE ARTS
CAMP



MIDDLE
SCHOOL WORLD
LANGUAGE NIGHT



MIDDLE SCHOOL
SPORTS NIGHTS



NEW STUDENT
ORIENTATION



OC INVITATIONAL
WOLF CREEK



OPEN HOUSE



SHADOW DAYS



2025-2026 SCHOOL PROFILE

OUR TEAM

KELLY LAZZARA, B.A., M.Ed.
President

KAREN KOLENIK, B.S.Ed., M.Ed.
Principal

CHRISTY GILKEY, B.S.Ed., M.Ed.Ld.
Vice Principal

KAMMY KEMMER, B.A., M.A.T.
Director of College Counseling

VICKY CUNNINGHAM, B.S., M.Ed.
Director of School Counseling and Support Services Coordinator

KIMBERLY PAVLICK, B.S.
School & College Counseling Coordinator, AP Coordinator

CONTACT US

Office: (412) 682-6633
Fax: (412) 682-2496
Website: oaklandcatholic.org
CEEB/ACT Code: 393775
Address: 144 N. Craig St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

2025 AP STATISTICS

Students who took AP course: 157
AP tests taken: 325*
AP Scholars: 20
AP Scholars with Honors: 6
AP Scholars with Distinction: 9

*All students enrolled in an AP course are required to take the AP exam

MISSION STATEMENT

Oakland Catholic is a Christ-centered school for young women of diverse backgrounds, forming them under the patronage of St. Joan of Arc into women of Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service.

FORMATION

As a Catholic school, we are committed to the development of the whole person and believe that one of the primary ways to do this is by giving our students the opportunity to interact frequently with the sacraments through regular school-wide and grade-level Masses and Eucharistic Adoration.

WPIAL/PIAA SPORTS

Basketball
Bowling
Cross Country
Field Hockey
Flag Football
Golf
Indoor Track
Lacrosse
Soccer
Softball
Swimming
Tennis
Track & Field
Volleyball

CLUB SPORTS

Crew
Fencing
Sideline Cheerleading
Ultimate

MISSION & SERVICE

Fiat Mentorship Program
Campus Ministry
Multiple After School Service Opportunities
Kairos Retreat
Class Retreats
Mission Trips (6)
- Local (2)
- National (2)
- International (2)

CO-CURRICULARS

Campus Ministry
Chamber Singers
English Festival
Forte (Literary Magazine)
Junior Achievement
Marching Band & Color Guard
Central Catholic - Oakland
Catholic Masque Drama Society
Model United Nations
Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS)
Robotics
Speech & Debate
Yearbook

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

ENGLISH: 4 credits
RELIGION: 4 credits
SOCIAL STUDIES: 4 credits
MATHEMATICS: 3 credits
WORLD LANGUAGE: 2 credits
SCIENCE: 3 credits
ELECTIVES: 4 credits
HEALTH/PHYS ED: 1 credit
FINE ARTS: 1 credit
TOTAL CREDITS: 26 credits*

*Exceeds Pennsylvania State Requirements

GPA COURSE RANK POLICY

As a matter of school policy, students are not ranked. Each transcript reflects a cumulative grade point average weighted for AP, CHS, and honors courses. Cumulative GPAs are calculated by averaging all courses at Oakland Catholic.

P=Pass F=Fail I=Incomplete W=Withdraw

		College Equivalency/ AP	Honors High School	College Preparatory
A	100-95	6.000	5.000	4.000
A-	94-93	5.625	4.687	3.750
B+	92-90	4.875	4.063	3.250
B	89-87	4.500	3.750	3.000
B-	86-85	4.125	3.437	2.750
C+	84-82	3.375	2.813	2.250
C	81-77	3.000	2.500	2.000
C-	76-75	2.625	2.187	1.750
D+	74-73	1.875	1.563	1.250
D	72-71	1.500	1.250	1.000
D-	70	1.125	0.937	0.750
F	69-0	0.000	0.000	0.000

100%

COLLEGE
ACCEPTANCE

19

AP COURSES
OFFERED

10

CHS COURSES
OFFERED

41

HONORS COURSES
OFFERED

46

SCHOOL DISTRICTS
REPRESENTED

\$24+
MILLION

IN MERIT-BASED
COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIPS

33

CLUBS AND
ACTIVITIES



Fostering curiosity and encouraging students

Advanced Studies

Students enrolled in AP courses learn essential time management and study skills needed for college. The curriculum and teachers act as guides to their curiosity and how to dig deeper into the subjects that tap into their creativity as well as developing problem-solving skills to address course challenges.

AP courses are globally recognized for their rigor and signal to colleges and universities, both domestic and international, that students are committed to the learning and preparation for the challenges that lie ahead in postsecondary education. 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admissions decisions (College Board Blog, 2025).

Oakland Catholic offers 18 AP classes in all areas of curriculum available to students in grades 10, 11, and 12. OC students begin their college and career preparation by participating in the PSAT 8/9 in the spring of their 9th grade year. In the 10th and 11th grade years, they take the digital PSAT/NMSQT that develops the critical thinking and test taking skills essential for postsecondary success. The PSAT assesses and predicts student readiness for AP coursework known as AP Potential that can be found in the detailed student data report that is found in their own College Board account. By taking the PSAT, students are instantly connected to a hub of resources for the next steps in their journey from selecting high school coursework, preparing for the SAT, and the college search and discovery process.

“As a parent, I was able to see firsthand the benefits my daughters gained from taking both AP and CHS courses. In addition to earning college credit, one significant advantage was the ability to register for classes earlier than their peers because they were considered a semester ahead academically.”

***Kim Pavlick SPCHS '89
Parent of Meghan OCHS '21 and Veronica OCHS '23***

Using AP Potential from their PSAT data as well as other performance and behavior predictors, teachers can recommend students for AP course work. Students who earn a 93% or higher in a CP course are typically demonstrating the readiness for the pacing, verbal and written language, and independent work required of an AP course.

Taking AP courses isn't just about college admissions or trying to impress highly selective universities. More importantly, it's about fostering curiosity and encouraging students to grow through exploration—by making mistakes, learning to prioritize, and building stamina in managing their time. These are the essential skills students need to succeed and become independent in college.

“Being able to participate in a college-level lab was a great learning experience! This opportunity taught me what to expect in a college setting: the preparation, attention to detail, and precision. These labs were also a fun way to further immerse myself in the subject. I felt that it helped me boost my understanding of the material and appreciate the opportunity to learn in a challenging environment.”

Julianna Hamrock '27



This school year we had 157 students across three grade levels enrolled in AP courses, completing a combined total of 325 exams. Among these students, 20 earned AP Scholar recognition, six received AP Scholar with Honors distinction, and nine achieved AP Scholar with Distinction status.

In addition to Advanced Placement (AP) classes, Oakland Catholic students can earn college credits while still in high school through College in High School (CHS) courses offered in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh. This provides students with an excellent opportunity to get a head start on college coursework before beginning their college careers while benefiting from the support and structure of a high school environment.

This year, Oakland Catholic offered nine CHS courses across the Science, World Language, and English departments. Students enrolled in these courses can earn college credit through the University of Pittsburgh while gaining valuable experience with the expectations and rigor of college-level academics.

One unique component of Oakland Catholic's CHS Chemistry program is the opportunity for students to participate in laboratory experiences on the University of Pittsburgh campus. These Pitt labs allow students to experience a true college-level lab environment that cannot be fully replicated within a traditional high school schedule.

Students complete three-hour laboratory sessions where they must carry out all steps of the scientific process and prepare detailed lab reports, often exceeding twelve pages. They also can perform experiments that would not be possible in the high school setting due to equipment and safety limitations. Working alongside teaching assistants further exposes students to a common aspect of the college classroom experience.

These experiences help students develop the skills, confidence, and independence needed to succeed in future college science courses.

“Participating in CHS Chem has been such a great opportunity. Not only did we get a taste of what the workload is like, but we got hands-on experience in the lab using college-level equipment. It has been so much fun getting to learn on a college level and grow closer to my classmates. We have so many laughs and memories to look back on! Thanks to this class and Ms. Martin, I am entering college more prepared and more confident than ever before.”

Luciana Mazurek '27



OCHS '27



Sacred Heart
High School
circa 1981

ROOTS
& Wings

Science

Students in Mr. Weiss's AP Biology class engaged in a hands-on investigation of quorum sensing by working with multiple strains of bioluminescent *Vibrio*. Through this laboratory experience, students examined how specific genetic mutations influence cell-to-cell communication in microorganisms. This engaging experiment provided a clear and memorable demonstration of microbial signaling, allowing students to observe complex biological concepts in action through bioluminescence.



Students in Mr. Graner's physics class recently put theory into practice through a hands-on classroom demonstration involving angles, distance, and motion. Using careful calculations and analysis, students determined the precise positioning needed for a wooden projectile to safely dislodge an object from a classmate's head. The activity reinforced key physics concepts while highlighting problem-solving, accuracy, and safety in experimental design.

OC Students Accepted into the Hillman Cancer Academy



Honoria Saxton '27, Gabrielle Wilkins '27, and Lotus Soletti '27 have been accepted into the UPMC Hillman Cancer Academy. The program will run this summer where they will engage in hands-on laboratory work contributing to ongoing cancer research initiatives. They have been selected for the Pathobiology track and will work under the guidance of university faculty and staff. Congratulations!



2025 Outstanding Young Citizens

Congratulations to **Bliss Tilley '26** and **Kennedy Waffensmith '27** on being recognized by Trib Total Media as 2025 Outstanding Young Citizens. This honor celebrates Western Pennsylvania students who demonstrate exceptional leadership, strong character, dedication to community service, and outstanding academic achievement.

2026 Global Travel Scholar

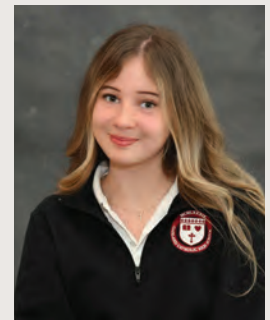
Congratulations to **Destiny Folks '27**, who was awarded a scholarship through the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh and selected as a 2026 Global Travel Scholar. This summer, Destiny will travel to Ghana to explore West Africa through the lens of Sankofa, a Ghanaian concept that connects the past to a sustainable future.



In addition to her academic accomplishments, Destiny is also the founder of Rising Artists LLC, a local business that provides art lessons for children, creates opportunities for young artists to sell their work, and donates art supplies to youth in the community. #WatchHerSoar

National Youth Correspondent

Congratulations to **Madelyn Vernon '27** on being selected as a National Youth Correspondent representing Glenshaw at the 2026 Washington Journalism and Media Conference at George Mason University. Chosen for her outstanding academic achievements and passion for journalism and media studies, Madelyn will join students from



across the country for an immersive experience focused on journalism, media, and leadership development. The conference provides students with hands-on learning opportunities, interactive simulations, and the chance to engage with leading journalists, media professionals, and industry experts.

Merit Scholarship

Congratulations to seniors **Madeleine Fox**, **Rylie Loughran**, and **Hannah George** who have been recognized as Commended Students in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program! This prestigious honor places them among the top 50,000 students nationwide based on their exceptional performance on the PSAT/NMSQT.

Each year, more than one million students across the country enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the PSAT/NMSQT. Of those students, only approximately 50,000 are recognized for their outstanding academic achievement, exceptional promise, and distinguished performance on the qualifying exam. This recognition places Madeleine, Hannah, and Rylie among the highest-achieving students in the nation and reflects their dedication to academic excellence.



SHOW YOUR  PRIDE
CELEBRATE YOUR LEGACY!
SHOP NOW AND WEAR YOUR STORY



MISSIONS & TRIPS

WHERE SERVICE TAKES ROOT



Here at Oakland Catholic, our school community is deeply enriched by our vibrant campus ministry program which centers on an encounter with Christ.

Through school-wide and grade-level Masses; regular Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation and gospel reflections; participation in the March for Life events in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Washington, D.C.; our senior and freshmen Fiat mentorship program; and class and Kairos retreats, students have many different opportunities to get involved and deepen their faith at Oakland Catholic High School.

Our campus ministry department also spearheads numerous service projects that help our students deepen their relationship with Christ which fosters their Christian friendships. This year, students volunteered at the Red Door Ministries downtown, serving food,

making sandwiches, and interacting with those in need. Our students also tutored elementary and middle school students and hosted a food and clothing drive that collected over 1,100 food and baby clothing donations for Catholic Charities and Birthright, a local resource center that supports mothers in need.

In addition to these many service projects, Oakland Catholic also offers several unique mission trips for those interested in pursuing additional opportunities to serve Christ through serving others. During the 2025-2026 school year, two local Pittsburgh mission trips, as well as trips to Washington, D.C., Appalachia, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico, were included.

During these trips, students engaged with the local community in a variety of activities and service experiences.

Appalachia



Seventy students from Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic High Schools spent a week in Webster Springs, West Virginia, putting their faith into action through service. Students completed projects such as painting, landscaping, cleaning, and home repairs for local residents, while also supporting area churches and the elementary school.

The annual mission trip reflects both schools' commitment to forming faith-filled leaders who serve others with humility, compassion, and purpose.

Jamaica



Over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, 19 Oakland Catholic students completed a five-day mission experience in Montego Bay, Jamaica, serving communities impacted by a recent hurricane. Students supported 52 preschool children at Bounty Hall School through lessons on safety, transportation, and nutrition, and spent three days teaching. Students also made a day visit to Blessed Assurance, a home for children with special needs run by Mustard Seed. The OC students' mission at Blessed Assurance was to organize and run the children's recreational time. In addition to educational outreach, students rebuilt a hurricane-damaged playground and purchased, assembled, and distributed 33 food relief bags to local families. Throughout the week, students demonstrated strong teamwork, compassion, and a deep commitment to service. The group was spiritually supported by Father Leo Dornan, a Pittsburgh Oratorian, who served as chaplain and led daily Mass, Confession, and Adoration.



Pittsburgh

During the Pittsburgh Mission Trips held each fall and spring, 121 students spend the weekend serving the local Pittsburgh community. During the fall mission trip, students visited sites across the Pittsburgh region where they packaged food for Thanksgiving at Amen to Action, assisted the elderly and painted nails at a variety of nursing and assisted living homes, distributed food to those in need, assisted with house demolition and repair at Urban Impact, and helped to host a mom and baby thrift store. During the spring mission trip, students visited and assisted at Little Sisters of the Poor in Brighton Heights by organizing prom for the residents and served the homeless at The Red Door. When not out in the community, students who participated in the Pittsburgh mission trips returned to Oakland Catholic where they slept, prayed, and spent time in community with one another.



Puerto Rico

Ten Oakland Catholic students and one Oakland Catholic alumna traveled to Puerto Rico this summer to participate in a mission focused on serving children through a bilingual educational program.

Throughout the week, students worked alongside local communities, supporting educational initiatives and engaging with children through activities designed to foster learning, connection, and encouragement. The bilingual nature of the program offered participants a unique opportunity to bridge language and cultural differences while building meaningful relationships.

Through their interactions with the children and families they encountered, students gained a deeper appreciation for the power of service, the importance of community, and the universal language of kindness.



Washington, D.C.

During the D.C. mission trip in March, 34 Oakland Catholic students traveled to our nation's capital to serve the Catholic elementary schools whose students are on full scholarships. Students were divided into five teams where they supported the teachers by helping to run classes and follow up on their assignments. Some OC students attended Mass with the children. Others helped with projects focused on Jesus' love and played with the young students. Some organized food for the locals in need at the parish where they stayed, and so much more. Our students also visited the St. John Paul II Shrine, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the National Mall, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.



Whatever their initial reason for attending a mission trip may be—whether it be to deepen their faith, help those in need, discover more about the world around them, or meet new friends—for our students, service is not just an option at Oakland Catholic, but one of our core pillars and a key part of our OC identity. This means that an OC student notices the needs of others in God’s Name and acts on it. As **Jules Georgescu ‘27**, states, “Mission trips are everything to me.”

Neve Reutzel ‘29 reflects on her own experiences as well:

“At first, I went on the Fall Pittsburgh Mission Trip because everyone was going and said it would be fun. I knew it would be a great way to make friends and become more comfortable with the school, and that proved true. Besides that, however, I found that I love volunteering and working with the community and my classmates because I had never really had a chance

to do it before. So, I chose to go on DC Mission, and I enjoyed that even more than the Fall Pittsburgh Mission Trip.” Neve also attended the Appalachia Mission Trip in June.

Like those who encouraged Neve to participate, she now understands that service is a core pillar of Oakland Catholic and continues to share more about these opportunities with prospective students and her own family members. She has even begun to continue her volunteer efforts outside of school as well.

“Whenever I go for 7th Grade Middle School Lunch Visits with the OC Admissions team or talk to girls considering or committed to Oakland Catholic, I always tell them to at least go to Fall Pittsburgh Mission, as it has become a crucial part of who I am at OC and where I found my love for volunteering. Now I do it for fun, like at the Greek Food Festival recently.”



Neve is far from alone in sharing her transformative experiences because of the OC mission trips. Students across all grade levels at Oakland Catholic each have their own personal testimonies of growth and faith.

Anabell Evancho '26 has participated in the D.C., Appalachia, and Jamaica Mission Trips and has shared that these service opportunities have pushed her beyond her comfort zone and allowed her to encounter people with different backgrounds, which has allowed her to “trust in Christ more fully and recognize His presence in every person she encounters.” She has also deepened her own faith, understanding that “faith isn’t simply a feeling, but a choice to surrender and believe in the plan that God has, even when it seems uncertain.”

Similarly, **Harper Carenbauer '28** and **Marley Stitt '28** have also expressed that participating in mission trips has strengthened their faith and perspectives on life. Harper believes that she has become more intentional about her actions, less judgmental, and has learned to practice gratitude throughout her life because of these mission trips. Marley explained that participating in the mission trips has helped her to build stronger teamwork skills, recognize God’s blessings in her own life, and more closely follow Christ’s example of service to others.

However, Oakland Catholic mission trips are not limited to community service projects alone. In addition to serving others, students deepen their relationship with Christ through prayer, Sacred Scripture, Eucharistic Adoration, daily Mass, Reconciliation, team-building activities, personal reflection, and visits to important pilgrimage sites, such as the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

For Ella Shapiro '29, her main transformative experience and encounter with Christ came through the spiritual opportunities outside of her direct service project:

“My faith has grown so much since the beginning of my freshman year. Ever since 7th grade, I never thought much about Eucharistic Adoration because I never felt any different. I would always see people crying because they said they heard God talk to them and experience the power of the Holy Spirit. However, on the D.C. Mission Trip, I finally felt different. After attending Mass every day, answering prompts, and just praying through service and words, I felt Him on the second to last night during Adoration. After I came out of confession and performed my penance, I started to cry. I felt so peaceful and happy because I knew I was present, and God was with me. Each night, I sleep with a rosary in my hand, I pray and try to read from the Bible a few times a week since I saved up to buy my own fancy one. Ultimately, the trip changed my perspective on life because I’ve learned who I am, and how I need to serve as a follower of Christ, so I may go to Heaven one day.”

In the end, it is not only the service in Christ that creates the interior transformation, but also the friendships that continue long after students return to campus. During these mission trips and service opportunities, each OC student learns gratitude for who she is and how God made her, which can help her to live a personal relationship with Christ. This new personal relationship with Christ fosters all relationships in her life, from the OC community and her friends to her individual family and community members as well. Through this new perspective on the world and individuals around her, each OC student develops a deeper Christian faith and sense of purpose, helping to mold her into a joy-filled, virtuous servant leader for Christ and positively impact her community both now and for years to come.

Spring Pittsburgh Mission

The Spring Pittsburgh Mission was full of joy at the Red Door serving the homeless, at the Little Sisters of the Poor organizing Prom for the residents, and organizational support to Birthright, which supports moms and newborns. Thank you to the OC students and chaperones for their support of our very own Pittsburgh community.



Praying at Sacred Heart High School
circa 1971

ROOTS
& Wings

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.

FBLA

FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) is a national organization that prepares students for careers in business, leadership, and entrepreneurship through competitive events, leadership development, and real-world skill building. At Oakland Catholic, the club provides students with opportunities to explore business-related fields while strengthening skills such as communication, problem-solving, collaboration, and professionalism.

It was important for Oakland Catholic to reestablish FBLA this year to expand opportunities for students beyond the traditional academic setting. FBLA offers a unique platform for students who are interested in business, leadership, and competition, while also complementing our mission of developing confident, capable young women prepared to lead and serve. It also provides another avenue for students to represent the school at a high level through regional and state competitions.

Over the past year, we have seen significant growth in both interest and engagement. Students stepped outside of their comfort zones by participating in competitive events, many for the first time, and demonstrated resilience and adaptability throughout the process. While we intentionally focused this year on rebuilding the foundation of the program, students showed enthusiasm, a willingness to learn, and a strong sense of pride in representing Oakland Catholic. The experience at the State Leadership Conference further reinforced their confidence, independence, and ability to navigate a professional environment.

Moving forward, we are excited to continue building the program with a stronger emphasis on student leadership, allowing members to take greater ownership in planning, preparation, and overall direction of the club.

Congratulations to **Hazel Bell '27**, **Destiny Folks '27**, and **Yappa Laoworakiat '27**, for coming in First Place in Business Management at the Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference in Hershey. They qualified to participate in the National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, TX.



St. Paul Cathedral
circa 1985



What is Global Competence Initiative (GCI)?

The Global Competence Initiative (GCI)

at Oakland Catholic encourages students to develop a global perspective grounded in Catholic social teaching.

Through this four-year program, students build cultural awareness, leadership skills, and a commitment to human dignity while completing a variety of enriching experiences that deepen their understanding of our interconnected world.



Students participate in **Program Encounters**—single-day or evening experiences such as lectures, seminars, films, and cultural events—completing 12 encounters throughout the program and submitting reflections after each one. In addition, students complete three approved Engagements, which are more immersive international experiences such as international travel, the World Affairs Council Summer Institute, or the GCI Book Group. Upon fulfilling all program requirements, students earn a Certificate in Global Competence.

Travel Tales

The Global Competence Initiative's annual **An Evening of Travel Tales** took place on October 23, 2025. During this inspiring evening, students took the audience on a journey around the world through their stories and experiences with international summer travel. A total of 31 students presented about 17 different countries, highlighting their global awareness, cultural understanding, and language skills.



Guatemalan Exchange

From October to December, Oakland Catholic and two OC families hosted young women from Guatemala. The exchange students, Melissa and Nicole, received an American high school experience, participating in a full schedule of classes and clubs and touring Pittsburgh on the weekends. Both girls were particularly excited to be in the U.S. for Halloween and Thanksgiving. They also eagerly became cultural resources for OC's students, giving presentations on Guatemalan culture and schooling to the GCI scholars.



On December 8, Oakland Catholic's two Guatemalan exchange students, Melissa and Nicole, presented to GCI students about Guatemalan geography, culture, and education. After two months in Pittsburgh, Melissa and Nicole headed back home. Thank you to the families of **Raegan Faulds '27** and **Layla Friehling '27** for hosting these visitors!

World Affairs Council Institute For Student Leaders

On Wednesday, February 25, 2026, GCI scholars **Dejah Miller-Spence '29**, **Tran Lam '29**, **Lily Luu '29**, **Marley Stitt '28**, **Clara LoPresti '26**, **Leasia Karto '28** and **Sophia Sally '28** took part in the 55th annual World Affairs Institute at CMU. This year's event, organized by the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, focused on strategies for ethically using AI in a global context. Students were sponsored by local chapters of the Rotary Club and attended a Rotary meeting in April to thank the Rotarians for their support, present on their findings from the institute, and assist the club in their work at the East End Cooperative Ministry.



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

On Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 17 seniors presented their culminating research projects at the **GCI Global Showcase**. The event opened in the Lecture Hall with prayer led by **Principal Kolenik**, recognition of each GCI senior scholar, and a keynote address from Ms. **Micaela White**, whose decades of service with the federal government have supported international humanitarian efforts in countries including Libya, Syria, Ukraine, Haiti, and Sudan. Ms. White spoke about the importance of faith, confidence, and a commitment to serving others. Following the program, students, parents, and guests gathered in the Aux Gym for senior poster presentations organized in a gallery—style format that encouraged conversation and engagement. Congratulations to the Class of 2026 GCI seniors on their outstanding research and hard work.



and collaborate to propose solutions to international challenges. Through participation in conferences and team discussions, students strengthen their public speaking, critical thinking, research, and teamwork skills while gaining a deeper understanding of world affairs and global cultures, economies, political systems, and histories.

This year, students first participated in a warm-up conference for novice delegates in October before attending conferences at Duquesne University and the University of Pittsburgh. Oakland Catholic's Model UN Team also attended Pitt's Model African Union Conference, where delegates engaged in thoughtful discussion and debate on important issues facing the African continent and the global community. Students collaborated with delegates from schools across Western Pennsylvania to develop resolutions and solutions to complex global challenges.

The immersive and engaging conference experiences also included opportunities to connect with students from other schools while participating in cultural activities, including traditional music, dance, and shared meals.



Model UN — What is Model UN?

Oakland Catholic's Model UN Club gives students the opportunity to explore global issues, develop leadership skills, and engage in meaningful debate and diplomacy. Members research world topics, represent different countries in simulated United Nations conferences,



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!

OC Tennis 2025
OC Soccer 2025
OC Volleyball 2025
OC Golf 2025
OC Cross Country 2025
OC Band 2025
OC Freshmen 2025-2026
OC Sophomores 2025-2026
OC Juniors 2025-2026

OC Gala 2025
OC Senior Friends 2025-2026
OC Field Hockey 2025
OC Grandparents Day 2025
OC Signings Fall 2025
OC Godspell 2025
OC Godspell Understudies 2025
OC NHS 2025
OC Basketball 2025-2026

OC Cheer 2025-2026
OC Swimming 2025-2026
OC Newsies 2026
OC Track 2026
OC Softball 2026
OC Flag Football 2026
OC Lacrosse 2026
OC Spirit Week 2026
OC Honors Convocation 2026

OC GCI 2026
OC Senior Luncheon 2026
OC Golf Outing 2026
OC Prom 2026
OC Baccalaureate 2026
OC Graduation 2026
OC Testimonials 2026
OC Clubs 2026
OC Art Show 2026



Oakland Catholic's Model UN program continues to grow, with plans to attend additional conferences and enrichment opportunities at universities throughout the region in the future.

Duquesne Model UN Conference

Oakland Catholic students participated in the Duquesne Model UN Conference, where they spent the day engaged in thoughtful debate and collaborative problem-solving surrounding today's most pressing global issues. Congratulations to all who participated, and special recognition to sophomore **Claire Schwarz**, who earned Best Position Paper in the World Health Organization committee while representing the Philippines—an impressive achievement that reflected her dedication and research.

Robotics

Oakland Catholic's Robotics Club recently competed in the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Southwestern Pennsylvania Qualifier held at Upper St. Clair Middle School. This year's FTC challenge, DECODE, tasked students with designing, building, and programming a custom robot capable of completing a series of strategic objectives on the competition field.

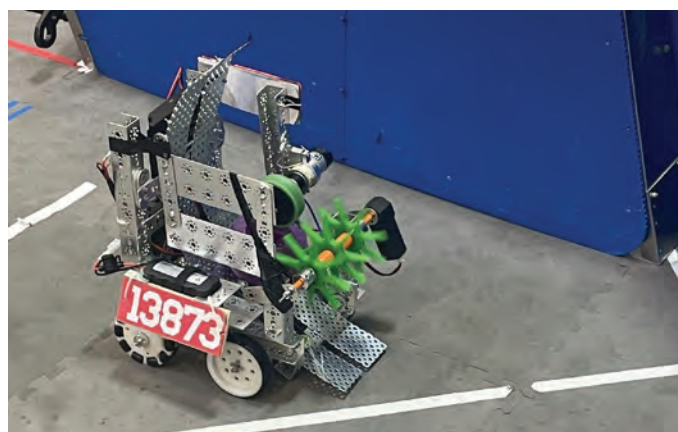
The FTC competition encourages students to engage fully in the engineering design process while developing innovative robotic solutions. In addition to match performance, teams are evaluated on their ability to communicate design decisions, engineering improvements, teamwork structure, and strategic problem-solving approaches. FTC also emphasizes the core value of "Gracious Professionalism," which encourages high-quality work while promoting respect, collaboration, and support for fellow competitors and the broader community.

One of the highlights of this season was the club's record participation, with 14 students actively contributing to the team—the highest involvement in the program's history. Throughout the season, the team

also participated in an FTC scrimmage at Pine-Richland Middle School, providing students with another valuable competition experience and additional opportunities to refine their robot and teamwork skills.

Throughout the competition season, Oakland Catholic students demonstrated strong collaboration, creativity, and perseverance as they explained their technical reasoning, design iterations, and engineering strategies to judges and fellow competitors. In addition to competition events, several students also participated in STEM outreach opportunities within our Diocesan elementary schools, further reflecting the club's commitment to encouraging interest in engineering and technology among younger students.

The experience provided valuable hands-on learning opportunities in engineering, coding, teamwork, and critical thinking while reinforcing the collaborative spirit that defines the FTC program.



Speech and Debate

The OC Speech and Debate team enjoyed an extraordinary, historic season defined by widespread regional dominance and elite milestones on the national stage in forensics. Forensics refers to competitive speech and debate, and our students excel in rigorous categories that range from one-on-one philosophical debates to solo dramatic and humorous acting performances. Our students conduct deep academic research, prepare for intense debates by considering all sides of complex issues, and meticulously refine their delivery and expression.

Aundra Sheridan '26 delivered a powerhouse performance throughout the year in speech, reaching the semifinals in Humorous Interpretation at the prestigious Tournament of Champions and securing her spot at the upcoming NSDA National Tournament in Richmond in June. In total, Aundra will have represented OC in four of the most competitive national qualifying tournaments, an OC record. Joining her in national prominence was **Destiny Folks '27**, who advanced to the elimination rounds at the NCFL Grand National Tournament and finished among the top 36 in the country. At the Pennsylvania State Tournament, Aundra and Destiny also dominated the field, reaching semifinals and quarterfinals, respectively.

This success was also shared on the local stage, anchored by incredible performances from **Madeleine Fox '26**, who captured back-to-back tournament championships this season in Lincoln Douglas (LD) debate, and **One Sihlangu '28**, who went completely undefeated at the state qualifier in LD to earn an automatic bid to the state tournament. Just as exciting



as the success of our varsity squad is the rise of our novice division, as our newest members started their speech and debate careers with impressive placements at tournaments in the region. Our OC Speech and Debate team members proved themselves to be a force to be reckoned with at every level of competition. Congratulations on an unforgettable season, ladies!

"I couldn't be prouder of what the team built this year. Their hard work, deep critical thinking, and supportive team spirit impressed me at every practice and tournament. I can't wait to see what they accomplish next year and beyond."

— Mr. Tyler Barkich

Head Coach, OC Speech & Debate | Spanish Teacher



Asian Cultures Club: Blending Tradition and Entrepreneurship

During February, the Asian Cultures Club brought culture and creativity together for a hands-on exploration of matcha and business. With three guest speakers from the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University, more than 30 students dove into the art and enterprise behind this traditional tea. Beyond learning how to whisk the perfect bowl, students developed their own matcha brand concepts—crafting marketing strategies, identifying target audiences, and designing pricing plans. The event seamlessly blended tradition with innovation, leaving the room energized by collaboration and entrepreneurial spirit!

Celebrating the Generosity of Our Community

Oakland Catholic spirit was on full display during OC Give Day 2026! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, Oakland Catholic not only reached its \$40,000 fundraising goal but surpassed it, raising an outstanding \$45,206.50 to support our students and school programs.

A special highlight of the day was the enthusiasm shown by our students. For every \$5 student donation, a feather was added to the OC Eagle—and together, students filled the eagle completely! Their participation earned the student body a dress-down day and soft pretzels courtesy of the Oakland Catholic Parent Guild.

We are deeply grateful to our donors, parents, alumnae, and friends whose generosity and school spirit continue to strengthen the Oakland Catholic community and make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2027**

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.

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





Free Verse Celebrates 10 Years

OC students proudly celebrated the 10th anniversary of Free Verse this year with an unforgettable trip to the International Championship of High School A Cappella (ICHSA)! Marking a full decade of creativity, courage, and powerful self-expression, our talented performers took the stage with confidence and passion. The competition was not only a chance to showcase their hard work and growth, but also a meaningful way to honor ten years of Free Verse inspiring student voices. Surrounded by fellow poets and supporters, OC students represented our community with pride, energy, and heart, making this milestone celebration one to remember.



Spring Art Show

More than 200 Oakland Catholic students displayed their exceptional artwork at this year's Spring Art Show. The exhibit featured a diverse range of creative pieces, including standout portfolios from AP Art & Design students. The event served as an inspiring celebration of the talent, dedication, and artistic expression here at OC.



We extend our sincere gratitude to **Mrs. Koroly**, Art Teacher, for her outstanding dedication to fostering creativity and enriching the art program at Oakland Catholic.

OC-CC Masque Drama Society



OC-CC Masque Drama Society proudly presented *Standing Ovation: An Evening with the Ensemble!*, a high-energy Fall production celebrating the voices and performers who bring musical theatre to life. The showcase featured memorable songs from beloved Broadway

productions including *Hamilton*, *Hairspray*, *Wicked*, *Hadestown*, *The Greatest Showman*, *A Chorus Line*, and *The Little Mermaid*.

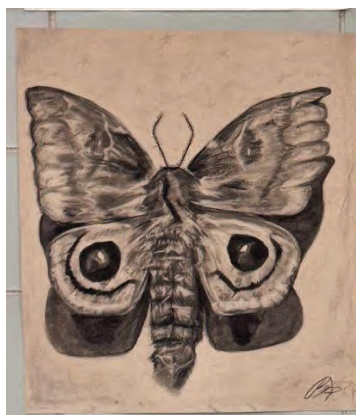
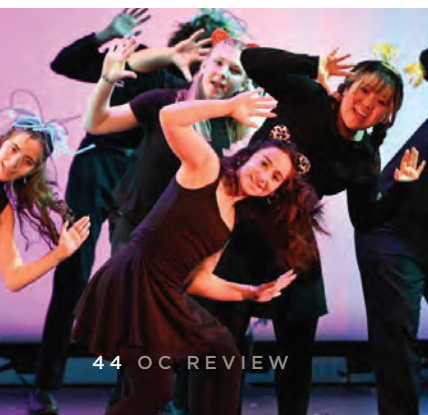
The cabaret highlighted the talent and versatility of the ensemble through dynamic medleys, powerful vocals, and engaging choreography. *Standing Ovation* was a vibrant tribute to the collaboration, energy, and heart of musical theatre.

Scholastic Writing Awards



Oakland Catholic High School is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of more than 17 students who participated in the Pittsburgh Region Scholastic Writing Competition, a prestigious regional affiliate of the national

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards hosted by the Point Park University Honors Program. These talented students worked incredibly hard on their submissions, showcasing their creativity, dedication, and passion for writing. Please join us in congratulating them on this outstanding achievement!





The 35th Annual Gene Kelly Awards

The 35th Annual Gene Kelly Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theater was held on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at Pittsburgh's Benedum Center. Presented by the Pittsburgh CLO, the Gene Kelly Awards were established in 1991 to recognize and encourage excellence in high school musical theater while highlighting the importance of arts education in schools. Modeled after Broadway's Tony Awards®, the program



celebrates student achievement in acting, singing, dancing, technical production, and overall musical performance. Over the past 35 years, many Gene Kelly Award winners have gone on to successful careers on Broadway and in Hollywood.

Congratulations to Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic for their outstanding success at the Gene Kelly Awards! Competing in Budget Level II, the schools earned top honors for Outstanding Musical, Outstanding Crew/Technical Execution, Outstanding Lighting Design, and Outstanding Costume Design.

These awards recognize the extraordinary talent, creativity, dedication, and teamwork of the entire cast, crew, and production team. From performances on stage to the work happening behind the scenes with lighting, costumes, sound, set construction, and technical production, every student played an important role in bringing the musical to life.

Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic are incredibly proud of the professionalism, passion, and excellence displayed by the students and moderators throughout

the production. Bravo to everyone involved on this well-deserved recognition!

Individual student performers were also recognized for their outstanding work on stage. Central Catholic student **Theodor Mertz** earned a nomination for Outstanding Actor for his portrayal of Gomez Addams, while Central Catholic student **Vincent Jackson** was nominated for Outstanding Supporting Actor for his role as Uncle Fester. Oakland Catholic freshman **Adriana Mance** was recognized as a semi-finalist for Outstanding Actress for her portrayal of Morticia Addams.

The Addams Family Musical

The Addams Family Musical brought everyone's favorite delightfully dark family to life with a mix of comedy, catchy songs, and heartfelt moments. When Wednesday Addams fell in love with a "normal" boy, the Addams family had to survive one unforgettable dinner that turned hilariously spooky at every twist and turn. Filled with laughs, charm, and just the right amount of creepy fun, this production was truly a graveyard smash! Congratulations to the talented cast and crew for an outstanding performance. We are incredibly proud of Oakland Catholic's arts program and the dedication, hard work, and commitment that go into making each production such a tremendous success.



St. Paul Cathedral High School Writing Award Pin circa 1950's

ROOTS
& Wings



Soaring IN SPORTS

Cross Country



The Oakland Catholic Cross Country team delivered an impressive and competitive

season, highlighted by a strong fourth-place finish at the WPIAL Championships. The team's depth, consistency, and commitment were evident throughout the year, culminating in standout individual performances when it mattered most.

Freshman **Annie Leland** emerged as one of the top runners in the region, placing 3rd overall at WPIALs, while senior **Allie Foster** added to the team's success with a 13th-place finish. Both athletes qualified for the PIAA State Championships, representing Oakland Catholic at the highest level of competition.

Swimming



The Oakland Catholic swim team delivered an impressive season defined by steady

improvement, discipline, and competitive growth. From the opening meet through the championship phase, the team exhibited a strong work ethic and consistent focus, translating into significant time drops across a range of events. Swimmers repeatedly achieved personal bests, demonstrating increased confidence in both training and competition. Their commitment

to technical refinement, strategic racing, and resilience through challenges resulted in measurable progress and contributed meaningfully to the team's overall success.

Seven swimmers represented Oakland Catholic at the WPIAL Championships: **Caitlin Collins '27**, **Maddy Connolly '26**, **Alena Mazurek '29**, **Luci Mazurek '27**, **Samantha Schork '27**, **Catlin Susko '29**, and **Natalie Waffensmith '28**. Highlighting the postseason, **Luci Mazurek '27** earned a fourth-place finish in the 50 freestyle and an eighth-place finish in the 100 backstroke, qualifying for the PIAA Championships. She continued her success at the state level, securing eighth place in both events.

Fencing



Another Fencing season is in the books, and the team showed resilience and determination

throughout. Despite a few challenges along the way, the girls continued to compete hard and grow together as a group. The team earned victories over Winchester-Thurston and North Allegheny, and also battled through two closely contested 4v4 matches that came down to the final round. Their effort, perseverance, and commitment this season set a strong foundation to build on moving forward.

Field Hockey



This season was defined by the team's resilience, growth, and positive attitude. Our

student-athletes showed up each day committed to improving, supporting one another, and representing OC with pride. Their perseverance through challenges speaks volumes about their character, and the foundation they built this year sets the stage for a strong return next season.

Tennis



The WPIAL Championship match was competitive at every position, with several

contests decided down to the wire. Their performance reflected a season defined by resilience, growth, and strong camaraderie that created lasting memories.

Returning singles players **Mollie Schlichter '27** (#1), **Luciana Easley '26** (#2), and **Maddie Johnson '26** (#3) led the way with dominant play throughout the season. Mollie advanced to the State Championships and delivered an impressive performance. In doubles, **Zoe Cunicelli '26** anchored the lineup alongside a deep and rapidly improving group, including **Makoto Kowalchuck '26**, **Mayu Hanada '28**, **Carys Blough '27**, **Elsa Snover '28**, **Marissa Donley '27**, **Madeleine Naeser '27**, and **Gabrielle Khosah '29**, giving the team exceptional versatility.



Softball



Throughout the season, Oakland Catholic showed steady development, highlighted

by impressive wins over Laurel Highlands and Ringgold and consistent contributions from players across the lineup. These moments, combined with a commitment to improvement, defined a team that refused to back down from challenges and continued to compete with grit and purpose.

Leadership played a crucial role in shaping the Eagles' identity, particularly from seniors **Chloe Fettis**, **Nina Hillard**, and **Layla Miller**. Their dedication, work ethic, and influence have left a lasting mark on the program, setting a standard for future teams to follow.

Cheer



The Oakland Catholic Cheerleading team enjoyed an exciting and memorable

2025–2026 season filled with school spirit, teamwork, and unforgettable moments. This year marked a special milestone as they cheered for the Central Catholic High School football team after a hiatus of several decades. The squad brought energy and

enthusiasm to every Friday night under the lights.

As the seasons changed, the squad seamlessly transitioned to basketball, where they proudly cheered on the Oakland Catholic Eagles throughout another successful year on the court. From regular season matchups to an impressive run to the State Finals, the cheerleaders stood beside the team every step of the way, helping create an electric atmosphere and celebrating the program's continued success.

Beyond the sidelines, this season reflected the dedication, positivity, and school pride that define Oakland Catholic Cheer. Looking ahead, the program is excited to continue growing by bringing back Competitive Cheer next year, creating even more opportunities for athletes to showcase their talent and represent the Eagles with pride. The future is bright for OC Cheer as they continue to build tradition, spirit, and excellence.

Volleyball



The Oakland Catholic Varsity Volleyball team reached unprecedented heights this

season, delivering a truly record-breaking campaign that will

stand as a defining chapter in program history. Finishing with an impressive 23–3 record, the Eagles established themselves as one of the most formidable teams in the region.

A highlight of the season came in a thrilling non-section matchup, where the Eagles stunned eight-time defending state champion North Allegheny, an emphatic statement of their growth and competitive edge. Building on that momentum, Oakland Catholic secured the Section Title and advanced to both the WPIAL and PIAA State Championships for the first time ever, marking a historic milestone for the program.

While the team's on-court success was undeniable, its foundation was built on something deeper. A culture of friendship, relentless work ethic, and strong leadership propelled the Eagles throughout the season.



St. Paul
Cathedral
High School
Basketball
circa 1973

ROOTS
& Wings

ATHLETICS

Flag Football



The Oakland Catholic Flag Football team made history this season, earning a playoff

appearance in the inaugural year of both the WPIAL and PIAA recognizing girls' flag football. In an impressive season, the Eagles battled their way to the playoffs before falling just short against Plum.

Throughout the year, the team showcased determination, teamwork, and dedication, proving themselves as strong competitors and setting the foundation for the future of the program. Their hard work and commitment did not go unnoticed, and this group of young women set a tremendous example for the teams that will follow.

Basketball

The 2025-26 varsity basketball team finished with a 25-3 record, won the WPIAL 4A Championship for the second consecutive year, won the section title for the fourth consecutive year and were PIAA runner ups. This was the first state

championship appearance in Hershey for our basketball program in 20 years.

The team was led by All State, All Region and Pittsburgh Fab 5 senior **Josie Fontana**, as well as seniors **Savanna Daye** and **Zephaniah Troxler-Scott**, junior **Madison Pullen**, sophomore **Luci LaMendola**, and freshman **Brooklyn Rozier**. The entire team played a role in this historic season and with so many players returning next season they are sure to be the team to beat.

Josie Fontana hit the milestone 1,000 career points during the WPIAL playoffs at The Petersen Event Center.

Soccer



The Oakland Catholic Varsity Eagles navigated a demanding schedule this season, facing

strong competition that tested the team's resolve and fueled its growth.

Throughout the season, Oakland Catholic showed steady development, highlighted by

an impressive win over Laurel Highlands and Ringgold and consistent contributions from players across the lineup. These moments, combined with a commitment to improvement, defined a team that refused to back down from challenges and continued to compete with grit and purpose, culminating in an 11th straight WPIAL playoff appearance.

Crew



The OC Crew has returned to their winning ways, securing both local and regional victories

and reigniting the championship culture that defines Oakland Catholic's rowing legacy. Coxswain **Lenna Birchard '27** led the novice team to victory at the Pittsburgh Scholastic Sprints to end the season. The Oakland Catholic Crew team celebrated an outstanding season highlighted by an incredible achievement for four of its rowers.

Cecily McGinley '29, **Eva Palladino '28**, **Mayra Nee '28**, and **Madeline Sell '28** were each selected to participate in the prestigious USRowing Pathways Development



Camp in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Nationally recognized for developing elite young athletes, the camp provides high-level training and competition opportunities for some of the top rowers in the country. They will have the opportunity to be coached by Oakland Catholic alumnae **Olympic Gold Medalist Amanda Polk OCHS '04** and **Victoria Gevaudan OCHS '19**, making the experience even more meaningful for the program. Their selection is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and continued growth of the OC Crew team throughout an exceptional season.

If you were a part of crew and would like to volunteer or make a donation, reach out to crew@oaklandcatholic.org or email your contact information to stay connected while we plan a fall crew team reunion.

Track



The Oakland Catholic Track & Field team concluded the regular season with a 3-3 record while

demonstrating tremendous growth and progress throughout the year. From experienced returning athletes to first-year competitors, the team improved week after week, building not only stronger performances on the track and in the field, but also a positive and supportive team culture.

Seniors **Allie Foster** and **Anabell Evancho** emerged as standout leaders and strong contenders for the WPIAL Track & Field Championships, helping set the tone for the team's success and competitiveness. While the season included many strong performances, it was about far more than wins and losses. The girls showed exceptional effort, energy, and dedication, while

continuing to develop individually and collectively and laying a strong foundation for the future of the program.

Lacrosse



The Eagles put together an impressive season, finishing with an 11-6 overall record and a fourth-place finish in section play. Their strong performance earned them a spot in the 2A WPIAL playoffs, where they advanced to the second round. Leadership from captains **Luci Easley '26**, **Maggie Friday '26**, and **Claire Elder '27** helped guide the team throughout a successful and competitive season.

Several players also reached significant career milestones this spring. **Tilly Conner '27** recorded her 100th career goal, **Maggie Friday '26** earned her 150th career draw control, and **Sasha Wozetek '27** reached 250 career saves.

Gymnastics



Huge congratulations to junior **Madeleine Wingerter** on an outstanding performance representing Oakland Catholic at the WPIAL Gymnastics Championship. Madeleine captured the All-Around Champion title (GOLD) in the Advanced Division and showcased her consistency and talent across every event, earning second-place finishes on bars, beam, and floor. Her remarkable performance was truly an exceptional all-around achievement.

Bowling



The Oakland Catholic bowling team enjoyed another successful season

competing on the WPIBL circuit. Throughout the year, the team continued to grow both in skill and confidence, building a strong sense of teamwork and school spirit along the way.

This year also featured several first-year bowlers who quickly embraced the sport and became an important part of the program. A special congratulations goes to seniors **Olive Cooney**, **Luci Easley**, and **Sarah Rivers** for their accomplishments and contributions to the OC Bowling program. Their dedication, leadership, and commitment helped make this season memorable for the entire team.

Golf



The growth of the team this season was nothing short of remarkable. From the very

beginning, the players made a commitment to improving their game by dedicating themselves to offseason practices and competition, and that hard work paid off in a big way. Nearly every athlete lowered her scoring average from the previous season, a reflection of the determination and effort the team brought to the course every day.

Just as important as the physical improvement was the culture the team built together. The girls remained positive, supportive, and focused throughout the season, creating an environment that helped propel the program to one of its biggest milestones in years: a return to the playoffs.

Ultimate



The OC Ultimate Team returned to the field this year with a healthy mix of seasoned veterans and first-time players. After weeks of developing throwing and catching skills, the team faced off against some fierce competition in the PHUL Girls Division. When the dust finally settled at the end of the season, they had earned enough victories for a second-place standing. More importantly, they had fun, made new friends, and grew as individuals along the way.

Team Masses

At Oakland Catholic, everything we do is rooted in our Catholic mission and values. The true heart of every athletic team, coaches and players alike, is defined not only by talent and competition, but by the love, care, and support they show for one another both on and off the field.

Participation in Mass, receiving the Eucharist, and praying together as a team strengthen the bonds within each program and help nourish the spiritual life of our student-athletes. These

shared moments of faith deeply connect our teams to the mission of Oakland Catholic and remind us that athletics are about building character, community, and purpose as much as achieving success in competition.



MY VOLLEYBALL EXPERIENCE AS A FRESHMAN

by Neve Reutzel '29

Mechanicsburg, PA. November 15, 2025. The gym buzzes with electricity and the teams can feel it. Three-time champion Pope John Paul II's warmup is impressive, then Oakland Catholic takes the court, matching swing for swing. The drills are harder, faster—every player is focused, every player has brought her A game. The referee climbs into position. The scene is set, and it is intense. This is the 3A State Championship.

Months earlier, in the summer, I walked into my first open gym as a freshman. I had no idea what to expect. I had known this program was good, but with no older sisters and no connections to OC Volleyball, I could never have expected what was to come. The upperclassmen were kind and supportive, not only showing us the ropes as freshmen, but showing us what a truly special team looks like—a team that wants to win. During these times we worked hard together, celebrating points in scrimmages and encouraging players who needed a lift. And so, by the end of the summer, we were one—they had strengthened that winning vision for everyone.

But the time came for tryouts. We were split into three teams, including OC Volleyball's first ever Freshmen team. Still the connection persisted, in big ways like the school-wide hide and seek game or the Jamboree team party, but also in the little ways—like the notes and gifts between big sisters and little sisters or simply showing support by attending each other's games and cheering more loudly than anyone else.



The strong connections built throughout the program translated into impressive results on the court. In its inaugural season, the Freshman team posted an outstanding 15-1 record. The JV team completed an undefeated season and captured championships at both the Upper St. Clair JV Tournament and the South Fayette Tournament. The Varsity squad, which featured athletes from all four grade levels, won the section

Coach of the Year

Under the leadership of Head Coach Henry Schechter, the Oakland Catholic basketball program continued its remarkable rise this season. In just his second year at the helm, Coach Schechter guided the Eagles to back-to-back WPIAL 4A Championships and an impressive run to the PIAA 4A State Championship game.

For his outstanding leadership and success, Coach Schechter earned back-to-back WPIAL 4A Coach of the Year honors, a testament to the culture,



competitiveness, and excellence he has helped build within the program. His dedication and vision have quickly established Oakland Catholic as one of the premier basketball programs in the state.

championship for the second year in a row and claimed the Upper St. Clair Tournament title. Notably, Varsity beat huge rival North Allegheny in five sets at home in front of a raucous and jubilant crowd, none more excited than the JV and Freshmen team players there to cheer them on. After a loss to Beaver in the WPIAL finals, Varsity proceeded to the state finals, cruising to a first-ever state playoff win against Hollidaysburg. After a second win against Greencastle-Antrim, the stage was set for a rematch with Beaver. And this time, we had something to prove. Not only to Beaver and their coach, but also to the fans and most importantly to ourselves. And we rose to the occasion. Every time we got down, a new player would bring us up. Five hard-fought sets later, Oakland Catholic had earned the right to play for the state championship.

The season had already been filled with victories, records, and impressive accomplishments, but there was still one more hurdle. Set 1 was neck-and-neck until the very end, when Pope John Paul II surged ahead to win 26-24. Set 2 featured a thrilling 8-point run by Oakland Catholic, but Pope John Paul II rallied again for a 26-24 victory. As Pope John Paul II took command of Set 3, we refused to yield. Oakland kept pushing, bringing hope to the many family members and friends that had driven halfway across the state to support this incredible team. In the end, it wasn't enough to beat the team that was on a State Championship winning streak.

Despite the state results, the OCVB season was phenomenal and unique itself. Every end has a beginning. But every little step of the way is what keeps you moving. Moving towards victories, memories, and championships.



COLLEGE SIGNING DAYS

Four student athletes will be continuing to play the sport they love at the college level in 2026-27. Josie Fontana will be taking her basketball talents to the University of Richmond, Ellie Junker is headed to Penn State Behrend to continue her basketball career, Gemma Spadacene committed to Thiel College for lacrosse, and Zephaniah Troxler-Scott is headed to D'Youville University to continue her basketball career.

JOSIE FONTANA

Basketball
University of Richmond

ELLIE JUNKER

Basketball
Penn State Behrend

GEMMA SPADACENE

Lacrosse
Thiel College

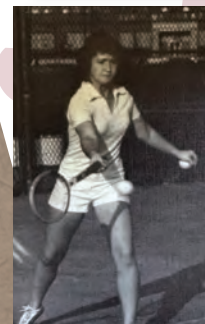
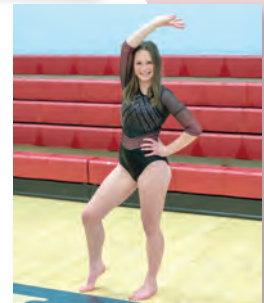
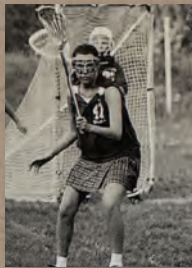
ZEPHANIAH TROXLER-SCOTT

Basketball
D'Youville University

ATHLETICS

ATHLETICS THROUGH THE YEARS





CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2026

Catholic Schools Week at Oakland Catholic was postponed due to a historic winter storm that impacted Pittsburgh and Allegheny County from January 25–31, 2026. The record-setting snowfall, which measured more than ten inches created dangerous conditions and was followed by extreme sub-freezing temperatures that kept roads icy throughout the week. Countywide emergency declarations, widespread school closures, and major transportation disruptions forced students to shift to Flexible Instruction Days and virtual learning for much of the week.

Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic High Schools held their rescheduled Catholic Schools Week Joint Celebration Mass with **Bishop Mark Eckman** on March 17, 2026, at St. Paul Cathedral. Celebrated on St. Patrick's Day, the special Mass brought students from both schools together in faith and community. In his homily, Bishop Eckman encouraged students to live their Catholic faith daily through service, compassion, and an awareness of God's presence in their lives. He also expressed gratitude for the dedicated educators who support the spiritual and academic growth of their students and emphasized the lasting value of a Catholic education.



MY FIRST YEAR AS PRINCIPAL

My first year as Principal of Oakland Catholic High School has been both inspiring and deeply meaningful. I quickly learned what generations of students, families, alumnae, faculty, and stakeholders already know so well: Oakland Catholic is a community grounded in faith, sisterhood, tradition, and an unwavering commitment to forming young women who reflect the values of Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service.

Throughout this year, I have had the privilege of witnessing the many ways the Oakland Catholic High School mission comes to life each day. I certainly was not surprised to see our volleyball and basketball teams competing in the WPIAL and PIAA championships, to have a student win an individual WPIAL championship in gymnastics, and to see students in our Masque program earn the Gene Kelly Award for Best Musical. Our students also continued to distinguish themselves academically and globally, with one student selected to attend the prestigious Washington Journalism and Media Conference and another earning a highly competitive Global Travel Scholarship to study and travel in Ghana this summer.

What has perhaps impacted me most deeply during this first year, however, has been the extraordinary spirit of service that exists within this community. I have been truly blown away by the countless ways our students willingly and joyfully give of their time, energy, and talents to support others. Whether serving within our school, throughout Pittsburgh, in Washington, D.C., Jamaica, Appalachia, or Puerto Rico, our students approach service not as an obligation, but as a genuine expression of compassion, faith, and love for others. That spirit of generosity and selflessness is woven into the fabric of Oakland



Catholic High School and serves as one of the clearest reflections of the kind of young women this community helps form.

This year has also been one of growth and vision. As a school community, we have begun introducing new traditions and initiatives designed to strengthen connection, leadership, and school spirit while honoring the rich legacy of those who came before us.

Our beautiful new Marian Grotto and Statue, located outside the Joan of Arc building, is a visible reminder of the faith that remains at the heart of Oakland Catholic High School. Another exciting development this year has been the introduction of a House System, which has already generated enthusiasm among students and staff and reflects Oakland Catholic's continued commitment to building leadership and sisterhood within the student experience.



As we look toward the future, there is tremendous optimism about where Oakland Catholic High School is headed. Our history and traditions remain strong, but so does our commitment to evolving in ways that best serve the young women who walk through our doors today and in the years to come.

It has been a true honor to join the Oakland Catholic family, and I am deeply grateful for the warm welcome I have received during my first year. I look forward to continuing this journey together and to building upon the legacy that makes Oakland Catholic such a special place.

Natalie Santucci

graduated with her Master of Arts in Theology and Christian Ministry from Franciscan University of Steubenville in December 2025. She also married her husband, Kevin Hein, on April 11, 2026, at St. Sebastian Church in Ross Township.



The Welsh family spent the day serving treats and smiles at Henri's Starlite Scoops ice cream parlor, connecting with wish families and giving back to an organization that holds special meaning to them.

Catherine Votovich, Alexandra Falck, and Jayna Palumbo

are coaching the OC Lacrosse Team! This is the first female and all-teacher coaching squad for OC Lax!



using evidence-based decision-making to tackle complex social challenges and drive meaningful impact. His goal is to deepen his expertise in educational funding initiatives like Pennsylvania's EITC and OSTC programs and to eventually advocate at the state level to ensure these programs grow and reach more Pennsylvania families. We are proud to have Collin on our team and look forward to seeing the impact his work will have on our students and community!



Kammy Kemmer

attended the East Colleges of Ireland Tour in late February 2026 through Education in

Ireland, a group that seeks to increase the awareness of colleges and universities in the Republic of Ireland and North Ireland. She toured Maynooth University, University College Dublin, Ulster University, Queen's University Belfast, and South East Technological University (SETU). Mrs. Kemmer would love to see more OC girls apply to colleges in Ireland due to their reasonable tuition, the vibrant culture of Ireland, and the fact that Pittsburgh now has direct flights to Dublin! Whether its engineering, sustainability, business, architecture, film studies, or the many other majors offered by these colleges, Ireland is a great opportunity for Oakland Catholic students to become world-ready women.

Lisa Welsh, along with her husband Mikie and daughter Madison, volunteered at Give Kids the World Village in Kissimmee, a nonprofit resort that provides wish vacations for children with critical illnesses and their families.



Jennifer Nestler

completed one of her bucket-list experiences during Spring Break when she traveled to Switzerland to ski the Swiss Alps with her son, Matthew. The trip included breathtaking mountain vistas, charming Swiss villages, and memorable moments they will treasure for years to come. While in Switzerland, Jennifer also spent time exploring Zurich's historic Old Town and visiting the renowned Lindt Chocolate Factory.



Karen Scott had her baby named Josephine Marie on December 3, 2025. She is thankful for her time teaching religion at Oakland Catholic. She now enjoys being a stay-at-home mom and hopes Josie will one day join the OC class of 2044!



Collin Covert,

Student Accounts Specialist, is excited to announce that he has been accepted into Carnegie Mellon University's Master of Public Policy and Management program at the prestigious Heinz College, beginning this summer. Collin is focusing his coursework on Public Policy and Nonprofit Management,



Striving to bring the world to OC students, **Matthew Williams** remained active with the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia (NCTA) at the University of Pittsburgh. In his role on the teacher advisory board, he participated in several professional development opportunities, including a minicourse on global education and seminars on North Korean propaganda and the 2011 Japanese tsunami.



To stay current on global affairs, **Matthew Williams** and **Alessandra Pazzaglia** attended multiple meetings of the Pittsburgh Committee on Foreign Relations, engaging with experts on national security, global supply chains, and peacekeeping.



Sara Spalick

attended three Math Leaders Network sessions, collaborating with math teachers, department chairs, instructional coaches, and administrators from across the region to explore best practices in mathematics instruction, assessment, and curriculum development.

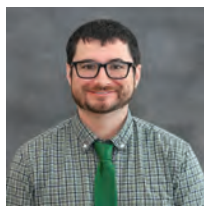


Welcome New Faculty and Staff Members

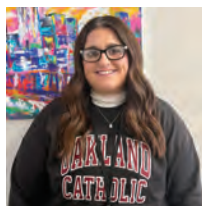
This year, Oakland Catholic was pleased to welcome a number of new faculty and staff to our community. These individuals bring a wealth of experience, enthusiasm, and fresh perspectives to our school, and we are excited to have them join our dedicated team. Their contributions will no doubt enhance our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



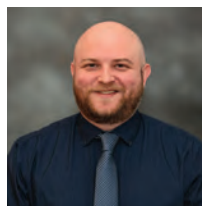
Nick Aquilante
Director of Information
Technology



Joseph Bedich
Math Teacher



Celina Cantini
Social Services
Liaison



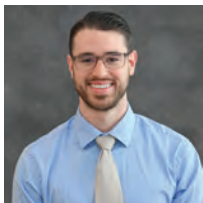
Patrick Kelly
Social Studies
Teacher



Jayna Palumbo
English Teacher



Austin Maksin
Athletic Trainer



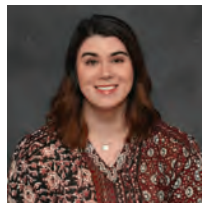
**Anthony
Massetto**
Music Director



**Susan Petnuch
Meland**
Health Teacher



**Alexander
Viaropulos**
Technology Support
Specialist



**Catherine
Votovich**
Social Studies
Teacher



Leslie Williams
Director of
Enrollment

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.

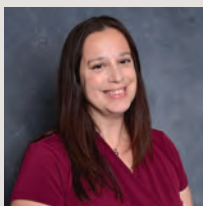
5 YEARS



Linda Lodge



**Jennifer
Nestler**

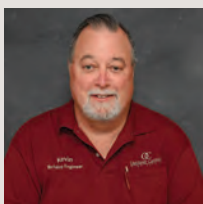


**Gretchen
Anselmo**



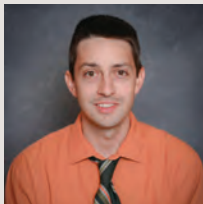
**Natalie
Santucci**

10 YEARS



Kevin Fink

15 YEARS



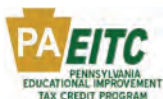
Steve Graner

*Congratulations
on this well-deserved
recognition!*

OC 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



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 AND 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 Jean Ann Strieff Scholarship
The Mary D. Tamburo Fund
The Patricia and Judith Cawley Scholarship
The Steed Family Scholarship
Thomas and Leona Spelman Scholarship



This year, Oakland Catholic launched the Lucky Eagle Raffle, a new fundraising initiative designed to support and enhance the overall student experience. Proceeds from the raffle help fund academic enrichment opportunities, campus improvements, co-curricular programs, and faith-based initiatives. The raffle featured one Grand Prize of \$10,000 and five \$1,000 prizes.

Following a successful inaugural year, Oakland Catholic looks forward to growing participation and excitement as the Lucky Eagle Raffle enters its second year.

**Scan to
Donate
Today**



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	Eaton Corporation	Microsoft	Royalty Pharma
The Bank of New York Mellon	Google	New York Life	State Farm
Blackbaud Giving Fund	Johnson & Johnson	PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.	United Health Group
Cigna	McKinsey & Company		Wells Fargo Foundation

EITC/OSTC 2025-2026 DONOR LIST

Anonymous	Fat Head's Saloon 1805 East Carson St. Corporation	Lou and Kelly Lazzara	Michael Reinhart
Anonymous - In honor of the Beatrice Institute	Federated Advisory Services	Douglas and Carol MacPhail LL'06	Robert Spagiare
Michael and Lisa Anselmo	First National Bank	Maher Duesel Certified Public Accountants	Timothy and Kristie Steitz
Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.	Diane and John Fisher	Gavin and Amy Mann	Francesco and Natalie Tirone
Thomas H. Ayoub, III & Associates LLC	Anthony and Connie Folino	Larry and Jacquelin McCauley	United Concordia Insurance Company
BLOCS	Glimcher Group	Thomas and Kelly McDonnell	United States Steel Corporation
Carnegie Mellon University	Hapad, Inc.	NexTier Bank	Waste Management
Jonathan and Michelle Carnes	Angela Jiang	PA Partners for Education, LLC	John Wingerter
John and Peggy Costello	John C. R. Kelly Realty, Inc.	Dr. Kiran K. Rajasenan and Mrs. Rosemarie M. Rajasenan	Workscape, Inc.



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 contributed more than \$980,000 in tax credits to our young women at Oakland Catholic. Thanks to the EITC and OSTC programs, more than 210 individual awards were granted to OC students, helping make tuition assistance possible for so many of our families.

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.



Malady & Wooten



**Capital
Markets**



CHUBB

Oakland Catholic was honored to host The Bridge Foundation check presentation. This year, more than \$360,000 in scholarships was awarded to families across Allegheny County through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, helping make private education accessible to more students. Oakland Catholic is one of 23 schools benefiting from these funds, made possible through the generous support of Waste Management, RBC Capital Markets, CHUBB, and Malady & Wooten.



GIFTS OF STOCK

Did you know Oakland Catholic accepts gifts of stock? Donating appreciated securities may provide valuable tax benefits while supporting Oakland Catholic students and programs.

If you are interested in making a stock donation, please contact Lynn Brown, Director of Advancement, at 412.682.6633, ext. 1229 or lbrown@oaklandcatholic.org.



Turn Your Taxes Into Tuition Scholarships

How Pennsylvania businesses and individuals can redirect what they already owe in PA state tax liability to fund scholarships for students at Oakland Catholic High School.

“I have been supporting Oakland Catholic through EITC donations for several years. Nothing could be easier or more efficient. Each year, I make the donation and receive 90% of that donation back from the State of Pennsylvania. And, the other 10% counts as a federal tax deduction. It’s a great way to help strengthen Oakland Catholic!”

Michael Anselmo *Alumnae Parent Classes 2009, 2010, 2014; Board of Directors Finance Committee Chair; EITC Donor*

Your Tax Dollars. Their Future.

90%

Tax credit returned on a two year commitment

100%

Of your gift goes directly to student scholarships

WHAT ARE EITC AND OSTC?

Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs allow businesses and qualifying individuals to redirect their state tax liability to approved scholarship organizations. Those funds are then awarded as need-based financial aid to students at schools like Oakland Catholic. This gives you the opportunity to choose where the money owed in PA state taxes goes.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Businesses

Corporations and businesses authorized to operate in Pennsylvania can redirect their tax liability into student scholarships. Eligible taxes include Corporate Net Income, Personal Income, Insurance Premiums, and more.

Individuals

Qualifying individuals with a Pennsylvania state income tax liability can participate through a Special Purpose Entity (SPE). If line 12 of your PA-40 shows a balance due, you may qualify.

HOW STUDENTS BENEFIT

EITC scholarships support any qualifying Oakland Catholic student whose household income does not exceed \$116,055, plus \$20,428 per dependent for the 2026-2027 school year. Income limits are adjusted annually. OSTC scholarships provide up to \$8,500 per student and additionally serve families zoned to PA's lowest performing school districts, giving those young women access to an exceptional education they deserve. Every dollar you redirect changes a real student's story.

HOW TO GET STARTED

Getting involved is simpler than you might expect. Reach out to Collin Covert, our Student Accounts Specialist and EITC expert in the Financial Aid Office. Collin will answer your questions, walk you through the process, and connect you with our scholarship organization partner to get everything in motion.



Ready to make an impact? Let's talk.

Collin Covert | Student Accounts Specialist

ccovert@oaklandcatholic.org | 412-682-6633 ext. 1233



THE 2025 OAKLAND CATHOLIC

gala

Oakland Catholic High School welcomed alumnae, parents, donors, and friends to its annual Gala on Saturday, September 27, 2025, held at the Dougherty Ballroom at Duquesne University. The evening served as a joyful celebration of the school's mission to form young women rooted in Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service, while also advancing opportunities for current and future students.

As one of Oakland Catholic's most significant fundraising events of the year, the Gala brought the community together in support of the school, with proceeds directly benefiting student programs and initiatives.

The 2025 Gala was led by Honorary Chairs **Joe and Diana Rocky**, whose generosity and leadership helped make the evening especially meaningful. Their commitment to Catholic education and to Oakland Catholic was evident throughout the event.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the St. Joan of Arc Award to **Katherine Donahue Freyvogel**, recognizing her extraordinary dedication to Catholic education and her lasting impact on Oakland Catholic. As the school's founder, Katherine established a strong and enduring mission centered on faith, academic excellence, and the development of young women as leaders. Under her guidance, Oakland Catholic flourished in its early years, and her vision continues to shape the school's identity today.

Guests enjoyed an elegant evening that included a cocktail reception, seated dinner, raffles, and a silent auction. The Gala provided a wonderful opportunity for the Oakland Catholic community to reconnect, celebrate shared values, and invest in the future of the school.

Student ambassadors were an integral part of the evening, assisting in a variety of ways—from welcoming guests and selling raffle tickets to supporting the silent auction and helping ensure the event ran smoothly.

The evening program began on a beautiful note thanks to Mr. Massetto and the Oakland Catholic Chamber Singers, whose performance set the tone with a moving selection of music before dinner.

The Gala welcomed 244 attendees and was supported by 56 sponsors and numerous local businesses, reflecting the strong support of the Pittsburgh community. Special recognition was given to alumnae celebrating milestone reunion years ending in 0 or 5, including the classes of 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020. Young alumnae, ages 21-31, as well as those celebrating 50+ year reunions, were also honored during the evening.

Thank you to all who supported the Gala and Oakland Catholic. The event marked one of the most successful fundraising efforts in recent years, a testament to the generosity and continued commitment of the Oakland Catholic community.



SAVE ^{THE} DATE

Oakland Catholic *gala*

OCT 3 2026
6:00 pm
DOUGHERTY BALLROOM
AT DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

Interested in holding your reunion at the OC Gala this year?
Contact Kristie Barney, Coordinator of Alumnae Relations, at
412.682.6633 ext. 1263 or kbarney@oaklandcatholic.org.

This year, we will be celebrating the classes of 1961, 1966,
1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011,
2016, and 2021.

23rd ANNUAL OC EAGLE CLASSIC TOURNAMENT

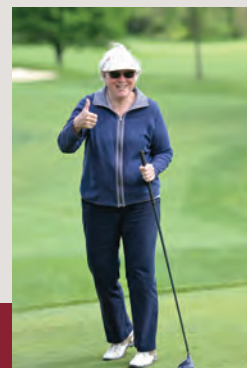
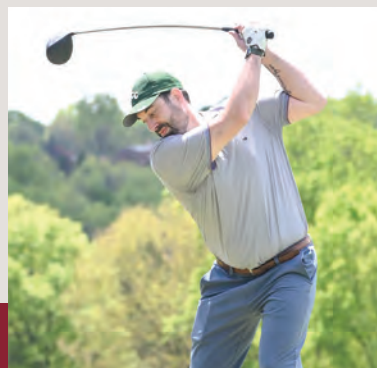
Oakland Catholic High School proudly hosted the 23rd Annual OC Eagle Classic Golf Tournament on Monday, May 4, 2026, at Edgewood Country Club. Alumnae, parents, friends, sponsors, and community supporters gathered for a memorable day of golf, fellowship, and philanthropy in support of Oakland Catholic's mission of educating and guiding young women through Catholic education.

Despite the windy conditions throughout the day, golfers enjoyed a beautiful afternoon on the course at Edgewood Country Club. The event featured lunch, a full day of golf, on-course contests, and the traditional 19th Hole Cocktail Reception and dinner, where guests gathered to celebrate another successful OC Eagle Classic while supporting the mission of Oakland Catholic High School.

For 23 years, the OC Eagle Classic has served as a cherished Oakland Catholic tradition, bringing together generations of Eagles and supporters who believe in the importance of Catholic education and the strength of the Oakland Catholic sisterhood. Proceeds from the outing continue to support academic programs, student opportunities, athletics, campus ministry, and tuition assistance for Oakland Catholic students.

The success of the event would not have been possible without the generosity of sponsors, golfers, volunteers, donors, and friends of Oakland Catholic. Their continued commitment helps ensure that future generations of Eagles are empowered to grow academically, spiritually, and personally.

Oakland Catholic extends sincere gratitude to everyone who participated in and supported this year's OC Eagle Classic. Together, the Oakland Catholic community continues to soar higher.



The success of the OC Eagle Classic was made possible through the generosity of our sponsors, golfers, and donors.



SCAN ME!

Scan the QR code to view the full list of supporters from our last OC Eagle Classic.

OC HOSTED ALUMNAE EVENTS



Back at the Wheel

In February, Oakland Catholic High School alumnae gathered for a pottery night with beloved art teacher Mrs. Koroly.



Mass & Mimosas

Alumnae from Oakland Catholic High School, Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Sacred Heart High School, and St. Paul Cathedral High School gathered for a special Mass at St. Paul Cathedral followed by brunch and mimosas at Oakland Catholic. The celebration also welcomed legendary coach and teacher George Rudolph, who enjoyed reconnecting with many of his former students from Sacred Heart.

Alumnae Night Out!

In November, alumnae from Oakland Catholic High School, Sacred Heart High School, and St. Paul Cathedral High School gathered at Pins Mechanical for a fun-filled Alumnae Night Out. The evening provided an opportunity to reconnect, share memories, and celebrate the enduring sisterhood that unites the schools' alumnae communities.



Alumnae Night at Highmark Stadium

Oakland Catholic alumnae soccer players, along with a St. Paul Cathedral alumna and grandmother of an OC soccer player, came out to support the team.

Sports Recognition and Alumnae Night

Celebrating OC Athletics Across the Decades.

Oakland Catholic High School welcomed alumnae back to campus for a special evening celebrating milestone athletic achievements from ten and 20 years ago. The event brought together graduates, coaches, families, and friends to honor the dedication, talent, and teamwork that have shaped OC athletics over the years.

The celebration recognized standout accomplishments from 2016, including WPIAL qualifications in swimming, cheerleading's competition success, and Olympic achievements by OC alumnae Leah Smith '13 and Amanda Polk '04. The evening also honored the 20-year milestones from 2006, including WPIAL championships in swimming and basketball, as well as cheerleading's national championship title.

Guests gathered for a cocktail reception before the basketball game and recognition ceremony, creating an opportunity to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate the lasting impact of Oakland Catholic's student-athletes.



REUNIONS & CELEBRATIONS



ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1965

Members of the St. Paul Cathedral High School Class of 1965 gathered in October for a luncheon at The Village Inn in Verona.



ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1976

Members of the St. Paul Cathedral High School Class of



1976 celebrated their 50th class reunion in May at Oakland Catholic High School. Classmates gathered for Mass in the OC chapel, toured the school, and enjoyed a cocktail reception in the Senior Lounge followed by dinner in the cafeteria.

BEACH GETAWAY

Lifelong friendships, rooted in St. Paul Cathedral High School!



Audrey Smith, Carol DePasquale, Marilyn Gentile, and Kathleen Coleman—all proud members of the SPCHS Class of 1965—along with Audrey's sister, Nancy Smith (SPCHS Class of 1968), keep their tradition alive with their annual "no boys allowed" beach getaway in Sea Isle City, New Jersey.



OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY CLASS OF 1965

Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Class of 1965 gathered on June 28, 2025, for a reunion.

The celebration began at Roland's in the Strip District, where classmates enjoyed reconnecting and sharing stories from their Academy days. The following day, some members of the class visited Sister Pat McCann (Sister Josepha) at the Motherhouse. Now 89 years old, Sister Pat is one of only two beloved teachers from their time at OLOMA still living. Others visited the former school in Monroeville, now home to Greater Works, and were delighted to find that several classrooms remain just as they were in 1969.

Classmate Mary Pat Timony Pittman added a special touch by bringing her original gym uniform and Academy hat, sparking many fond memories.



SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1975



In September, members of the Sacred Heart High School Class of 1975 gathered at LeMont Restaurant to celebrate their 50th reunion.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Members of the Sacred Heart High School Class of 1968 gathered on June 8, 2025, to celebrate their 75th birthdays.



OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2005

Members of the Oakland Catholic High School Class of 2005 reunited in April to celebrate their 21-year reunion.



OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2015

In September, the Oakland Catholic High School Class of 2015 came back together for their 10-Year Reunion, held at Cinderlands in Pittsburgh's Strip District.

OAKLAND CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1995

The Oakland Catholic High School Class of 1995 hosted its 30-year reunion at the OC Gala, held on September 27, 2025 in the Dougherty Ballroom at Duquesne University.

OCHS '96

Upcoming

CLASS REUNIONS

OCHS '06

OCHS CLASS OF 2006	20-YEAR REUNION - Saturday, September 12, 2026 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Pittsburgh Irish Festival Carrie Blast Furnace 801 Carrie Furnace Blvd. PGH, 15218	- Members of the class of 2006 will receive an email with additional details. - Contact Beth Oczypok with questions or if you do not receive the email. (eoczypok@gmail.com)
OCHS CLASS OF 1996	30-Year Reunion - Saturday, October 3, 2026 6:00 PM - OC Gala - Dougherty Ballroom, Duquesne University	- Register for the Gala by visiting oaklandcatholic.org/support-oc/gala - Friday and Saturday events are TBD - Email: oaklandcatholic96@gmail.com with any questions

For information on hosting your class reunion at the OC Gala on October 3, contact Kristie Barney at kbarney@oaklandcatholic.org | 412.682.6633 ext. 1263



Ruthie Walker CHHS '82

In November, Ruthie was honored with an official proclamation from the Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh in recognition of her community service and impact in Pittsburgh, especially her work with young people and education.

working toward certification as a Certified Low Vision Therapist.

Following a prolonged battle with Long COVID, Rachael was diagnosed with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS). Since her diagnosis, she has become a strong advocate for individuals navigating the challenges of POTS and related chronic health conditions.

Rosemary Steedle Fajen CHHS '63

Rosemary Steedle Fajen checked off a truly epic bucket-list goal at age 80—running the original route from Marathon to Athens! After conquering the Boston Marathon, Rosemary set her sights even higher: a marathon on every continent. And she did it in unforgettable style—from a game preserve in Africa to the Great Wall of China, the Gold Coast of Australia, the perimeter of Easter Island, Iceland, and even Antarctica.

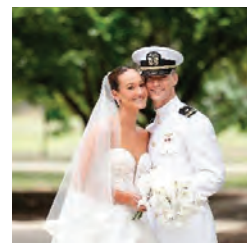


Maria Malingowski Hahn OCHS '01

Maria currently lives in Pittsburgh with her husband, Bill (CCHS '98), and their three young children. She is pursuing her Doctor of Education degree at Pitt while working full-time as a teaching consultant at the University Center for Teaching and Learning.

Ellie Tiskus Murray OCHS '19

On August 2, 2025, Ellie married her best friend, Brendan Patrick Murray, in a Nuptial Mass at Heinz Chapel in Pittsburgh, followed by a celebration with family and friends at the Duquesne Club. The couple now resides in San Diego, California, where Ellie will graduate with her J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law in May 2026. Brendan serves as an MH-60 Romeo pilot in the United States Navy.



Rachael Lipinski OCHS '05

Rachael became engaged to her fiancé, Julian, in April 2023. Professionally, she recently celebrated 15 years as an Occupational Therapist and has spent more than 14 years working at UPMC Presbyterian. During this time, she has earned several additional certifications, including becoming a Certified Functional Rehabilitation Vision Specialist, and she is currently

Stay CONNECTED

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

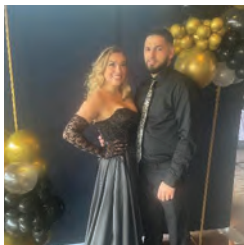
KEEP IN THE LOOP!

Make sure we have your latest contact information to keep you informed about OCHS news, events, and more.

SCAN TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

Colette Straub Nathan SHHS '65

Colette is enjoying retirement with her husband of 52 years. Together, they enjoy traveling, participating in local social and sporting activities with friends, and welcoming visits from their children and extended family from across Australia.

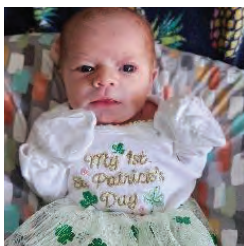


Kelly Terry Cravotta OCHS '05

Kelly published two books last year with two different publishing companies, So Human and Miera. She currently serves as CEO of True Comfort Care, a company that supports individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism.

Mary Price Petrusch OCHS '11

On March 12, Mary and her husband, Zach, welcomed Eileen Helen Petrusch into their lives. She joins big brother Benjamin, age 2. The family is overjoyed to welcome their little miracle.



Tervonna Pollard OCHS '22



Tervonna graduated from North Carolina Central University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing, earning Honors and Magna Cum Laude distinction. During her senior year, she received the prestigious Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Scholarship, awarded in the amount of \$10,000.



She also accepted an internship offer from Lenovo as a Talent Brand Marketing Associate and is currently completing a fellowship with the Editorial Freelancers Association as a

Digital Marketing Fellow. Tervonna is grateful for these opportunities and excited for what lies ahead.

Dr. Hope V. DiGioia, OTD OCHS '18

Hope recently graduated from Slippery Rock University's Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program with Pi Theta Epsilon Honors. She presented her doctoral capstone poster, "Mission Reclaim: Helping Veterans Reclaim Control Over Chronic Pain," at the



program's Poster Session and Pinning Ceremony. Her project focused on educating veterans about occupational therapy-based and holistic approaches that promote adaptive behaviors and cognitive reframing to better manage chronic pain and improve quality of life. The findings were significant, and she is awaiting news on whether she will present at this year's Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association (POTA) Conference.

On a personal note, Hope just got married!

Rhodora Donley Huffmyer OCHS '99

Rhodora is proud to share that her daughter, Brynne, recently graduated from Oakland Catholic and will be heading to the University of South Carolina this fall to begin her next chapter.

Gwendolen Pechan SHHS '88

Gwendolen was recently hired as the Vice President of Information Services at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. St. Mary's is one of three Marianist universities in the United States and is recognized as the oldest Catholic university in Texas and the American Southwest. Founded by the Marianists in 1852, it is also the oldest university in San Antonio.

Carmen Lezzi Mezzera OCHS '97

Carmen was elected Vice Chair of the Board of SERRV International, the second-oldest fair-trade organization in the United States. SERRV supports more than 7,000 artisans and farmers in 23 countries by co-designing and selling beautiful, one-of-a-kind handcrafted goods and specialty foods.

Lauren Kimmich Hodges OCHS '05

Lauren and her family are celebrating their fifth year living in Wilmington, North Carolina, near the coast. She has been working as an online tutor and academic coach for cyber schools and is currently pursuing her Wilson Reading System Level 1 Certification. Beginning this fall, she plans to teach students with dyslexia both in person and online. Their son, Christian, is eight years old and will be entering third grade next year.



Wynette Timko O'Connell SPCHS '56

Wynette is proud to be the matriarch of a large and growing family. She has 18 grandchildren and recently welcomed her 14th great-grandchild, with many more blessings expected in the years ahead.

Heather Donnelly Annaloro OLMA '78

Heather and her husband, Charlie, traveled to Antarctica in January, completing her longtime goal of visiting all seven continents.



April McWilliams SPCHS '87



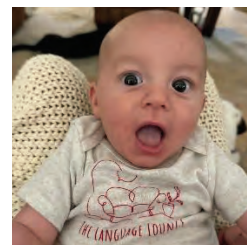
April recently celebrated 15 years of marriage to her husband, SFC Cory McWilliams. The couple lives on 26 acres in Glennville, Georgia, where they enjoy maintaining a small homestead with chickens, goats, ducks, geese, and the occasional pig. Together, they are

raising four children: Nicholas, 23; Sarah, 19; and their miracle twin sons, Dylan and Billy, age 9.

She is very active in her church, singing in both the choir and praise team, and is also honored to be part of Jubal Ministries, a more than 400-member organization that includes women's and men's choruses, a full orchestra, handbell choir, and a cappella choir. Professionally, April works full-time as an assistant manager for Family Dollar and has more than 20 years of experience in retail management.

Mara Wearden Benavides OCHS '14

2025 was a milestone year for Mara. She got married, purchased a home in Leander, Texas, and welcomed her first child, Silas Benjamin Benavides, with her husband, Cris, on Christmas morning. She also continues to run her small business, The Language Lounge.

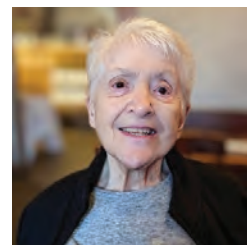


Anne Burroughs OCHS '94

Anne is a Certified Professional Coder (CPC) and Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) living in Pittsburgh.

Antoinette Pugliese Carcia SPCHS '45

Antoinette Pugliese Carcia, St. Paul's Cathedral Class of 1945, celebrated her 99th birthday in May 2026. A lifelong Pittsburgh resident, Antoinette treasures her faith, her family, and cheering on the Steelers every Sunday. She raised three wonderful children and is now blessed with nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Planning a Reunion?

We'll help make it unforgettable



MILESTONE REUNIONS

Graduating year ending in 1 or 6? Join us at the OC Gala on Saturday, October 3rd at the Dougherty Ballroom, Duquesne University.

Includes discounted tickets, dinner, drinks, silent auction, raffles, and reserved seating for your class.

ALL REUNIONS

Host your reunion at Oakland Catholic. OC is ready to welcome you back – intimate gatherings or large celebrations, we have the space and the spirit.

We provide the support to make your reunion truly unforgettable.

GET STARTED

Contact Kristie Barney, Alumnae Coordinator



412.682.6633 ext. 1263



kbarney@oaklandcatholic.org

Alumnae

STAY CONNECTED



FACEBOOK



LINKEDIN



INSTAGRAM

Oakland Catholic is no longer on Graduway. To stay connected, follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, or Instagram.

Her connection to St. Paul's Cathedral High School and Oakland Catholic High School has continued through generations. Her daughter, Jean Carcia Johnson (SPCHS '68), and four granddaughters — Jacqueline Johnson Kranack (OCHS '96), Jennifer Johnson Vaughan (OCHS '01), Nina Carcia Villella (OCHS '08), and Cassandra Carcia Maier (OCHS '12) — also attended the schools.

Maggie Smith OCHS '20

After graduating with Distinction from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine with an MSc in Reproductive and Sexual Health Research, Maggie continued her work in global maternal and newborn health research. Her dissertation examined labour and delivery register design across multiple countries, highlighting inconsistencies in documentation practices and the need for more standardized, user-centered data systems aligned with World Health Organization recommendations.



She later joined LSHTM as a Research Assistant in collaboration with the WHO Maternal and Newborn Health Group, contributing to implementation research and analyses across Bangladesh, Pakistan, Uganda, Senegal, and Nigeria. Highlights of her work included collaborating with research teams in Uganda and presenting findings to the WHO Technical Working Group. She continues to support this work as a consultant and recently joined the IMPULSE study, focused on improving neonatal case note data collection.

In addition, Maggie served as a Consultant for the World Bank on the Safer Births Bundle of Care Costing Tool, supporting efforts to expand maternal and newborn health initiatives in high-mortality settings.

She credits mentors Louise Day and Melissa Palmer for their guidance throughout the experience and is especially grateful to the Rotary Global Grant Scholarship for making these opportunities possible. This fall, Maggie will begin her studies at Tufts University School of Medicine.

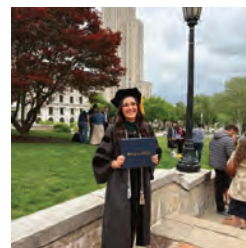
Emily Sismour Kukstis OCHS '04

Emily and her husband, Christopher, welcomed their daughter, Phoebe Catherine Kukstis, on April 16, 2026. Phoebe joins her big brother, George (3).

Rachel Romano OCHS '19

Rachel recently spent ten days in Belize providing care alongside interdisciplinary teams of students from three different universities. Patients traveled from across the country to receive services that are often scarcely

available, and the gratitude they expressed left a lasting impact on her. The experience reaffirmed Rachel's passion for pursuing a career in occupational therapy and provided lessons and growth she will carry forward as a future clinician.

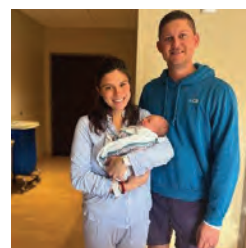


Rachel also graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences with a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. Reflecting on her seven years at Pitt, she is grateful for the many opportunities, lessons, and memories that shaped her journey.

She has accepted a position with Ivy Rehab Network as an Occupational Therapist in one of its pediatric clinics in the Pittsburgh area. Rachel looks forward to supporting children and their families in achieving their goals and reaching their fullest potential as she begins this exciting new chapter.

Frances Mastriano Kingerski OCHS '17

Frankie and her husband, Jacob Kingerski, CCHS '17, welcomed their first child, Henry Ryan Kingerski, on May 7, 2026.



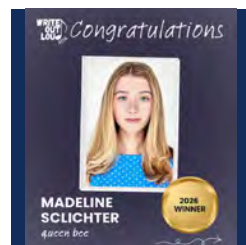
They are overjoyed to share the exciting news and begin this new chapter as a family of three.

Lauren Lakdawala OCHS '00

Lauren recently accepted a promotion to Lead Clinical Coordinator Pharmacist with Johns Hopkins Care at Home Specialty Pharmacy.

Madeline Schlichter OCHS '23

Madeline was recently named one of three winners of the 2026 Write Out Loud Contest for her original song, *Queen Bee*. Write Out Loud is a prestigious songwriting competition for independent songwriters and musical theater composers that receives more than 400 submissions each year.



As a result of this achievement, she will travel to New York City later this summer to have her song professionally recorded by a Broadway alumnus and released on major streaming platforms. The song will then be performed live at the renowned 54 Below venue this fall, marking an exciting milestone in her songwriting career.

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

Eileen Clancy OLOMA '68
Gretchen Grigassy OLOMA '65
Kathleen A. O'Leary Kinney OLOMA '64
Lorraine Meyer Knudson OLOMA '48
Janet Lynch Kurtz OLOMA '68
Carol A. McCabe Rush OLOMA '65
Anne Wohlfarth Vanderlip OLOMA '48

SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL

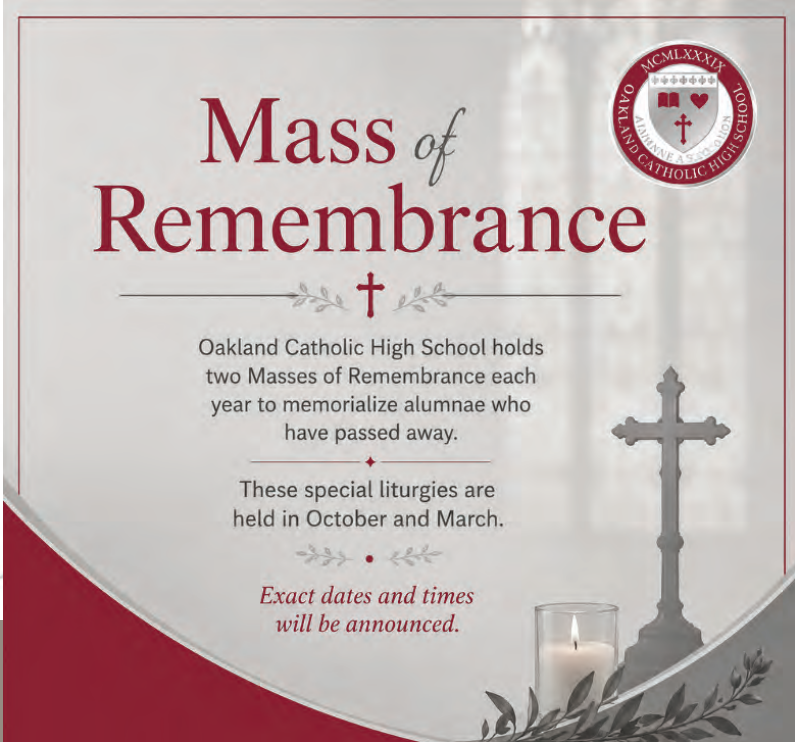
Beatrice Maus Burns SHHS '57
Katherine Short Darney SHHS '65
Charlene M. Orr Donahoe SHHS '76
Mary C. Ackerman Fallon SHHS '52
Carolyn Rossi Fruehauf SHHS '61
Helen R. Golob SHHS '47
Kathleen A. Lewis Grabowski SHHS '62

Maureen Buckley Grumet SHHS '65
Lenore A. Diggin Holan SHHS '48
Collette F. Kopay SHHS '76
Mary Ann Laughlin SHHS '70
Janet L. Straub Lowry SHHS '76
Carol Farmerie Lucas SHHS '57
Jacqueline M. Albacker Rocco SHHS '57
Diana Tolomeo Sciuillo SHHS '81
Mary Ann McLaughlin Shields SHHS '59
Marion D. Nigro Slaipoh SHHS '63
Kathleen F. Hartnett Speck SHHS '77
Joanne Marie Mangione Sperry SHHS '62
Mary Hope Kirk Straub SHHS '59
Kathryn A. Kalinowski Swierczyk SHHS '74

ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Shirley A. Dompka Cronin CHS '47
Mary Ann Kirby D'Amico CHS '53
Joan M. Ammell Eckert CHS '50
Lynn A. Holleran CHS '68
Rose Marie Guzzi Lamanti CHS '53
Anna J. Malarkey CHS '52
Correne McNally CHS '52
Georgia Gribbon Robinson CHS '68
Mary Louise Skalniak CHS '57
Carol A. White Spirnak CHS '61
Bernadine M. Srocki CHS '68
Margaret Roller Stackhouse CHS '54
Nancy L. Templeton Sullivan CHS '56

List includes names of deceased alumnae as of May 29 2025 - May 28, 2026



Mass of Remembrance

— ✝ —

Oakland Catholic High School holds two Masses of Remembrance each year to memorialize alumnae who have passed away.

These special liturgies are held in October and March.

Exact dates and times will be announced.



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, ext. 1263 Kbarney@Oaklandcatholic.org



ANNUAL *Report*

July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026



Scan the QR Code to read
the full Annual Report





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Discover the value of an
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We invite you to explore
our campus, meet our
students, faculty, and staff,
and see what makes
OCHS a special place to
learn and grow in faith.



Please Join Us!



NOVEMBER 8, 2026



11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

SPIRITUALITY



SCHOLARSHIP



SERVICE