

The Centric

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Alumni to return for 50th Anniversary Advent Pilgrimage

By: Alyssa Josey

Central Catholic is a school with many traditions that have been passed down for years. The Advent Pilgrimage is one of the most unique and most important traditions at Central Catholic. This pilgrimage was started 50 years ago by the Central Catholic class of 1974, who were seniors at the time, as a way to show support for the community, and now has been one of the most important traditions within our school.

"There is no other school in Toledo with such a tradition as the Advent Pilgrimage here at Central Catholic. It's the perfect way to kick off the Christmas season by gathering the school together. I'm so beyond glad to see the other staff members on the pilgrimage that I don't see much throughout the school day, and it is a beautiful way to bring us all together," Mrs. Michelle McVicker, Staff at Central Catholic, said.

Our pilgrimage consists of a walk with our entire school including all students and staff down to the Rosary Cathedral on Collingwood. We walk to the cathedral because it brings unity within our school as we travel to celebrate Christmas together with a beautiful mass. According to many students and staff, the Advent Pilgrimage is their favorite tradition, and plenty of people who have history with Central come back to experience the pilgrimage again. This year, in honor of the 50-year anniversary, Central Catholic has invited the past Bishop's Cross recipients, along with all alumni, families, and previous staff of Central to walk with the Central family.

Many of the freshmen here at Central are excited to be a part of this tradition. This tradition is valued in many ways, but it is most valued for the connection it brings to our faith. At Central Catholic, faith is the most important thing here. We have this pilgrimage as a way to connect us closer with God and to connect with our peers through God while we take the time together right before Christmas break. With this, we go to celebrate mass at the Cathedral to worship God, to recognize Jesus' love for us, and to keep our faith strong, especially during the Christmas season. This tradition has impacted so many students and staff members at Central, for it is a tradition that you could never experience anywhere else.

"Leaving Iowa" leaves lasting impression

By: Gabrielle Parker

CCHS has a lot of fun clubs, but according to the members of the Drama club, Drama club is one of the best. CCHS Drama club presented "Leaving Iowa" this Fall. "Leaving Iowa" centers around a young man that recalls his childhood, attempting to find a deep connection with his past and present family dynamic.

Mrs. Angela Mills, director of "Leaving Iowa," expressed her love for the play, and she wishes for the cast and crew to grow in the future by attending the State Thespian Conference so they can incorporate the skills they learned into the following play. This year's play was held on November 4 at 1 and 7 P.M. and 5 at 7 P.M. at the Ohio Theater on Lagrange. "Leaving Iowa" was this year's first full performance run by CCHS. Last year's rebirth of the fall play was just a one-act show.

"The best part of this script was that there were no small parts. Every character on stage is critical to the story and has their own charm and quirk, so every student in the play had the opportunity to create a meaningful character," Mrs. Mills said.

Drama club offers a variety of parts for students to try, from major to small. This was also the first play that had a crew, which included helping backstage and the actors.

Various audience members gave rave reviews about the play. One attendee said this about the play: "I thought the play was very well done, I think the students worked really hard." Attendees and Drama Club members were very enthusiastic about the play. Marnyc Glover, a cast member who plays Jamie the Mechanic, said, "It was fun, a lot of people worked hard. It was a good experience, a lot of people were crazy, we were like a family, we just laughed, and had fun, and I would do it again."

It's sad to see the play go. But, stay tuned fellow Irish - there's more to come.

BACK2BACK



The Fighting Irish Football team hoists their trophy moments after winning Toledo's first-ever back-to-back state championship. The Irish defeated Bishop Watterson 27-7 in Canton, OH on Dec. 1.
Photo cred: Cooper Sadowski.

The Centric Staff: Alyssa Josey, Gabrielle Parker, Cooper Sadowski, ShawnZeya Brown, Syncere Roberts, Eric Mason, Danaya Davis, Joel Drees, Aiden Westfall, Irinay Crawford, Cassidy Fitzgerald, and Kenya Perez. We would love to add next semester!

New clubs driven by students By: Cassidy Fitzgerald

Central Catholic High School has a wide variety of clubs for the students to join to learn new skills, meet new people, and become more involved in your high school years. Recently, some new clubs have been introduced to our Central Catholic students, including W.I.S.E, Martial Arts Clubs, and Pop Culture Club. I will be highlighting W.I.S.E and the Martial Arts Club featuring interviews from both Ms. Brittley Grodi for W.I.S.E and Mrs. Whitney McHaffie for the Martial Arts Club.

W.I.S.E stands for Women Inspired, Self-Reliant and Equipped. W.I.S.E offers our students of CCHS with tools to become independent women after leaving the building, led by Ms. Grodi, Mrs. Lucy Dupes, and Mrs. Kate Nell. This also allows members of the club to develop an improved sense of their own self-worth as well as their well-being. Ms. Grodi said, "When you feel worthy of deserving, your confidence changes for the better!" Her inspiration for this club was Mrs. Dupes. Mrs. Dupes came to Mrs. Nell and Ms. Grodi with this idea and they loved the thought of working together to bring young women together to speak on ideas that they are passionate about. "I think this club will be great for students to really

build friendships with the other members while learning how to be a strong, positive female influence to those around them. We want our students to be proud of their confidence, intelligence, and successes," Ms. Grodi said. There's several topics being discussed and life skills being taught in the club. Women's health and cooking 101 were the most requested topics picked by students in the club. W.I.S.E plans to have their first official meeting on November 30th, where members from the YWCA will speak to the group on boundary settings in friendships, relationships, and the workforce. "Being comfortable in knowing what you're comfortable with is so important in forming relationships of all kinds while also learning how to confidently say 'no,' and that it is okay to say 'no' if you are not comfortable in a situation," Ms. Grodi said.

The Martial Arts Club is led by Mrs. McHaffie, which offers the martial art of Jiu Jitsu to teach members many types of skills. "Jiu Jitsu is the 'Gentle Art' of Japan that engages the mind, body, and soul for the purposes of self-defense and developing a deeper understanding of the human experience through the virtues of integrity, honor, loyalty, respect, courage, honesty and sincer-

ity, and compassion," Mrs. McHaffie said. Jiu Jitsu offers so many life skills beyond athletics such as self and environmental awareness, physical fitness techniques, self-defense, goal-setting, and emotional and physical discipline. Since you largely rely on different training partners, it can also teach problem-solving skills. Mrs. McHaffie's inspiration for starting this club is that she has personally witnessed the positive effects on adults and children from the Martial Arts. "Here at Central, we are adapting the tradition of Martial Arts to the seven Catholic virtues that coalesce with our school's values. The challenges and triumphs experienced through Jiu Jitsu offer an invaluable experience that engages mind, body, and soul," Mrs. McHaffie said. If anyone is discerning joining the military, she highly encourages them to learn some of these fundamentals ahead of time. Mrs. McHaffie utilizes the Marine Corp Martial Arts methodology of instruction to deliver classes.

For more information about these clubs and more, see Student Activities Director Mrs. Amy Rough or email her at arough@centralcatholic.org.

Thanksgiving break traditions

By: Irinay Crawford

Central Catholic High School is home to many people - students, staff, and faculty - of different origins, who celebrate every holiday differently. With Thanksgiving just passing, it's certainly entertaining to hear how fellow students, staff, and faculty members celebrate the holiday known for giving thanks.

Mrs. Beazley is an 11th grade English teacher and she also teaches speech and debate. When asked what traditions her family has for Thanksgiving, she replied; "For food, we eat a lot of pies, apple, pumpkin, and cherry. In Singapore, we'd always have a big international party, and share Thanksgiving." Mrs. Beazley lived in Singapore for 12 years, as her husband's job required. She then added, "An interesting thing that'd happen at the party is we'd have a huge trivia game, and we'd test out and see what people from other countries knew about Thanksgiving."

Sharard Vaughn is a sophomore at Central Catholic. "We go down to Detroit, where my family is from, and have a big family reunion and have a lot of food."

Mrs. Hegedus is CCHS's vice president of finance. She has two twin sons that are juniors. She responded, "The main Thanksgiving tradition that my family has is just being a family, we don't celebrate with the same people every year, and sometimes we're in town and sometimes we're out of town. The main dish we have every year is definitely pie for dessert."

More electives, please! By: ShawnZeya Brown

"Our school enforces this idea that we're not just here for sports and academics, but our futures as well, but in a way, they limit us," Syncere Roberts said. "I believe everyone should have the opportunity to at least try a career they're interested in. Especially before going off to college and into life with this idea that we want to do something, but don't know if this thing we're doing suits us and our passions."

"Like we're taught in theology, we all have a vocation. It would help if we could test our interests so we could get a closer answer to our purpose in life."

Grades make you work harder, but only in academics, when they could be opening your mind to the opportunity of something you love or something new. An example is cooking. You might not want/need to cook but ordering every other night is wasting money, or it could be something you can see yourself doing in the future, and learning new recipes can build up your knowledge.

Basketball player Manny Johnson agreed: "I'm interested in cutting hair and taking cooking classes. I want to do these because these are some of the things that I feel could possibly be my future. I feel like our school not having home-ec electives only prepares us for school, and something in school only lasts for certain times and after, we need things to depend on."

IDT member and Cheerleader, Heaven Jones, thought about our school and her interests: "I would like to do cosmetology, entrepreneurship, and photography. I mean I'm fine with not having them, but they could be of good use in some of our lives. Our school should take these electives into consideration."

After all, you can't always rely on money or other people to do your hair, cook for you, dress you, or do your makeup or nails. Knowing you can do that is independence!

Central freshman Michael Cantua said: "Photographing is an awesome elective, getting to photograph amazing sights in our everyday world. If anything I'd love it if this was an elective because photography is really fun. The school not having photography isn't a reason not to try it out. But if the school did have it, it would make it far easier and less expensive. Our lifestyle after high school is an extremely important factor we should be focusing on. If we can find something we love in high school then we can continue it after. This could help us be successful, and be determined that we can do that thing we love."

All these students are different but they all want to experience all the world could offer and to express themselves. You could start your career now with the help of our school if we gave that push and made these classes electives. We could have so many more opportunities when we have more options to choose from.

Girls basketball 2023: A rebound story

By: Eric Mason

Girls basketball went 22-2 overall last season and were expected to go far in the playoffs as they were the number one seed in their division, but the season came to an abrupt stop. A 13abc covering of the story states, "According to a statement released by OHSA, the girls basketball program was removed due to its third recruiting bylaw infraction." Along with being removed from the state tournament, the former head coach Ericka Haney was suspended indefinitely.

This was a hard hit for the Irish family, but as we always do, we kept fighting. I got a chance to speak to sophomore Serinity Bolden about how she feels going into a new season with a new head coach. This is what she had to say: "Going into the season with a new head coach has been different but also has been good. We have a good coaching staff around us that is here to help us get better & to ultimately win. I feel great about the season ahead of us and what we hope to accomplish." I also got to speak with Senior Corniya Clay about what challenges come with bringing new players on to varsity. She said, "Getting them used to the speed and pace on the varsity level. Our new coaches got them adjusted very quickly." The girls seem to be adjusting quickly from last season's setback and I can't wait to see what comes from this new season.

OPINION

The new math grading system

By: Joel Drees

The past couple years members of our Math department decided to switch their grading system regarding homework. Should it be graded or should it not? Should it count as 5 points or should it just be collected and marked as turned in? To answer these questions and many more I decided to sit down with Algebra teacher Mr. Tye Turner and Geometry student Aiden Westfall.

I interviewed Mr. Turner first. He said that he doesn't give points for homework because if a student has a bad day in class it doesn't mean that they cannot learn the skill. He allows students to retake a test/quiz as many times as they want to so that once a student learns the skill that they need, their grade will reflect their newly attained knowledge. Mr. Turner stands very firmly on the grading system of not giving students any points for homework and only grading them on their knowledge of learning algebra skills.

I then asked Aiden Westfall about his thoughts. He said that he likes getting completion grades for homework because they help boost your grade and it makes him do his assignments instead of blowing them off, because you get a point per assignment and not doing them would be detrimental to your grade. He also likes the idea of retakes

Inside Interview: Irish swim team

By: Kenya Perez

Meet Anna Preston, an experienced and dedicated swimmer here at Central Catholic High School. This will be her second year swimming at Central and she has lots of positive factors to tell you about the swim team.

To start, Anna stated that the most important quality of a swimmer is persistence. She also describes that there is a lot of pressure surrounding the atmosphere of a swimmer. Anna states that keeping persistence can help a swimmer overcome the presence of pressure. This can be applied to a real world scenario and not only swim. Anna stated that she experienced pressure as she was swimming and her legs started cramping, and she expressed how that resulted in placing last in one of her competitions. She also acknowledged how she did not let that one race get her down, but how she kept pursuing persistence and sought better results. To help improve herself, she looked for beneficial ways to improve, like "taking a few deep breaths before diving off the block" or "taking your time when jumping into the cool water, and then feeling unstoppable."

To add, Anna's favorite aspect of swimming for Central was the feeling of togetherness. She stated that the sport itself requires independence, but swimming for the Central Catholic team gave her a feeling of home. Anna states that what keeps her motivated is the swim practice and how it pushes her and her teammates to their limits.

In conclusion, Anna would say to anyone who is interested in joining the swim team next fall or in general should just do it! She states that the Central Swim team is like a huge family regardless of all the obstacles, and she also thinks that it is a lifelong sport with friends along the way.

Meet swimmer Thomas DeBruyne, a Central Catholic freshman swim team member. This year will be his first year swimming for Central Catholic High School. And here are his experiences regarding the swim team:

To start, DeBruyne argues that the most important quality for a successful swimmer is determination. He also states that the swim team maintains a steady practice, and that "practice makes perfect." Thomas handles the busy practice schedule by praying and trusting God that he will be fine and that he's there to have some fun. These qualities in a swimmer are vital, particularly pacing yourself and remembering to trust in God; it can take you a long way. I find this inspirational because looking at his qualities, we can use them in a real-world situation.

To provide some insight, Thomas stated that a setback in his swim experience was that holding his breath and swimming quickly was challenging for him. To help him, he stays motivated by trying to be better and always wanting to achieve an extra step. He also states, "I may not be the fastest or the best at any of the stuff, but I am doing my best."

In conclusion, Thomas would say to anyone who is interested in becoming a swimmer that the first week or two will be difficult, but eventually it gets easier and extremely enjoyable. To end off, he leaves us this quote: "Determination is key."

Poetry spotlight: "I am"

By: Danaya Davis

My feet walk on the vibrant colors of
sidewalk chalk,
A sidewalk that has been stepped on
so many times before me.
The cold wet grass touches my feet as I
sit down and watch the cars go by,
Pain, so much, but I tough it out as
I battle it out on the Gallagher Field
with these feet of mine.
I look up to the sky and see myself in the stars.
The beat of the music goes through my body making me smile, and my feet dance
I run with the decisions I make which determine my future.
My feet, one foot in front of the other, steady and strong.

CONT. because if you don't do so well on the first test you have many other opportunities to increase your grade.

I personally agree with both Aiden and Mr. Turner because you should get a grade to make sure you are doing your assignments every night, which will also boost your overall class grade, because of the work you are putting in. I also say that you should be able to retake tests/quizzes, because learning math can be confusing and difficult and the opportunity to retake can improve your grade majorly, especially if you had a game or practice the night before so you couldn't study.

Underclassmen, please read before scheduling

By: Syncere Roberts

It was 2020, and I was preparing for my first year in high school. I remember I was walking down the stairs, my mom was sitting on the couch, and she asked me what type of classes I wanted to take, and then listed off of my options. At that moment I was mind blown that I could pick the classes I wanted to take, so I based my classes off interest or rather, what was easy and sounded more fun. Throughout the years, I learned that I should've been basing my classes off of what I was interested in career-wise, and ones that would challenge me in that field.

After interviewing two underclassmen, like me, they wish they'd made the decision to pick more challenging classes. On the other hand, they knew that the classes they were picking were going to help them in the future. Freshman Kenya Perez said, "As an incoming freshman, I knew I wanted to improve my language-learning skills for the future, so I decided to take a Spanish elective." Likewise, sophomore student Mason Johnson said, "all of the classes I took will help me in the future".

Kenya also said, "Going forward in school, I would like to improve my learning abilities and communicate with the upperclassmen so that I can schedule my future classes with what works

for me best."

So here I am as a senior here to help. If you're stuck deciding what classes to take, take into consideration what you want to do with your life after you graduate. Though I wish there were more options, we have plenty of electives for students to choose from, like general business, sociology, intro to education, etc. Taking electives that have something to do with your future career helps you get a feel of what you do or don't like, before you go off to college and figure out what you thought you wanted to do is something you don't even like. Also, don't be intimidated by the idea of taking honors classes. My freshman year I was given the opportunity to take all honors but I was scared to take honors algebra, so I said no. Now that I'm a senior and I strive for an honors diploma, I don't have enough honors credits to actually get that diploma, so I have to graduate with the regular one. Lastly, don't overwhelm yourself. Graduating with an honors diploma to some people is really important, but don't burn yourself out. When you overwork yourself, by the time it comes to senior year, you're ready to give up and settle for less.



Photos by: Cooper Sadowski