

Crusader Newsletter

Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,

The year 2020 was filled with trials and anomalies. From the COVID19 pandemic to the chaos that surrounded the elections, it certainly was a year for the history books. So many things changed and so many challenges were presented to our students, parents, faculty, staff, administration as well as our alumni and friends. But we met those challenges head on, because that is what Crusaders do!

We saw changes in our approach to learning and how we pray and worship together. Masks became a way of life and we learned more about remote learning than we ever thought possible. We all participated in social distancing, which saw the cancellation of most of our extracurricular and fundraising events. And handshakes and hugging became taboo (that's hard on a Crusader). We learned that we should be washing our hands (there is a little sarcasm there) and implemented new measures for cleaning and sanitizing to reduce the spread of all germs, not just COVID.

I could go on and on about the historical significance that 2020 will hold for generations to come, but I would rather focus on the future. The Steubenville Catholic Schools have a number of things planned for the 2021 calendar year as we try to make a return to "normal". We are planning to have in-school, face to face learning, we are organizing events and activities for students, alumni and friends, and we are working to continue to grow our schools and our resources and build relationships with our alumni and friends.

We have been broadcasting weekly masses for the elementary school as well as bi-weekly masses for the junior high and high school. You can join us for these masses at www.steubenvillecatholicschools.org/golive or follow on our Facebooks pages and YouTube Channel - Steubenville Catholic Schools. We also started broadcasting select basketball games and are hoping to share a few swim meets.

Some of the tentative events that we are planning include: The CCHS Spring Musical, Catholic Schools Week, The Annual Beef and Brew Fundraiser, Regional Alumni Events (Columbus, OH), The Annual Hall of Fame Induction and big plans for Homecoming Weekend that will include an all-school reunion event, all school tailgate, homecoming football game and much more!

As we enter into a new year, I am hopeful that it is filled with blessings and abundance for each of you. I am hopeful that we will be able to come together as a Crusader family at games, events and school activities to celebrate our students and our long-standing Crusader traditions in 2021.

Thank you for all the ways in which you have supported us during this past year. We place our trust in God and keep praying for all of our Crusader family and friends. Even though the world may be in flux, our belief and trust in God remains constant in our lives. You, as alumni, friends, parents and grandparents, have been instrumental in our continued success. We appreciate your feedback, thoughts and prayers as we continue to move forward to provide for our students.

If you have not invested in the Crusader legacy, please consider making a gift to support Catholic education and ensure that our Crusader tradition lives on for generations to come. If you would like more information on creating a named scholarship, endowment opportunities, or estate planning and bequests, please reach out. I would love to talk with you about our schools, our vision and our long term plans.

As always, thank you for being part of our Crusader family. Go Blue!



Jennifer M. Izzi-Parker, CCHS Class of 1990
Director of Advancement,
Steubenville Catholic Schools



Kayla Collier, Class of 2014

City/State: Steubenville, OH
Current Occupation: Teacher
Job Title: Kindergarten Teacher
Organization: Bishop John King Mussio Elementary



What was your role CCHS? And when? I attended CCHS from 2010-2014. I was part of the Pep Club (4 years), Catholic Daughters Club (4 years), SADD (2 years), and Foreign Language Club (2 years). I was part of the football, basketball, and competition varsity cheerleading squad from freshman to junior year.

I was also lucky enough to be part of the 2013 homecoming court.

Can you provide a summary of your experience at CCHS?

I loved my four years at Catholic Central, and would go back in a heartbeat! Some of my greatest memories were in the halls of that school. Mr. Wilinski, and all the teachers and staff provided us with so much love, that it was impossible not to love going to school. They provided us with a home away from home. Catholic Central provided me with great academics, helped me build relationships with teachers and friends that I am still close today, and shaped me into the person I am today. Some of my favorite classes were Trig with Mr. G, Sign Language with Mrs. Lucas, and Contemporary Issues and Youth and Law with Coach Copeland.

What do you hope the students remember about you? the love for my school, and school spirit

*Throughout high school I always tried to attend and support as many school functions, activities and sport events as I could! If I was unable to I always made sure I still supported in some way!

Share your favorite CCHS memory: Decorating the halls for football games, game week against Madonna, pep rallies, and quesadilla day in the cafeteria!

What advice do you have for current students to make the most of their experience at CCHS? Build relationships with your teachers, find a good friend group, be accepting of everyone, and never break tradition!

Describe CCHS in three words: Family, Tradition, Home

*I chose these three words because attending catholic central means you are part of a family. You create special bonds and relationships with people that will last a life time. I am still close to all of my friends from high school, and still keep in contact with my teachers! Home is a good word to describe cchs because everyday I went there I felt like it was my home away from home. I liked being there, I WANTED to be there. I was comfortable there. I loved the people there. The atmosphere was always warm and inviting. The staff there cared, and were always supportive.

Tradition is a BIG thing for me. I LOVE the traditions that Central has. I think it is so cool that I did some of the things my parents did many years before that. I know things changes over time, but I feel it is very important to keep tradition. Tradition is something that should never be broken!

What are you doing now? I am currently on my third year of teaching at Bishop Mussio Elementary. I previously taught preschool 3, and this year I took on Kindergarten! I am the head coach of the Junior Crusader cheerleaders, and am currently working on getting my masters at Franciscan University.

Any final words of wisdom? Stay true to yourself, and always remember where you came from - Go Blue!

John Radvansky,

Class of 1968
City/State: Wellsburg, WV
Current Occupation: Retired



Mrs. Parker interviewed John and this is what he had to say...

John served his country during the Vietnam War in the Army. He earned 3 bronze stars and was inducted to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame for Valor in 2020. Only four people in the Ohio Valley have been inducted. John was inducted for his second bronze star. On February 1, 1970, during a night mission, John's lieutenant was killed. John had to take charge after his death.

John also passed the test to be accepted to West Point. John decided not to attend West Point. He lost 50% of his hearing in Vietnam due to an explosion. Today, he is very involved with veterans programs. John attended St. Joseph's grade schools in Toronto. He is one of 12 children. He had a scholarship at Marietta College, but John decided to join the Army. John joined the Army for the GI bill. He has an Associate's Degree from Penn State University and spent his career in construction. He has attended every class reunion except his 25th reunion, because of a construction job.

Who influenced you the most during your time at CCHS and Why? Fr. Belfield was most influential; he was vice principal during his time. He took over a class when one of the nuns got ill. He told students – "Be good at what you do", and "It's great to know everything about one thing, but is better off to some a little bit of something about everything."

What is the most important thing you learned while you were at CCHS? It's hard to say, but Fr. Huber taught English, he took over when Fr. Belfield left. He used cigars to teach the rules of grammar. The students weren't allowed to smoke them, but the teaching method made an impact.

Share your favorite CCHS memory: John enjoyed playing football and taking mechanical drawing. The teacher who taught mechanical drawing, Sr. Blanche Marie, also ran the chess club and was a very big football fan. John won the medal for mechanical drawing in both his junior and senior year. Taking mechanical drawing helped him read blueprints and helped in his construction work until 2003.

Please continue reading John's interview on the back page of the Newsletter.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

S·T·E·M EDUCATION

Steubenville Catholic Schools has a long, storied history of educational excellence within a faith-filled environment. Leaders at all three of our schools are advancing educational options for our students and continuing to make our schools an unparalleled choice for your child's education. While our administration and faculty are always focused on creating a balanced curriculum, STEM (Science, Technology, Education & Math) education is of course an important educational offering, as our nation has an ongoing high demand for future leaders in these fields. Steubenville Catholic Schools recognizes the importance of STEM within our overall educational framework, and we invite you to learn more about our growing programs.

Bishop John King Mussio (BJKM) Elementary School offers a high-quality curriculum that will expose your child to many educational programs and topics as he or she begins their journey as a Crusader. All grade levels within the elementary school perform several experiments throughout the year to introduce the students to the scientific inquiry process and general concepts in the STEM fields. The overall goal is to provide students with a broad exposure to these modern fields. You will be able to interact with your child in regard to these experiments and begin to gain a sense very early in their educational journey as to whether STEM fields might be of interest in terms of future career choices. In addition to the Elementary School's general STEM curriculum, a Challenge Program has been instituted for those students who have expressed a strong interest and aptitude for the STEM fields. Standardized tests and classroom performance are utilized to determine candidates for this unique program. The Challenge curriculum offers students even more challenging projects that require them to plan and implement their own experiments and then communicate findings in a professional setting.

At BJKM Junior High, STEM has shown consistent excellence that has been recognized locally and at the State level. Not only does the school feature cutting-edge labs, SMART boards, and laptop stations, but the entire curriculum introduces students to inquiry-based competitions to motivate them to strive for excellence. Science Fair participation is an integral part of the curriculum, and new additions like the online First in Math program have introduced math fluency into all classes. In 2019-20 the Junior High ranked second overall in the state in First in Math and five teams ranked in the top 10 scoring teams statewide. Augmenting this focus on a rigorous curriculum is the Junior High's philosophy of introducing these 7th and 8th graders to professionals within our community. For example, sustainable partnerships have been forged with Trinity Health Systems, Jefferson County's Soil & Water Office, and local architects to offer real-world case studies to the students. It is no surprise that this comprehensive STEM framework at the Junior High level has been recognized statewide. For 12 consecutive years, BJKM Junior High has achieved the Governor's Thomas Edison Award. We are extremely proud of this curriculum and the foundation it creates for entry into the high school STEM curriculum.

Steubenville Catholic Central High School has offered high-quality courses in the STEM fields since its inception, preparing students for post-secondary success, which has been a hallmark of a CCHS education. Recently, the high school has strengthened its STEM reputation by instituting a program that has achieved nationwide success. Known as Project Lead the Way (PLTW), the engineering curriculum provided coursework that develops highly transferrable skills in the areas of critical thinking, problem-solving and communication. PLTW also provides our teachers with many professional development opportunities. CCHS is now part of a nationwide community of more than 12,000 schools offering this modern engineering-oriented curriculum. PLTW is a non-profit that has become well-known and recognized as the engineering curriculum best practice in America today. Visit www.pltw.org to learn more and contact us to further discuss how this program has been integrated at the high school level.

We hope you will visit or contact us to learn more about these programs. Steubenville Catholic Schools has become a well-organized Pre-K–12 educational system with all educational programs offered with the student's elementary, junior high, and high school success in mind. STEM programs have been carefully created to allow your child to explore these exciting fields and then seamlessly advance throughout a challenging curriculum that will prepare them for a successful college career and professional growth.

We look forward to hearing from you! A tour of our facilities and meetings with our faculty can be arranged at any time, as we will always strive to assist you as you make educational choices for your child.





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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JOHN RADVANSKY, CONTINUED...

Do you feel your faith has helped lead you in any of your life and/or career decisions? If so, please give an example.

Yes, there is no doubt about it. There is a saying, "There is no such thing as an atheist in a foxhole." And John believes that. He had some tough times and prayed to God for protection. Now he attends St. John the Evangelist Church in Wellsburg. He is actively involved in his parish and serves as an usher.

What advice do you have for current students to make the most of their experience at CCHS? "College is important, but sometimes its better off to learn a skill. Learn to live, but learn to live within your means. It's a good idea to learn a little bit about everything."

Describe CCHS in three words: Friendly, Enjoyable, Memories

What impact did CCHS have on your college/career path/How did your education at CCHS prepare you for what you did in college and are doing today? Originally John wanted to take general courses, but teachers encouraged him to take college prep. He took all of the science classes except chemistry. This definitely helped direct him in his career.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment? John worked on construction at the Detroit Airport and was there during 9/11. He stated that airplanes had to land at Detroit because of the terrorist attacks. John worked all over the United States, specifically on the east coast and in Washington DC. He also worked at Wheeling Pitt.

What activities or sports were you involved in CCHS? John was involved in Football and Track.

What advice would you give current college students interested in pursuing a career in your field? A career in the military is still available if people want it and it's a good career option. John had never considered a military career, and while he did not pursue it, he thinks a good option for students to consider.

Are you married? Have children? Anything else you would like to share!

John's wife passed away nine years ago. He has one daughter who lives in Alabama.