



CCS LINES

August 2023



Welcome Back!

From Columbus Catholic Schools
Executive Director
Jeff Ohnoutka

The start of the school year is only a few weeks away. Soon our classrooms will be filled with students and the excited buzz of a new school year. I want to welcome back our students and faculty and pray that everyone associated with our schools will have a positive faith filled experience.

On Aug.19th we are having our first big event together as Columbus Catholic Schools. This will take place at Memorial Stadium in Pawnee Park. You can find all the details here in the CCS Lines. I look forward to our outdoor mass and all the food and fun associated with this event. I hope to see you there.

Important Dates To Know

Scotus Central Catholic:

7th Grade Pre-Orientation:

August 9 - 9:00-11:30 (students with last name beginning with A-L)

August 9 - 12:30-3:00 (students with last name beginning with M-Z)

For more information on pre-orientation, click [here](#).

7th-12th Grade Orientation:

August 14 (Starts in the Little Theater)

8:00 a.m. 7th Grade Orientation

9:00 a.m. 8th Grade Orientation

9:00 a.m. 9th Grade Orientation

10:00 a.m. 10th Grade Orientation

10:00 a.m. 11th Grade Orientation

11:00 a.m. 12th Grade Orientation

Each week I will be in all four of our schools. My office will still be located at Scotus but I look forward to experiencing first hand the great things happening in the classrooms. If you have any questions or need to reach me you can email me at johnoutka@colcath.org.

Let's have a great year!

Join the Scotus Booster Club!

We are extending an invite to all Columbus Catholic Schools families and staff to join the Scotus Booster Club. The Scotus Booster Club is made up of current parents, alumni, parents of alumni, community supporters, Scotus staff, coaches and activity sponsors.

As a service organization, our mission is to fundraise and provide volunteer support for Scotus Central Catholic.

[Click here to join](#)



**2023-2024
SCOTUS BOOSTER CLUB
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!**

**Join the Scotus
Booster Club!**

MEETINGS: 1ST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT KC HALL, 7PM, PIZZA PROVIDED, KC BAR OPEN.

WHAT WE DO? FUNDRAISE, SUPPORT SCOTUS ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS, PUT ON FUN EVENTS TO BUILD SUPPORT & FOSTER COMMUNITY.

WHO ARE OUR MEMBERS? CURRENT SCOTUS PARENTS, FORMER SCOTUS PARENTS, SCOTUS ALUMNI & COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

IMPORTANT DATES:
AUGUST 12TH - SHONKA COLE TOURNEY
AUGUST 15TH - KICK-OFF DINNER 7PM
OCTOBER 4TH - 250 CLUB CELEBRATION 7PM
NOVEMBER 2ND - BID A BAG EVENT 6PM
DECEMBER 3RD - CRAFT BOUTIQUE 9AM-3PM
DECEMBER 6TH - CHRISTMAS PARTY 7PM
MARCH 6TH - WILD GAME FEED 7PM
APRIL 13TH - SCOTUS GALA ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

JOIN THE FUN: ENTER POOLS & 250 CLUB!

Join Here!  SCAN ME

7th-12th Picture Day:
August 14 in the cafeteria

**Scotus Booster Club Kickoff
Dinner:**
August 15 - 6:00 P.M. KC Hall

St. Anthony's Elementary:
Fall Registration:
August 2 - 9:00-5:30
School Open House and Social:
August 14 - 5:00-7:00

First day of classes:
Tuesday, Aug. 15 – Noon Dismissal

Pre-K & Preschool First Day:
August 21st (Pre-K) August 22nd
(Preschool)

St. Bonaventure Elementary:
Fall Registration:
Thursday, Aug. 3
a. 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. or 4:00
p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (returning families)
b. 6:30 p.m. – NEW families only –
School Social Hall

School Open Houses:
a. Sunday, Aug. 13 - after 10:30 a.m.
Mass (11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)
b. Monday, Aug. 14 - NEW
Kindergarten families - 4:30 p.m.-6:30
p.m.

First day of classes:
Tuesday, Aug. 15 – Noon Dismissal

Preschool First Day
August 17th

Mass, Dash, and Burger Bash:
a. Saturday, August 19 – 6:00 p.m. –
Pawnee Park Memorial Stadium

Pre-K & Preschool First Day:
August 17th

Physical Forms due ASAP

Please remember that all Scotus students in grades 7-12 must have a physical and parent consent form completed before participating in athletics. **[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE FORM.](#)** **Forms are due immediately.**

If you have questions, please contact Merlin Lahm at **mlahm@colcath.org** Please turn in forms to Holly Thompson in the main office.

The first day of fall practices is Monday, August 7th. Students can't practice until their forms are turned in.

Mass-Dash-Burger Bash!

Columbus Catholic Schools is hosting our first Mass-Dash-Burger Bash, Saturday, August 19th at 6:00 P.M. at Pawnee Park.

An outdoor Mass will be held at 6:00 in the stadium. Following Mass, will be a two mile run/walk and a meal. Participants may also walk during the event.

Please consider attending this event with your family. This will be a fun way to start the school year in a positive way.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Unable to attend? Please consider donating back to support our schools.

[DONATE HERE](#)

St. Isidore Elementary:

Fall Registration:

August 1-2: Kdg-6th School registration @ school office - drop off paperwork, pay lunch/activity/H&S dues, volunteer signup

Aug 1: 9:00-1:00, Aug 2: 9:00-5:30pm

School Open Houses:

August 14: K-6, 5:30-6:30 p.m.,
Preschool 5:30-7:00 p.m., Preschool parent meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.

First day of classes:

Tuesday, Aug. 15 – Noon Dismissal

Pre-K & Preschool First Day:

August 17th

The Importance of LB753 For Children

Please **[click here](#)** to learn more about LB753 and how it ensures children growing up in poverty or who have been bullied can attend the best school for them. The Opportunity Scholarships Act provides increased scholarship opportunities through a state income tax credit. Taxpayers can claim this tax credit by making financial contributions to an SGO which are authorized by LB753.

State income tax credits can be claimed starting on January 1, 2024, with scholarships being distributed for the 2024-25 school year.

You may also read a letter from Vickie Kauffold, Superintendent of Schools at the Archdiocese of Omaha regarding school choice legislation (LB753, the Opportunity Scholarships Act) and information about scholarship granting organization (SGO).

[LETTER](#)

Notes from the Principals



As we quickly approach the end of July, that can only mean one thing. A new school year with rejuvenated students and staff returning to the halls of Scotus Central Catholic. As with any new school year, we look forward to reconnecting with classmates and friends, new classes, new teachers, and new opportunities to grow in our faith.

It has been great to see all of the participation from our students at JC Camp, Steubenville, and our athletic and fine art camps here at Scotus. Our students have shown a commitment to excellence in their faith, the classroom, and in their competitions.

We are blessed at Scotus to have all members of our fantastic teaching staff returning to our school this year. Staff members have been working over the summer to familiarize themselves with the Google platform that will be new for all staff and students.

One of the big changes that has happened at Scotus over the summer is the development office being moved into the media center. This will allow John Schueth, Erin Schmidt, and Taylor Dahl to work side-by-side to share the great things that are happening at Scotus Central Catholic.

At the end of last school year, we completed a project in the Dowd Activity Center to finish the walls up to the ceiling and hang new state championship banners in the gym. This summer we finished the gym renovation by adding new wall pads and refinishing the gym floor.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer and we look forward to seeing you in the halls of Scotus Central Catholic soon!

-Brady Vancura, Scotus Central Catholic Principal



This summer flew by! June was filled with several different camps at St. Anthony's. The first week of June was Vacation Bible School with over 100 students participating. The second was a reading camp for K and 1st graders, and the last week of the month was our Angels Academy with over 50 students participating. The staff attended professional development days relating to Language Arts especially reading.

July kept Mr. Steiner and Mr. Harvey busy as they were cleaning classrooms and waxing floors. The Knights of Columbus along with the Home and School and St. Theresa's Sodality began and completed phase 1 of the social hall renovation project. All new LED lighting was added and long with new ceiling tiles and a sound system overhaul.

I am looking forward to having the students back in the building and seeing their eagerness to learn and their excitement about their faith. Their enthusiasm and excitement is contagious. I am excited about our new students and staff joining us. Mrs. Deanna Campazano is our new administrative assistant, Mr. Irvine Paloyo, music teacher, Mrs. Stacy Schefus, teacher's aide, Mrs. Shannon Renner, preschool teacher, and Mrs. Shelli Naughton, librarian. We will be incorporating a new phonics program and a new reading intervention to help struggling students.

-Amy Sokol, St. Anthony's Elementary Principal



Soon, our school bells will be ringing in students for a new year! The staff and I are getting ready to begin another awesome school year and are excited to see our students' smiles once again! As we anticipate the start of the school year, we welcome any new families and staff members to our school family. Mr. Marc Beller, who has been a part of our Columbus Catholic community for many years, is returning to St. Bonaventure this fall. He will be teaching 5th grade. Mr. Beller, Mrs. Swanson, and Mrs. Hamling will be departmentalizing our academic program for our 5th and

6th grades, and they have a great plan in place to provide a strong academic experience.

This summer, our custodial staff was busy cleaning carpets, polishing floors, and making needed repairs. Before the start of the school year, we anticipate that our security system will have been updated as well. In addition, some cosmetic improvements will be made to the hallway areas near the main offices. Our teachers furthered their training by attending a couple reading professional development opportunities. Many staff members are also reading professional and faith books to not only bolster their knowledge about teaching but also their Catholic faith.

And, finally, our Home and School officers have met and are planning some opportunities for our families to engage with one another and support our school. God is good, and we are looking forward to the graces He has in store for us as we embark on a new school year!

-Cheryl Zoucha, St. Bonaventure Elementary Principal



With summer winding down, we are getting ready and excited to welcome students back into our building! It has been a busy summer at school, full of cleaning, organizing, making preparations and planning to make the 2023-24 school year one to remember.

We will welcome 211 students this year. We also welcome our new 1st/2nd grade paraeducator, Gessica Ackman, who is a longtime parishioner and parent in our building. Our existing staff has all returned and everyone is excited for a successful year ahead! We will be adding in a new phonics program to our

Preschool-2nd grades, and a new Reading Intervention Program to ensure that all of our students are given the tools they need to succeed.

As you know, the church has begun the process of building a Parish Hall. You will see some changes to our main school entrance, which will temporarily be located further south of its current location. Everything has been wired to make this a secure entrance and ensure any visitors are routed to the school office. Please be patient as we tackle some new routines and adapt to construction this fall! I'm sure there will be many adjustments made along the way. By this time next year, the Parish Hall should be nearing completion and we will be fully adjusted to a 'new normal', where our Parish can grow and adapt to the needs of our parishioners and school. Stay tuned for updates, which will be released monthly this year.

Our office will keep an open door for all of our parents and parishioners for your Scrip needs, questions and conversations. Please stop in and see us!

-Amy Evans, St. Isidore Elementary Principal



Proceeds will support CCS Curriculum Updates and Academic Advancements!



REGISTER
HERE



MASS - DASH

BURGER BASH

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 | 6:00 P.M. | PAWNEE PARK STADIUM

OUTDOOR MASS AT 6PM, FUN RUN & FOOD TO FOLLOW

\$20 RACE ENTRY | 2 MILE FUN RUN | INCLUDES A T-SHIRT

MUSIC - FUN - PRIZES

QUESTIONS? EMAIL ERIN SCHMIDT: eschmidt@colcath.org



NOT A RUNNER? THAT'S OK! COME FOR THE FUN, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP!

DEVELOPMENT

SEF 17 Information



School Excellence Fund SEF 17



Gifts to SEF 17 will support all four Columbus Catholic Schools. Guided by strategic planning and made possible by the School Excellence Fund through SEF 17, our schools will (1) graduate students with the values needed to choose their life's vocation, become community leaders and active parishioners; (2) update facilities; (3) recruit and retain excellent teachers.

SEF 17 Goal: \$1.5 Million to be utilized over the next three years.

INVESTING IN THE EDUCATION OF OUR STUDENTS - 65%

1. Equipping our students to take on the next chapter of life - college, trade school or workforce; leadership and entrepreneurship; and Catholic discernment of vocations (family life, religious life). Our graduates have the skills to:
 - o apply Catholic values when determining life choices
 - o use critical thinking skills and embody leadership qualities
 - o demonstrate effective communication and presentation skills
 - o persevere, adapt and problem solve
 - o recognize the importance of service and community
2. Creating opportunities for students to become the best version of themselves. SEF 17 will provide support for developing High Ability Learning (HAL) programming and provide additional student support in the areas of Academic Intervention / Special Education (SPED).
3. Keeping tuition affordable. It is through the generous support of our donors, we are able to offer a Catholic education that is accessible to all families.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS - 25%

SEF 17 resources will create a safe and functional environment for our students by improving building accessibility and updating security measures. We plan to replace classroom doors, improve intercom and communication systems, upgrade security cameras, and add an elevator at Scotus - to assist students with mobility issues and provide a means to move instructional equipment in our three-story building.

TEACHER RETENTION & RECRUITMENT - 10%

Columbus Catholic Schools strives to enhance faculty collaboration, cultivate mentorships, and continue to provide growth opportunities guided by research. SEF 17 will provide our teachers with opportunities to pursue new and better ways of engaging all students in the classroom and allow CCS to offer competitive salary and benefit structures to recruit and retain excellent teachers.

16th Annual Alumni/Alumnae Soccer Tournament

This year's tourney will be held on August 4-5, 2023, at the Warren & Shirley McLaughlin Activity Field. For more information, contact Jon Brezenski '98 at coachbrez@gmail.com.







Scotus Central Catholic Picture Day is Monday, August 14, 2023

Proofs: About 1 to 2 weeks after Picture Day you will receive a **Proof** of your student's **2 poses**.

The Proof has the **Website** and **Password** to place your order **online**.

If you do not wish to pay with a credit card: **Still place the order online** and select **Cash** or **Check** as the **method of payment** upon checkout. Place cash or check in the **Payment Envelope** that came with your Proof. Write your **Order Confirmation Number** from your online order on the **Payment Envelope**.

The Picture Packages you order will arrive approximately **2-3 weeks after the Due Date** printed on the Proof.

Family Plan: When you pay for two children in your family, this qualifies you for a FREE package of equal or lesser value for all other children in your family.

If you qualify for the Family Plan, please email info@pegasus-si.com with the two **Order Confirmation Numbers** that have been **paid** in full **along with the Order Confirmation Number** for the order that is **FREE**. Please be sure **to order and send email prior** to the **Due Date** on the proof to avoid any late fees – Do NOT wait for all student's proofs as deadline dates may vary if they attend another school or are a Retake. Your FREE order is ON HOLD until you email the Confirmation Numbers.

For the 3rd order or more, use payment type FAMILY and click APPLY, then submit your online order.

Retakes: If you prefer to have a retake, you may do so for any reason on Retake Day. Wait until you get your RETAKE Proof to place an order at that time. If you decide to order from your original Proof rather than the Retake, you'll receive a late fee, as it is past the Order Due Date.

Due Date: On your proof is an Order Due Date. If you submit your order AFTER the Due Date, you'll have a \$10 late fee and late orders can take up to 6 – 8 weeks after ordering.

Pegasus School Images

Cut here - - - - -
Note to separated or divorced parents: *Mom and Dad may receive different PASSWORDS/Proofs ONLY IF your student tells the photographer: "I need 2 sets of proofs"*
To help your student remember to request this, you may use this Reminder Slip.

ONLY For parents living separately: Fill out information below & have your student give this note to photographer while sitting at the camera for school pictures on

Scotus Central Catholic Picture Day -- Monday, August 14, 2023

Please provide **TWO Order PROOF FORMS** for:

STUDENT'S NAME: _____ **Grade** _____
to allow Mom and Dad to order separately.

Signing up for Service Opportunities

If your students are looking for service opportunities, reminder that upcoming and ongoing opportunities are posted on our website. See the link [here](#) or contact our Campus Ministry staff.

Dana Ritzdorf
Kelly Koranda
Tyler Linder
Nate Tenopir

We try to keep this updated with different school, church, and community needs that students can take advantage of.

Join a Rock Talk Group For the 23-24 School Year!

Offer the gift of your time to invest in our teens and join the awesome team of RockTalk leaders! RockTalk started two years ago at Scotus as a movement to connect our students & teachers with Catholic adults in our community (Parents, especially!).



Growing stronger in their faith, the groups spend time sharing prayer, discussing the upcoming Sunday gospels, and getting to know each other. Co-Leaders meet with their group of students one Wednesday a month at the school, the last hour of the day.

Please email **Sarah** for more information!



Journalism Photos For Sale

Do you want to support our awesome Journalism students and get a photo of your son or daughter during a school day? How about an action shot from a volleyball game or a pep rally? We are starting to upload fall activity photos online.

Click **HERE** to see the albums.

If you would like to support Scotus Journalism and purchase photos, you can use the order form **HERE**. Let **Mrs. Rusher** know if you have any questions!

Your support is greatly appreciated and helps fund our journalism department to purchase new cameras, software and more.

Scotus Calendar of Events and Meetings:

- Flag Corps Practice - Tue. Aug. 1 - Fri. Aug. 4, Activity Center, 8:30-11:00
- Campus Ministry Retreat - Wed. Aug. 2, St. Anthony's Social Hall
- First Day of Fall Practices-Mon. Aug. 7
- Last Day For Drop & Add-Tue. Aug. 8
- 7th Grade Pre-Orientation- Wed. Aug. 9, A-L 9:00-11:30 M-Z 12:30-3:00
- Senior Parent Meeting - Wed. Aug. 9, Little Theater, 5:30 P.M.
- College Fair - Wed. Aug. 9, Cafeteria, 5:30-7:00 P.M.
- Drumline Performance - Sat. Aug. 12, Frankfort Square
- Shonka Golf Open - Sat. Aug. 12, Elks Country Club, 1:00 P.M.
- Scotus Orientation Day - Mon. Aug. 14, 8:00-12:00, Dowd Activity Center

- 1st Day of School - Tue. Aug. 15
- Campus Ministry Meeting - Thur. Aug. 17, Little Theater, 7:30 A.M.
- Junior High Football Checkout - Thu. Aug. 17 (7th grade), 3:35 P.M.
- Junior High Football Checkout - Fri. Aug. 18 (8th grade), 3:35 P.M.
- Mass-Dash-Burger Bash - Sat. Aug. 19, Pawnee Park Stadium, 6:00 P.M.
- NHS Officers Meeting - Tue. Aug. 22, Room 127, 7:40 A.M.
- StuCo Meeting - Wed. Aug. 23, Room 126, 7:40 A.M.
- Rock Talk - Wed. Aug 23, 2:30 P.M.
- DRESS DOWN DAY - Fri. Aug. 25
- Campus Ministry Meeting - Thur. Aug. 31, Little Theater, 7:30 A.M.

To see the full calendar of Shamrock events for August, click [here](#).

CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

August Guidance & Careers Information

Drop and Add

- The last day for drop and add is August 8th. Please submit a request via the form or visit Ms. Brichacek during her office hours.
 - 8/1 8:30-1:30
 - 8/2 8:30-1:30
 - 8/3 8:30-1:30
 - 8/4 8:30-12:00
 - 8/7 8:30-2:00
 - 8/8 8:30-2:00

College Fair

- Don't miss the college fair on August 9th at 5:30. All 9th-12th grade students are invited. Students who attend will be put in a drawing for three Broken Mug gift cards.
- Colleges attending: CCC, Northeast CC, *Southeast CC (potentially)* Doane, Midland, Nebraska Wesleyan, Concordia, College of Saint Mary, Peru State, Wayne State, UNK, UNO, UNL, and Creighton.

Senior Parent Meeting

- The senior parent meeting will be held on August 9th at 5:30 in the Little Theater. The college fair will be available to senior parents after the meeting.

COLUMBUS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Columbus Catholic Schools
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tdahl@colcath.org

Connect with us



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