



CCS LINES

January 2024



Happy New Year!

From Columbus Catholic Schools Executive Director Jeff Ohnoutka

Welcome to 2024! I want to wish a Happy New Year to everyone associated with our Columbus Catholic Schools. May it be filled with blessings of good health, quality time with our families and a continued commitment to grow deeper in our faith.

In the coming months, I will be hosting updates on the strategic plan that has been created for our schools. These updates will focus on the K-12 profile of a graduate we are creating, a digital

Winter Weather closing information

The arrival of January means the possibility of ice, snow and weather-related school closings.

Columbus Catholic Schools uses social media, local radio stations, and SchoolMessenger (email and text) to announce school closings due to the weather. The earliest morning response is 5 A.M., unless the forecast was so threatening that closings could be announced the night before.

If weather necessitates school closing during the day, all four Catholic schools will respond together. Mr. Ohnoutka will consult with the elementary

citizenship program for students that includes informative sessions for our parents.

Those informative sessions will be used to educate parents on issues related to social media and technology but also provide a framework for how we can manage this safely for the good of our students. We will also update our school families on the progress each school is making on their individual school improvement plans.

I look forward to sharing this vision with you in the next few months.

Happy New Year!

2023-2024 yearbook online ordering

Thanks to the development office, we can now offer online payment for yearbooks! We usually do a formal yearbook sales event in January, but with online ordering, you can purchase your 2023-2024 yearbook anytime! **The deadline will be Friday, January 19th.**

If you are interested in getting this taken care of now, please order using this link: **[Yearbook Ordering for 23-24](#)**. (2023-2024 yearbooks are passed out in August 2024 at orientation.)

As always, we have been busy this first quarter taking photos at almost all home events, and we have those photos online for purchasing. If you would like to view or order photos, here is the link to get started: **[Journalism Photos](#)**.

If you have any questions, please contact Angie Rusher at **arusher@colcath.org**.

principals before any dismissal is announced and communicated via SchoolMessenger.

Make sure to check our social media channels as well when there is inclement weather.



Book by
ALLAN KNEE

Lyrics by
MINDI DICKSTEIN

Music by
JASON HOWLAND

Presented by Scotus Central Catholic

Friday, February 9, 2024	7:00 pm
Saturday, February 10, 2024	7:00 pm
Sunday, February 11, 2024	2:00 pm

Scotus presents, *Little Women*

Scotus Central Catholic presents Little Women the musical! Based on the Louisa May Alcott's American Classic, this Civil War story of love and family stands the test of time.

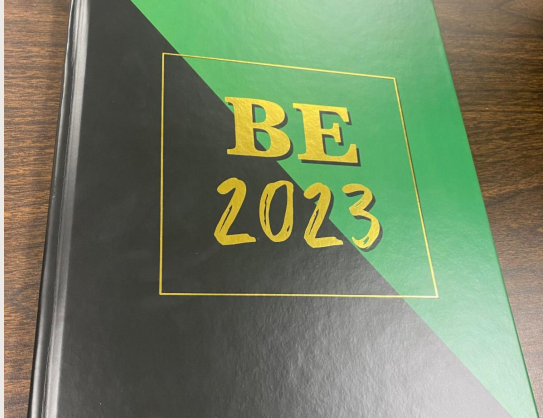
Tickets are \$8 each, shows are Friday, February 9th, Saturday, February 10th at 7:00 pm and Sunday, February 11th at 2:00 pm. Shows will be performed in Memorial Hall.

If you have any questions, please email Laura Salyard at **lsalyard@colcath.org**.

Prom info

Prom will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2024, in the Scotus cafeteria.

- 6:30 p.m. - Doors open
- 7:30 p.m. - Dinner
- 8:30-11:30 Dance



Please take time to review the dress code for formal dances, found in the Student/Parent Handbook. These dress code rules apply to both Scotus students and their outside dates.

St. Isidore Preschool Bingo Night

Save the date!

St. Isidore Preschool will be hosting a Bingo Night on Saturday, January 20th after the 5:30 Mass.

The event will take place in the St. Isidore Elementary cafeteria. Bring your own drinks and snacks. \$12 for adults and \$5 for kids for entry which includes a meal ticket.

St. Anthony Elementary Bingo Night

Save the date!

St. Anthony's Elementary will be hosting Music Bingo on Saturday, January 13th. The event will start at 7 P.M. in the St. Anthony's Social Hall. Bring your own drinks and snacks.

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

MUSIC BINGO
JANUARY 13, 2024

We are bringing The Music Bingo People back to St. Anthony's for a night of fun and fellowship. This year it's DOUBLE the fun with 2 rounds of bingo!

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Purchase a table of 8 seats for \$200 - this is the only way to guarantee your group sits together. Individual tickets are also available for \$20 each.

The event is held at the St. Anthony's Social Hall (1719 6th Street, Columbus). Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. with play to begin at 7:00 p.m. This is a 21 and over event. No minors.

Bring your own drinks and snacks. We also have select snacks available for pre-order for your convenience!

Costumes not required, but there may be a prize for best dressed!



ST. ISIDORE
PRESCHOOL & DAYCARE
FUNDRAISER

BINGO NIGHT

All ages are welcome!

ST. ISIDORE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 2024
MEAL STARTS AFTER MASS @ 6:30PM
BINGO TO FOLLOW

\$12 Adult & \$5 Kid Meal Tickets | \$1 per BINGO card |
All you can eat soup, bread & dessert | Buttered
noodles available for kids | BYOB & Bring your own
BINGO dauber (we will have crayons available to
mark cards if needed)

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK -
JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 2,
2023

Save The Date
April | 13 | 2024
SCOTUS GALA
fundraiser

Silent Auction / 4:45 p.m. | Dinner/Live Auction 7:00 p.m.

 Bring your “boots and bling” to Scotus Central Catholic and help support our students. 

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE JANUARY LUNCH MENU](#)



To the Principal's Office

In a previous CCS Lines, I began to explain the JOY framework that we have adopted here at St. Bonaventure School. To experience JOY and the Truth of Jesus Christ, we must trust in God’s plan for our life. Coming to know Jesus more, worshiping Him regularly, spending time in prayer, and serving others is part of that plan.

Obedience is another big part of becoming a disciple of Christ. Jesus gave us many important teachings that encompass our faith. Upon learning His teachings (which are all explained beautifully in the Catechism of the Catholic Church), we must internalize them and make them a part of our life. It is important for young children to learn the skill of obedience. Setting boundaries and expecting your children to obey you as parents allow children to develop the skill of obedience so that they can also obey God’s laws. Children that do not learn to obey grow up thinking rules and laws do not matter. Confusion ensues. We can see that in our society today.

As Catholics, we desire more. We desire Jesus. Even He obeyed his Father. Let us follow His example, learn the skill of obedience and become the disciples that Jesus calls us to be.

We wish our Columbus Catholic Schools Community God’s JOY, peace, and love as we enter 2024!

-Cheryl Zoucha, St. Bonaventure Principal



Welcome to 2024! May this new year be one where we are able to reflect the love & joy of Jesus's birth in all that we do and with all those we encounter. Just like New Year's resolutions, the second semester of the school year starts with a check-in on where we are, and the chance to reflect & refocus on where we want to be going.

We will have our winter assessments from January 15-24th. The best way to prepare for this time period is just to help your kids get back into their normal school schedules with regular bedtimes, good morning routines & healthy breakfasts. Assessments are just check-ins; they don't show everything we know, determine who we are, or reflect important traits like work ethic, character and effort, but we still want to try our best. If your child struggles with test anxiety, please let us know so we can help!

We will host our first Preschool/Childcare fundraiser with a BINGO night on Saturday, January 20th, following 5:30pm mass. Please join us in the cafeteria that evening for dinner, BINGO & social time. All are welcome! January will wrap up with the always exciting Catholic Schools Week activities. A schedule for that week will be out soon, and we welcome volunteers for all the events.

Thank you for the blessings you bring into our lives each day. We are so grateful for you! Wishing all of our CCS families a joyful, healthy, and blessed 2024!

-Amy Evans, St. Isidore Elementary Principal

ADVANCEMENT



(Above) The new crucifix is on the east wall next to the scoreboard.

New crucifix installed

The new crucifix was installed in the Dowd Activity Center over Christmas break by Joe Schoenfelder.

Thank you to the Class of 1983 and principal donors Michelle (Brooks '83) & Bob Soulliere who made it part of their 40th class reunion to underwrite the purchase of a new crucifix for the Dowd Activity Center. The crucifix came from Italy, and including shipping costs totaled nearly \$2,800.00.

Gala is set for Saturday, April 13

The 43rd annual Gala dinner/auction is set for Saturday, April 13, 2024 and the event will return to Scotus Central Catholic with the dinner and live auction hosted in the Dowd Activity Center! This year's theme is "Boots & Bling" and our Gala co-chairs are: Clete & Lisa Borchers, Dr. Scott & Kelly Cameron and Roger & Jill Krienke. This year's vice-chairs are: Mike & Kim Dreesen, Fred & Carrie Maguire and Jack & Lisa Meers.

Everyone is invited to attend—you don't need an invitation to join us for this important and fun-filled annual fundraiser! Guest emcee will be Fr. Taylor Leffler. Let's fill the Dowd Center and help us reach our net goal of \$250,000 which is part of the Scotus annual budget and very necessary to cover the cost of operating our school!

If you would like to attend, participate by donating an item for the silent or oral auctions or volunteer to help, please contact our co-chairs, vice-chairs, or Erin Schmidt in the Scotus development office: or 402 564 7165 ext. 114 or

Children's Scholarship Fund

The 2023-24 school year marks the 22nd year that the Children's Scholarship Fund of Omaha has provided tuition assistance to students in our Columbus Catholic schools. Since its inception in 1999, CSF has provided **\$923,975.65** in scholarship support to students in the Columbus Catholic Schools!

The beauty of the program is that every dollar raised in Columbus and from our alumni and alumnae is matched and returned to qualifying Columbus Catholic school families in the form of tuition scholarships! Last year we submitted \$26,093.74 in local fundraising to CSF-Omaha and in return our schools received \$40,500.00 in scholarships benefitting 50 students in our Columbus Catholic Schools. Not a bad investment!

If you would like to support the Columbus effort for CSF, send your checks, payable to *Children's Scholarship Fund* to the Scotus development office or make an online donation to Scotus designating your gift for CSF. We'll make sure your gift is included in our local CSF fundraising and submit it to CSF-Omaha!

Your donation may be tax deductible. CSF is a designated 501 (c) 3 nonprofit, and you will be helping our parish families afford the cost of attending one of our Catholic schools. Individual donations can also be dropped off at the Columbus rectories or at the Scotus development office. For more information about CSF, contact John Schueth at Scotus: 402 564 7165 ext. 109 or jschueth@colcath.org.

Columbus Catholic Schools publications

You can read past yearbooks, annual appeals, school board minutes, school newspapers and more on the publications page on our website. Visit columbus-catholic.org, click "about" on the navigation bar, and on the about page, click the publications tab. **Here is a direct link.**





Band news

WHAT: Band Department's 29th Annual Dinner Concert

WHEN: Monday, February 5th

WHERE: Dinner served in the Scotus Cafeteria; Concert will be held in Scotus Memorial Hall

TIME: Dinner served 5:15-7:00pm, Concert begins at 7:00pm

THEME: "Wild West"

PRICES: \$10 (5 & under are free)

The Scotus Band will be holding their 28th annual Dinner Concert "Wild West" on Monday, February 5. Dinner, buffet style, will be served from 5:15pm-7:00pm in the Scotus cafeteria. The concert will begin at 7:00pm in Memorial Hall. Ticket prices are \$10 (5 & under are free). Tickets are available from any band student or at the door.

Seven junior high students will be participating in the Stanton Junior High Honor Band on **Saturday, February 3**. Those selected are Julia McPhillips, J.R. Oehlich, Gianna Braziel, and Leah Fleming, Ariana Hissong, Natalie Faltys, and Kaydence Wennkamp.



(Above) The band performs at the Band Dinner Concert last February.

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 in 2019 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 Doerneman](#) 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:

- Teacher In-Service/School of Faith - Wed. Jan. 3
- LoveEd Event - Mon. Jan. 8
- FBLA Meeting - Tue. Jan. 9, Room 209, 7:40 A.M.
- TEAM SCOTUS - Wed. Jan. 10
- Revolution Assembly - Wed. Jan. 10, Dowd Activity Center, 10:10 A.M.
- Campus Ministry Meeting - Thu. Jan. 11, Little Theater, 7:30 A.M.
- NHS Meeting - Fri. Jan. 12, Little Theater, 7:30 A.M.
- Winter Ball- Sat. Jan. 13, Cafeteria
- StuCo Meeting - Wed. Jan. 17, Room 126, 7:40 A.M.
- DRESS DOWN DAY - Fri. Jan. 19
- Speech Invite - Sat. Jan. 20 9:00 A.M.
- Rock Talk - Wed. Jan. 24 2:30 P.M.
- Campus Ministry Meeting - Thu. Jan. 25, Little Theater, 7:30 A.M.
- TEAM SCOTUS - Fri. Jan. 26
- Catholic Schools Week - Mon. Jan. 29 - Feb. 2
- FBLA Meeting - Tue. Jan. 30, Room 209, 7:40 A.M.

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

CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

January guidance & careers information

Scheduling notice:

- Registration for 2024-2025: Yes, it may seem early, but I would encourage all students to begin thinking about which courses they would like to register for next school year. I will send out a message on school messenger when registration is underway.
- An updated course catalog for the 2024-2025 school year will be available soon on the Scotus homepage website.
- Students have received a hard copy of their 2nd semester schedules during December. Their 2nd semester schedules will also be available on PowerSchool.

Seniors:

- Be sure to apply for the FAFSA! The application opens on December 31st.
- The [Susan Buffett Scholarship](#) is due on February 1st. You must submit the FAFSA to apply for this scholarship.
- Christmas break is a great time to cross a few things off your “to do list”. I highly encourage you to take advantage of this time!

- If you have or are taking college credit from CCC, I would suggest holding off on sending these transcripts to other universities/colleges until you have completely finished the classes.

COLUMBUS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Columbus Catholic Schools
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columbus-catholic.org

Connect with us



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