



SUMMER 2021

# CONNECTION

CLEVELAND CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



**Welcome Back John Simon '72 "Mr. CCC"**

**Also Inside:**

**Young Love Blossoms at Cleveland Central Catholic**

**CCC Advisory Board Spotlight: Fr. Eric Orzech**

**Meet the CCC Deans**

**And more!**



# Mission

Cleveland Central Catholic High School is a coeducational school **rooted** in the Gospel values of Jesus Christ and focused on **college and career readiness**. Our mission is to challenge and encourage our students to **excel** academically, to **deepen** their faith in God, and to **live a life of service**, so they may face the future with **confidence** and **hope**.



# Contents

SUMMER 2021

## From the President and Principal

Letter from Leo Hyland, President of CCC .....	2
Letter from Sister Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND, Principal of CCC .....	3

## Feature Articles

Congratulations Class of 2021 .....	4-7
“Mr. CCC” Returns as Interim President .....	8-9
Young Love Blossoms at Cleveland Central Catholic .....	10-11
A Fond Farewell to Leo Hyland and Sister Erin Zubal OSU .....	12-13
Board Spotlight: Father Eric Orzech .....	16-17
CCC Deans of Student Life .....	20-21

## Advancement

Calcutta Auction Recap .....	18
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## Alumni

Class of 1970 Reunion Celebration .....	19
Farewell, Dear Friend .....	22
Alumni News .....	24
In Memoriam .....	25

## School News

CCC Celebrates Black History Month .....	14-15
School News .....	23

### Administration:

**Leo P. Hyland**, President  
**Sister Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND**, Principal  
**Sister Erin Zubal**, OSU, Assistant Principal  
**John Crawford Jr. `84**, Dean of Students,  
 Assistant Athletic Director  
**James Duke**, Dean of Students

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[www.centralcatholichs.org](http://www.centralcatholichs.org)



# From the President

## Leo Hyland

“Remember the past with gratitude. Live the present with enthusiasm. Look forward to the future with confidence.”

– St. John Paul II



“Remember the past with gratitude. Live the present with enthusiasm. Look forward to the future with confidence.”

When reading this quote by St. John Paul II for the first time, I was overwhelmed with gratitude for the many blessings in my life. Our benevolent God has provided me with wonderful parents, a loving spouse, caring and supportive family members and friends, and a solid foundation based on my Catholic faith.

As I conclude my 11th and final year of service at Cleveland Central Catholic, that feeling of profound gratitude again rushes through my entire being. It is easy to remember this time as a joyful and productive period in my life. CCC is a school like no other – and those who serve in this very special ministry have made it an especially meaningful experience for me. Working together in Catholic education, we truly are preparing our students “...to excel academically, to deepen their faith in God, and to live a life of service, so that they may face the future with confidence and hope.” This is truly the work of the Lord.

It is only through the grace of God and the outstanding effort of so many supporters that this amazing school continues to thrive during these difficult times. I want to express my deep appreciation for CCC’s dedicated faculty and staff, whose tireless efforts made it possible for our students to continue to learn and progress during this very challenging year. Their commitment to our students is laudable.

Similarly, we could not achieve our goals without the outstanding leadership of CCC’s Advisory Board members who provide the guidance and financial support to keep our school flourishing. I am also most grateful to all the donors, foundations, corporate and community partners who bolster the success of our school’s mission.

As St. John Paul II messaged so eloquently, we need to live the present with enthusiasm. That is what we promise at CCC – an energetic experience that will provide our students with the hope of a bright future. Together, we pray that our students are inspired by the Gospel message and motivated to live its truth as young adults and beyond.

Filled with genuine gratitude, sparked by our enthusiasm, and confident in CCC’s future, we thank God for our many blessings and pray for the continued success of this very special ministry.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leo P. Hyland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## From the Principal

### Sister Allison Marie

“...our students do indeed graduate ready to face the future with confidence and hope. They are able to acknowledge that while some dreams remained unfulfilled, a new vision and a new hope can take their place.”

As we prepared to send the graduating class of 2021 on to their continued life journey, the word that came to mind was resilience. Elizabeth Edwards, author, attorney, and healthcare activist once wrote, “Resilience is accepting your new reality, even if it’s less good than the one you had before. You can fight it, you can do nothing but scream about what you’ve lost, or you can accept that and try to put together something that’s good.”

When our seniors arrived for their awards and commencement ceremonies, their joy-filled laughter and playful bantering filled the hallways. I remember thinking, “It feels like school again.” It also made me realize how very resilient our students are.

In our literary magazine, the Cauldron, students wrote about topics on their minds: the pandemic, racism, friendships, family. Not only did they speak of pain, they also spoke of gratitude, faith, and wisdom.

Danny Mitchell wrote, “I learned that things will be fine if I’m patient.” Ashlei Hickson reflected, “I am grateful for all of my friends and family who get to see me finally walk the stage and close a chapter in my life. I look forward to a new chapter of my life waiting to be read.” Another student quoted Martin Luther King, Jr., “Our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change.”

It struck me that our students do indeed graduate ready to face the future with confidence and hope. They are able to acknowledge that while some dreams remain unfulfilled, a new vision and a new hope can take their place.

We, as a school community, look forward to a new year filled with hope. We are planning for the arrival of new and returning students. We know that it will be important to provide an environment where all students feel supported, knowing that they can learn and that we care about them. To that end, we plan to create a new academic learning center where students who need academic supports will receive tutoring. We also plan to continue the mentorship of new students provided by our Link Crew members as well as the community-building activities of Campus Ministry and Student Senate. We look forward to creating our new future together as we embrace each person as a brother or sister, recognizing that each one is a precious gift.

Thank you for your collaboration with us as we strive to be a resilient and hope-filled community of faith. We are grateful for your support and prayers. May our good God bless you today and each day.

One with you in the Peace of Christ,

*Sister Allison Marie, SND*

2021

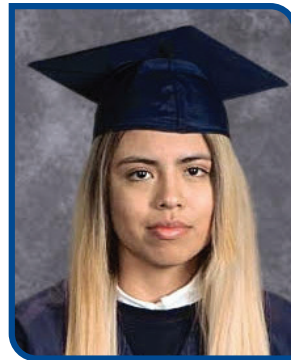


*Congratulations  
Class of 2021!*



# Senior Profiles

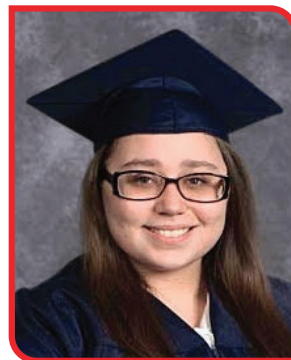
Cleveland Central Catholic proudly salutes our Valedictorian Valeri Hernandez Godinez and Salutatorian Kaitlin Cooper from the Class of 2021! No doubt this will be regarded as one of the most challenging years in our lifetime due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However these two young woman have been strong, determined and worked tirelessly to graduate at the top of their class.



***Valedictorian***  
*Valeri Hernandez Godinez*

Valeri graduates as Valedictorian. What she will remember most about her four years at Cleveland Central Catholic was how it was a big family. Students considered each other to be like family members. Someone was always there to tell you exactly what you needed to hear. They would tell you when you were doing something wrong, and they would celebrate your victories as their own!

While at CCC Valeri was a member of Link Crew, Student Senate, Spanish Club, Student Ambassadors and the National Honor Society. After graduation she plans to attend Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where she will major in Political Science and Psychology. Once she earns her bachelor's degree she would like to attend law school.



***Salutatorian***  
*Kaitlin Cooper*

Kaitlin is the Salutatorian for the class of 2021. She attended grade school at St. Leo the Great. What she will remember most about her years at Cleveland Central Catholic is how the teachers were available to students both academically and personally.

While at CCC, Kaitlin was a member of Link Crew, National Honor Society and Student Senate. After graduation, Kaitlin would like to work as a Patient Care Nurse Assistant at the Cleveland Clinic and then attend Ursuline College. She would like to specialize in Forensic Nursing so that can she work between the legal system and the medical field.



# *Congratulations Class of 2021!*







HOME	PTS	AST
PTS	PTS	PTS
FOULS	PLAYER	FOULS
SCORE	MATCH	SCORE

# “Mr. CCC” Returns to Cleveland Central Catholic as Interim President



The image of John Simon '72 sitting on the stage among the faculty and administration at the commencement ceremony for the Cleveland Central Catholic Class of 2021 on May 30th seemed fitting. Forty-nine years earlier, Simon was among those Ironmen preparing to receive their diplomas as members of the third class to graduate from the recently formed Cleveland Central Catholic. Once an Ironman, always an Ironman.

Four days prior to that, the Diocese of Cleveland joined Cleveland Central Catholic High School in announcing the appointment of Simon as Interim President effective June 1, 2021. Simon succeeds outgoing President Leo Hyland who will be leaving for another opportunity after 11 years of dedicated service. John has a long and distinguished record of service to Cleveland Central Catholic. He is a member of the school's Advisory Board, Past President of that board (2005-08), a member of three successful capital campaign committees, and co-chair of CCC's annual Calcutta Auction.

"John is the perfect person to fill this key role at this time" according to Hyland. "John's commitment to our mission is renowned, his business experience is invaluable, and he understands the school's needs, priorities and important relationships." Mr. Simon retired in 2018, following an impressive 33-year career with Medical Mutual of Ohio. He will serve in the Interim President role until the ongoing search for CCC's next President is concluded.

"My father passed away my freshman year of high school," recalls Simon. My commitment to CCC

is about giving back, to honor those who stepped forward to help me and our family at a time of need." John has five siblings who graduated from CCC: Joyce '71, Janet '74, Marty '75, Mike '81, and Roger '84.



"John is the perfect person to fill this role ... his commitment to our mission is renowned, his business experience is invaluable, and he understands the school's need."

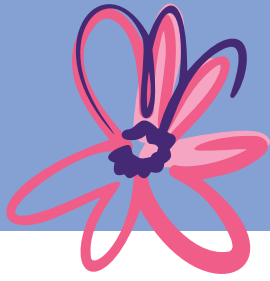
– Leo Hyland

"I am extremely grateful for the education I received at Cleveland Central Catholic High School and for the genuine care and support I received from faculty and staff during those challenging times," said Simon. "God's unconditional love for us, his teachings to love thy neighbor as thyself, were my personal experiences in action at CCC. I am only trying to repay the gift I was given by helping other CCC students have a chance to succeed."

Due to his deep love and devotion to the school over many years, Simon is affectionately known by many in the school community as "Mr. CCC".

Simon conveys "I want to express my gratitude to Leo, Sister Allison Marie, Sister Erin and the entire team for ensuring a smooth transition into my new role. I have a newfound respect for the tireless dedication of administration, faculty and staff to fulfill our mission and provide our students a bright future."

In 2012, John and his wife, Mary Beth received the school's Outstanding Volunteer Award and in 2015 John was inducted into the CCC Athletic Hall of Fame. He is a graduate of John Carroll University. John and Mary Beth reside in Concord, OH, have two sons and recently welcomed their second grandchild.



## Young Love Blossoms at Cleveland Central Catholic



**F**rank and Angela Alvarado met in eighth grade as students at Metro Catholic, located on Cleveland's near west side. Their mutual attraction to each other grew as students at Cleveland Central Catholic. Today, their love continues to blossom as they reminisce on love's first blush.

“CCC was a small school with two campuses that were small enough to know just about everyone,” Frank recalls. “Angela and I spent a lot of time together during and after school. We weren’t a couple, but we had the same group of friends throughout high school. We did attend one homecoming together. We began to date ‘officially’ immediately after graduating from CCC in 1993. Three things I found amazing about Angela: her smile; her ability to fit in within any setting, whether it was being a football team manager or student council president; and being a straight A student.”

“I have several fun memories of CCC,” Frank states with a smile. “The ones I remember most are with my team at soccer practice or a game.”

“I liked having two campuses and commuting between them during the day,” adds Angela. “It was a fun change of pace. One fun memory was decorating the gym for rallies or spirit week. The rallies were always full of energy.”

Both Frank and Angela insist Central Catholic prepared them well for college and their future careers. “Although I always wish I would have applied myself a bit more in high school,” admits Frank. “Fortunately, things turned out ok for me.”

“High school and choosing electives allowed me to explore and learn about various subjects that were interesting to me,” Angela describes.

“There were several teachers that had a positive impact on me, from Mrs. Boroni and Mr. Kelly in Spanish class to Mr. Lancaster, one of our English teachers and his catchy enthusiasm for literature,” Frank recalls.

Angela concurs, “There were so many great teachers. Mr. Kelly, of course, was an amazing teacher and our student council advisor. Ms. Siarka always brought so much energy to Spanish class. Mr. Kilburg made science interesting and always had a joke.”

Upon both graduating from Cleveland Central Catholic in 1993, Frank went on to attend Cuyahoga Community College for one year, then transferred to Cleveland State University (CSU) where he earned a bachelor’s degree in Spanish.

He says his goal was to become a Spanish literature professor. Angela attended Ohio State and Cleveland State, earning a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with an accounting degree from CSU.

Today, Frank is a licensed Customs Broker, working with a well-established global logistics company focused on import compliance in various regions of the Americas, Europe, and Asia. Angela is a CPA and partner at a Big 4 accounting firm, advising clients on mergers and acquisitions.

The couple currently live in San Francisco and have a nine-year-old daughter Shelby and a rambunctious dog.

Together, they still hold true to the value of service, stoked while students at CCC. Shelby attends Children’s Day School of San Francisco (CDS), where they have volunteered as admission tour guides, parent panelists and at various events including County Fair, Faculty & Staff Appreciation, and co-chairing the 2019-2020 Annual Fund campaign. Angela has recently served on the CDS Advancement and Finance Committees and as Treasurer

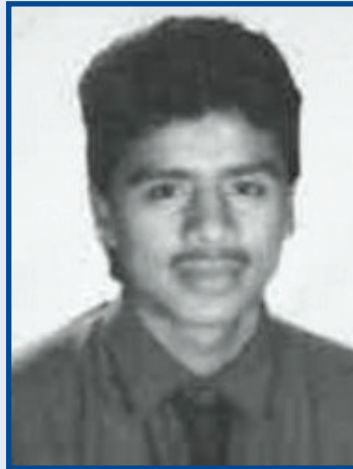
on the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association board for seven years.

“We enjoy camping, cooking meals at home, and spending time with friends. We eventually hope to get back to traveling soon,” Frank says.

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## Both Frank and Angela insist Central Catholic prepared them well for college and their future careers.

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# A Fond Farewell to Leo Hyland and Sister Erin Zubal



As the Cleveland Central Catholic community winds down the 2020-21 academic year, we say goodbye to devoted administrators, Mr. Leo Hyland, President and Sister Erin Zubal, OSU, Assistant Principal.

After 11 years of service and ministry at CCC, Mr. Hyland leaves to take on the role of president at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron.

Sister Erin joined the CCC community during the 2017-18 school year as a guidance counselor and then as the assistant principal the following year. Over the past year Sister Erin has been engaged in a discernment process with her community, the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, about where she is being called next in ministry. After much prayer and consideration, Sister has made the choice to pursue a new ministry for next year and has accepted a position at Boys Hope Girls Hope.

Leo has demonstrated outstanding leadership in his role as president during the past 11 years. While at Cleveland Central Catholic, he successfully completed the Beacon of Hope capital campaign. Leo has worked closely with our advisory board and Diocesan personnel to embark on ways to complete the Diocesan facilities assessment. Projects that have been completed have included a new roof, and new windows throughout the section of the building that was constructed prior to the 2006 addition. Leo has

**“Leo has been instrumental in stabilizing the enrollment and finance situation at CCC. I would like to personally thank Leo for his leadership and commitment to CCC and I wish him well in his next endeavor.”**

**–John Cvetic, President CCC Advisory Board**



**“I’m so lucky Sr. Erin joined me and our CCC Marketing Committee. She brought fresh comments, ideas, inspiration, and more. She has such commitment in everything she does.”**

**-Ellen Zerucha,  
Vice Chair of CCC Advisory Board**



spearheaded two strategic plans and has worked closely with the board and outside firms to complete a campus master plan and a study of traffic patterns around both St. Stanislaus and CCC to facilitate future planning. According to John Cvetic, President of CCC’s Advisory Board, “On behalf of the board of advisors we would like to thank Leo for his 11 years as President of CCC. He has successfully implemented the school’s first strategic plan and completed the Beacon of Hope capital campaign which raised \$5.8 million. Leo has been instrumental in stabilizing the enrollment and finance situation at CCC. I would like to personally thank Leo for his leadership and commitment to CCC and I wish him well in his next endeavor.

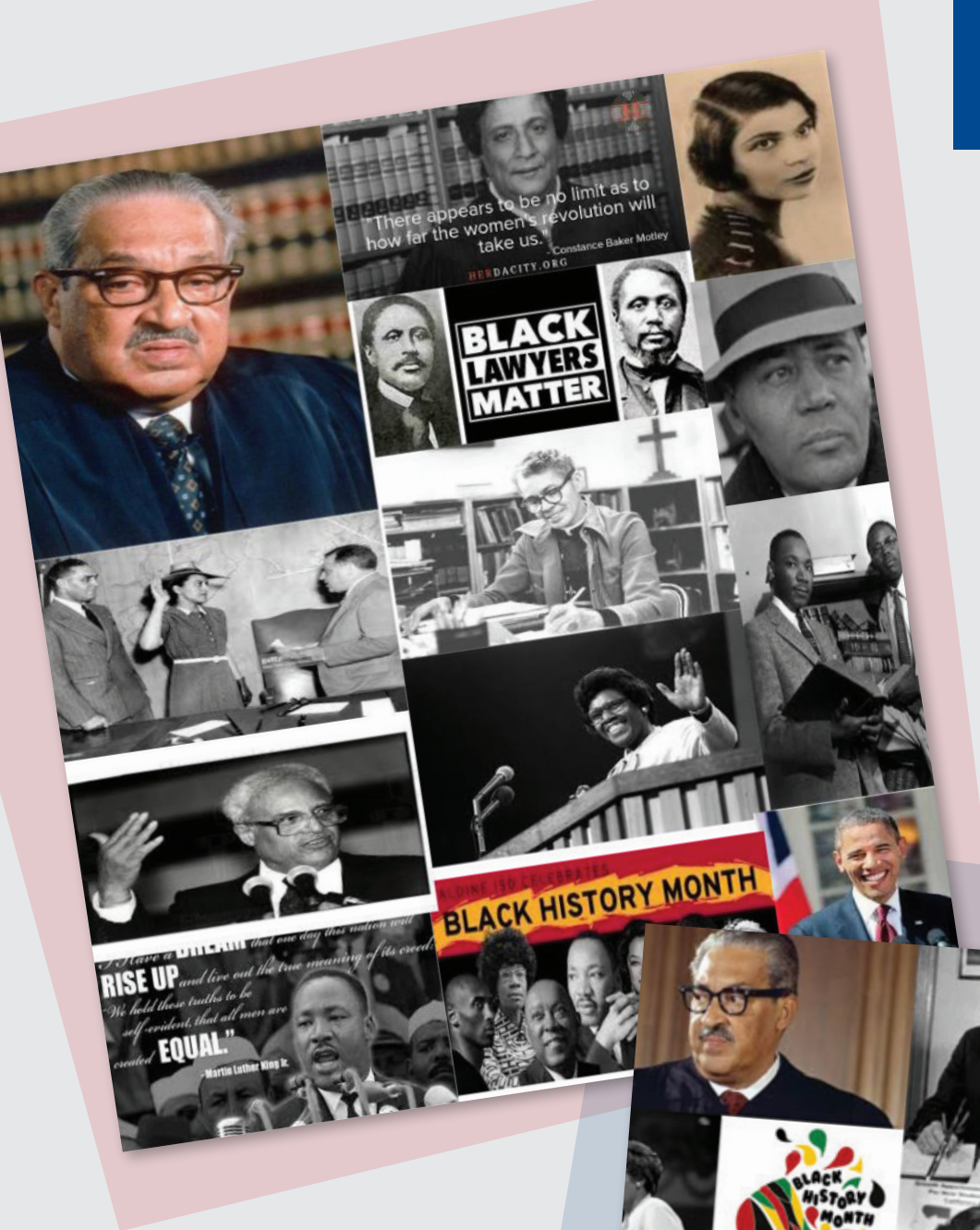
Sr. Erin has been consistently focused on the school’s mission of preparing our students to live a life of service and to face the future with confidence and hope. Through Sister’s leadership, there has been regular and ongoing communication with families, staff and students to ensure improved academic outcomes. Sr. Erin has also effectively collaborated with the Guidance team to provide wrap-around services to empower our students to succeed. In addition, Sr. Erin has worked closely with Diocesan

Nutrition Services and the Cleveland Food Bank to provide breakfast and lunch items to our families during the pandemic. Her work in admissions and marketing has also helped us to create a stronger, more consistent brand for the school.

According to Ellen Zerucha, vice chair of the Advisory Board, “My immediate thought when I first met Sr. Erin was ‘I’ve never seen a young sister’ and ‘what led her to this ministry?’. I remember wanting to get to know her and pick her brain!” Ellen continued “I love hearing Sr. Erin talk about the length she goes to support our students and families. She makes me want to work alongside her! I’m so lucky Sr. Erin joined me and our CCC Marketing Committee. She brought fresh comments, ideas, inspiration, and more. She has such commitment in everything she does.”

The entire CCC community lifts their prayers up to these dedicated leaders.

# CCC Celebrates Black History Month



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**







As the country celebrated Black History Month in February, students in classes taught by Mr. Anthony Bien '99, commemorated the month by creating collages honoring famous African Americans. Students created collages based on which of Mr. Bien's classes they were in. Students in his law classes used images of African American attorneys while economics students focused on entrepreneurs. According to Mr. Bien the students really enjoyed doing the collages. The project enabled them to learn about individuals that would not typically be included in a Black History Month assignment because the collages were based on the particular class, such as entrepreneurship as a factor of production in economics. In law class, it was based on African American pioneers in the legal system in the United States. According to Bien, "This assignment allowed students to delve deeper into the Black History Month and ultimately lead them to a greater understanding of the immense contributions of African Americans to our society throughout history" he concluded.



## CCC Advisory Board Spotlight: Father Eric Orzech

For Father Eric, life had come full circle. The native Clevelander's family roots trace back to Slavic Village and its adjacent suburb of Garfield Heights, where at the parish of Ss. Peter & Paul, young Eric's vocation was nurtured. His appointment as pastor of St. Stanislaus became effective on July 1, 2012 and at St. Casimir one week later on July 9, 2012.

Father Eric graduated from Benedictine High School in 1985 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Social Science and Theology from St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Michigan in 1988. He continued his rigorous theological studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Cleveland, and on May 29, 1993, Father Eric was ordained by Bishop Anthony Pilla.

Father Eric served as parochial vicar at St. Gabriel, St. Columbkille, St. Theresa, and St. Bernadette. From there, he served as parochial vicar at St. Peter in Lorain, Ohio and as administrator of St. John Cantius Church in Tremont (for three months while the Pastor recovered from an illness) prior to his celebrated arrival to the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus in Slavic Village.

The historic Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus, established in 1873 and located at the intersection of Forman Ave. and East 65th Street, shares the city block with St. Stanislaus Elementary School and Cleveland Central Catholic. St. Stanislaus is one of the major historic centers of Polish life in Cleveland, especially for Poles with roots in Warsaw and surrounding areas. The church itself and the Warszawa

neighborhood are listed together as a Cleveland Designated Landmark. To provide for the large and steadily increasing number of Polish immigrants to northeastern Cleveland, St. Casimir Church was established in 1891 as the city's second Polish parish.

Today, in addition to his pastoral role at St. Stanislaus and St. Casimir, Father Eric graciously serves on the Cleveland Central Catholic Advisory Board. He will be entering his third term on the board, gladly representing the other two entities on this city block. "It is the perfect alignment of cooperation between all the entities on campus: The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus, St. Stanislaus Elementary School, and Cleveland Central Catholic," reflects Father Eric with a smile. "While the high school is operated by the Diocese of Cleveland and elementary school by the parish, we are all in this together for the greater good."

When asked how he "got the job" as Pastor of both Catholic Churches, Father Eric laughingly admits, "I speak Polish. My family home was in Garfield Heights, but my grandmother and many of my aunts, uncles and cousins lived in Slavic Village. I quasi grew up here. I never get lost going down the side streets! It's like home."

Father Eric acknowledges the neighborhood is more diverse today. "It is familiar yet at the same time different for me. The students are more diverse and less than half are Catholic. Yet, they gladly participate in religious activities like Mass and Stations of the Cross," he noted. "This is the only place in the city of Cleveland where you can drop off your child for kindergarten and pick them up for college. I think this is a wonderful advantage to parents in the neighborhood – and beyond. Many who attended these schools have sent their children here, and now their grandchildren.

**"My role in this third term . . . will be one of reaching out to the community for the greater good."**

"Cleveland Central Catholic is the only Catholic school in Cleveland geared to 'regular student' or 'ordinary Joes' from the city's neighborhoods as opposed to being college-prep or specialty-focused," he describes proudly. Approximately 20 percent of the student body is currently comprised of students with special learning needs.

Father Eric is excited to be a member on the Cleveland Central Catholic Advisory Board. "The CCC Advisory Board is very active and on-the-ball," Father Eric describes enthusiastically. "It has grown since I first became a member and is well-rounded with members having diverse skills and interests. CCC Advisory Board committees have new impetus to complete the tasks assigned as we look to further advance the campus master plan."

**"This is the only place in the city of Cleveland where you can drop off your child in kindergarten and pick them up for college."**

He continues, "The challenges are to see that our people are taken care of and to realize we are an anchor in this neighborhood. While acknowledging not everyone in this neighborhood is a parishioner of St. Stanislaus or will necessarily attend one of our schools, what our campus and its entities offer is something that can benefit everyone. My role in this third term on the CCC Advisory Board will be one of reaching out to the community for the greater good."

One recent campus advancement was renovations made to the St. Stanislaus Social Center which have included new lighting, remodeled restrooms and locker rooms, a new sound system, and new bleachers to bring the facility up to code. "These improvements provide a safer environment for our students, and we were able to pay for them from existing funds from the high school's successful fundraising efforts," Father Eric states. "While, technically, the parish is in charge of the Social Center, the high school has grown to become its primary user. This is an example of cooperating with each other for the common good."

"I'm optimistic that our campus master plan will be achieved," Father Eric insists. "The Lord has been so good to us. Property acquisitions fell into place – something we had no control over. It's been providential. Perhaps it is a sign the good Lord wants this to happen. I'd like to see the master plan come to fruition for the whole campus, but particularly, the high school. The current school building could then be freed-up for all academics and have its space constraints eased. Completion of the master plan will put this school in a position to complete its mission long into the foreseeable future."



# Calcutta Auction a Virtual Success!



Cleveland Central Catholic hosted the 18th Annual Calcutta Auction on March 17th. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the event was held virtually. More than \$120,000 was raised towards tuition assistance.



## Thank you to our sponsors:

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## Cleveland Central Catholic High School

# Class of 1970 50th Reunion Celebration

**When:** September 18-19, 2021

**Where:** Saturday, September 18  
Reunion Dinner  
Brennan's Party Center,  
13000 Triskett Rd.

Sunday, September 19  
Class Mass/Brunch/School Tour  
St. Stanislaus/Ironman Center

**Cost:** \$70/person (\$70 for the Class of '70)  
in advance; no payments at the door



Invitations with additional information, event times and rsvp deadline will be mailed soon; watch your mailbox!

Overnight Accommodations: Wyndham Cleveland Airport, 4277 West 150th St. The room rate is \$79/night, plus applicable state and local taxes. Free parking. To reserve a room, call Wyndham Reservations at (833) 798-4079 or (216) 252-5333 on or before Friday, August 9, 2021 and identify yourself as part of the 50th Cleveland Central Catholic High School Reunion group.



We are asking classmates who are aware of the passing of a member of our class to please contact Sharon Coyne Kives at [skives301@gmail.com](mailto:skives301@gmail.com) or text to (440) 477-9507. We will be remembering our late classmates in a special way and want to make every effort to not overlook anyone.

For any questions please contact Sharon Kives at [skives301@gmail.com](mailto:skives301@gmail.com) or text (440) 477-9507,  
Fran Fogliano at [franfogliano2002@yahoo.com](mailto:franfogliano2002@yahoo.com) or text (216) 905-0721, or  
Rose Dziak at [dziak@att.net](mailto:dziak@att.net) or text (216) 401-7696.

# CCC Deans of Student Life: Positive Influences for Students



L-R James Duke and John Crawford

John Crawford '84 and James Duke enjoy their positions as Deans of Student Life at CCC, particularly working with students who need positive influences in their lives. "Some students see me as a mentor, father figure, and grandfather who they can come and talk to when they need to get something off their chest. Being there for other than discipline is very satisfying, especially when former students come back to visit to say thanks for being there," Crawford describes.

Crawford is a 1984 graduate of Cleveland Central Catholic. While a student, he was a standout in football and baseball, and a captain of the football team his senior year. He was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in football and baseball in 2017.

"Being a student at Central during the early 80s was definitely a little different from today. I feel we were closer as a student body and more family oriented. As a student athlete at Central, the student body support was tremendous and showed in the stands with large crowds in attendance. I feel today's students have more distractions in their personal lives that take a lot of their free-time interest away from extracurricular activities," Crawford considers. "Coming back to Cleveland Central Catholic was an opportunity to be closer to home after working in Warren City Schools. It feels better than I could have imagined, being back in the same building I attended and graduated from. Thankfully, the administration made the decision to bring me into the family."

Duke graduated from St. Peter Chanel High School in Bedford and just finished his second year in the role of Dean at CCC. He was encouraged to apply for the role of Dean by his brother Jordan Duke, former head varsity basketball coach. He recalls "I followed by brother's coaching career at CCC and always knew what a special place it was through his experience, so when the opportunity presented itself, I didn't hesitate to learn more."

The Deans of Student Life are responsible for all aspects of administration which may be assigned. They help maintain smooth operations at Central Catholic and assume the principal's and vice principal's duties during their absence from the building. This position is responsible for the school's disciplinary actions, the development of alternative policies in lieu of suspension, and promote positive behaviors through other methods. They also help facilitate the school's safety policies and climate.

“In my role as Dean of Student Life, I am responsible for the overall school culture along with the day-to-day operations of the student body,” Duke says. “What I like best about Central Catholic is the high school’s diversity -- our staff diversity along with our student body diversity. I think our location brings a great dynamic to our school, and it is really refreshing to enjoy different cultures on a daily basis. This is hard to find in today’s educational systems.”

Crawford says many CCC students are coming into a private school from a public school, and the change can be difficult. “Since I’ve walked in their shoes, I can help in their transition,” he states.

“Our students are great to work with and, believe it or not, are deep down inside begging to be redirected and surrounded by structure,” Duke adds. “I have learned that approach is everything – not only with our students at CCC – but with kids in general in today’s world. You must capture their attention. You must play their game. My job is getting everyone rowing the boat in the same direction. Some are willing to accept the workload of rowing, and some need extra motivation.”

Crawford admits the most difficult part of his job is not getting to know all the students. “Because I am engaged with students who need alternative methods to get through the school day, I miss out on communicating with several students who do not need alternative methods.”

Duke believes the position of Dean is perfectly suited for him because of the experiences in other professional settings. “Outside of working in schools for the past 10 years, I worked as a men’s college basketball referee and high school football coach. I believe these experiences have truly built my skill set in handling conflict of all types. Parents, coaches, student athletes, fans, athletic directors -- the skill of being firm but not unfeeling is key in the execution of all those jobs, especially as Dean,” James insists. “PEP (Positive Education Program) where I also worked was truly focused on the positives of every situation. I learned that words matter. Body language matters. These things go into the de-escalation of any conflict. At PEP, I was truly put to the test in handling student behavior and learned that although I could be really firm in handling all situations, that was not always the best way of handling it.”

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**“John and I do a good job of reading each other and knowing which situation fits which person during the day. ... This is truly a tag-team approach to where we both split a heavy workload.”**

– James Duke

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“John and I do a good job of reading each other and knowing which situation fits which person during whatever part of the day,” Duke states. “Our job is difficult and understanding how to split up the workload with so many moving parts is key. This is truly a tag-team approach to where we both split a heavy workload.”

Crawford is also Assistant Athletic Director at CCC. “As the Assistant Athletic Director, I provide administrative support for planning, direction, implementation, supervision, and policies related to sports,” he explains. “I also help promote co-curricular athletic activity that fosters skill development, sportsmanship, understanding of sports, and appreciation of being a team member here at CCC, especially as a former Central Catholic student athlete and Central Catholic Athletic Hall of Famer.”

Duke shares his goal for upcoming 2021-2022 school year: “My goal is to give our students the NORMAL high school experience they deserve. It has been so difficult this past year, and my heart breaks for students where their high school experience has been disrupted over the pandemic. Beyond my professional goal, I have always tried to help youth achieve their goals and be a positive influence in their lives. I know that without positive adult figures in my life at their age, I would not be where I am today.”

Crawford concurs, “What I’m hoping for is a school building full of students who missed being here with an appreciation for being back. My personal goal is to find some way to reach out to those students that the Deans’ Office normally does not interact with. These students need to be rewarded and shown they are truly appreciated.”





## Farewell, Dear Friend.

Cleveland Central Catholic lost a dear friend with the passing of Beverly Jarrett (nee Szymczak '58). Bev passed away peacefully in her home with family by her side on November 1, 2020. The mother of three, grandmother of seven, and great grandmother of seven was a well-loved, treasured employee at CCC for 30 years. Despite ongoing medical issues, Bev remained a faithful friend at the high school. Wherever she was needed, there we would find her.

Carmella Davies, Student Opportunities Advisor/Link Crew Coordinator/Student Ambassador Moderator at CCC, says, "Bev was the pillar of Cleveland Central Catholic High School. She worked here as a librarian, study hall moderator, and, most recently, bookstore manager, tardy pass enforcer, basketball game ticket taker, Calcutta volunteer and Central's resident firecracker!"

"Her branch of the Central Catholic family tree did not begin with employment. It began when she attended Saint John Cansius High School. A school that would merge with three others to open its doors in 1969 as our beloved Cleveland Central Catholic – a school she would continue

to embrace as her own," Carmella states. "Her branch continued to grow when her three children, 'my' Debbie, 'my' Roger, and 'my' Joey attended CCC. Some of her grandchildren decided to attend CCC as well. It is a true Central Catholic legacy."

Carmella says you could see her personality a mile away and hear her laugh from down the hall. Bev wore her red, white, and blue with pride. "Her smile was contagious, and you always knew her love for CCC and the students who walked the halls. Bev was feisty, but she was also one of the first to offer a hungry student a granola bar, an ear to listen while they waited for their ride, or a hug when they needed it most. Bev truly made you feel like family – both as a student and as a co-worker. Her quick wit and comical replies to life events made it easy to open up to Bev. She taught me and many people to stand up for themselves and believe in themselves."

Bev will forever be in the hearts of those who met her, and her spirit and light will continue to live on in the halls of CCC.



## Mr. Rock Receives Top Education Award



Cleveland Central Catholic English teacher and chairman of the English department Mr. Joe Rock was awarded the Top Educator Award in the America Library of Poetry National Student Poetry Contest last year. Several of Mr. Rock's students were also recognized for their poetry.

## Mrs. Croll '77 Retires

After 35 years of teaching, the last 11 of those at her alma mater Cleveland Central Catholic, Mrs. Martha Croll '77 retired at the end of the 2020-21 school year. Mrs. Croll not only taught Physics, she also was in charge of the library. As a Physics teacher, she challenged her students each year to see who could design, construct and test the most efficient scaled down model of a bridge. Mrs. Croll earned her Bachelor's Degree in Music from Cleveland State University in 1985. She later earned a Master of Arts in Education at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois. She taught in Toledo for eight years and also at high schools in Illinois



Martha Croll (left) with Maryhelen Bednarchik (right).

## Congratulations to Sophomore Annel Hodges!



Annel Hodges (left) with her Mom (right).



Annel has been named a finalist in the 2021 Stop the Hate Contest sponsored by the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage. The Stop the Hate contest is comprised of two components: Youth Speak Out Essay Writing and Youth Speak Out Songwriting. Annel is being recognized for her powerful essay.



**Jantel Lavender '07** – signed a multi-year deal with the WNBA's Indiana Fever in February. Lavender was acquired by the Fever via trade from the Chicago Sky last season. The 6'4" forward underwent surgery on the fifth metatarsal in her left foot before the 2020 season and didn't play last year. Her jersey was retired by Cleveland Central Catholic in December 2019.

**Amea Lillard '19** – Private Amea Lillard was featured as a hometown hero in a story on 19 News for her efforts as a member of the Ohio National Guard. Private Lillard was in town for eight weeks along with 400 National Guardsman working at the mass COVID-19 vaccination site at the Wolstein Center. According to Private Lillard “Doing this I think about how proud I am of myself, and how proud I am making my parents”. She went on to say that “...she is happy she accepted the call to serve not only her country, but her neighbors.”



**Vanessa Bell Calloway '75** – has a role in the upcoming film “Coming 2 America”. You may remember Calloway from her recurring roles in Showtime’s “Shameless” and TNT’s “Rizzoli and Isles,” or her big-screen roles in “Coming to America”, “Cheaper by the Dozen” and “Crimson Tide.”

**Chantel Barnett '20**, a freshman at Florida Memorial University, has been named the Sun Conference Freshman of the Year as a member of the women’s basketball team. Barnett was also a 2021 All-Sun Conference Second Team selection, the only freshman among the conference’s 20 All-Conference selections. She earned this award by leading the Sun Conference freshman in points per game (12.5) while shooting 39.5 percent from the field. She also scored in double-figured 13 times this past season, including a career-high 24 points against Ave Maria University.

**Tomomie Myers** has been named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2020 semester at Baldwin Wallace University.

**Miryne Thomas '17** – was recently featured in a story in the Ball State Daily News highlighting his return to Cleveland to play in the Mid-American Conference Tournament as a member of the Ball State Men’s Basketball team at the Wolstein Center. When Thomas was a senior at CCC, he was named the 2017 Youth of the Year by the Boys and Girls Club of Cleveland.

**Mallory Wilks '16** – currently a student at the Cleveland Institute of Art, head bowling coach at CCC, and a member of Empowering Youth, Exploring Justice organization, participated in a Youth Forum: The Lasting Effects of Internet Inequality, sponsored by the City Club of Cleveland.



# In Memoriam



**Gerald F. Chase** age 75; beloved husband of Barbara (nee Bugajski) for 53 years; loving father of Jennifer Hipfl, Rebecca LeBrun, Kerri Breidinger (Mike), Daniel (Christine) and Kristin; dearest grandfather of 16; brother of Mary Ellen Dzigiel (Ken); beloved uncle, coach and dear friend. Jerry was a longtime CCC baseball coach and was inducted into the CCC Hall of Fame in 2010. He was inducted

into the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2017.

**Beverly Ann Jarrett '58 (nee Szymczak)** - Passed away on November 1 at the age of 80. Loving mother of Deborah (Guy) Eash, Roger and Joseph; dear grandmother of Jason (Michele) Peters, Rachel, Judah and Jacob Jarrett, Sarah Eash and Ben and Amanda Jarrett; dearest great-grandmother of seven; loving sister of Gerry (Bill) Craider and Leonard (Dorothy) Szymczak; cherished aunt to many. Beverly was employed at Cleveland Central Catholic High School for 30 plus years.

**Nancy Nunes '81** passed away on October 26, 2020 at the age of 57. Much beloved daughter of Angelo & Dorothy (deceased), stepfather Andrew (deceased). Devoted and second mother to Matt Gerlach & Ang Gerlach (Kyle), sister of Mike (Karen), Kathy (Richard) Demming, Gary (Karen), and twin Margaret (Henry) Gerlach. Treasured and great aunt to many.

**Andrew Patrick Creter '97**, passed away on September 13, 2020 in Durham, North Carolina at the age of 41.

**Kris D. Everett '80** passed way on November 2, 2020 at the age of 58.

**William Luther '71** passed away on October 21, 2020 at the age of 67 after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Dianne (nee Gabrenya), sisters Colette Bender, Marie Glaslow, Helen Tonsing, Jean Peters and the following deceased: Marian Smith and Carl (Bud) Luther. He was the founding member of The McNeeley Library Foundation at the West Side Irish-American Club.

**Osceana M. Pierce '15**, passed away on February 8, 2021 at the age of 25.



**Christopher Alan McClure** passed away on February 12, 2021 at the age of 53. Beloved husband of Melissa, father of Clay (fiancé Kristi Kolek), Ashley Parks (Chris), grandfather of Kinsley and Carter. Best friend of his dog Max. Chris was a loyal and dedicated employee of Cleveland Central Catholic.

**Tim Myslenski** passed away at the age of 75 on April 23, 2021. Beloved son of the late Richard J. Myslenski Sr. and Gertrude. Dear brother of Richard Jr (Maya). Doug (Nancy), Dennis and Denyse Sturgeon (Bill). Tim graduated from Cathedral Latin in 1964, John Carroll University in 1970 and taught and coached at Cleveland Central Catholic from 1970 until 1980.

**John S. Thomas '72** passed away on April 23, 2021 following a brief illness. He is survived by his children Joel (Elisa), Brad (Heather), stepchildren Earl (Clairika) Tanner, Michele Petzold and Theresa (Steve) Shinsky; his eight grandchildren, sisters Bev (deceased), Lee and Terry; brothers Rick (Marykay) Thomas and Mike (Barb) Thomas. He was preceded in death by his wife Helen.

## CCC Alumni Update



### We would like to hear from you!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MAIDEN

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NEWS: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in working with your alumni association as a class representative?  YES  NO

Email: hgallagher@ccc-hs.org; or mail to: Cleveland Central Catholic High School, 6550 Baxter Ave., Cleveland, OH 44105. Attention: Hallie Gallagher



## Boys Varsity Football Schedule 2021

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Fri.	Aug. 20	East Technical	HOME	4:30 p.m.
Fri.	Aug. 27	John Hay	HOME	4:30 p.m.
Fri.	Sept. 3	Benedictine	HOME	4:30 p.m.
Fri.	Sept. 10	Garfield Heights	AWAY	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	Sept. 18	Villa Angela-St. Joseph	AWAY	1:00 p.m.
Fri.	Sept. 24	Archbishop Hoban	AWAY	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	Oct. 2	Gilmour Academy	AWAY	1:00 p.m.
Sat.	Oct. 9	Lutheran East	HOME	1:00 p.m.
Sat.	Oct. 16	Warren John F. Kennedy	HOME	1:00 p.m.
Fri.	Oct. 22	Warrensville Heights	AWAY	7:00 p.m.

*Date/time subject  
to change*

