



West Catholic Perspectives

Published Monthly by West Catholic High School, recognized as one of the Top 50 U.S. Catholic High Schools



Mission Statement

West Catholic High School provides a Catholic culture for instruction and faith formation that challenges students to know and love God, seek knowledge and truth, respect the dignity of each person, and contribute to society through leadership and service.

West Catholic High School
1801 Bristol N.W.
Grand Rapids, Michigan
49504

Phone: (616) 233-5900
Fax: (616) 453-4320
Website:
www.grwestcatholic.org

Interim Principal
Jack Young

Dean of Students
Tony Fischer

Athletic Director / Facilities
Manager
Dan Rohn

Director of Guidance
Heidi Smitley

From the Principal's Desk

Parents, Alumni, and Friends of West Catholic:

I want to extend a warm welcome back to all of our students and families as we prepare for the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year. I hope this letter finds you happy, healthy, and well-rested.

There have been some changes among the faculty over the summer. Ms. Shawn Abele has moved to Arizona where she will continue her teaching career. We wish her all the best in her new home. Mr. Steve Brennan has accepted a teaching position within the Grand Rapids Public Schools. We wish Steve continued success in his new position.

Some important calendar items include our Senior Class G.I.F.T. (Growing In Faith Together) Days on Tuesday, August 9 and Wednesday, August 10. The Seniors will participate in many retreat activities organized by the faculty and facilitated by both faculty and parents. The mass at the conclusion of the retreat will take place on the beach at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

An informational meeting spe-

cifically for parents of freshmen and any other new students to West Catholic is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24 in the gymnasium from 7 to 8 p.m.

Finally, Student Orientation Day takes place on Tuesday, August 30. Each student will receive his or her schedule, locker-assignment, and have pictures taken. Please have your student bring the enclosed picture order form, along with payment to school on this day if you would like to order school pictures. Seniors and any student not ordering pictures will still get one taken for their student ID. Additional order forms are available in the main office. Refer to the Orientation agenda included in this mailing. Our first day of classes will be Wednesday, August 31.

On behalf of the faculty & staff, thank you all for your support of West Catholic High School. We are looking forward to an exciting, successful, and rewarding school year.

Sincerely,
Jack Young
Interim Principal

Welcome Back to School!



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Main Office	233-5900
Attendance Office	233-5911
Guidance Office	233-5909
Athletic Office	233-5912
Maintenance	233-5913

Orientation Information

Student Orientation Day is Tuesday, August 30. All students must be on time and in uniform (including hair cuts) for orientation. Please remember to have your student bring their picture package order form (included in this issue) and payment with them if they will be purchasing school pictures. Bussing/transportation and food service are not available on orientation day.

All students need to bring a pen or pencil with them. Students will receive their teamroom assignments, class schedules, lockers, and handbook/planner. Once they have received their planner, please take some time to go over and review the policies and guidelines listed. The dress code portion of the handbook can also be found in this newsletter.

Parking Passes - Seniors and juniors wishing to purchase a parking pass, should bring \$15 with them to orientation. Only one pass per family will be sold initially. If there are any spots remaining, only sophomores with a valid driver's license will be able to buy a parking pass on a first come, first served basis. If additional spots are needed in a family, those can be purchased after Labor Day.

The senior class meeting will begin promptly at 8a.m. with dismissal at 9:30 a.m.

The junior class meeting will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. with dismissal at 11 a.m.

The sophomore class meeting will begin promptly at 11 a.m. with dismissal at 12:30 p.m.

The freshman class meeting will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m. with dismissal at 3 p.m. Freshmen will do a walk-thru of their schedule prior to their dismissal at 3 p.m.

Senior Gift Days

Gift Days will soon be here as August 9 & 10 are fast approaching! Everyone is welcome to attend the closing mass that is scheduled for August 10 at 2:30 p.m. on the beach of Lake Michigan. Camp Blodgett directions: Head West on Lake Michigan Dr. (M45) to US 31. Continue straight through the light until it dead ends into Lake Shore Dr. Head South for 1 1/2 miles and the Camp is on the right.

Students need to enter the school through the main office entrance on Tuesday, August 9 by 8:30 a.m. They will return at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 10. Parking will only be allowed behind the school in the convent parking lot. If possible, please drop off your students.

Thank you from the Engineering Class

The Engineering Class would like to extend a "Thank You" to Couturier Iron Works, Inc. for their donation of a plotter. This device will allow the class to print out large scale CAD drawings. The Art Department will also be able to take advantage of this machine to print out large banners. Thanks Couturier Iron Works!

All A's Walk

Please mark your calendars for The All A's Walk that is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5. This will also be a half day of school. More information will be available soon.

~GUIDANCE OFFICE NEWS~

Student schedules for returning upperclassmen will be posted to the Infinite Campus Portal by the fourth week of August. Individual schedules will not be mailed through the postal service unless specifically requested with exception to: **Freshmen and new students** will receive a hard copy by mail. NOTE: *WCHS is not able to accommodate requests for schedule changes-* Students must email his/her counselor if a required course (such as Religion, English, Math, Science, and/or Social Studies) is missing. We thank you in advance for your cooperation during this very busy season.

Official transcripts for college admissions can now be requested through *Docufide's e-Transcript*. West Catholic students can send their official transcript electronically and securely to hundreds of colleges and universities for little or no cost. **Seniors** should begin working on admission applications now and can access Docufide at www.grwestcatholic.org/academics (see Website Links).

Watch grwestcatholic.org for announcements about **parent programs** hosted during first semester. Parent programs offer wonderful opportunities to connect with your student's guidance counselor as well as learn resources and tips for your student's academic success. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend. Topics and guest speakers will cover college planning, academic strategies, career exploration, and last but not least, financial aid for higher education. As a quick reminder, all parent workshops will be advertised in the **school announcements** online in advance to the date.

Questions? Please call Mrs. Lauri Ford, Guidance Assistant at 233-5909 OR email your student's counselor:

Diane Ysasi (last names A-O) dianeysasi@grcss.org

Deb Braseth (P-Z) debbraseth@grcss.org

Heidi Clark-Smitley, Director of Guidance heidismitley@grcss.org

Suggested School Supply List*

- Binders: 1 in for most subjects, ½ in for smaller subjects, 1 ½ in for subjects that have a lot of papers (no pockets necessary)
- Set of five tab dividers: One set for each binder, to be used for notes, homework, handouts, tests/quizzes and blank paper
- Reinforcements: For binder paper or reinforced binder paper
- Three-hole punch: Desk-size for home and a portable one for student backpack. To be used for handouts, tests/quizzes, review sheets
- Pencil pouch: Made from canvas (plastic pouches break/crack under pressure)
- Calculator: Check with your math instructor on first day of classes. (Most likely scientific or graphing.)
- Stapler, tape, scissors: For study space at home
- Markers or colored pencils, highlighters, pencils (#2 lead), pens
- Big erasers
- Manila folders: for post-semester storage (Consider a file box for storage of folders.)

***Please note: These are only suggestions. Teachers may have different or additional requirements specific to their class. All students will receive a planner the first day of school.**

Senior picture deadline & yearbook photo information!

In order for your senior to appear in the West Catholic yearbook, they must be photographed by The House of Photography, 523 Wilson NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534, 791-0531. We require this for several reasons:

- For a consistent high quality look and continuity in your yearbook's senior section
- Because the studio in return donates their time and services to photograph your students sporting events, courts, and other school event coverage for your yearbook. Please show them your appreciation.
- To gain our students the best senior pictures at a reduced rate. All WC seniors get a 20% discount off all normal House of Photography prints and senior packages.

You can contact the studio directly at 791-0531 or www.houseofphotography.com

If you are on a budget or have basic needs, we have worked out some great deals with the studio.

Below are *NEW SUPER SAVER* deals!

Yearbook PLUS DELUXE: \$99.95 this session will take about 10 minutes. You'll have eight head and shoulder yearbook poses created. You will view your poses in the studio on their photo display monitor. You pick your favorite for the yearbook and your prints. This special includes yearbook photo and 1-8x10 and 21 wallet prints. You can add additional items if desired.

Yearbook PLUS: \$69.95 this session will take about 5 minutes. You will have six head and shoulder yearbook poses taken. You will view your poses in the studio right after your session on the studio's preview monitor. You can select your favorite pose. This package includes yearbook photo and 2-5x7 prints with 7 wallet prints.

Yearbook ONLY: \$20 you'll have 3-4 shots created. The studio will pick the best one. Sorry, you won't be able to see it or order any pictures from this session. It will be a high quality portrait comparable to all of the other studio work. It will be provided for you to the yearbook. No options or choices allow the studio to keep time invested to a minimum in order to price this option as low as possible. The studio does these at cost as a favor to you and your school.

West Catholic Yearbook Picture Rules:

- **Deadline is November 2 to have your picture taken in order to appear in our yearbook**
- House of Photography will take the yearbook style shots in compliance with your school rules. If you have the studio do all of your senior pictures, they will take the yearbook shots at the start of your normal session. You can select the one you want for your yearbook.
- Your appearance must be in accordance with school rules. The studio is not responsible for your appearance. Girls must be in long sleeved tops that aren't low cut. Solids are better than stripes or patterns. Guys must wear a sweater and tie or sport coat and tie.

These rules pertain only to the first 6-8 shots of your normal studio senior session and to the three yearbook sessions listed above. Afterwards, you can do anything you like.

See your friends from last year on their website and facebook! www.houseofphotography.com

Upcoming Sunshine Uniform Sale

Sunshine Uniform Company will be returning to West Catholic August 23-26 from 12-6 p.m. and August 27 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. They will have uniforms available for both West Catholic and Catholic Central. If you student still needs some uniform items, plan on stopping by on one of those days.

Dress Code 2011/2012-Reprinted From Student Handbook

Students at West Catholic High School are expected to strive for personal and academic excellence. The dress code's purpose is to enhance the resolute tone of our Catholic education. Our school uniform helps to create an atmosphere that minimizes competition among students from various socio-economic backgrounds and in turn maximizes convenience for our families. In addition, the West Catholic uniform promotes self-respect and gives us an identity we can take pride in.

Requirements for All Students

All uniform items will be purchased from Sunshine Uniform Company. Any item, whether listed or not, that is deemed inappropriate by faculty or staff will not be permitted. The oxford dress shirts (either short or long sleeved, green or white) will be worn on Mass days. Only plain white t-shirts are to be worn under the uniform shirts and there will be no layering (long sleeve under short sleeve). All tops will be completely buttoned except for the top button. No alterations will be made to the clothing such as cutting off shirts sleeves or hemming skirts. Only a brown or black traditional leather belt may be worn through the belt loops.

Shoes – While brown or black leather dress type shoes are preferred, tennis or gym shoes are acceptable. **Not permitted:** flip-flops, athletic sandals, moccasins, slippers, any military style boot. Leather “dress” sandals are permitted during warm weather months (August through September 30 and May 1 through the end of the school year). Socks must be worn.

Socks – must be visible; plain black, brown, gray, dark green, navy blue or white. Both socks must be the same color.

Hats – hats, bandanas, sweat-bands, etc. will not be worn during the school day. Sunglasses are not permitted during the school day.

Jewelry, Tattoos and Piercings: only small earrings are permitted. Any other body piercings, including tongue, nose and eyebrow, are not permitted. Any visible tattoos are not permitted. Band-aids worn to conceal piercings and/or tattoos are not permitted.

Hair – must be of a naturally occurring color. Dyed hair of any unnatural color is not permitted. Any eccentric hair-styles or designs are not permitted. Hair styles must not hang over the student's eyes.

Boy Specific Guidelines

Boys will be clean shaven and hair is to be neatly groomed. Not permitted: beards, mustaches, or any facial hair whatsoever. Hair is to be cut above the eyebrows, ears, and shirt collar. The height of one's hair will not exceed two inches on the top of their head and sideburns will not extend below the ear. Shirts will be tucked in at all times.

Girl Specific Guidelines

The girls oxford shirt is designed to be untucked and the polo shirt may be untucked as well. However, all undergarments and plain white t-shirts worn under the uniform tops will be tucked in and not hanging out the bottom of the uniform tops. Socks – may wear solid color tights in black, brown, gray, dark green, navy blue, or white or flesh colored panty hose.

Spring-Summer Guidelines

Shorts purchased from Sunshine Uniform Company may be worn from the beginning of the school year in August until September 30th, and from May 1st until the end of the school year.

Dress-down days/Spirit days:

On specific, designated days during the school year, students are permitted to “dress-down” by wearing jeans to school with t-shirts and/or sweatshirts.

1. **“Jeans” days:** jeans that are ripped, torn, frayed, written-on, excessively baggy, etc., are not permitted. T-shirts and sweatshirts worn on jeans days will not be offensive, have no offensive messages, have no references or innuendos to inappropriate things, such as alcohol. If the jeans day falls during the warm weather date guidelines, students may wear non-uniform shorts as long as they are below the student's fingertips while standing straight up. No tank tops or cut offs will be allowed. Girls tops will be modest and not expose cleavage.
2. **“W.C. Spirit” days:** on Spirit days, students must wear their uniform bottoms, but are invited to wear West Catholic apparel on top, such as their team jerseys, t-shirts, and sweatshirts.

Violations of the Dress Code

Students who choose to be in violation of our uniform-dress code will receive multiple detentions, in addition to being sent home to change into the correct West Catholic High School uniform. Repeated violations of our dress code will result in suspension.

Athletic Department News

ALL ATHLETES MUST HAVE A PHYSICAL ON FILE IN THE ATHLETIC OFFICE BEFORE YOU WILL BE ALLOWED TO PRACTICE/TRY-OUT. Physicals for the 2011-12 school year must be dated after April 15, 2011 in order to be valid for the coming school year.

Parents – Mark your calendar for an important **PARENT MEETING** on Monday, August 8, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the West Catholic gym. This meeting is for parents of ALL athletes planning to participate in the sports program at West Catholic for the school year 2011-12. Important information pertaining to the entire school year will be given, as well as information from our Boosters, Athletic Trainers, and an opportunity to meet the coaches.

WESTSIDE FALCONS– 2011 Football Season

We are pleased to offer to you again this year, the Westside Youth Football League, belonging to the Northern Rocket Football League, as the team name WESTSIDE FALCONS. The NRFL is now associated with USA Football, the only youth program recognized by the NFL. Flag football is available for players age 5 – 7, and Rocket football is available for 8 and 9 year olds as of 11/1/11.

Check out our website at www.westsideyouthfootball.com. For further information contact Justin at justin@grcomputersolutions.com or Mike at mdorato@rockinterface.com.

FACILITY CLEAN-UP

Saturday, August 13 from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. is the date slated for FACILITY CLEAN-UP. All parents, athletes, coaches, family and friends, from Fall, Winter, and Spring sports are encouraged to help spruce up the grounds and facilities in preparation for the upcoming seasons. Bring rakes, weed whips, gardening tools, buckets, and rags. Many hands make light work for everyone!

FALL PRACTICE – COACHES INFORMATION

Monday, August 8 is the first day of practice for all levels of Football. All other Fall sports practices begin on Wednesday, Aug. 10. Listed below is contact information for Fall Varsity coaches. They will be able to assist you in contacting lower level coaches and in answering sport specific questions.

CHEER

Audra Birt – audra_birt@live.com or 893-6524

CROSS COUNTRY

Audrey Cook, (Girls) – audreyanncook@gmail.com or 443-2447

Zach Ripley, (Boys) – z.ripley@gmail.com or 745-8309 (text)

FOOTBALL

Dan Rohn – danrohn@gress.org or 780-4163

GOLF, Girls

Andy Weatherhead – eawcaw@hotmail.com or 292-7514

SOCCER, Boys

Rich Young – richardyoung31@hotmail.com or 248-915-0770

SWIM, Girls

Steve Burciaga – scburciaga@comcast.net or 443-8140

TENNIS, Boys

Cullen Malloy – cullenmalloy@hotmail.com or 915-8031

VOLLEYBALL

Katie Webber – katiwebber23@gmail.com or 970-6015

VISIT THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT WEBSITE FOR UPDATED INFORMATION AT www.westcatholicsports.com or contact us at 233-5912.



Parents' Club News

Welcome to all new West Catholic families. As we wind down on our summer activities, we look forward to the start of the new school year for 2011-2012. Joining the Parents' Club is a great opportunity to meet other families and get involved. Please consider giving your time and talent to this committee by joining us at our quarterly meetings or simply helping with any of the areas that are listed on the Volunteer Form. Please welcome back the following members:

Kris Smith – Chairperson
 Joni Norder – Communications
 Robin Boorsma & Laurie Sipka – Co-chairs of Hospitality
 Tamara Mason – Grounds Care

Membership It's simple to join the Parents' Club. Complete the enclosed form and send back to school. The \$10 that you are asked to pay in dues helps to fund our activities. We do not hold fundraisers.

Fall Event The Parents' Club is very excited to announce that we are helping sponsor a motivational speaker that will be coming to West Catholic this fall to speak to our students. In addition, the speaker will also be talking at an open forum in the evening for parents. The idea is to involve the parents in what the students are learning to help make conversation in the home easier. There will be more information on day and time of this event in the September Perspectives. We hope you look forward to this event.

Hope you are having a wonderful summer.

Student Directory Will Be Available

Each year the West Catholic Band offers the school community a student directory. This directory includes the student's name, grade, address, phone number, and names of their parents/guardians. It also includes all the necessary office and teacher phone numbers. Providing this directory, serves not only as a fundraiser for the band program, but also is an essential service to build a close community. Parents and students alike find the directory useful, especially for quick reference for phone numbers and addresses. **You may choose to not have your address and phone number in the directory.** The Student Directory is published as soon as possible after the start of the school year. We will put a notice in the announcements as soon as it is available. If your student has more than one mailing address, both addresses will be listed in the directory.

If you would prefer to NOT have your address and phone number included in the Student Directory, please contact the main office at 233-5900 no later than Friday, August 26.

Save the Date for *Our Town*

Our Town performances will be October 27, 29, November 3, 5 at 7:30 p.m.; October 30 and November 6 at 3pm at the Aquinas College Performing Arts Center. Tickets go on sale October 17. More details to come in the October newsletter.



August 2011

S M T W T F S

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Parent Sports Meeting 6 p. m.	9 Gift Days	10 Gift Days			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Sunshine Uniform Sale 12-6 p.m. Auxiliary Gym	24 Sunshine Uniform Sale 12-6 p.m. Auxiliary Gym	25 Sunshine Uniform Sale 12-6 p.m. Auxiliary Gym	26 Sunshine Uniform Sale 12-6 p.m. Auxiliary Gym	27 Sunshine Uniform Sale 12-6 p.m. Auxiliary Gym
28	29	30 Student Orientation	31 First Full day of Classes	September 1	2 No School— Labor Day Weekend	3
4	5 No School—Labor Day	6	7 Open House	8	9	10