



LAKER NEWS & NOTES

Nourishing the human spirit - mind, body and soul - through Jesus Christ



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Weekly Mass Schedules:

Elementary:
9:30am, Wednesdays
Middle-High School:
9:45am, Wednesdays

The mass schedule will vary from time to time due to the academic calendar of the schools. Please feel free to call either school to confirm times.

Msgr. Tom Martin and Fr. Bill Jacobs on the Value of Catholic Education



As the parish families of St. Joseph and SS. John and Bernard join in celebrating Catholic Schools Week, we are grateful to God for the many blessings that come to us with our shared parish school of Lake Michigan Catholic. Our parochial school is an essential component in the Ministry of both parishes. We are certainly proud of the various achievements of our students at LMC in academics, sports, arts and music.

A Catholic school ought to provide more than simply a good educational experience; it must strive to provide for the formation of its students in the beliefs, practices, morals, and values proclaimed in Sacred Scripture and the Sacred Tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. There can be little doubt that much of contemporary society embraces values and practices that demean the value of human life and reject the idea of moral truths.

Our pledge is to continue working and praying to help our parish school. Lake Michigan Catholic is not a private school for the few but a Catholic School capable of passing on to our students the values, beliefs and truths of our Catholic Faith.

From Executive Director John Berlin

This edition of *Laker News and Notes* coincides with the national celebration of Catholic Schools Week. At this time we reflect, celebrate and give thanks to all who make Catholic education possible for our children. This year's Catholic Schools Week theme is:

Catholic Schools: Character. Compassion. Values.

Lake Michigan Catholic Schools embrace this theme; it represents the core values Catholic education strives to instill and support in every student, teacher, and school administrator. These are the key traits that you expect us to teach your children each and every day.

As the Executive Director, I have an opportunity to interact with all of our students in every grade. It is very interesting to see the differences in the kids as they grow and progress through the system. I am convinced now more than ever that the formational work we do is not only important, but critical to the success of our children. We are provided an awesome responsibility to build a foundation based on the core values of Character, Compassion and Values that our children will hold for the rest of their lives. Educators usually do not see the fruits of their labors for several years after graduation, but when we do it makes the hard work and long hours worthwhile.

On behalf of the entire student body, faculty and staff of Lake Michigan Catholic Schools, I thank you for your prayers and support of Catholic education in our community. Please look over the attached flyer outlining the various activities we are celebrating during Catholic Schools Week and join in the fun and excitement.

Thanks to Our Friends:

- Dale and Joyce DeLong of Martin's Paint and Carpet for their donation of paint and supplies for the High School gym and weight room.
- Bruce and Nina Binger for the industrial steel shelving used to reconfigure all the storage rooms at the Elementary.
- Karen Dolohanty for her year-round landscaping efforts and her seasonal "welcome signs" that greet visitors.

We Are Successful and Inclusive ~ An Overview of U.S. Catholic Schools :

- There are 7,799 Catholic schools.
- Total Catholic school enrollment for the 2004-05 school year was 2,420,590.
- Minority student enrollment was 655,949 which represents 27.1% of the total enrollment.
- Non-Catholic enrollment was 328,778 which is 13.6% of the total enrollment.
- Based on the average public school per pupil cost of \$8,019, Catholic schools provide a 19.4 billion dollars a year savings for the nation.
- The student/teacher ratio is 15:1
- 97% of Catholic school graduates go on to college.

Source: www.ncea.org as of 2004-05 school year

Tuition Reduction Incentive Program (TRIP) Debuts

Executive Director John Berlin is pleased to announce the introduction of the Tuition Reduction Incentive Program or TRIP. The TRIP program is designed to enhance enrollment by providing tuition credits to current families who successfully recruit new families into the Lake Michigan Catholic Schools. For each family brought into our system, the recruiting family will receive a one time credit of \$1,000 off their 2006-2007 tuition. Details of the program are available in the Business Office. The Catholic Community Education Commission and the Pastors believe that our parents are in an excellent position to tell our story to prospective families. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact the LMC Business Office.



You'll find a warm environment at Lake Michigan Catholic!

LMC Pilots System-Wide Accreditation

Lake Michigan Catholic Schools is currently accredited through two separate agencies, the Michigan Non-Public School Accrediting Association (MNSAA) at the Elementary school and North Central Accreditation (NCA) at the Middle-High school. Looking closely at our future, the administrative team felt strongly that having a single system-wide accreditation would more closely affirm our mission. As we investigated this possibility through the Diocese of Kalamazoo and the MNSAA, we discovered that no other Catholic school system within MNSAA had been accredited as a whole. With the support of the pastors, the CCEC and the Diocese, LMC Schools will pilot this innovative approach to the accreditation process.

During this process we will examine current practices, procedures and resources. It will take the collaborative efforts of staff, students, parents, pastors, and community members. A self-study, consisting of a series of 11 standards covering everything from curriculum to facilities will be reviewed. After completing the self-study, a group of educators from around the Diocese along with some local public school educators will make visits to both buildings to affirm what we will have already discovered ourselves; that we have many, many reasons to celebrate our strengths and areas that need improving.

The program has already been introduced to our staff by Margaret Erich of the Diocesan Office of Schools. Though most of our staff has experienced the 7-year accreditation cycle, the challenges of a system-wide effort has already had an invigorating effect. It is only through a comprehensive process like this one that continued, focused, fruitful growth can take place—and as Catholic educators, that is exciting.



LMC Ahead of the Curve on Michigan's New Graduation Requirements

The announcement that the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is increasing the number of credits necessary to graduate from public schools compelled administrators and boards of every community school, public, private and parochial, to reassess their current graduation requirements. While many schools have a hard task at hand to align their credit structures and personnel with the MDE's revisions, a comparison of Lake Michigan Catholic's graduation requirements reveals that the new recommendations have not only been met, but have been exceeded with a 28 credit minimum having been the mandated standard for years. It is a common occurrence for our students to surpass the 28 required credits. Additionally, our students are required to pass every class.

Previous MDE requirements:

Government/Civics Class	1 credit
PE/Health	1 credit
Graduation Requirements	set by local district

New MDE recommended requirements:

English	4 credits
Math	4 credits
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
PE or Health	1 credit
Fine Arts	<u>1 credit</u>
	16 credits required
Electives	<u>8 credits</u>
Total	<u>24 credits</u>

Local high schools credit requirements have been:

English	3 credits
Math	2 credits
Science	2 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
PE/Health	1 credit
World Language, Fine Arts, Vocational Technology, Practical Arts	<u>2 credits</u>
	13 credits required
Electives	<u>8.5 credits</u>
Total	<u>21.5 credits</u>

LMCHS credit requirements are:

Theology	4 credits
English	4 credits
Math	4 credits
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Foreign Language	3 credits
PE	1 credit
Fine Arts	2 credits
Electives	<u>4 credits</u>
Total	<u>28 credits required</u>

Laker Splashes:

- **Peter Malburg** received a nomination to the U.S. Air Force Academy from Rep. Fred Upton.
- **Kaylene Stutz** attended Catholic World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany.
- **Jordan Roseboro** has been selected to travel to Europe to play soccer as part of the U.S. Olympic Development Program.
- The **Laker Boys' Soccer Team** earned Academic All-State honors with a GPA of 3.5.
- Laker Football's **Jerry Bagerek** was named Assistant Coach of the Year by the MHSFCA.
- As members of the Varsity Football team, **Paul Kaminski** was named All-State Honorable Mention by the *Detroit Free Press*, and **Elliott Berlin** received Academic All-State special mention from the MHSFCA.
- **Laker Varsity Football team members** compiled a 3.47 GPA to earn an Academic All-State designation.
- **Lucas Copi** qualified for the Cloverleaf Spelling Bee individual competition in an effort to go to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.
- A cast of **37 LMC Elementary students** will present musical *Godspell, Jr.* on March 25th with 5th graders **Andrew Graeber** and **Stephen Hanley** as student directors aided by LMCHS Drama members **Meg Hamel** and **Amy Patnaude**.
- Families of LMC Elementary students in 3rd - 5th grades can now access **grades and homework assignments online** with the adoption of TeacherEase, the same online grade book and communication program used at LMC Middle-High School.



Did You Know...

An AARP Survey finds that over 40% of Americans over age 45 do not have a will.

If you do have a will, it should be reviewed regularly.

A gift through your will or living trust is a convenient way to establish a lasting legacy for Lake Michigan Catholic.

Did You Know...

Making a gift of securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.) that have increased in value can bring extra tax savings.

A charitable gift of appreciated property to Lake Michigan Catholic has a double benefit. These gifts are typically deductible from income tax at fair market value and they enable the donor to bypass capital gains that would be due if the asset were sold.

There are many charitable giving strategies that can assure continued excellence at Lake Michigan Catholic.

To learn more about how to incorporate your passion for Lake Michigan Catholic into your Financial & Estate Planning, contact:

Martin Golob

Twin-City Area

Catholic School Fund

Email: tcacsf@comcast.net

Phone: (269) 861-3108

Inaugural Athletic Halls of Fame Classes Named

Following a nomination process begun last spring that drew many worthy candidates, the Hall of Fame Committee has selected a group of honorees who are exceptional for their roles in the athletic legacy of St. John Catholic, St. Joseph Catholic and Lake Michigan Catholic High Schools as the members of the inaugural class of inductees. Two Halls of Fame were established to reflect the historical identities of the parish schools which contributed so greatly to the formation of Lake Michigan Catholic Schools in 1969.

LAKE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC HALL OF FAME - 2006

Michael Masini - 1978
Terry Rose (Coach) - 1970 to 1988
Maureen Nelligan (Fischer) - 1988
Brittany Hedgepeth - 1999

CATHOLIC HERITAGE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME - 2006

Frederick "Nuke" Richardson - 1939 ~ St. Joseph Catholic
"Doc" C. Bassett Brown - 1941 ~ St. John Catholic
John Neumann - 1950 ~ St. John Catholic
Jim Stouffer - 1959 ~ St. John Catholic
Frank Mulcahey (Coach) - Late '50's & Early '60's ~ St. Joseph Catholic
Lester "Skip" Larsen - 1965 ~ St. Joseph Catholic

A Hall of Fame dinner will be held on Friday, February 10, 2006, at Lake Michigan Catholic High School followed by the induction ceremony prior to the start of the Varsity Boys' Basketball game against Eau Claire.

Lake Michigan Catholic Athletics: A Proud Past and a Bright Future



Taylor Matheny and Jack Marszalec log some extra court time at After-School Care at LMC Elementary's IMH Memorial Gym.

Business Office Briefs

Plans are underway for this year's 20th S.C.E.N.E. Auction, the biggest fund-raiser for LMC Schools, scheduled for April 21st and 22nd at LMCEs. Also at hand is the kick-off of the Burger King Coupon "You Can Lend a Hand" program supporting Catholic schools.

Registration for the 2006-07 school year is nearing. At this time, administrators, pastors and the Finance Committee of the CCEC are in the midst of the budget process for the upcoming year. Through this process tuition rates will be determined based on the financial needs of the entire LMC system. As always, first and foremost in discussion are staff salary and benefits which make up roughly 74% of the operating budget. Additional information will be distributed prior to registration in March.