

June 1, 2020



DEPAUL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome to the Spartan Sentinel, our bi-weekly electronic newsletter for all things DePaul Catholic.

Principal's Corner Mr. Russell Petrocelli

Dear DePaul Catholic Community:

I hope that this finds you and your family well and safe. Before we blink, May will become June and I am so happy to be able to share with you good news related to our Senior Class and other end of the year dates:



On **Sunday, May 31, 2020** we held our Virtual Senior Baccalaureate and Academic Awards Ceremony. This video can be found on our homepage - www.depaulcatholic.org.

Tuesday, June 2, 2020 - 6:00 PM - please visit the school website to access our Graduation Ceremony

Friday, June 12, 2020 - this is the final day of class for all students

Monday, June 15 to Thursday, June 18, 2020 - students will complete all Final Assessments in each class (classroom teachers will provide this information)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020 - 6:00 PM - I am pleased to announce that we will be hosting a ceremony to honor our graduates and award diplomas. This ceremony will be done in person, on the grounds at DePaul Catholic High School. There are many details that need to be worked out so that we are in compliance with the regulations of the State of New Jersey but please hold the date. There will be limits on the number of people who may attend and other restrictions and that information will be released as soon as we have worked out all of the details. We are so pleased to be able to appropriately honor and bring closure to this school year.

The rain date is Thursday, July 9, 2020.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance but as I said from the beginning, we wanted to have all of the facts before we set a date and not have to set a date and have to change it. I look forward to "seeing all of you" at our Awards Ceremony and Graduation Ceremony.

St. Vincent DePaul, Pray for Us!

Moving Forward...

Mr. John Merritt '71

On June 2nd at 6:00pm the Class of 2020 will graduate, virtually. It will be an interesting evening as members of the class and their families gather to watch the graduation video that has been created. The students can watch from the comfort of home not concerned with graduation dress code, their hat falling off, shaving, and what to wear.

I am sure there will be laughs and tears, but mostly joy and relief that high school is finished and now it's on to the next thing.

It is time to move forward.

I am sure all of you remember your graduation from high school, college, graduate school and then trying to get your first job. Things these kids of 2020 all have to look forward to.

I bet some of you got that first job because somebody helped you. They made a call. They pointed you in the right direction. They gave you some good advice.

I am sure that some of you alums still help, still mentor, still give advice, still challenge the "youngins" to be the best they can be. Sometimes that requires helping them choose the correct life path. Maybe it was your own child, maybe a young employee where you worked, maybe a young person that you coached or taught.

I was lousy at taking advice. I probably still am. But once in awhile I listened. When I was in 10th grade, playing on the football team, I was stuck in a spot, a position, where my prospects of playing where not good. I was an average athlete to begin with, not very strong, skinny and trying to play defensive end. It was not working out. I spent most JV games flat on my back after being blocked.

Then one day after practice a coach walked up to me in the locker room. I was bruised, battered and bewildered. There was no time limit on hitting during practice in those days.

The coach's name was Dave Gleason, also a teacher at DePaul and one of the greatest student athletes ever to attend our school. Ever! He was a member of the Gleason family from Pompton Plains, and he was now talking to me!

He sat down on the bench and quietly and honestly told me that as a defensive end my chances of ever playing varsity were slim to none. I did not take it too well. I said, "then I should quit or something". He looked at me and said quietly, "so quitting is the answer"? He was very calm and he just looked at me. I asked, "then what is the answer"?

Coach said, "well, how about a job change, a position change?" I asked, "to what position?"

He told me to become a defensive back and he would work with me. He convinced me not to quit, and I changed positions. I was slow and still skinny, but he saw something in me. After 3 weeks I was running second team safety on the varsity. Now don't get me wrong, teams did not throw the ball much in those day so the pressure was less. The goal: just don't get beat deep and read the tight end for run /pass.

The following Saturday we were playing a varsity game and I got in because of an injury to the first team guy. I made a couple of tackles, but also got beat twice for touchdowns. I figured I was done.

We won the game and back at school I was moping around the locker room feeling sorry for myself and Coach Gleason walked over. He said in strong words, "stop sulking, we won the game. This is not about you, it is about being happy for the team win". That was the best thing he ever said to me. It's about the team and not me.

I was fortunate to stay in touch with Dave and his family over the years and I was heartbroken when he died a few years ago. My wife had grown up with Dave's sister, Jane. They are best friends.

Dave was a great man. He told me the truth, he gave me a chance, and he demanded that I do things the right way. All things.

I am glad I took his advice.

So when any of you alums see a young kid floundering, don't be afraid to offer some quiet advice. You never know how much that may mean to a young person.

The Class of 2020, just like all graduates everywhere, will always be grateful for a little help, a friendly nudge or a quiet compliment.

The kids may act like they know everything, but as graduates they are about to learn they still have a lot to learn.

Thanks to all the alums who take the chance to get involved.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Spartans Helping Spartans

Mrs. Coleen Brophy '79
Director of Special Events & Alumni Relations

Brian Buczek Golf Outing

The current circumstances have forced the cancellation of the 2020 event. We have set a new date for our Golf Outing and Dinner Event to take place next year on Saturday, July 17, 2021. We hope, with your support, it will be as successful or even better than it has been in previous years.

Thank you for being a part of Brian's legacy.

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/BrianBuczek2020>

Spartans Helping Spartans

A gift today powers DPCHS tomorrow.....

Please know that we are greatly appreciative of your past contributions and pray for your continued safety and good health. Every little bit helps! Your contributions will go directly to our Sr. Pat Fund which gives aid to **DePaul** families in crisis.

Together we give. Together we heal. Together we stand.
Thank you for your support!

We are...Spartans helping Spartans!

http://weblink.donorperfect.com/EOY_SpartansHelpingSpartans

A Note from Joe Laborsky '68 to our 2020 graduates

DePaul Catholic Alumni Association Board of Governors

On behalf of the more than 11,000 members of the DePaul Catholic Alumni Association, we congratulate all of you on your graduation and wish you continued success in all of your future endeavors. Enjoy every moment that this special occasion has to offer and know that your DePaul Catholic diploma will serve you well for the rest of your life. It has for me and all of the alums that came before you.

It's important to stay in touch, especially as you move ahead in your studies and careers. Take a moment to join the Alumni Association and keep us informed of your whereabouts:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/AlumniUpdate19>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at labso68@optonline.net

Congratulations class of 2020! We too are disappointed your senior year doesn't look or feel the way you or your family imagined it would. Know that your emotions are real and valid. You are allowed to feel emotionally impacted on how the Pandemic changed your world.

All 11,000 members of the DePaul Catholic Alumni community are tremendously proud of how you have adjusted and have handled this difficult situation. You are strong and amazing. Congratulations on all your successes! You will all celebrate together again. Until then, congratulations and God bless you all.

Online learning has emerged as the most viable tool for educators looking to ensure that the pandemic's impact on their learners' academic progress is minimized.

"Hope begins in the dark. The stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up." – Anne Lamott, Novelist

"You may not always have a comfortable life. And you will not always be able to solve all the world's problems all at once. But don't ever underestimate the impact you can have, because history has shown us that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own." –Michelle Obama

Spartan Nation

Alumni Field Makeover

Alumni Field Update: The makeover continues. The old turf has been removed. (See photos below.)

Alumni Field is getting a makeover! This summer, new turf will be installed on Alumni Field. It has reached it's 10 year lifespan, and for the safety of our student-athletes, it's time to renovate. The entire surface of Alumni Field will be Field Turfed. As we finalize the plans for installation, new banners have been added to the fences around the field. (See photos) Thank you to the parents, donors, alumni, and everyone who gave their time, talent, and treasure to this project.





Check This Out!

DePaul Catholic Football is ranked the 7th most dominant football program in NJ over the past decade.

<https://t.maxpreps.com/2XnWnYm>

Spend Your Summer As A Spartan

We still plan to hold our Summer Camps - both Academic & Sport, though all dates are tentative for now. Click the link below to see what we have planned.

Summer at DPCHS

Welcome, Future Spartans!

[Mrs. Brynn Merritt Campbell](#)
Director of Marketing & Enrollment Management

Still need to apply?

We will continue to review applications on a rolling basis.

[Class of 2024 & 8th Grade Prep Apply Here](#)

New Admissions Process

Apply online (link above)

Send us a copy of your 6th, 7th, and 8th grade report cards. If you cannot get transcripts from your school, a screen shot of your report cards will work.

Ask your favorite teacher to write a few paragraphs about you and send it to us.

We will set up HSPT exams when we return.

DePaul Catholic Parents' Association



*You never know
How Strong
You are until
Being Strong
Is the only
Choice you have!*

*Thank
you*

We would like to send a special thank you to Jean Raftery, Jo Spaulding and Tarah Jn-Louis our DP Parents' Association Senior parents who are moving on and all our other Senior Parent Volunteers for their support and dedication throughout the years. Your Spartan family wishes you well and can't thank you enough for sharing your time and talents with us.



From The TRICKY TRAY COMMITTEE

The 2020 **Mother Earth's Garden Party** Tricky Tray/Fashion Show Has been tentatively rescheduled to....**Tuesday, August 4, 2020!**
We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.



Have you been social distancing and shopping online? If so, please support DePaul at no extra cost with [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) Choose **DePaul Catholic High School Inc** as your charitable organization and let the shopping begin!



Have you cleaned out your closets and drawers?

The bins at the back of the parking lot are open for donations. It's an easy way to help out DePaul, help those in need and make some much needed room!

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advisor- Sr. Jeanne Agans **President-** Allison Beshada **Secretary-** Jean Raftery, Mina Farrell
Treasurer- Kim Wilderson **Tricky Tray-** Donna DiPiano, Maryann Marren, Debbie Lozito
Hospitality- Deb Murray, Julie Sullivan **Ambassadors-** Andie Pegel, Jo Spaulding **Calendar Raffle-** Cindy Winkler
Snack Stand- Bob Niemiec, Allison Beshada **Public Relations-** Brenda Salamon **Stop & Shop-** Rosalind Tomeio

Distance Learning

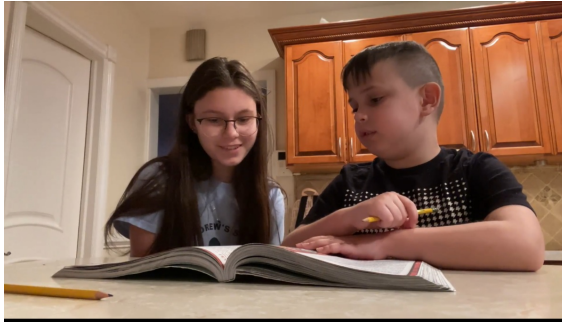
We may not all be together on Alps Road, but Zoom, Google Hangouts, and Email are keeping us more connected than ever. Check out some scenes from the last two weeks.

In the Theology department, the teachers are having fun reading some of the "CSP Redirected" project responses. All students have been asked to find ways to "serve" others while they are home and isolated. This means that they can help at home by doing chores, helping their neighbors while still using proper social distancing protocols and offering

help to others in creative ways.

Hanna Vaidya shared 23 photos of her different dinners she prepared for her family! Angelica Sarcona shared photos of her various projects at home, including creating a tree swing in the woods behind her house for her brothers! Jason Alcott helped with chores at home, washing windows and vacuuming. Daniella Tejada sent in a wonderful video of the various activities she helped with. Daniella learned how to cook pancakes, do the dishes, do the laundry and help her younger brother with his homework.

These are just a few examples of the types of things our students have done. Other students are continuing to work at part time jobs and are finding ways to add service. Mike Orlando continues to work at Jersey Mike's and helped to acquire free dinner tickets for the hungry who are served by Catholic Charities!



For my CSP, I assisted my neighbor in making bands for face masks for hospital workers. These bands connected the straps of the masks around the back of their head, so their ears were not irritated. My neighbor knitted the bands and I sewed buttons on. Of course, we practiced social distancing by staying in our own houses at all times. After we finished, my neighbor dropped them off at a local hospital. Once we ran out of materials, there were about 50 completed straps. By doing this, I was able to help out both my neighbor and our local healthcare workers.- Megan Chorba, Class of 2022

The 2020 Seniors, as one of their last Christian Service efforts at DePaul Catholic, organized their own Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive to donate to the homeless through the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Paterson. Led by their class officers and the officers of the Interact Club, they collected three boxes full. Great work Seniors!

Please Stand For Our Morning Prayer

Join us each morning around 7:30am on social media as we come together for our morning prayer.



Our social media pages are always changing, but there are a few things that will remain the same each week.

MOTIVATION MONDAY with Mr. Merritt
Takeout Tuesday
Wellness Wednesday
Thankful Thursday with Mr. Petrocelli
Faith-filled Friday with Sr. Jeanne

DePaul Catholic High School | 973.694.3702 | www.depaulcatholic.org

STAY CONNECTED

