

June 29, 2020



DEPAUL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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

This is our final edition of the 2019-2020 school year. We'll be back in September. Have a wonderful summer.

Welcome, Fr. Brogan

Dear DePaul Catholic Family,

The beginning of summer is upon us and as always it is an opportunity to slow down, refresh, and begin anew. This year, we find ourselves in a unique situation in light of the COVID pandemic. It may not be as easy to slow down, refresh, and begin anew as we have done in the past. On a personal note, it has been a challenging time to make a transition as I have been doing as I now commence my role as President of DePaul. I sympathize with recent graduates not being able to participate in the regular commencement traditions. I am grateful to faculty, staff, and administration who have been working tirelessly these past four months to create the best experience possible for our students. I am grateful to the leadership of our principal Mr. Petrocelli as we now look into the possibilities and options that are available for the 2020-2021 academic year. I am appreciative to our students and parents for their patience and cooperation.

In the midst of all this newness, I invite you all to take hold of our greatest asset at DePaul. We have many assets, but the greatest is our faith. We are invited to trust in God and his providence. Be people of hope, not optimism. Optimism says, everything will turn out *as I want*. That is not a Christian virtue. The virtue of hope says, even if things do not turn out as I want, everything will happen as it needs to happen because God is present. Reflect on that these summer days. See God in the moment and know that everything happens as it needs to happen. Trust in the providence of God. In the words of St. Vincent De Paul, "Allow God to act; he brings things to completion when we least expect it."

Have a restful summer and I look forward to meeting each of you soon.

St. Vincent DePaul, pray for us.

Peace,

Fr. Brogan

Principal's Corner Mr. Russell Petrocelli

Dear Spartan Community:

For the past two days, we have been collecting text books and allowing students to clean out their lockers and just seeing the students enter the building has been a blessing. I could see their smiles (even with a mask on) and every student shared with me the same sentiment, "Mr. P, we have to reopen school in September". Just listening to them share with me their experiences since March 13 allowed me to recognize the resilience and determination of every student that bears the name of "Spartan".

So we all are asking the same question, what will September look like? The most honest answer that I can give you is, as of June 25, I really do not know for sure. But, what I can share with you is how we are moving forward towards September in the hope of addressing the various options that may play out. We are preparing plans which can be revised and altered as additional information related to restrictions are shared with us from the Governor's Office and the Diocese of Paterson. Every week we see more and more restrictions being lifted and we pray that this continues in a positive direction.

This week, I formed a Re-Opening Task Force to try to address the number of questions facing the school community as we look towards September. Our options include, but at this time are not limited to: a full reopening with all students in every day; reopening the school with only a limited amount of students on campus every day and others working remotely; or the continuation of total remote learning. The task force includes all aspects of the school community that will be impacted including facilities, technology, athletics, scheduling, transportation, health and safety, counseling, and finance. I read an article the other day about a school district that developed a list, in March, of 60 questions that needed to be answered in order to open school. When the same group reconvened recently, the number of questions had increased to 283. This is a challenge but a challenge that we are looking forward to because the ultimate goal is to reopen the school and for the students to return to a safe educational environment where we can continue to meet the social and emotional needs of our student body.

I would never claim to be a computer expert but I think that we all have recognized that we could not have completed the last three months of the school year without our increased reliance on and use of technology and educational software. We learned considerably from this experience...we learned what worked and what did not work and we will use that historical data as the baseline as we advance in further developing our technology plan. We have already moved forward with the process of joining an educational consortium to increase the bandwidth available to the school community at little or no additional cost.

Every week, we receive revised guidelines from the NJSIAA related to the resumption of the fall athletic season and I applaud Mr. Lennon, Mr. McKenna, Ms. Hall, and Mrs. Campbell for their detailed work in assuring the opening of our Athletic Summer Camps and the mid-July return of our school sponsored athletic teams. If you have questions about fall athletic teams, please feel free to reach out to one of them for more information.

On the most personal of levels, there is no way to minimize the effect of this virus on our school community and our everyday lives. Almost all of us know someone that was infected by the virus, succumbed to the virus, or lost their livelihood during these past few months. As a Catholic school community, we continue to reach out to those whose lives have not returned to "normal" in the hope that we can serve and assist you in any way that we can. This will be a journey and there is no map to tell us how to traverse these next months but I do know that, if we do it together, and stay loyal to our core values, we will get through this together. Please do not ever be afraid or embarrassed to reach out to anyone in the school for assistance. We may not have an immediate answer for you but, together, we will assist you however we can. For the past few months, my answer to most questions has been, "I don't know" but it has never been, "No".

These have been trying and unique times but hopefully it has made us stronger and more unified as we move towards September and whatever the future holds for us. Moving forward, we do it, as we always have, together. There is strength in numbers and for the past 64 years, this school's greatest strength has been our ability to stand together against adversity. I ask every current family, every alum, family member, and friend of this institution to continue to stand with us. Remember when we closed on March 13, that was to be for two weeks. By April 13, it appeared that we were not going to reopen in the fall. When May 13 rolled around, the overall condition of the State of New Jersey had improved to the level that we started talking about plans to reopen in September. June 13 had us planning summer athletic and academic camps here on campus. We can only look forward to more positive news on July and August 13 as we plan for the opening of school on September 8, 2020. Please continue to stand with us!

Please know that we will pray for you as we move into these summer months with the intention that you, your family, and friends find the peace and grace that comes from our ever loving and gracious God.

Please visit this newsletter on a regular basis to be brought up to speed on the happenings across the campus. If you are a graduate and are in the neighborhood, please stop in and say hello.

St. Vincent DePaul...Pray for Us!

Russell D. Petrocelli
Principal

Moving Forward...

Mr. John Merritt '71

Vice Principal, Student Life

The era of Catholic education, it is said, is ending. You hear this a lot and not only from those on the outside but, sadly, we hear it from those on the inside of Catholic education.

You hear reasons like, there are fewer kids, fewer people go to church, it is too expensive, too old fashion, too rigid, too hard, and the reasons go on and on.

I listen to the words from the experts inside and outside of the Catholic education beltway. I wonder if, eventually, those words will become reality and then I ask myself what we will do without Catholic schools.

Well this is what I think future generation's kids will miss out on.

- Simplicity.
- I believe that the best Catholic schools keep things simple. A simple message of faith, acceptance, academics, compassion and community.
- I believe the best Catholic schools educate all kids, not just the gifted, academically and/or athletically.
- I believe the best Catholic schools offer simple, yet timeless, advice to parents on how to educate their children. Catholic educators understand that just being a parent does not make you an expert in educating a child.
- I believe the best Catholic schools graduate kids who care about making a difference, not by conquering the world, but by living decent lives and being hard working people.

When schools close....

Catholic schools sometimes forget that having a successful school is not just about having the best stuff. It is about teaching, encouraging and demanding that students do their best.

Catholic schools, in some cases, attempt to compete in the public school arena where they have no chance.

The Catholic school arena is to encourage a family to enhance their faith, to discipline their children in a positive way, to challenge themselves, and to remember that, ultimately, we are living in this world to help make it better... *to give back more than you have taken.*

If we lose this simple message, the Catholic School becomes just another school..

Catholic schools sometimes need to be reminded about the things that matter most

promoting

Faith, Family and Friends for life.

So my feeling about Catholic schools is this:*Catholic Schools have to remember where they came from and why they started and also keep the following in mind.*

- Bigger is not always better.
- Winning does not always mean success.
- The senior college destination list is just a list and not every kid who graduates high

school is a leader. I laugh when I hear the marketing strategy of some schools who brag that they graduate leaders. They graduate kids. Some will lead and the rest will be happy to follow someone else's lead.

When our Catholic school education days are over, we are all hoping to be in the same place, the graduation line getting our diploma.

When our stay here on earth is over, we are all hoping to be in the same place, standing on the line to enter heaven.

**Catholic schools always show you the way to heaven. The way home!
You just have to follow their lead.**

We are here to stay to work with you. See you in the Fall.

Go Spartans!

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



We look forward to hearing about your accomplishment in College!
Keep in Touch!

Notes From The School Counseling Office

Dear DePaul Students and Families:

This has been a very difficult year for all of us. We have made it through to the end of the year and now it is time to spend time with our loved ones without the pressure of school grades. We cannot wait for the day that we are all together again to continue our learning and spiritual growth.

TIPS FOR THE SUMMER

Over the summer, please remember to complete your summer assignments, take time to relax and do things to better yourself. Read a book that interests you or start a new hobby. It is important for you to think about what you want to accomplish this summer. When you invest your time in things you love, the engagement will be real and genuine. Make a bucket list and make time for learning, fun, family, friends, personal engagement and making an impact. Please make sure to do this safely while practicing social distancing guidelines.

Summer learning experiences help to improve your resume, improve skills essential for next year and eventually college transition. Use Naviance to explore virtual college tours, take online summer enrichment classes, and explore Khan Academy on collegeboard.com for practice PSAT and SAT questions. If you are having trouble logging into Naviance please contact me at gregorya@dpchs.org so that I can reset your password.

Volunteering or summer employment looks good for your college applications. Use local community colleges, libraries and community centers to look for opportunities. Why not be entrepreneurial and start your own small business like lawn cutting, dog walking or babysitting? These may be limited this summer due to the covid -19 situation. Please only do what you and your family are comfortable with. Colleges and Universities know that this summer is unlike any other year we have seen, and will understand if you choose not to seek employment or internships this season.

Make an impact by letting your interests be your map. When you follow your dreams and interests and are true to yourself, you can have an incredible summer.

Stay well, stay safe and God Bless! I will be working through the summer, so please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely:

Anne Gregory
Director of School Counseling

Welcome, Future Spartans!

Mrs. Brynn Merritt Campbell
Director of Marketing & Enrollment Management

Even though we are heading into Summer, the Admissions Office never takes a vacation. We are still available via email (admissions@dpchs.org). We're accepting applications for 8th Grade Prep, Class of 2024, and Transfers. All meetings are still being held via Zoom.

There are a few seats left in each grade level, so if you are interested in becoming a Spartan for the 2020-2021 school year, please be sure to reach out soon.

Go Spartans!

Brynn Merritt Campbell
Director of Marketing & Enrollment Management
admissions@dpchs.org

Did you miss our Virtual Open House?

It's still available here: <https://depaulcatholic.org/pages/oh1.html>



Still need to apply?

We will continue to review applications on a rolling basis.
Class of 2024, 8th Grade Prep & Transfers 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 in September.

Spend Your Summer As A Spartan



Summer Academic Enrichment
at DePaul Catholic

www.depaulcatholic.org

Algebra
English
Study Skills
HSPT Exam Prep



Classes begin July 13th

Sessions begin July 13th
Grades 3-9
Football
Girls Lacrosse
Boys Lacrosse
Baseball

HSPT
Grades 7-8

Algebra, English, and Study Skills
Grades 8 and 9

[Click Here To Spend Your Summer at DPCHS](#)

A Message From Coach Lennon

In 1982 I was chosen to become the next DePaul HS Football Coach. It was a life changing event to be able to follow 2 of the GREATEST football coaches in New Jersey history, Fred Keil and Jack Jones. It was a great honor. In August of 1982, Sr. Patricia Flarity asked me to take the Athletic Director's Position for 1 year.

The Football Team practiced on the "back field" which always made me laugh because it was our only field. We played our home games at Wayne Valley or Wayne Hills. All other outside teams played and practiced off site. By the the mid 80's we started to talk about constructing game fields on "The Back Field". We had Visionary backers, Rich Bayley, Ben Thomas and Ted Jachera leading a team of Parents and Alumni. By 1990 all outside teams were practicing and playing games on "The Back Field". We were able to add lights by 1992 and Field Turf in 2001. We blessed the turf "Alumni Field" that year.

I will be stepping down as Athletic Director as of June 30, 2020 and starting a new position at DePaul Catholic in the Development Office. So all Parents and Alums will still be hearing from me.

The Bergen Record ([article here](#)) honored DPC in an article about my greatest game. Winning the State Football Championship was a great feeling, but every game I coached at DPC was the greatest. 22 years as Head Football Coach and 36 years as Head Baseball Coach was the greatest. I was the most blessed man in New Jersey. I had talented players and dedicated coaches.

Thank You and God Bless.

Go Spartans!
Coach Lennon

Our Newest Addition

We are building a brand new greenhouse at DePaul. This will be an excellent addition to our Science Department including our AP Environmental Science class. We look forward to keeping you updated on everything that these classes are able to do in the 2020-2021 school year.



Thank You From The Theology Department

The Theology Department thanks all who participated in the the school's food drive during book drop off and locker clean out days. Please know that the needs of our local communities continue throughout the summer, and if your family can help support the needy during the summer it will always be appreciated. You can always reach out to any of us if you are uncertain where you can help. We have many ways to connect you.

The Christian Service Program at DePaul is a vital part of our school's mission. We are working out ideas on how we can best continue to serve others and maintain safety for our students. With that said, you can expect information to be shared regarding this program at some point in the summer as we become aware of new guidelines. In past years, we have suggested that students make use of their summertime to start their service hours. If any student has the opportunity to safely serve, even in the home or with family and neighbors, please keep track of what you have been doing and we will look at how it fits into our program moving forward.

You will find a link to some resources you may want to explore to help you stay connected to the faith of teenagers. This link brings you to Loyola Press Teens. It has some great ideas. <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/family/catholic-teens/>

Prayers for safety, health, family and faith!! Happy Summer!

The Theology Department
Mrs. Bullman bullmanp@dpchs.org
Mrs. Haggerty haggertyv@dpchs.org
Ms. Bock bocka@dpchs.org
Ms. Sevean seveand@dpchs.org
Sr. Jeanne sr.jeanneagans@dpchs.org

An Update From The Tricky Tray Committee

We'd like to begin by thanking each and every one of you for your support. Whether you served, cooked, called, organized or bought a ticket, your contributions were valued and are greatly appreciated. The DePaul Parents' Association couldn't function without the dedication of all it's volunteers, including alumni, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and even siblings! "2020 Mother Earth's Garden Party Tricky Tray" After great deliberation it was decided to cancel the event altogether out of a measure of extreme caution and because a decision had to be made. Please trust that we considered every alternative before coming to this difficult decision. In order to maintain the integrity of the event and keep everyone's health and safety our top priority we saw no other option than to skip this year. However, the Super 50/50 will be pulled this fall.

[For more information please click here.](#)

Save the Date!
DePaul Catholic Mother Earth's Garden Party Tricky Tray and Fashion Show
April 20, 2021

The Westmount Country Club
5:30pm

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

STAY CONNECTED

