

The Mustardseed

Sharing the News of Norwalk Catholic School



As I have had conversations over the past few months with our school community about where our school is going and where our school has been, the topic of change and values comes up often. I have been fortunate to hear many of the stories that have made our school

great. I have also heard many ideas that will move our school forward. The common theme is that people want to make sure that we do not lose what we have. I also hear there are things we need to do differently to continue our school's success. Change and values can seem like they are opposed to each other but both are important and necessary. One can represent the old, one can represent the new. How do these things coexist? We deal with this quandary all the time in education. We must learn to value what we have, but at the same time, we need to move forward and explore new ways of doing things. We teach students about the past, but also show students how those past lessons can be used in the future and built upon to create new ideas. We need to educate our children on why our values are important and let them implement them in a way that fits their ever changing world. Our school community has undergone a lot of change in the past five years and we have many challenges ahead of us. What will make our school successful is finding a way to keep what has made us strong, our values, while embracing change to increase the reach of our mission. That is the job of the development office in particular, but also the job of everyone in the school community. We are proud in what we have created, a strong Catholic School with a rich tradition. We must protect that. We also have many new ways of connecting to a larger community. We must embrace that also. Our challenge is to make sure as we move forward down the road of change, we do not forget the road that brought us here.

Peace and Blessings
Matt Fair '90, Development Director
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Bishop Blair visited Norwalk Catholic School on October 19th to celebrate Catholic education with 900 students from area Catholic Schools. Schools represented at the Mass were: St. Joseph, Monroeville; St. Francis Xavier, Willard; St. Mary, Vermilion; Immaculate Conception School, Bellevue. Pictured with Bishop Blair is Mallory Reed and Courtney Bleile.

Everyday Law class visits Norwalk Municipal Court

by Stephen Fondriest, SPH class of 2011



On October 12, 2010, Mrs. Meyers' Everyday Law class visited the Norwalk Municipal Court and the court room of the Honorable John Ridge '72.

Going to the Municipal Court was a great experience for our class. I felt this was a great way to learn about our judicial system and also gave us a feel for the atmosphere in a courtroom. Not only were we able to learn firsthand on how our court system works, but we were able to ask questions about the actual case, and Judge Ridge was able to answer them all.

Student Teachers Gaining Classroom Experience at NCS

Katherine Hipp

Although I have been a member of St. Paul's Catholic Church my entire life, I have just recently become familiar with Norwalk Catholic Schools. Since the beginning of the school year, with the help of Mrs. Meyer. I have been teaching seventh and eighth grade social studies. With the recent addition, new technology is available to the junior high students that enable them to go beyond the classroom with their learning. I have been fortunate to incorporate video clips, virtual tours and presentations into my lessons. I have enjoyed the students' eagerness to learn. Each student brings a different quality to the classroom that enhances every lesson. Students are also very knowledgeable and are eager to share their extended knowledge of topics during discussions. Encouraging students to participate in discussions also allows for me to learn alongside my students. The staff and students have made my time here comfortable and enjoyable. It has been a pleasure working with such gifted and talented people.



Journalism Visits the Cleveland Plain Dealer
By Joe Hemenway

In mid September Mr. Kline's journalism class took a field trip to The Cleveland Plain Dealer Headquarters and Production Distribution Center. The first stop was the Plain Dealer headquarters in downtown Cleveland where they got a quick tour by Claire Fendrich. Even though the building was under minor construction, the class got to see all the different sections of the paper such as sports, metro, editing, and many more. The class also got the chance to sit in on a daily meeting with all the lead editors. After the meeting the students could ask questions and get feedback from the Plain Dealer staff.

Following the meeting, they ate lunch at Tower City where they had a large choice of different foods to eat. After they ate they took a trip to the Production Distribution Center in Brooklyn, Ohio.

Once there, they were given a tour by their tour guide, Bernie. He showed them some of the history of the Plain Dealer, and about how much the newspaper has grown over the years. The class learned some very interesting things, for instance, the Plain Dealer was the first newspaper production center to use milk crates to move stacks of papers. Some of the tour's highlights included; free pens, and being able to sign the giant paper rolls they use for printing. The trip was informative, insightful, and a good time was had by all that attended.



Mike Schwietermann

Both of my children went to Norwalk Catholic Schools. I was pleased with the education they received and was confident that they would be ready for college and the world beyond. Because of that, I was happy that my student teaching assignment

was made at NCS. I finally would be able to see up close what makes the school system so special.

In a few short weeks I found out what made NCS different from the other schools that I have taught in. The key examples are:

- The curriculum is Christ centered and prayer is a key part of the children's day.
 - The children come to school prepared to learn. The parents are supportive and are active in their child's education.
 - The children have a strong willingness to learn.
- The teachers are concerned about the child's whole education, not just what is on a standardized test. Life skills are emphasized.

My student teaching experience at Norwalk Catholic Elementary has been very enjoyable. I have learned much from both Mrs. Bogner and the 3rd graders in my class. I am grateful to have this opportunity to learn in such an excellent environment.

Work Hard Play Strong Serve Well

