



THE LAUNCH PAD

Volume XIX Issue 2

Winter 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>New Author Visits</i>	2
<i>Mothership/Teacher Award</i>	3
<i>Hands-on Classrooms</i>	4
<i>Robotics/Aeronautics</i>	5
<i>Rocket Football</i>	6
<i>Calendar/School Scene</i>	7
<i>Coach Fogleman/Dr. Gilley</i>	8
<i>Winter Formal</i>	9

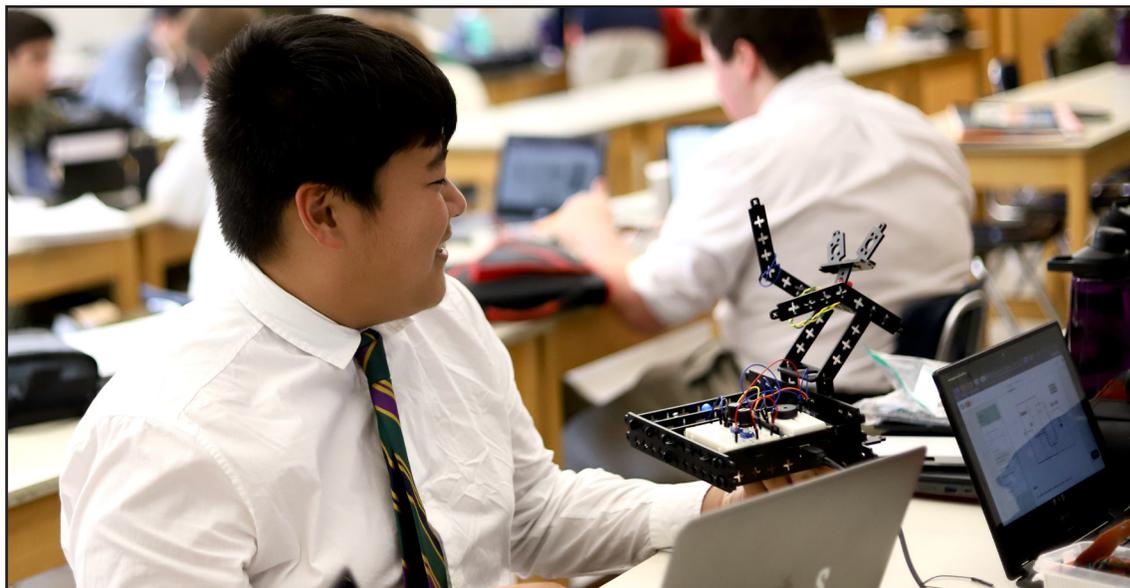
Dear Parents,

“You just had to be there.” This phrase is back in our vocabulary. Since mid-March of 2020, there were so many events we had to experience from afar. Students and teachers learned to appreciate how much this community needs to be present and together.

Here are a few “had to be there” moments from the fall of 2022:

- The pep rallies with a full cohort of the CHS band, the ever-exuberant skit cheerleaders, and the MSM cheerleaders
- Every football game, but especially the post season games against CAC and Pulaski Academy when huge crowds of alumni, parents, and friends filled the stands and fueled the excitement
- Class Masses and All School Masses that began in silence, filled the gym with the sound of 700 boys singing, and ended with happy camaraderie
- Everyday classes in an all-boys school when even an ordinary day can become legendary

For these things and so many more, we promise: In 2023, your son just has to be here. *—the editor*



Senior Enqi Wei, a Robotics I student, assembles a module type robot from the Arduino CTC GO Motions module set. The students used on-line instructions to assemble the kits and then they learned the capabilities of each robot. (See related stories on pages three and five.)

2022-2023: A YEAR OF ROCKET RENEWAL

A world-wide pandemic was a study in problem solving for the teachers and students at Catholic High. Now that high levels of vaccination, acquired immunity, and available anti-viral medications have mitigated fears of contagion, the faculty and student body are concentrating on academic and athletic challenges and counting up the wins.

The fall of 2022 set sparks flying with a winning football season and a record-breaking 11-win streak. Beginning with a surprise victory against 7A rival North Little Rock and blazing through worthy 6A opponents, the Rockets brought energy and pride to the whole campus. Though the November 25 semifinal state championship game ended the players' run, the crowd over 5000 alumni, students, faculty, parents, and fans was the stuff of legends.

To top off the season, head football coach Mr. John Fogleman earned 6A-7A state coach of the year awards from several sources including *Hooten's* and the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*. (See story on page 8.)

The football team's athletic discipline and determination mirrored those qualities found in the classrooms. One of the school's newest classes, robotics, is advancing from a one-time club to a full-sized program with three levels of classes. Teams of students are finding success in state competition and hope to compete at a national level in May. (See page 5.)

A wide range of electives from AP Psychology to Latin III and Graphic Design make up a list of 35 elective courses students may choose. Several provide concurrent college credit. Look for emails about course selection some time in February.

Principal Mr. Steve Straessle is always optimistic and forward thinking. He said, “For a school that regularly enjoys great years, this one stands out as a needed spark after the pandemic pauses. A school year is an uphill climb, as it should be, and finally casting off the weight of covid allowed us to accelerate to the top.

“Of course, we're proud of the football team and all they accomplished. But that was just the tip of the spear. There's no banter like all-boys-high-school banter and our hallways were once again overflowing with it.

“We enjoyed the daily test of academics. We pushed each other, challenged each other, to recognize and accelerate the spiritual aspects so present in the school. In short, we picked up speed.

“This year is off to a great start,” said Mr. Straessle. “This semester's energy picked up where we left off in December. Now, it's on to other sports and activities, other lessons and new challenges. We're so glad to be experiencing them all here, on this campus and with each other.”

Always a Rocket



The wrestling team recently earned second team honors at the Memphis Briarcrest Dawgfight and fourth team at the Pulaski Academy tournament.



Volunteers worked the MLK Commission's Day of Service on January 16. KATV Channel 11 recognized them as Arkansans of the Day.



Mr. Matt Golladay and his boys performed in a different venue for their 2022 Christmas concert.



The JROTC Color Guard presents the flag for the 6A football semi-final game. The color guard, unarmed drill team, and physical fitness teams all won first place awards at the January 21 Malvern drill competition. They bested 16 Arkansas teams.

AUTHOR ELI CRANOR SHARES HIS STORY

Eli Cranor, a newly acclaimed Arkansas writer, spoke with juniors and seniors on Friday, January 27.

The students greeted him with cheers and a standing ovation even before he began his talk. Several of them had already read his debut novel *Don't Know Tough*, a kind of Southern Gothic crime novel that focuses on the life of an abused high school football player and the coach who's trying to save him. Don't expect anything to follow any kind of sports story pattern you've seen before. The story is disturbing yet infused with a glimmer of hope.

Mr. Cranor told the students his journey story from football quarterback to high school football coach to frustrated writer who finally got a break. After playing football from third grade through college, Mr. Cranor took several jobs as a football coach. He even spent a short stint as a head coach before realizing that he was too young for that job. He went back to being an assistant, this time as an offensive line coach.

Just before the birth of his first child, Mr. Cranor decided to go after his dream. His spark came from a random interaction with one of his students, and the main character of *Don't Know Tough* took shape.

After receiving hundreds of rejections from literary agents, Mr. Cranor submitted his book to the Peter Lovesey First Crime Novel Prize. Mr. Cranor did not think that Lovesey, an 80-year-old

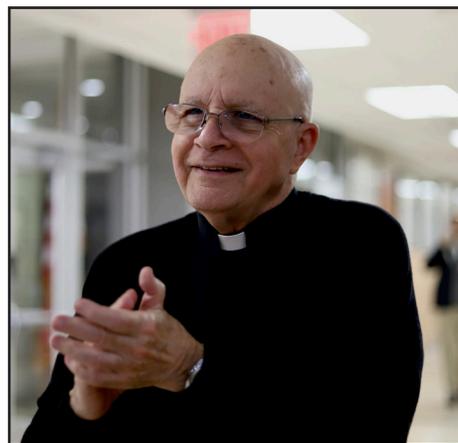


Russellville native Mr. Eli Cranor speaks with juniors and seniors on January 27 about his award-winning book *Don't Know Tough*. The students gave him a warm welcome.

British writer, would even consider his book, but *Don't Know Tough* won the top prize. This was the break that Mr. Cranor needed to launch interest in his book, which has since won a long list of professional and reader accolades.

After the opening standing ovation, Mr. Cranor warmed to his audience and gave them some sincere advice. He said, "If you can find that spark that gets you out of bed and gets you going, go after it. Some people find it in their occupation, some people find it in different forms of art. The only thing I want to leave you guys with is this: look for that spark and then go after it completely."

UNSUNG HEROES OF CATHOLIC HIGH



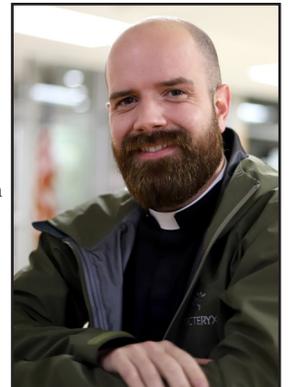
duty. Even though he recently retired from the classroom, Fr. Frederick celebrates a class Mass with each grade at least once a month and continues to preside at most All-School Masses. Students sit in rapt attention as he begins every homily with a funny story and then connects it to the day's readings.

Fr. Friend is currently teaching religion, freshman English, and sophomore biology. Along with this busy class schedule, he says early morning Mass each day and often leads lunch-time prayers in the chapel on special days. He held short sessions of reflection and a decade of the rosary during Advent.

The two priests pictured here, Fr. Lawrence Frederick and Fr. Patrick Friend, took time out of a December evening to attend the band's Christmas concert. No one was surprised to see them there or to hear Fr. Fred's booming laugh and to see Fr. Friend's ready smile as they enjoyed the music and supported the efforts of Mr. Matt Golladay and his talented group of musicians.

Fr. Frederick and Fr. Friend live their lives as examples of service and dedication to

Fr. Friend joins Brother Richard Sanker (see page 7) as a major Rocket fan. Players can count on both men to be present at countless sports events. Both also serve as spiritual counselors for the student body and the faculty.



THE MOTHER SHIP

(A COLUMN FOR MOMS BY MOMS OF CHS GRADUATES)

DEAR CURRENT AND FUTURE MOTHERS [AND DADS]
OF CHS STUDENTS,

Do you recognize these lines?

’Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

“Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
The frumious Bandersnatch!”

You probably came across this nonsense poem that somehow made sense in your elementary school years. It is from *Through the Looking Glass*, Lewis Carroll’s 1871 sequel to *Alice in Wonderland*. In it, a parent warns a son about jabberwocks, jubjub birds, and bandersnatches. Then the parent sends the boy on an adventure. The boy slays the mysterious bandersnatch to the delight of the parent — or at least we think that’s what it means. At least half of the words are nonsense.

This 19th century poem came to mind as we recently read alarming articles about a 21st century not-so-imaginary beast, ChatGPT. In case you missed those articles, ChatGPT has the ability to write and debug computer programs, to compose student essays, to answer test questions, to write poetry and song lyrics, and to answer some of the highest level math problems including every step to the solution — all in a matter of seconds. Jabberwocky indeed!

You can imagine the conversations now going on in faculty rooms of elementary teachers all the way to high-level meetings of post-graduate professors. The teachers at CHS are studying ChatGPT and playing with it. Actually, it’s a lot of fun — and for now, it’s free.

Back to the days of our own high school careers, there have certainly been ways to shortcut writing and math assignments, but boys who see the value

in learning from doing the work themselves have avoided the temptation to plagiarize or to pay a person or a website to write papers for them. Students have long been able to solve high level math problems with readily available applications, but that doesn’t help them when they are faced with the same problems on a paper-and-pencil test in a well-monitored classroom.

We’ve been talking to some of the CHS teachers about their reaction to this new technology and what it means to their day-to-day work in the classroom. Mr. Steve Straessle posted some required reading for the teachers to familiarize themselves with ChatGPT. The ever-resourceful faculty members are not panicking. Some have even started planning how to use the bot for good in the classroom and not allow students to avoid the true work of high school: learning to think and apply what they learn to their careers and to life’s complex problems.

For example, an English teacher might actually assign a student to create a prompt for ChatGPT to write a paper. The student’s true work would then be to analyze the paper and find errors or the lack of depth in the generated answers. The application itself warns “ChatGPT sometimes writes plausible-sounding but incorrect or nonsensical answers.” Teachers making up their own complex questions for the bot found this to be true. If the bot can’t extrapolate the answer from available material, it starts making up stuff that sounds right but that any first-year teacher would recognize as incorrect.

This technology is evolving and teachers around the country are weighing in with ways to make its use detectable. It can be an excellent learning tool if used with the right mixture of common sense and caution.

So, what does this mean for you, as a parent of a high-school student? It’s true that many of us stopped overseeing homework when our sons were in third grade. Some saw the need to keep an eye on that work into high school, but most parents should be able to expect their tenth-grade sons to do the work on their own. Do parents have to be cyber police in their own homes? We certainly hope not.

For now, it would be a good idea for parents to become aware of this new Jabberwock and read about developments over the next few months. Since ChatGPT’s debut on November 30, every reputable news source has covered the bot’s positive and negative possibilities. Will this frumious bandersnatch cause havoc, or will valiant teachers tame it and bring it back to the classroom to use as a beloved pet? Stay tuned.



Moms from the CHS classes of 2002 and 2003 write this column.

FACTS RECOGNIZES TEACHER FOR INNOVATIVE STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Physics and robotics teacher Mr. Paul Lincicome recently received recognition from FACTS, the company that provides administrative, financial, enrollment, and instructional services to schools through the nation, including CHS.

In November of 2022, Mr. Lincicome applied for the FACTS Innovation Award. FACTS selected his entry as one of the 12 finalists from across the country. The award recognizes teachers who are creating innovative educational environments.

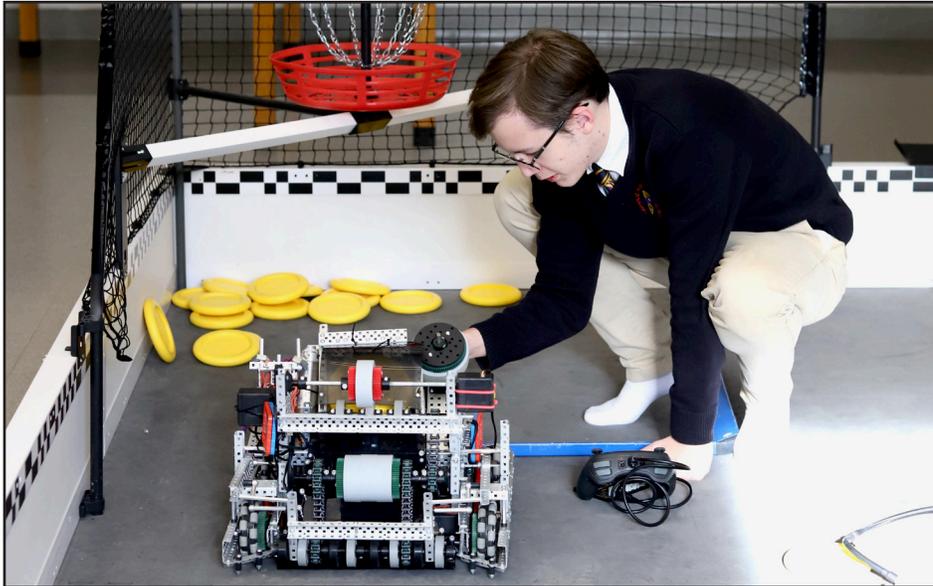
Mr. Lincicome said, “My entry did not necessarily focus on tech teaching, but outside-the-box instruction. For instance, in my robotics classes, I do not use traditional tests. I assess through Portfolio Assessment.

For being named a finalist, FACTS has invited Mr. Lincicome to its FACTS Elevate Conference in Orlando this summer.

At left, Mr. Lincicome consults with students in his Robotics I class. Photo: G. Gowen



HANDS-ON WINS HANDS DOWN IN THE CHS CLASSROOM



Senior Cole Cameron tinkers with the VEX robot he and his team designed, built, and programmed for competition. Cameron used pandemic isolation as an opportunity to learn more about computer coding via YouTube videos.

Over the past three years, this school has made a concerted effort to add or enhance preparatory classes in robotics, aeronautics, biology, and psychology. Students with all levels of ability have the opportunity to check out what might be their life's work.

Senior Cole Cameron serves as an example of how a little opportunity in a classroom can send a student to a possibly brilliant career.

Actually, Cameron first used Covid restrictions to his benefit. Stuck at home as a “full-virtual” student in 2020-21, he decided to learn computer coding on his own. The next year, Mr. Paul Lincicome undertook to turn his robotics club into a full-fledged class. Cameron immediately joined and put his coding knowledge to work.

Now, looking forward, Cameron said, “There are the ‘big five’ companies like Google, Amazon, Facebook, Microsoft, and Apple. Generally, any one of these is my goal.”



Sophomore Joseph Moellers, a student in Robotics I, assembles a kit robot. There are different kits, so students must figure out how to build their model and then find the function and capabilities of their robot. Photos this page: G. Gowen



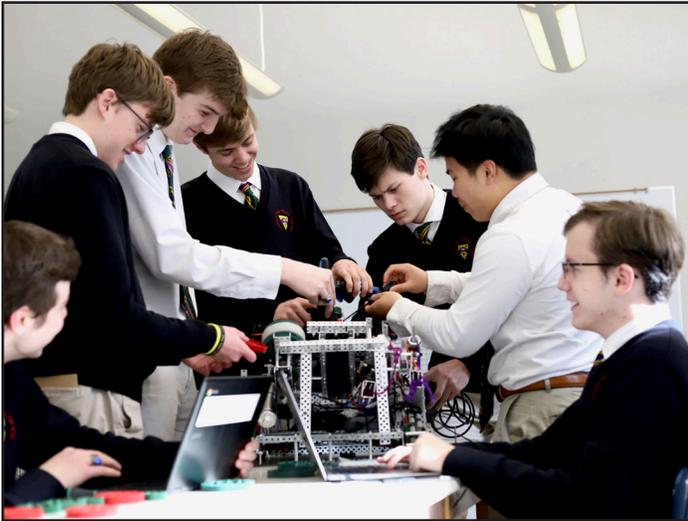
Col. Charles Johnson oversees sophomore Payton Bradley's journey on a flight simulator in aeronautics class.



Dr. Jennifer Gilley demonstrates new microscopes for use of teachers and students. The teacher version has a mounted screen to allow several students to view a slide at once. The student microscopes have cameras that allow students to record what they see and share it with the teacher or class. At right, an aeronautics student flies around Little Rock.



ROBOTICS: PROBLEM SOLVING AND CAREER BUILDING



Seniors John Verdaris, Nate Ghidotti, Chris Suffern, George Bishop, Andrew Moore, Peter Ha, and Cole Cameron check out the robot they recently took to competition. The team has qualified for state VEX competition in the spring. Photo: G. Gowen

The atmosphere in the lab is intense yet punctuated by laughter born of working toward a goal with friends. No one sleeps through a robotics class. The facilitator, Mr. Paul Lincicome, modestly gives credit to the teams who are building and programming robots to complete challenging tasks in state competition and beyond.

Mr. Lincicome points out three senior leaders: Chris Suffern, Nate Ghidotti, and Cole Cameron. Mr. Lincicome said, "Suffern is our most diligent team member. There is nothing he cannot accomplish mechanically. Ghidotti is more a design and implementation expert. Cameron is our self-taught coding expert. If you can dream it, he can code it."

The senior team pictured at left recently qualified for the state robotics tournament on March 11. Mr. Lincicome said, "Their skills score ranks them as the fourth best team in the state, but their rank will likely improve before the competition. Similar to sports, many things must go right to come away with a win. Based on their performance at the state competition, the team hopes to receive an invitation to VEX World competition in Dallas in early May.

"Looking to the future, our junior teams are learning the ropes and will compete later this winter and hope to qualify for the state competition. We also have sophomore Freddy Zawislak who ranks seventh in the world in VEX Robotics Corporation's virtual world standing."

Problem-solving is the major focus of the class. Mr. Lincicome said, "In Robotics I, they're learning basic programming and the basics of building and 3D modeling. Robotics II and III students tackle more challenging tasks and competition robots. A great deal of research helps them solve incredibly unique challenges along with extensive iterative design to make the applications work on their robots."

There are no state conferences. Each school may field several teams. Our school's teams compete against every school in Arkansas that has a robotics program. Mr. Lincicome's best guess is that there are between 50 and 80 teams that could compete.

There is no doubt that many of this program's students will pursue advanced degrees in engineering and programming. Students like Cameron, Suffern, and Ghidotti will combine the skills they've mastered on their own along with the experience of working with a team to produce a successful and highly complex product.

Mr. Lincicome said, "Every day is a different opportunity to problem solve in robotics. All these young men have worked hard to be in a position to compete on a high level. I can't wait to see how it goes."

AERONAUTICS LAUNCHES FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Colonel Charles Johnson commands the complete attention of a group of sophomores in their second year of aeronautics instruction. The boys are considering what they may do with the knowledge acquired in this unique class.

Several want to be pilots. One is already working on his license. Others wish to study aerospace engineering. Col. Johnson is happy to help them all move toward their dreams. When he began it last year, Col. Johnson said, "This class has re-energized me on teaching flying." He said the goal of the class is to "get guys excited about flying and aviation."

Last year's class was so successful that Col. Johnson has added an Aeronautics II class for sophomores. He is willing to serve as a mentor for any student who wants guidance in this field after they finish the second year of the class.

Col. Johnson talks about all the opportunities these students might have: pilot, navigator, drone pilot, or even meteorologist. He said that in the past, many students here have found careers in

these fields on their own, but he believes the two classes he teaches will connect students with resources they might not know exist such as aviation degrees offered at Delta State, Louisiana Tech, or Middle Tennessee State among other schools.

The students were obviously happy to demonstrate their skills with the flight simulator. The Microsoft version that the students use is not up to the technology standards of military simulators, but it is still quite impressive.

Three of the sophomores, Brian Tanner, Larry Desiderio, and Payton Bradley were happy to take the controls. Tanner executes a smooth take off and flies to Little Rock's Midtown and over Catholic High's field. Desiderio changes venues and takes his plane into mountainous regions of Mexico. Bradley takes over and tries out different aircraft before landing back at the Little Rock airport. The rest of the students seem as spell-bound as if they were co-pilots on the flights.

Desiderio is obviously hooked. He said, "I highly advise people to join this class. It is really fun."



Sophomore Larry Desiderio flies high over mountain ranges in Mexico using the Aeronautics class Microsoft flight simulator.

RECORD 11-WIN STREAK SENDS ROCKETS SOARING



Junior Brooks Ward evades Pulaski Academy defenders in the semi-final state championship game. Photo: P. Zawislak



Senior Sam Sanders threw five touchdown passes in the semi-final game. Photo: P. Zawislak

Though the last game of the season brought the heartbreak of defeat for the seniors, they found consolation in their extraordinary 11-win streak before the semi-final state championship game.

The huge crowd won the attendance contest 5-1 as over 5000 Rocket fans came out to support their team. The game was a second homecoming for hundreds of alumni college students who were back in Little Rock for their Thanksgiving break. Many proudly wore their Rocket letter jackets as they met up with friends and watched every minute of the action-packed game.

Senior quarterback Sam Sanders said, "The best part was the fans never stopped cheering no matter losing, winning, or tying. They were always loud and were the biggest supporters."



Seniors console one another after the loss to P/A with the knowledge they were part of CHS history. Photo: P. Zawislak



The crowd of at least 5000 students, parents, alumni, and friends of the Rockets broke records for attendance at a post-season game at War Memorial Stadium. photo: G. Gowen



(Left to right) Junior Cody Fogleman holds on to the ball after a long reception. One of the Rocket Men encourage the crowd. Alum proudly wear their letter jackets to the 6A state semifinal game on November 25. A record crowd of over 5000 alumni, students, parents, teachers, and fans filled the east stands of War Memorial Stadium. Photos this panel by Rocket Times photographer Phillip Zawislak

CHS CALENDAR:

JANUARY 30 - MAY 24, 2023

- ◇ Tuesday, January 31: Sophomore class Mass; Varsity basketball at Vilonia
- ◇ Friday, February 3: Varsity basketball v. eStem at CHS
- ◇ **Saturday, February 4: Entrance Exam for in-coming freshmen, class of 2027**
- ◇ Tuesday, February 7: Junior class Mass; varsity basketball at Sylvan Hills
- ◇ Friday, February 10: Varsity basketball vs. Parkview at CHS
- ◇ Saturday, February 11: ACT (for more information, go to act.org)
- ◇ Tuesday, February 14: Freshman class Mass; varsity basketball at Jacksonville
- ◇ Wednesday, February 15: Senior class Mass; varsity basketball at Parkview
- ◇ Friday, February 17: Varsity basketball at Maumelle
- ◇ **Monday, February 20: President's Day: no school**
- ◇ Wednesday, February 22: Ash Wednesday All-School Mass; Lent begins
- ◇ Tuesday, March 7: Freshman Class Mass
- ◇ Friday, March 10: Third quarter Ends
- ◇ Saturday, March 11: SAT (for more information, go to collegeboard.com)
- ◇ Monday, March 13: Fourth quarter begins
- ◇ Tuesday, March 14: Sophomore class Mass
- ◇ Monday, March 20 to Friday, March 24: school closed for Spring Break
- ◇ **Saturday, April 1: Junktique 8:00 a.m. in both gyms**
- ◇ Tuesday, April 4: Junior class Mass
- ◇ Friday, April 7: School closed for Good Friday
- ◇ Sunday, April 9: Easter Sunday
- ◇ Saturday, April 15: Rocket 5K Race 8:00 a.m.
- ◇ Saturday, April 15: ACT (for more information, go to act.org)
- ◇ Thursday, April 20 to Friday, April 21: Arkansas Scholastic Press Association Convention in Fayetteville for journalism, yearbook, and broadcast students
- ◇ Friday, April 21: Msgr. George Tribou Memorial Golf Tournament
- ◇ Tuesday, April 25: End-of-year All School Mass
- ◇ Thursday, May 4: Senior Class visits Carmelite Monastery
- ◇ Saturday, May 6: SAT (for more information, go to collegeboard.com)
- ◇ Monday, May 8: Last day of regular class for seniors
- ◇ Monday, May 8: Young Alumni breakfast for seniors
- ◇ Tuesday, May 9: Senior Exams
- ◇ Wednesday, May 10: Senior Exams
- ◇ Thursday, May 11: Senior Exams and Farewell Assembly
- ◇ Friday, May 12: Senior picnic
- ◇ Sunday, May 14: Senior barbecue and program 6:00 p.m. (seniors only)
- ◇ Monday, May 15: Graduation practice for seniors 10:00 a.m.
- ◇ Tuesday, May 16: Graduation practice for seniors 10:00 a.m.
- ◇ Wednesday, May 17: Graduation practice for seniors 10:00 a.m.
- ◇ Thursday, May 18: Last day of regular class for underclassmen
- ◇ Friday, May 19: Junior Work Day; Dead Day for ninth and tenth grades
- ◇ Friday, May 19, Class of 2023 Graduation, 7:30 p.m.
- ◇ Monday, May 22: Semester exams for 9th, 10th, and 11th grades
- ◇ Tuesday, May 23: Semester exams for 9th, 10th, and 11th grades
- ◇ Wednesday, May 24: Semester exams for 9th, 10th, and 11th grades

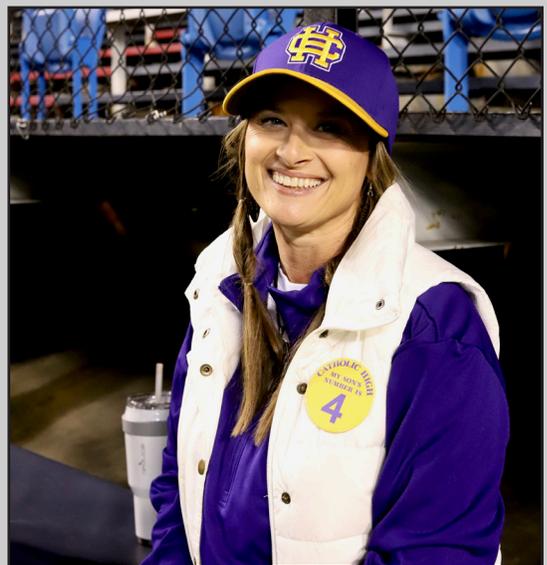
ESSENTIAL TO THE SCENE



Brother Richard Sanker, chief Rocket fan, keeps his eyes on the field during the semifinal playoff game for the 11-0 Rockets.



MSM Cheerleaders and Rockettes brightened pep rallies and games with their precision, talent, and spirit.



Mrs. Kilee Fogleman sits in her normal end-zone field spot as she watches her son junior Cody Fogleman and her husband, head coach Mr. John Fogleman, battle it out with Pulaski Academy. The Rocket coaches' wives certainly deserve their own "of the year" awards for their dedication and patience. Photos this panel: Gretchen Gowen

Congratulations to Senior Miles Marlow
Miles is the 2022 winner of the Ken Hatfield Sportsmanship Award presented by the Little Rock Touchdown Club.

In a recent Arkansas Catholic article about the award, head coach Mr. John Fogleman said, "Miles was nominated because he is such a good teammate. He did not get a lot of playing time this year, but he was always cheering his teammates on. He was always the first to run out and offer help on scout teams. Miles is also always willing to volunteer and give up his time whenever a group outside of the school needs his help." Photo: P. Zawislak



FOGLEMAN IS ARKANSAS 6A-7A COACH OF THE YEAR



Head football coach Mr. John Fogleman talks with his team after their one loss of 2022 to Pulaski Academy in the semifinal round of the 6A state championships. That contest ended the teams 11-game winning streak. Mr. Fogleman received multiple accolades as the 6A/5A Coach of the Year. Photo: Phillip Zawislak

Head coach Mr. John Fogleman is first and foremost a teacher at this school. He teaches civics to sophomores and took up a WWII elective for juniors and seniors. He spends long hours, as all teachers do, reading student papers and preaching the value of hard work in the classroom.

On the field, his teacher's role shifts only slightly. He teaches by an example of humility and hard work. Once in a while, the world notices and lauds such virtues. The entire Catholic High family joined in celebrating announcements from several sources naming him Arkansas 6A/7A Coach

of the Year including SBLive Arkansas, a subsidiary of *Sports Illustrated*.

First came the *Hooten's*/Farm Bureau banquet and announcement of top players and coaches for 2022. Next came the surprise visit from Red River Auto Group representatives to present Mr. Fogleman with their Coach of the Year award. Later the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* named the Rocket coach as their choice for 6A/7A.

Mr. Fogleman told the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette's* Sam Lane, "The kids deserve this credit a lot more than I do. I didn't coach any less or any more than I did, say five years ago when the seasons weren't that great. So, any accomplishment like this, credit goes to the rest of the coaching staff and the players. Without them, none of that would be possible."

Lane recalled the Rockets' first game of the season on August 26, a non-conference meeting against North Little Rock's Charging Wildcats. At the time, many saw NLR as a main 7A contender to #1 Bryant High School's football title. Lane wrote, "But the Rockets shocked them at North Little Rock 23-6."

Lane followed the Rockets three weeks later back to War Memorial when the team faced 6A-East favorite Benton High School. The CHS team won that game 38-14. Fogleman said that win "drew attention to the possibility of coming out on top of the conference."

The Rockets added eight more regular season wins to their record and topped it off with a quarter final last-four-second win against Central Arkansas Christian in the state quarterfinal championship game.

Athletic director Mr. Tim Ezzi summed up Mr. Fogleman's legacy at our school. Mr. Ezzi said, "John's been a good coach since he's been here. He does a tremendous job with the kids. He's a super humble man, and just a great person."

LAB ACQUISITION TAKES STUDENTS TO THE MOLECULAR LEVEL

With the acquisition of a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) machine, Dr. Jennifer Gilley could turn her biology lab into a crime lab, a virus testing center, or a research center for genetically modified fruits and vegetables.

The PCR machine is a highly efficient tool to amplify small segments of DNA or RNA. It's the machine that labs used to check for the presence of the coronavirus. Some people call it a molecular photocopier. It allows scientists to quickly and efficiently amplify the DNA or RNA to study it in detail.

Dr. Gilley plans to use this new equipment for many activities in her sophomore biology classes. She said, "PCR is used by crime scene scientists to look for genetic markers in suspects and victims. This is called DNA fingerprinting. For example, if there are many blood/saliva samples, you can collect the cells, extract the DNA from them and use the PCR machine to amplify certain regions of DNA that are unique within individuals. [After several other steps], this is a process that allows you to match the DNA found at the crime scene to a particular suspect."

"We will be performing a DNA fingerprinting lab using DNA samples from a mock crime scene. We will be doing our own crime scene analysis in the classroom. This will allow them to understand what really happens in a crime lab versus what they've seen [on TV shows like] *CSI*."

Dr. Gilley, who has a great deal of experience with extended laboratory



Dr. Jennifer Gilley demonstrates the biology lab's new PCR machine that has many applications including detecting disease and solving crimes. Photo: G. Gowen

studies, has some ambitious projects in mind. She said, "I would love for my honors students to go through the entire process of molecular cloning. Unfortunately, science is not on a 45-minute schedule and often does not go according to plan. Depending on fund availability, I would also like to use PCR to look for the presence of foreign genes in genetically modified fruits and vegetables."

WINTER FORMAL WARMS HEARTS ON A CHILLY NIGHT



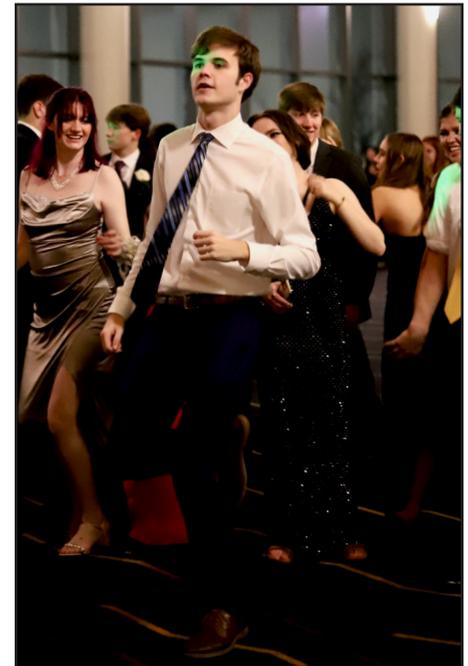
From a ballroom overlooking the Arkansas River, hundreds of juniors and seniors with their lovely dates danced non-stop when they were not visiting the photo booth, taking selfies, or talking politely with chaperones at the Robinson Center.

The January 21 Winter Formal was exactly what the hundreds of teenagers seemed to crave as their world pivoted back to near-normal.

The only small glitch happened because of the venue's underground parking lot. Mr. John Fogleman and a kind parking attendant solved the problem. According to Mr. Steve Straessle, the two "patiently taught the boys how to take a ticket and pay."

The boys ended the evening by singing the *Alma Mater*, just as they had done in 2020.

All a group of three seniors had to say was, "Alma Mater on three," and the hall full of CHS juniors, seniors, and even their dates broke into song before Mr. Steve Straessle dismissed them from the January 21 Winter Formal.



D. J. Hollywood provided non-stop dance music for the crowd of over 350 CHS juniors and seniors and their dates.

Senior Drew Dillman demonstrates his line-dance skills.



Seniors create the perfect pose for the popular photo booth. Juniors John Yarberry, Cole Carp, and James Nichols look over some of their keepsake photos as the event winds down. Mr. Russ Galbraith of Arkansas Best Photobooth once again set up his props and camera for this event. Photos this page: G. Gowen