Matthew Dietz

On November 5th, 2017, Covington Catholic High School hosted its annual Open House event, in which grade school students and their families can visit the campus of Covington Catholic, and see if it will be a good fit for the next four years of their life.

Covington Catholic typically draws quite a large crowd for the Open House, often times including mass amount of students from feeder schools, such as St. Pius X, St. Joseph in Crescent Springs, St. Agnes, and Blessed Sacrament. However, this year there was also a large crowd of people from non-feeder schools, including Campbell County schools St. Thomas and St. Joseph, as well as Kenton County schools, such as Turkeyfoot. The Open House is designed to convince students that do not already know where they are attending High School, that Covington Catholic is the right destination for them, and with plenty of non-feeder students in attendance, that made our goal a little easier.

What makes the Covington Catholic Open House truly special is the amount of student volunteers that give up time out of their Sunday to help out a good cause. Students of the Sophomore, Junior, and Senior classes are eligible to be tour guides for the event, leading families and students across the school and campus for a look at what our academic buildings and sports facilities are like. Students who volunteer as guides also receive service hours for donating their time, making it a win-win situation for both parties.

Senior Jake Walter, a star basketball player and Ambassador for this year’s Open House event, enjoyed his time leading families and students around school, saying “I really enjoyed showing our Future Colonels what life is like at Covington Catholic, and I hope I was able to make a difference in their decision process.”

The Doors are Open!

Harris Disken

The word “perfection” has a few meanings in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, such as the quality or state of being perfect, freedom from fault or defect, an exemplification of supreme excellence, or the act and process of perfecting. We have always been taught that no one, including ourselves, will ever be perfect on this earth. Well, this year’s CCH Football Colonels proved that incorrect.

The 2017 CovCath Football Colonels reached their goals and oh so much more. As all of the state of Kentucky knows the Colonels finished a perfect 15-0 season by beating Madison Southern in the Class 5A Championship game at Kroger field 49-13. This win marked the 7th State Championship and the first undefeated season in the program’s history.

The final game started a tad bit shaky for the Colonels by somewhat struggling on the first drives offensively and defensively. That quickly turned around after the offense had caught fire and the “D” copied accordingly. The pigskin was slung all night by quarterback AJ Mayer, who went 11/15 with 337 yards in the air and 71 yards on the ground. Mayer racked up an amazing 6 total touchdowns for the Colonels.

The Colonels were also led by Coach Eddie Eviston, who becomes the 6th coach in state history to win state championships at two different high schools (having recorded 2 at NCC and now one at CCH). Coach Eviston in a post-game interview stressed to the reporters that he is forever grateful to this year’s senior class for buying into his plan three long years ago. It was a process that turned out beautifully.

A special shout-out to all the Crazies at the games this year! The support was what had helped the team succeed at their utmost potential.
CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY THIS YEAR!

Matthew Dietz

The Covington Catholic High School Chamber Choir has released their 2017 Christmas album, titled *Home for the Holidays*, featuring members of both the Chamber Choir and select choir class.

The last Christmas album produced by Covington Catholic was released in the winter of 2015, titled *I’ll be Home*. The CD produced then features different songs that did not find their way onto the 2017 version. Classic Christmas tunes such as “O Holy Night,” “All I Want for Christmas is You,” and “Ave Maria” were several of the most notable. The disc also featured one of the most popular Christmas songs around Covington Catholic in “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” that even has its own music video on Youtube.

The 2017 version of the Chamber Choir CD includes an assortment of new songs, such as “Blue Christmas,” “Sleigh Ride,” and “Winter Wonderland.” The leader of the Chamber Choir, as well as the select choir, Mr. Jim Wolfe, is a master on the piano and keyboard, allowing the magnificent voices of the choir to be put on full display.

The majority of the Chamber Choir consists of seniors, and I was able to sit down with one of our most promising senior singers in Mason Kinsella. Mason performs a solo on the song “White Christmas” obviously making it one of his personal favorites. However, Mason also enjoys the songs “Celebrate Me Home” and the classic “Santa Claus is Comin’ to Town,” enjoyed by so many to this day. Mason is confident that this year’s CD will receive rave reviews, saying “Out of all the albums the Chamber Choir has produced, this one has been the best.”

The Chamber Choir will be joining the select choir, as well as the CCH/NDA band and NDA choir on Thursday December 7th for the annual Christmas Concert in the gym of Covington Catholic and Notre Dame, and will also be singing at numerous events and concerts throughout the Christmas season. The Chamber Choir CD is available for purchase at the CCH Spirit Shop, as well as at various Joseph Beth stores throughout Northern Kentucky.

THAT CLASSIC FREEBIRD NEVER GROWS OLD

Nick Raisbeck

Some things never go out of style and never get old – like fireworks on the Fourth of July and cookies at Christmas time. Another thing that is timeless is Classic Rock. These songs of the 60s and 70s sounded great when they were first sung and still sound fantastic today. You can turn on a radio station in any city today and still hear these songs as you cruise the highways. One of the all-time best is “Freebird” by Lynrd Skynyrd. The song was on the band’s debut album in 1974 and remains on most lists of the best classic rock songs of all time. “Freebird” begins somewhat softly and soberly as the singer meditates about freedom and the people left behind in our lives as we journey forward. The melody is pretty, and the words are captivating:

If I leave here tomorrow
Would you still remember me?
For I must be traveling on now
Cause there’s too many places I’ve got to see
But if I stayed here with you, girl
Things just couldn’t be the same
Cause I’m as free as a bird now
And this bird you cannot change.

After the slow ballad-like beginning, the song becomes a rock anthem. The tempo increases, the chords amp up, and the guitar solos become explosive and pounding. In addition to the driving rhythm, the lyrics of the song speak to me because I am about to graduate and start a new life in college. I will be experiencing many new freedoms and leaving behind friends and family whom I love. The memories I have created thus far will never leave me. I will always remember the special people and events in my life, but it is time to travel on. The thought of moving on is bittersweet because I know I will miss so many people. But at the same time, I am ready for the next adventure. In just a few short months, I will be as free as a bird and there are so many challenges to meet and so many places I want to see.

A TASTE OF TWAIN

Mason Kinsella

On November 28th, our freshmen took a field trip to see Cincy Shakespeare’s *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. This play, running from November 17th through December 9th, was adapted by Laura Eason. I was lucky enough to talk with freshman Josh Bertram about how he liked the show. He stated, “The set was amazing. They did a really great job with the stage…overall it was decent and I’d be willing to go again.” Here is the show summary on their website:

“Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn, Aunt Polly, Sid, Becky Thatcher—the whole gang is together in Mark Twain’s iconic piece of Americana. Set in the small, fictional town of St. Petersburg, Missouri, during the mid-1800s, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer offers a little bit of everything: boyish adventure, faked deaths, grave robbing, murder, buried treasure, haunted houses, and more. Come check it out, and if you’re lucky we might just let you help whitewash the fence.”

Cincy Shakespeare Company is well known for their amazing performances, and it seems that they did not disappoint.
Kyle Richards  
The fiercest rivalry in the NFL continued Monday, December 4th in Cincinnati as the Pittsburgh Steelers took on the Bengals. Given the rivalry’s exciting past, the 9-2 Steelers could not take the match-up against the 5-6 Bengals lightly. Past games had been dirty – 4 rule changes had been made due to malicious hits. Terrible Towels were disrespected, and players (Ryan Shazier) celebrated injuries to their opponents (Giovanni Bernard). This game was no different, a sequel to the series.

Just four minutes into the game, as the Bengals were driving down the field, Steeler defensive captain Ryan Shazier was carted off with no movement in his legs after making a tackle in which he led with his helmet. On the first three drives of the game, Randy Bullock converted a 35-yard field goal, Adam Jones intercepted Ben Roethlisberger, and Andy Dalton proceeded to pass an 8-yard touchdown to AJ Green. Two Bengal drives later, with 6:44 remaining in the half, there was finally some chippiness; rookie running back Joe Mixon was knocked unconscious after a vicious hit from two Steelers. He ended up leaving the game and was diagnosed with a concussion. With 31 seconds left in the first half, AJ Green caught yet another touchdown, this time from 15 yards out. The Steelers then marched 71 yards down the field in 31 seconds and made a field goal as time expired to bring the game to 17-3 in favor of Cincinnati. Apart from the final Steeler drive of the half, the Bengals were playing uncharacteristically well, and any lingering Bengals fan knew something would most likely go wrong, especially the game being against the Steelers.

The Bengals received the ball to open the second half, but were quickly driven off the field. This is when things began to go wrong for the Bengals. Just a down after second-year cornerback William Jackson made a brilliant defensive play, he let Steeler running back Le’veon Bell run right past him on the sideline and score a touchdown. Chris Boswell tacked on the extra point, and it was now 17-10.

The next drive, on a 1st and 10 from their own 39-yard line, Andy Dalton threw a deep ball to AJ Green which he caught, made a few moves, and waltzed into the endzone for a 61-yard touchdown. The play was electrifying, and the Bengals had given themselves a little safety net. However, a flag lay on the ground in the background. An extremely questionable hold was called on Bengal running back Giovani Bernard, which negated the long touchdown. The Bengals were only able to get 3 points out of the drive. 20-10 Cincinnati.

Seconds after the Bengals scored, so too did the Steelers. Martavis Bryant took the following kickoff 96 yards to the house. Yet, again, there was a controversial holding called, which nullified the touchdown. On two possessions in a row, both teams had been bailed out and hosed by the refs. The Bengal defense stopped the Steelers, forcing a punt.

A few possessions later, the Bengals punted, and Steeler receiver Eli Rogers returned the ball a mere 13 yards. However, an unnecessary roughness penalty on a Steeler player brought the ball half-way back to the goal, to the 13 yard line. The Steelers ended up making a field goal on this drive, cutting the score to 20-13 Bengals.

Then, the real violence began. Le’veon Bell ran over Bengal cornerback Dre Kirkpatrick on one play. Then, Steeler rookie receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster leveled Ben Roethlisberger with a crushing hit. Both teams had been bailed out in the first half, and the Bengals were once again penalized. A penalty was assessed on the play, and Smith-Schuster received an unnecessary roughness penalty along with a taunting penalty. Vontaze Burfict was penalized, suspending him for the game, and Andew Brown was penalized.

Players, coaches, and fans alike were reasonably angry with the way both teams played. The game was violent throughout, which Steeler quarterback Ben Roethlisberger dismissed as “AFC North football.” JuJu Smith-Schuster was asked after the game about his hit on Burfict, and Antonio Brown kept unprofessionally repeating “karma,” as Smith-Schuster spoke about Burfict needing to be carted off the field. Brown was referencing the 2015 AFC Playoffs, in which Burfict was penalized, suspended, and fined for a devastating hit to Brown’s head. Smith-Schuster apologized for the illegal hit and taunting, but who knows if he was really being sincere or not.

As the NFL continues to monitor illegal hits and injuries, especially head injuries, this game should be a wake-up call for the commissioner, referees, and the league as a whole. This ugly rivalry is not one that is good for the league’s image, and if the brutality continues, it could have devastating results.

JD Smith  
People around the United States, and certainly other countries around the world, have forgotten the true meaning of the holidays. Due to politics and greed of big corporations the focus of the holiday season has changed from a focus on family bonding and celebration, to a focus on material goods and shopping. I have seen this first hand with my own family as both my sisters were on the phone at Thanksgiving dinner, planning the next day’s Black Friday shopping. When someone is most concerned about acquiring material possessions on a day of gratitude like Thanksgiving, that leads me to believe that we have lost our way. Fortunately in my family we have the guidance of my parents to turn the focus to time with family, but in many places that leadership does not exist and many adults participate in events like Black Friday. All of this leads to the watering down of the holiday, and kills things like family gathering which is invaluable.

The lost meaning of the holidays does not stop with Thanksgiving, however, as material possessions have overshadowed Christmas as well. The competition among kids to receive the newest and coolest toys or clothes, is taking value away from the holiday celebrations particularly Christmas. Instead of focusing on the birth of Jesus, many young people’s only focus is what is under the tree that morning. Getting presents on Christmas is certainly not a bad thing, but the focus on Christmas has shifted too far towards presents. I am more sure if there is necessarily a fix to this issue, but I would hope that parents continue to remind their children of the true meaning of the holidays and Christmas. I too have certainly fell into these pitfalls and only cared about getting presents, and looking back upon that it is a shame I didn’t take more time to reflect upon the occasion. I just encourage whoever may read this to take a step back this holiday season to think about what is really important and put their focus on those people or things. When you take a look back at this time a few years down the road, you certainly will remember bonding with family and friends, or taking time to give back than getting that new toy under the Christmas tree.
STUDENT LIFE: EVENTS

VOCATIONS DAY

JD Smith

The Colonels were able to spend a whole day learning about the life of a priest and what the job demands. The idea came from Bishop Foys, who wanted students to be able to hear firsthand from a priest what their job is like as well as to help students find their vocation in general. Principal Rowe was eager to get the message out to the student body and allowed them the opportunity for such an event.

The day began with an informational video on the life of priests and a few opening remarks by the Director of Vocations for the Diocese, Father Andrew Young. He spoke about how we are all called to do one of four vocations, and we must look to God to give us the guidance in choosing our route in life. According to Fr. Young, if we live according to God’s plan we can find success in any four of the vocations we choose. After the opening presentation, students returned to the classrooms and enjoyed their lunches. Seniors were invited during this time to go outside and spend some time playing ultimate frisbee with Father Hennigan, who was also in attendance.

After lunch, the Colonels returned to the gym to celebrate Mass with the Bishop. Bishop Foys joined the Colonels, along with Father Hennigan, Father Young, and Deacon Steckle. The Chamber Choir was pitch perfect as usual, and Drew Danneman participated in the readings. Bishop Foys was satisfied enough with the participation from the student body to reward an extra day off at the end of the Christmas break. Not surprisingly, the Colonels were excited and gave the biggest round of applause.

To end the day, Father Young summarized all of the points and then took some time, along with Father Hennigan, to answer some questions from the student body. As a further reward for the great participation, the day ended at one o’clock, and students were dismissed early.

Overall, the students were lucky to have a day to explore vocations in preparation for life.

NEW STUDENT ARRIVES

Nate Dinkens

Life is full of new beginnings, and new opportunities never seem to end. New beginnings occur all the time whether it is moving to a new country, getting a new job, or even transferring schools. This change happened at Covington Catholic when a new student in October.

Spencer Eilers, Covington Catholic’s newest sophomore, transferred from St. Henry District High School. Spencer decided to switch schools because he was not enjoying school, and he wanted to make high school a better experience. Currently, he likes Covington Catholic because going to school is fun, and he feels more motivated than ever to complete his work. Spencer plays soccer and is not in any extracurricular activities currently, but he plans to join hiking club.

His favorite teacher is religion teacher Mr. Andolina, because he is funny and his class is entertaining. Spencer’s favorite class is English because the stories and authors are interesting; currently he is learning gothic literature in English. Before he transferred schools he knew a couple of guys from playing soccer and just hanging out with other people. The person he knew best before transferring was Jack Stava. According to Spencer, being at an all male school is better than a co-ed school because it is more laid back and more exciting.

So far, Spencer is enjoying his time at Covington Catholic, and the Colonels are thankful that he switched because Covington Catholic is not just a regular school; it is a brotherhood for life.

BREAKFAST WITH THE PROFESSIONALS

Mason Kinsella

On November 8th, some of our more technically-inclined students spent their early morning in the lunch room. There they were able to meet some experts in the technical field to discuss what their professions were and other specifics. With Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Lind in charge of it all, they had each professional seat at designated tables while students circled by every few minutes. Here are a few of the people that spoke: Justin Ellis, Mike Carone, Aaron Pitman, Tom Fritz, Tyler Gross, Chris VanDyke, Greg Well, Nick Ritter, and Jacob Schreiver. If you would like more information on them, please see Mr. Cleveland or Mr. Lind. Thank you to those professionals for coming out to expand our electronic knowledge, the STEM department and students really appreciates your time.

Get the latest devices, get the best deals.

Corey Grace

Get the latest devices, get the best deals.

Galaxy Note 8

2420 Baxter Road
Crescent Springs
KY 41017
(859) 605-4020
verizon
Kyle Richards

On Friday, November 10th, Covington Catholic High School through the NEHS honored its veterans. Of the nearly 20 veterans who attended, three spoke to the school – Mr. Bill Snyder, Navy (Class of 1964); Mr. Nick Hovan, Army (Class of 1991), and Richard St. Onge III, Army (Class of 2006), the keynote speaker. These men spoke of their journeys to the military, their experiences in service, and about life in general.

Each year, Covington Catholic holds an assembly for its veterans, but this year was different. Usually the speakers, such as Fred Hennigan a few years ago, speak of battles and hardships in the combat zone. This year, however, there were three speakers who addressed their feelings about what war meant to them – patrolling the skies or the waters, and simply helping the war effort in smaller ways.

First, Mr. Snyder spoke of the brotherhood and the bonds created with his fellow soldiers while he did his duty down under water in a submarine. Second, Mr. Hovan addressed the training and the discipline he received in his service even though he saw no combat. Finally, Mr. Richard St. Onge’s story resonated with the students, because he was just like us only a few years ago. He spoke of his time as a student at Covington Catholic, and of his missions in helicopters, safeguarding the skies from enemies. Completing flight school, Captain St. Onge was assigned to 1st Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, at Ft. Campbell, KY where he was selected to immediately assume leadership of 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company Spectres. He and his platoon notably spearheaded the fielding of the newest AH-64E Apache Guardian and deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel in April, 2015.

He and his platoon conducted over 100 deliberate counter-terrorism operations in nearly all remote regions of the country during which they frequently closed with and destroyed high value targets of Al-Qaeda, the Islamic State, and the Haqqani Network. He, just like the 600 students listening to his story, are young men looking for something that they are passionate about. And Richard is passionate about protecting his country.

There was a notable veteran in the crowd this year—not a CCH alumnus, but nevertheless someone of great importance. Mr. Woodrow Booth, a veteran of WWII and a neighbor of junior Adam Fortner, graced CCH with his presence. Before leaving, he was recognized for his years of diligence as a staff sergeant. We do not get many chances to see our WWII veterans in person any more, for many of them have passed on to this world. All of the veterans had the chance to introduce themselves to the CCH crowd where they then received a standing ovation. What an honor for CCH as a school, along with organizer Mrs. Diane Ruth, to greet these wonderful men to our school. Mr. St. Onge, along with all the veterans, hopes this assembly inspired a few brave young men to join the military effort and serve a country which has given so much to them, just like he has.

NOVEMBER BRINGS MEMORIAL MASS

Staff

Memorial Mass is celebrated in early November where alumni and visitors return to CCH remembering their loved ones who have gone on from this world with red roses. The guests are treated to breakfast before returning to their regular duties of life. Father Hennigan was gracious enough to share in the Mass with the student body and their guests. It is one of the few masses that is offered first thing in the morning for the Colonels.
**French, Anyone?**

Kyle Richards

The members of the Culture Club at Covington Catholic continue their journey to becoming the most well-rounded young men in the school. At this point in the school year, they have devour food from Indian, Mexico, and several other countries. They all seem to enjoy being so cultured.

The group recently ventured to Cafe de Paris in Cincinnati on December 8th. “It’s interesting exploring about other cultures’ food and traditions,” said senior member and club president Danny Ballow. Sophomore Nick Gettelfinger, a loyal member, says his favorite part about Culture Club is hanging out with Mrs. Ruth, a statement which he hopes will improve his grade in her class. “This really is the most exciting club in the school. It’s also the coolest. The second you tell any girl you’re in Culture Club, you’re in good for life. Then you take her out to the new Chinese restaurant, and of course you know your stuff about Chinese food, so that impresses her a lot too. That’s my experience at least,” said Nick.

The Cafe de Paris is a small French-like bistro that is only open for mornings and lunch, so the group has to plan an outing on a day off from school. “It’s one of my favorite places to visit,” says Mrs. Ruth. “The French cuisine is out of this world.”

President Danny Ballow holds his spot as the most intimidating figure of all Cov Cath student leaders. A black belt in mixed martial arts, and a graduate of the prestigious institution of Blessed Sacrament Grade School, Danny is a polarizing man, with a fierce side that only emphasizes his friendly side. He fears no man, and is prepared to make Cov Cath’s Culture Club the best Culture Club in the history of Culture Clubs. Danny is constantly roaming school grounds, recruiting new members for his club. He has a dream that one day each student at Cov Cath will be a member of the great Culture Club. The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve President Danny Ballow holds his spot as the most intimidating figure of all Cov Cath student leaders. A black belt in mixed martial arts, and a graduate of the prestigious institution of Blessed Sacrament Grade School, Danny is a polarizing man, with a fierce side that only emphasizes his friendly side. He fears no man, and is prepared to make Cov Cath’s Culture Club the best Culture Club in the history of Culture Clubs. Danny is constantly roaming school grounds, recruiting new members for his club. He has a dream that one day each student at Cov Cath will be a member of the great Culture Club. The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve

---

**Fun on the Links!**

The Intramural Bowling league meets every Wednesday after School at 3:15 at the notorious Super Bowl in Erlanger and is $7.50 per person. According to 4 year Intramural Bowling League veteran Evan Klein, “The season has just kicked off and looks to be one of the most competitive years.” For as teams to look out for, team Topmiller seems to be at the top as they are filled with skill.

The best part about Intramural Bowling is that skill level does not matter. At the top of the list for the most skilled player is senior Tommy (Big Tom) Smith; however, he has been disqualified from this spot due to the fact that he has a bowling alley in his basement. This leaves the title of best Intramural Bowler to senior Jake (Wiggs) Wigger, who has bowled lights out his whole carrier. The worst bowler in the league is senior Drew (Big Dew) Cahill; some say that he has never hit a pin!

All in all Intramural Bowling is a fun way to bond with fellow Colonel brothers. I strongly encourage that any Colonels looking for something fun to do, join the Intramural Bowling League and make a team with some friends.

---

**Mock Trial Prepares**

Julian Chapman

Long hours of preparation are ahead for the CCH Mock Trial team. Recently, the team received their next case, State of Utopia vs Grayson Zayne. In this case, a college student is found cheating by a female classmate. He decides to haze this student and ends up killing her. The charge is intentional homicide on a college campus. Zach Thapar said he really enjoys the case, calling it complex but very interesting. “It involves a lot of things that are relatable to modern day: hazing, social media, and cheating scandals.”

I asked Zach, son of Judge Amul Thapar, if there were any recent events of importance. He replied, “Like I said, the case is complex. There’s a lot of information involved and this is a major deal for the team. We have to study it carefully and make sure we have it ready for the competition.”

The competition will take place late February, early March in 2018. Come out and wish your Colonels luck!
**TOYS FOR TOTS**

**Nick Raisbeck**

“The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. The primary goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens.”

The CCH Corps of Cadets under the leadership of John Hooper took on this lofty goal to help with the collection again this year. The group sets out boxes to collect new, unwrapped toys for young children in the Cincinnati area that won’t have toys otherwise for Christmas. The boys collected at school as well as specific basketball games. It is great to see the group take on a great cause.

**THE DARK SIDE OF THE ART CLUB**

**Grant Lawler**

On November 15th, Mr. Haders and members of the Art Club met for their annual Dark Side of Oz night. There was no shortage of food for this event as bringing in food was required for attendance. This food included buffalo chicken dip, pizza, ice cream, and various other goodies. Many shorts were being played as the members trickled in, but as soon as the last member arrived Mr. Haders started the main feature, The Dark Side of Oz. The Dark Side of Oz is The Wizard of Oz, but the Pink Floyd album The Dark Side of The Moon is played over top. Surprisingly this changes the whole mood of the movie and even at times matches up with what is happening in the film. The Colonels ended the night by finishing off any food that was left over, which was not much as you would expect.

**SPORTS JOURNALIST VISITS JOURNALISM CLASS**

**Harris Disken**

It is not every day that CCH is visited by a locally or nationally known celebrity. The Journalism Department was that exception. In November, Mr. Joe Danneman of the local news stopped in to pay the class a special visit. Mr. Danneman gave the class a few pointers on some video-taking skills as well as an indepth idea of a “day in the life” and what his job really entails. Joe first began by taking the students through his average week. From professional sports like the Reds or the Bengals to college level athletics such as Xavier or UC, all the way down to local high school events, Joe covers it all. At these events Joe takes videos and interviews with players before, during, and after their games, capturing the highlights of the night along the way. Joe then goes back to the studio where he and his team put together short segments of footage to be able to be broadcast on air or online via social media. The class was intrigued with his profession. He finished his talk with some of his most memorable stories of his career. These included stories of his very first Super Bowl, when he got trampled by crowds of other reporters and his heated argument with Bengals Cornerback Adam “Pac-Man” Jones one postgame interview. That argument made its way all the way to the big show, ESPN!

Overall, the class really enjoyed Joe and his responses to the questions they had for him to answer. Thanks for your time, Joe Danneman.

**SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT ONE BOTTLE AT A TIME**

**Staff**

This is the first year for the environmentalists to take on the name of the Green Ambassadors under the guidance of Mrs. Ruth and Mr. Cleveland, but they have been excited to help save the planet. Because of a lack of recycling dumpsters due to construction around the school, the club had to step up their game of recycling. Members are busy each day collecting the water bottles from the cafeteria from lunch time. These members include Grant Hillmann, Grant Neltner, Nathan Guenther, Nathan Darpel, and Jude Kiely. Each day these young men take an average of two bags of empty plastic bottles to recycling bins in Boone and Kenton Counties. Over the football season, some members went the extra mile and separated bottles from the refuse after home football games. Neal Green headed up that group of workers with the help of the basketball team, and Neal ended up taking all those bottles himself to recycle them.

The group is looking to extend this service throughout the year, but take on other jobs as well.
I am Thankful for... 

Blake Shields

There are a lot of things to be thankful for, so I am going to break it down for everyone.

The #1 thing that I am thankful for is my family. I am the youngest of four boys and the son of Jill and Joe Shields.

My oldest brother Dylan is easily the smartest of the bunch. I am most thankful for his Fantasy Football analysis. His analysis has gotten me to the playoffs of the only league I am in, but that is not the only thing he is useful for. He can tell when I am upset and knows how to cheer me up. It is corny but true.

Next is Nate; he is just an overall goon. He is always the one that helps me with my fitness. Although I have not gotten immediate results, he has stuck with me and always nags me, making me the best I can be.

My other brother Luke is always around because he is living at home, currently for college. He pops into my room and has small conversations with me. It does not sound like much, but it goes a long way. Whenever I am stressed, he is the one who calms me down.

Now on to the parentals.

My dad is just the greatest father one could ask for. He knows the fine line between enforcer and friend. When I am messing up or just out of line, he puts me right back into my place. He is also the main one who has taught me the most about how not to be a jerk. He is also my best friend at the same time.

Now the good part—my mother. Although she likes to give me a lot of hassle, she loves me to death. She asks how my day was and all that, which goes a long way. I do not always show my love back to her, but I am seriously thankful for her. She has tolerated my BS for 17 years when most people can only put up with me for not even five minutes. She packs my lunch early in the morning as not many mothers make lunch for their children my age. She also works hard so I can have the kind of life I have. She literally puts blood, sweat, and tears into her job to take care of me. She works seven hours a day cleaning for others so she can make a living to help pay my schooling. It also helps that I always have a clean house because without her I would be living in filth.

I hope everyone else has a good Thanksgiving with the ones they love. If not, it is time to step up and see your family in the right manner.

JD Smith

The Academic Team at Covington Catholic is off to great start on the season. For those who may not be familiar with the sport, it is a standard quick recall match similar to the opening rounds on the show Jeopardy.

The Colonels are led by Mr. Thaman who has stepped up to lead the team. Seniors Jack Scharstein, Tyler MacKnight, Corey Foltz, and sophomore Sam Strange have also been leaders of the team, while also being some of the best players. While these students excel in the classroom, there is no need to be a star student to be a member on the team. Anyone can participate in Academic Team as long as they attend practice and are committed to helping the team improve. The team has raced out to a 7-2 start, with the only losses coming to Conner and Ryle. Along with the seniors mentioned above, Daniel Howard has been a big contributor and point scorer for the team. The team looks forward to more competitions and hopefully more wins in the coming weeks.

Senior Tyler MacKnight has been pleased with how the season is progressing and how the team is coming together. He says, “I think we have had a great start to the season, and I appreciate all the team members sacrificing their time.” Tyler will continue to lead the team and is well equipped to do so as the front runner for class valedictorian. Along with his rest of his teammates, he is excited for the rest of the year. The team will continue the season and hopefully their winning ways. Please talk to Mr. Thaman or any of the seniors above if you wish to attend one of the matches.

Nate Dinkens

Thanksgiving stands as one of the most American of holidays, a fall ritual fixed in the imagination as honoring the perseverance of the nation’s earliest arrivals during colonial days.

Harvest festivals have been recorded from ancient to modern times, from the Greeks honoring the goddess Demeter with a nine-day festival to the Jewish celebration of the Feast of the Tabernacles. From ancient to modern times, days of thanksgiving have followed a military triumph. Thanksgiving celebrations on the North American continent may be more directly traced to European refugees offering prayers for survival when two ships with British colonists reached the Maine coast in 1607. The vision of a yearly event to recognize survival in the New World began in Virginia where the Berkeley Hundred colony held a religious service on December 4, 1619, to commemorate the day of the ship’s arrival and declared the date would be yearly and kept holy as a day of Thanksgiving to the Almighty God.

The History of Plymouth Plantation includes choices of the meals shared by Pilgrims and Indians in 1621. It was described as a three-day feast of lobsters, clams, bass, corn, green vegetables, and dried fruits, as well as wild turkeys. Many of the New England colonists began to commemorate both their survival and their harvest by having a religious ceremony. Certainly days of thanksgiving were also related with military victories, and Americans along the eastern seaboard joyfully came together on December 18, 1777, for a day of Thanksgiving and Praise in the wake of the Continental Army’s victory over the British in October of that year. This was the first holiday officially celebrated in all thirteen states—and such a celebration would not happen again until Congress declared November 28, 1782, a day of national Thanksgiving.

In 1789, Congress debated whether the federal government should initiate a constant day of thanksgiving or leave the decision up to individual states—as had been done for over a century. On October 3, 1789, President George Washington announced his own proclamation, directing Americans to celebrate and give thanks on Thursday, November 26. With hundreds of thousands of soldiers away from home, and with a president attuned to the mood of the nation, Lincoln issued a proclamation in 1863 that Thanksgiving would be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November.

During the presidency of Franklin Roosevelt a controversy developed over when to date the holiday, which presidential proclamation had traditionally set as the last Thursday of the month. In 1939 business interests swayed successfully to shift the holiday to an earlier date. President Roosevelt selected November 23 to cater to demands for a longer Christmas shopping season. Roosevelt signed a bill in 1941 designating that every fourth Thursday in November be America’s official Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is more than just a family gathering, it is a day of appreciation.

The Colonels are led by Mr. Thaman who has been familiar with the sport, it is a standard quick recall match similar to the opening rounds on the show Jeopardy. For those who may not be familiar with the sport, it is a standard quick recall match similar to the opening rounds on the show Jeopardy.
SNOW, ANYONE?
Calvin Scheper
The Ski Colonels are kicking off their season as long as there is snow. Members have had a few meetings discussing plans and selling their new sweatshirts. Senior Nick Dinkens created the design out of nine designs. The cost is $25, and you can get one from Mrs. Stengle.
Joining the club is free; however, you need to pay for your costs of Perfect North Slopes pass/ ticket. A $5 one-way bus ticket is also available to any member in need of a ride there. Recently, the club met to raffle off some items for those in attendance, including leftover sweatshirts and gift cards for Perfect North. Since President Trevor Hay was not in attendance, another officer Kevin Bieker stepped to help out Ms. Stengle.
Look for the skiers on Special Olympics outing in January and in February, a trip is being planned to Colorado.

LAMPE DISPLAYS ARTWORK AT MSJ
Senior Brett Lampe, as well as Art Club President, had some of his artwork selected for display at the St. Joseph University High School Selections Art Show. Brett was also awarded a scholarship for art selected at the Thomas More College Selections High School Art Show. Congratulations to a fine young artist.

SHOW YOUR SPIRIT

SOPHOMORE WORKS WITH THE SYMPHONY
Nick Raisbeck
Everyone always appreciates the passion of those Colonel Crazies, but the planning all begins with the Spirit Club. And, indeed, there is planning involved in these cheers and hype to get the student body going.
This group of men is led by Mr. Hertzenberg and meets about once a week to make posters, plan pep rallies and themes for the games, and overall, simply to brainstorm about all the ways to fire up the school community in advance of any CCH event. This year, in particular, with the success of the football team, the club met to make posters and plan spirit rallies in advance of the big game. Typically, about 20-30 students, mostly seniors, attended the planning sessions. In addition to pre-game football preparations this year, the students in the club filled every arena in which CCH played—whether near or far—and led the entire group of fans, loudly cheering on the Colonels.
Come to any game in which CCH is on the field, the track, or the court, and you will be met by hundreds of blue faces chanting wildly. Their spirit is contagious and certainly will not die if the Spirit Club has anything to say about it.

Nate Dinkens
In a world where so many things are tearing us apart, music seems to continue to bring people together no matter where people are from. Music is one of the first things our brains are programmed to respond to, and has always been something that comforts us. Music is language through rhythmic patterns and seems to be everywhere we go in life, from Christmas music to church hymns. Looking back on the highs and lows in one’s life, there is typically a song associated with that feeling or time. Music has the ability to stimulate human memory, not only to create a memory, but also remind us of an old one. Music has been around for centuries, whether it is one of Mozart’s symphonies or a melody created by a sophomore at CovCath, music is made for everyone.
The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra created a contest for young composers. By entering the “Express Yourself! Melody Contest,” a young composer could have a featured part in this season’s Young People’s Concerts. The winning melodies will be featured in a brand-new composition to be performed by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. To enter the contest a person needs to read the poem “The Bell Ringer’s Song” by Mark Flanigan—a poet, performer, columnist, fiction writer, and a screenwriter from Cincinnati, Ohio—and let it inspire a person’s melody. Compose a melody from some of a person’s favorite lines of the poem and create a melody that can be used to sing in the text. John Lawrie, a sophomore at CovCath, entered and won the contest. John described his melody as America “having a bad past, but we are still able to show our pride as a country.”

Brian Raphael Nabers, the composer for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra piece, visited Mrs. Ruth’s fourth period class in celebration of John winning the contest. Mr. Nabers studied at the University of Alabama for a Bachelor’s degree studying composition. Currently, he is in his second year working on his Doctorate at the University of Cincinnati. Mr. Nabers described John’s melody as a “musically comfortable tune.” John’s melody will be performed either on January 24 and February 13, 2018. John explains his experience in creating the melody overall as, “In composing this melody, I took into account all of the history, bad and good, of this nation and tried to speak it in music with a triumphant, not regretful, and wise tune.”
HONORABLE MENTIONS

VFW HONORS SOPHOMORES’ SPEECHES

Staff Each year Mrs. Ruth gets her sophomore Honors English classes to participate in the local VFW, Ralph Fulton in Erlanger, Voice of Democracy Speech competition. “It is a great opportunity for young writers to get their feet wet in the writing world,” says Mrs. Ruth. “Students need more chances in the real world to show their writing skills, and I need to offer them those chances. I am just glad there are places like the VFW to give the boys these opportunities.”

Participants write a speech on the theme, American History: Our Hope for the Future and then record the speech. This year 1st place was awarded to Max Meyer-Hogan, 2nd to John Lawrie, and 3rd to Paul Allison. Each winner is awarded a cash sum as well. Now Max’s speech will continue onto the next level of competition and a chance to win more money for his talents. Congratulations to all the winners.

GALLENSTEIN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Staff This year marked the 24th Annual Jon Gallenstein Scholarship Awards from the Art Department. The scholarship is named after an art student that everyone loved and who died tragically his junior year. Jon’s family started the fund in memory of their son and to recognize other talented art students.

Eight art students were eligible to participate in the event. Students were judged on technique, creativity, time and effort, and a submitted essay. Judges included fellow teachers, graduates, and artists. After all the judges viewed the eight portfolios of the students, the final tallies were made. The winners were Drew Hummel, Tommy Smith, and Sam Poulos. Each of the winners were proud that their pieces were recognized by so many wonderful judges at every level.

JOSEPH KIELY WINS CRAFTON AWARD

Staff Sophomore Joseph Kiely is no stranger to awards. Earlier this year he was awarded 3rd place in the Books by Banks Writing Competition, an honor for someone of his young age. During November, Mrs. Ruth, NEHS Moderator, urged Joseph to try his luck at the Intellectual Freedom Challenge Competition, and he made his best attempt. The competition asks participants to write about a challenged or banned book and either write why the book should be kept out of the educational process or why the book should be kept on the reading list of school systems.

Joseph was recognized for excellence in his writing submission that demonstrated students’ right to read. The CCH NEHS Chapter also received a $50 check to use to further their literacy efforts within the school or community. “It was a great honor for our chapter to be recognized in this way,” said Mrs. Ruth. “I am proud of the work Joseph does. He is an amazing writer—one that is definitely beyond his years of life.”

Congratulations to Joseph Kiely on another fine job.
HONORABLE MENTIONS

Swim Team Off to a Fast Start

Nick Dinkens

Starting off the 2017-2018 season of swimming, the Aqua Colonels participated in a new type of meet. Usually to kick off the season high schools in the Northern Kentucky region come together at Scott High School and participate in the Ready or Not Relay Meet, which counts as a meet to qualify for Regionals. This year was different because that meet was a fundraiser to help raise money for items like new touch pads and equipment; it also did not qualify anybody for Regionals. To qualify for Regionals, a swimmer must participate in four total meets during the season. The meet did not count because the swimmers participated in wacky events, such as a 100m corkscrew relay, and a 200m t-shirt relay, etc…

This year’s coach is Scott Vennefron in his second year coaching the swim team. He is also an alumnus to the school and swim team. There are a total of eighteen swimmers with six seniors, six juniors, three sophomores, and three freshmen. Those seniors who lead the team are Nick Dinkens, Nate Dinkens, Trevor Hay, Pierce Knollman, Joey Novak, and Calvin Schepere. Juniors include Michael Krebs, Ethan Hanna, Patrick Merse, Bradley Kathman, Max Cochran, and Logan Smith. The sophomores are Brennan Collins, Conor Ryan, and Patrick Lester. Lastly, the freshman swimmers are Adrian Mast, Bret Holt, and Parker Knollman.

Recently on November 19th, Covington Catholic competed in the Scott High School Invitational Meet where the team received first place with a total of 283 points. In close second was Dixie Heights with 218 points, and in third was Simon Kenton with 143 points. Some of the major events that the team won first in were the Boys 200 Yard Medley Relay swim by Ethan Hanna, Joey Novak, Patrick Merse, and Calvin Schepere; the Boys 200 Yard IM swim by Joey Novak; the Boys 500 Yard Freestyle swim by Ethan Hanna; the Boys 100 Yard Breaststroke swim by Pierce Knollman; and Boys 100 Yard Backstroke swim by Patrick Merse.

Covington Catholic competed in the Simon Kenton Sprint Meet on December 2nd and won the meet with a total of 247 points at Scott High. The team will also be traveling to The University of Louisville to participate in the St. X invite (Catholic Cup) on December sixteenth.

The Covington Catholic swim team has participated in two meets this year, but there are many more meets this season, and this is only the beginning of a successful year for the Aqua Colonels road to the championship.
**WRESTLING BEGINS**

Logan Beagle

As winter sports begin to kick off, the Wrestling Team led by senior Brett Lampe get to show off their svelte forms across the tri-state. After months of lifting in the gyms, the Colonels are back in action and are starting the fourth year of the program.

Wrestling Team Captain Brett Lampe is excited for the season. As the only wrestler to contend at state last year, he looks to lead his entire team to a group state championship appearance. Lampe said, “With the help of Coach Alex, the guys really seem to be more into this year. They are committed and are actually enjoying the practices.”

As the season begins, the team wrestled in a pre-season meet at Walton Verona High School in early December. Although it was just a scrimmage, junior Mannie Murrer excelled in both of his matches. Next up is Lawrenceburg High School for the varsity and Purcell Marian for the JV. Good luck to these wrestling Colonels.

**VARSITY BASKETBALL RANKED #2 IN STATE**

Luke Thelen

With the basketball season upon us, the excitement begins. The varsity team is hungry and chasing a KHSAA state title. Led by seniors CJ Walter, committed to Xavier University; Aiden Ruthsatz, committed to Christian Brothers University; and AJ Mayer, committed to Miami University, the team has started off the season strong, going 6-0. They have had big wins over Lexington Catholic and #17 in the country, Moeller.

The team will travel to Fairdale, Louisville, for the King of the Bluegrass Tournament, where they will play some of the top teams in the state. In December, they will travel to Orlando, Florida, to play the Villages Tournament, competing with teams from all over the country. In pre-season, the team was ranked #2 in the state and hopes to move up to #1 by the end of the season. Good luck to the Colonels this season.
JV BASKETBALL ON A ROLL

Alex Schneider

The JV Basketball team has a lot to live up to after last year’s undefeated season and regional championship. They are starting the season with a 3-0 record—a solid beginning. The team is led by Grant Disken and Neil Green. Grant says, “I love being the go-to guy on the team.”

They started with a win over Oak Hills by only one point. Even though it was just a scrimmage, it is the way to splash into the season strong. Next up, they played Lexington Catholic and again eked by with a 44-43 score. Next, St. Henry was up for battle; the Colonels showed their talents and took them down 61-58. For the next three games the JV ballers performed well, showing their talents. Newport Central Catholic was a home game with the Colonels easily victorious, 64-49. Next, Moeller came to the home court but were taken down quickly in mid-December, 51-28. And to end December action, LaSalle took court but were no match for this JV team. Final score was 55-30.

We are looking for more success from these young players to help out the varsity players when necessary.

FRESHMAN BBALL PROVE THEIR TALENTS

Blake Shields

Freshman players are known to be green in many ways, but these basketball freshmen are revealing some great talent in their opening season as Colonel ballers. Joseph Eubank is excelling on the court, amassing the points for the team.

They opened their season against Scott where immediately the Colonels showed Scott how to play the game. The final score was 57-29 in favor of the Colonels. Lexington Catholic came next; the Colonels did not waste any time, taking down Lex Cath 45-35. Elder brought more challenge to the Colonels, but they pulled it out with a final score of 48-46 to a sold out game. St. Henry and Newport Central Catholic were next on the calendar. St. Henry score was 48-40 and NCC was 63-35, more easy games for the Colonels.

Moeller brought their game in mid-December taking down the Colonels for their first loss in the season, 38-56. But the Colonels bounced back with a victory over LaSalle, 31-29, a low scoring game. The team finished out their December play with a McNicholas Tournament, bringing a loss for the Colonels, 52-57, and in the game against Simon Kenton, the Colonels ended the 2017 year with a big win, 56-37.

These freshman players are looking to be strong competitors for this season. We look for their top players to definitely move up in the ranks.

INTERSCHOLASTIC BOWLING

Logan Beagle

With Intramural Bowling wrapping up, some of the better bowlers get ready for league play. Top bowlers include seniors Tommy Smith, Andrew Topmiller, Jake Wigger, and Michael Reynolds. Although all four of these guys are stellar leaders, Tommy Smith and Jake Wigger serve as the team captains.

The season kicked off with a match against the Campbell County Camels. Jake Wigger rolled a whopping 226 to lead the Colonels to an early season victory. Tommy Smith says their biggest competition is the Jaguars of Cooper. “If we take them, we can make it to state,” Smith claims. Andrew Topmiller vows to take them down.

Good luck in this season’s competition.