



**Greensburg
Central Catholic**
Junior-Senior High School



2024-2025 School Year | November 27, 2024

Attendance Reporting

All communications about changes in attendance/early dismissals must be done by phone, please dial 724-834-0310 and select option 1, or email attendance@gcchs.org.

If a local school district cancels classes and GCC is still in session, parents/guardians must call in for an absence to be excused.

GCC Regular Office Hours

Mon-Fri: 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Schedule for the week of Dec. 2nd

**Monday, December 2nd -
No School**

**Tuesday, December 3rd -
Day C**

**Wednesday, December 4th -
Day D**

**Thursday, December 5th -
Day E**

**Friday, December 6th -
Day A**

Change in 2024-2025 GCC School Year Calendar

In an effort for greater student success on mid-terms, we have adjusted the dates for mid-terms from January to before the Christmas break.

Dates for mid-terms will now be December 17-December 19 with early dismissal at 11:15 on each day. Bus transportation is available.

Teachers have already informed the students of this change. We wanted to give everyone ample time to adjust to the new schedule.

**See the revised 2024-2025 GCC
School Year Calendar.**

SCHOOL NEWS



GCC Families, if you have pictures from your student's sporting event, please send them to Ms. Dana Orange at dorange@gcchs.org to add to our Facebook page. Please include the final score of the game!

Reconciliation Service

The Reconciliation Service has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, December 4.**

All students will attend the Reconciliation Service during their Religion class, and have the opportunity to go to Reconciliation following the service.

Christmas Night Market

Sponsored by the Diocese of Greensburg

Saturday, December 14

1:00-8:00pm

Christ Our Shepard Center

2900 Seminary Drive, Greensburg

Admission and parking are FREE!

In order to avoid traffic and delays, please consider parking at Mountain

View Elementary School (1010

Mountain View Drive, Greensburg).

A free shuttle will be running between the school and the Christmas Night

Market from 2:00-8:30pm



Exploring God's Call is for young men in grades 9-12 — and will be meeting on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at St. John Baptist de La Salle Parish, 497 Athena Dr., Delmont. This is an informal gathering, hosted by the Office for Priestly Vocations and centered around prayer, discussion and fellowship. We invite all who have an openness to learning more about the Priesthood and discovering how to make a Spirit-guided discernment of God's Will in their lives.



To the Students and Faculty that selected a teen from the Giving Tree:

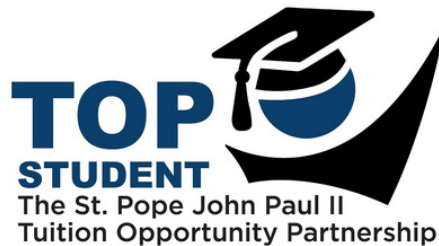
Thank you for sponsoring a young person this Christmas!

All gifts are due back to Ms. Riggi by Tuesday, Dec. 3.

Gifts should be in a gift bag - PLEASE DO NOT WRAP - and place the Giving Tree Tag on the bag.

Thank you for your participation in this service project!

Sponsored by Interact for Westmoreland Family - Catholic Charities



Attention all TOPS Families

As part of your TOP Scholarship Agreement, your family/student is willing to participate in service at the student's local parish or faith community or school community throughout this academic year. A quarterly report is prepared for the TOPS donor showing all services performed by GCC families. Failure to perform service will place your family at risk of losing TOP Scholarship assistance. Please log or have your student log all service by using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/J4vLmm7zei>

Attention new TOP Scholarship families, a church verification letter from your church stating that your family are registered members, or will become members, of a faith community is needed by Dec. 31, 2024. Please email it to Mrs. Szmed (tszmed@gcchs.org). Failure to submit the church verification will place your family at risk of losing TOP Scholarship assistance.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Seton Hill Performing Arts Center
100 Harrison Ave, Greensburg, PA 15601
Reichgut Concert Hall

Enjoy festive concessions, a GCC Holiday Art Display, and a reception following the concert!

Concessions are cash only!



Please join us for a night of Faith, fun, and fellowship!

Family Faith Night

Wednesday, December 11

6-8 PM, GCC Cafeteria



Installation view of Neapolitan presepio, 1700–1830, Carnegie Museum of Art. Photo: Bryan Conley

Topic: The Nativity in Art (with Advent Meditation)
Special presentation by Ms. Riggi's AP Art Students

Includes FREE catered dinner by Rizzo's

Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 4
<https://forms.office.com/r/tnzdmftpWg>

*All GCC Families
are welcome!*



GCC's Interact Club is collecting
handmade and store bought cards
that will be distributed
to Veterans this Christmas

Cards should be generic in message, also
Students should write from GCC

If you would like to participate
Please bring Cards to Ms. Riggi
By Dec 4th



Teacher & Principal Award Nominations

The Diocese of Greensburg is excited to celebrate excellence in teaching in the Catholic schools by recognizing exceptional educators and administrators with a Golden Apple Award. This award honors outstanding individuals who symbolize excellence in and out of the classroom, are committed to Catholic values, are devoted to teaching in the Catholic school system and who devote their lives to Catholic education. The Diocese recognizes the impact that each teacher has on the development of a child, and recognizes and deeply appreciates the unique charge Catholic school administrators have to the development of each student, and is thrilled to express appreciation through the Golden Apple Award program.

The Golden Apple Award is given annually to three teachers and one principal within the 12 schools of the Diocese of Greensburg. The award will consist of a beautiful engraved Golden Apple award and \$5,000 for the awardee's unrestricted personal use.

Nominations are open until Friday, December 13

[Click to nominate!](#)

Coat/Winter Clothing Drive Service Project

Organized by Jacob Kratzenberg

Mercy's Operation Safety Net is a medical and social service outreach program for persons who are experiencing homelessness in Allegheny County. They serve in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy by reaching out and offering services that help people and empower them to improve their quality of life.

Collection Items:

New and Gently Used -

- Coats (men's and women's)
 - Note: there is a greater need for men's coats
- Hats, gloves, & scarves
- Men's pants and sweatpants

Drive Dates: December 9 - 12

Collection boxes will be located in all religion classrooms, the main office, and the cafeteria.



Lands' End Uniform Sale

Greensburg Central Catholic High School

Get your cart ready here:

<https://www.landsend.com/900149006>



Black Friday & Cyber Week Savings!

Up to 40% Off

VALID: 11/28-12/4/2024

CODE: CYBERSCHOOL

PIN: 1224

LANDS'
END
SCHOOL



[landsend.com /get - started](https://www.landsend.com/get-started)



[landsend.com /myschool](https://www.landsend.com/myschool)

[landsend.com /myschool](https://www.landsend.com/myschool) | 1-800-469-2222

2025 Sanctity of Life Contest

Theme: A Reflection on Life, God's Most Precious Gift

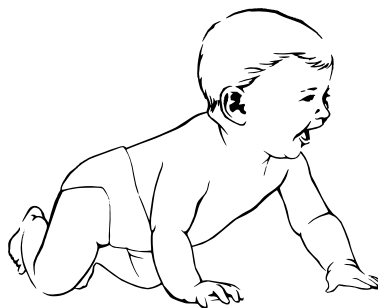
6-8 Grade Essay Contest

First place: \$100

Second place: \$75

Third place: \$50

Honorable Mentions: \$25



Essay submissions must reflect the stated theme and be typed, double-spaced, with your name, grade, phone number, address, and school name **shown on back** of the essay. Essays must be 300 - 500 words. Essays will be judged on **originality, adherence to theme, creativity, grammar, and neatness**. A first place essay will be published in the Alternatives.Yes Ministries e-newsletter.

Email to:

apritts@altyes.org

Mail or Drop off to:

Alternatives.Yes Ministries

6 Frank Gallo Lane, Connellsville, PA 15425

or

17 Gilmore Street, Uniontown, PA 15401

Must be **received by January 22, 2025**

Eligibility: Student must reside or attend a school in Fayette, Westmoreland, Armstrong, Greene, Indiana, or Somerset Counties. Relatives of staff, board members and volunteers of Alternatives.Yes are not eligible.



2024-2025 Missionary Childhood Association **National Christmas Artwork Contest**

Twenty-two winners will be selected in this national competition, as well as two grand-prize winners whose artwork will be the official National Christmas card of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

Contest winners will be notified in late spring 2025 and announced to Catholic media in fall 2025. All winners receive a commemorative plaque, and will be celebrated at an event in December 2025.

To enter, please complete the [linked form](#) and upload your art as PDF or .jpg file. Files may not exceed 100MB.

Please note:

- artwork cannot be returned
- artwork that does not conform to the guidelines will be disqualified
- no vertical designs

Submissions must be submitted by January 31, 2025

*In the last 9 years, 14 winners have come from the Diocese of Greensburg.
We hope that our winning streak continues!*



GUIDANCE CORNER

2024-2025 FACT Financial Aid

Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School is fully committed to making it financially possible for every student to receive a faith-based education.

Scholarships and financial aid are available. To be considered, you must apply using the FACTS financial aid form. The GCC Business Office will then send you a notice via mail informing you if you are able to receive financial support. For more information, please contact the Business Office.

AP Exams

Mrs. Burke visited all AP classes last week to share AP payment information and the AP exam calendar. All students taking an AP course(s) have been registered for the AP exam(s) in May. Due to our recent Flex Days, the due date for exam payment is December 6, 2024. Please reach out to Mrs. Burke if you would like a payment form or schedule. The AP Exam schedule can also be found at <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/exam-administration-ordering-scores/exam-dates>.

Seniors,

Check out the link below from Scholarships.com (this scholarship website is one of several on the GCC website). There are multiple scholarships with December deadlines!!

If you have not already created an account, click the STUDENT SIGN UP button in the top right corner!

<https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarship-directory/deadline/deadline-in-december>

PSAT

Mrs. Burke and Br. Xavier visited all 9th and 10th grade students last week to share information regarding PSAT scores and CollegeBoard accounts.

All students present created an account or accessed their existing CollegeBoard account and viewed their most recent PSAT scores from the October test date. Students accessed the BlueBook application on their laptops to link their scores and create practice programs. CollegeBoard's Big Future links were also shared, and students were encouraged to visit the links and complete the Career Quiz. Individual guidance meetings will be scheduled with the few students who were unable to access an existing CollegeBoard account due to password or email account issues.

Please encourage your student to share their scores and Big Future features. The CollegeBoard website offers many tools to help prepare students for life after high school.

<https://www.collegeboard.org/>

Parent Guide for PSAT (10th and 11th Grade):

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/psat-nmsqt-understanding-scores.pdf>

Parent Guide for PSAT 8/9 (9th Grade):

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/psat-8-9-understanding-scores.pdf>

FAFSA

Mrs. Burke visited all Seniors last week to share FAFSA information. Each student received a "how to" for Creating a StudentAid.gov Account (formerly FSA ID). This needs to be completed prior to accessing and completing the FAFSA. A FAFSA Tip Sheet was also given to each student and lists the steps on applying for aid and what is required for completion. Please ask your student for the Tip Sheets to help you with this important next step in the application and admissions process.

Local Scholarships

Seniors have access to the scholarship list on their Guidance Schoology page. Each scholarship is listed separately.



**Knights of
Columbus®**
**Pennsylvania
State Council**

Pennsylvania State Council College Scholarships

The PA State Council awards ten college scholarships each year, at the State Convention in May, to eligible Knights, Columbian Squires, and sons and daughters of Pennsylvania brother Knights from the various dioceses of the jurisdiction. The \$4000 awards, payable in installments of \$1,000 per year, are helping the recipients attend some of the finest colleges and universities in the country.

Information about this Pennsylvania KofC program can be found on the PA State Council website at

<https://www.kofcpennsylvania.org/scholarships>. There is a link on the page to an application form along with instructions regarding student eligibility and participation of the parent's council in the COAL program.

Applications for the 2025 PA college scholarships are due by December 31, 2024. Applicants are encouraged not to wait until the last minute as the required signatures and certifications become more difficult to obtain over the Holidays at the end of December. ACT, SAT or CLT test scores are accepted.

STEM CORNER



RESCHEDULED Lunch and Learn

Friday, December 13 during your
lunch period

- RESCHEDULED LUNCH and LEARN: Friday, December 13th during your lunch period
- “EXPLORING THE WORLD OF BUSINESS”
- Do you want to study business? Come and learn about the major business disciplines and the vast breadth of the business world!
- Guest Lecturer: Martha Fusco, CPA, MBA
- Free Chick-Fil-A lunch included (sandwich, cookie, water)
- You must register by Friday, December 6th! RE-REGISTER even if you registered last time!!
- [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)
- Open to students in grades 7-12

Need a Free Tutor?

GCC offers **free**, after-school **math and science** tutoring services to students in grades 7-12.

- Students must schedule sessions so we can be sure to have tutors available!
- **Click here** to register.
- A confirmation email will be sent to students confirming their successful registration.
- All sessions will be held in Room 105

National Parks Tour

June 15-20, 2026

- Open to students in grades 7-11
- Visit:
 - Valley of Fire State Park
 - Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park
 - Zion National Park
 - Bryce Canyon National Park
 - Grand Canyon South Rim
 - Container Park, Neon Museum (Las Vegas)
- For more information [CLICK HERE](#)
- Questions? Email pcullen@gcchs.org

National Math Club

bi-monthly meetings begin in January

- Open to students in grades 7 & 8.
- Some meetings 2:35-3:30pm/some meetings 7:10-7:40am
- Math Games, Monthly Challenges, Problem of the Week!
- Win prizes!
- Free to join
- Students should check their email from Mrs. Cullen and click the link to register!
- Questions? Please email pcullen@gcchs.org



STUDENT TRAVEL

PACK YOUR BAGS, WE'RE GOING TO.....

**ENROLLMENT
CLOSES
MARCH 1!**

**BERLIN,
PRAGUE,
KRAKOW,
BUDAPEST,
& VIENNA
JUNE 2025**

**GREECE
& ITALY
JUNE 2027**

ENROLL NOW!

TRAVEL IN 2025



WWW.EFTOURS.COM/2562154FC

TRAVEL IN 2027



WWW.EFTOURS.COM/2785232KJ

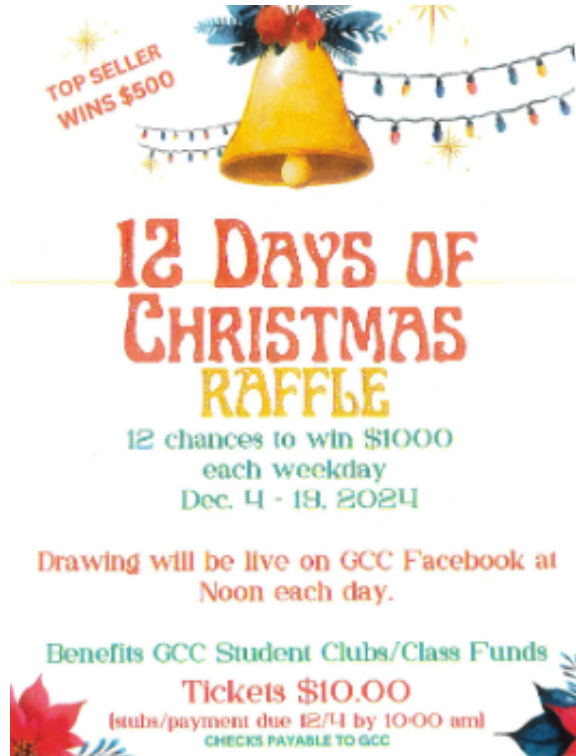
There is a limited time offer from EF where if you sign up by **December 2**, you get \$100 off the tour price! There's no better time to give the gift of travel with an experience your student will remember for a lifetime.

Sign up here: www.eftours.com/2785232KJ

FUNDRAISING



12 Days of Christmas Raffle



This is your last chance to get 12 Days of Christmas Raffle tickets before the Thanksgiving holiday! If 1,500 tickets are not sold by Dec. 3, the stubs and payments will be returned to the sellers, and the raffle will not take place.



GCC Auction 2025 Decades, Dinner & Dancing

SAVE THE DATE - Friday, February 21, 2025 - The Auction planning has started, but there is still time to get involved. The next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 6:00 pm in Dennis Cremonese's office. The auction is our biggest fundraiser, but more importantly, it is the biggest opportunity for the Greensburg Central Catholic community to come together for fellowship during a fun-filled evening. The live band, Jeff Jimerson & Airborne, will be providing the music for the evening. Early Bird tickets go on sale Nov. 4. Attendance Competition Details will be available soon! Be a part of making the 2025 auction a night to remember! Please contact Dennis Cremonese in the Advancement Office at dcremonese@gcchs.org or 724-834-0310 x4201 to offer to help.

FROM THE NUTRITION GROUP

Student Lunch Accounts

All lunch accounts need to be kept current. If your child owes a balance, please take care of the balance as soon as possible. **Students who have a negative balance are not permitted to buy extras or a la carte items.**

- The Kitchen is open daily from 7am-3pm. Breakfast 7am-9:30am.
- Drinks & Snacks are available 7am-3pm daily.
- We offer discounts on lunch items after 1pm. This does not include a meal.
- If it is a Mass Schedule you have until 9:30am to get food.
- If we are operating on a 2-hour delay we still offer breakfast 9am-10:45am.
The kitchen will continue to remain open until 3pm.

Grab & Go Lunch

Lunch slips are available to those who do not have a lunch period. To place a to-go order, please fill out a slip in the cafeteria and give it to the kitchen staff by 9:30am daily. If there is a 2-hour delay, please turn it in by 10:45am.





ATHLETICS

PIAA Sports Physicals Required for All Athletes in Grades 7-12

If students are receiving physicals from their primary care physician or at an urgent care, physicals must be the PIAA form and completed after May 1st. School physical forms ARE NOT the same as the PIAA physical form. Valid PIAA physicals must be completed and turned in to Miss Virginia to participate in a sport.

PIAA packets can be completed through FinalForms or can be printed from this link [http://www.piaa.org/assets/web/documents/PIAA_CIPPE_FORMS_SECTION\(S\)_1_-_10\(1\).pdf](http://www.piaa.org/assets/web/documents/PIAA_CIPPE_FORMS_SECTION(S)_1_-_10(1).pdf)

If completing the form on FinalForms, Section 5 must be printed, completed, and turned in at time of physical.

If you have any questions email Miss Virginia at vtinkey@gcchs.org.

Varsity Baseball

There will be a varsity baseball meeting for boys interested in grades 9-12 on Tuesday, December 3 at 2:10 pm in the Auxiliary Gym.

Clearance Requirements

Any parent/guardian wishing to volunteer in any capacity at GCC - i.e boosters, chaperones, etc. must submit all required clearances.

Submit to Ruth Ann at rgrant@gcchs.org. Click here for the list of required clearances and instructions on the Diocesan web site:

<https://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/youth-protection/clearances/>

PLEASE NOTE: All clearances must be on file at GCC. If you have clearances on file at an elementary school, please have the clearances sent to GCC. If clearances are not on file at GCC, you are not approved to volunteer at GCC.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Do you know a talented singer who is in grades 6-12? Tell them to enter the GBU Life SING-OFF! The winner will kick-off the Highmark First Night events on New Year's Eve! The finalists will also get a chance to perform.

Students who are 150 miles from downtown Pittsburgh are eligible to enter.

!! DEADLINE TO REGISTER BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 !!

For more info and to register:

https://firstnightpgh.trustarts.org/fn_home/get-involved/sing-off-competition

HILL IMPACT PROGRAM

January 13-April 7



**This 14 Week Course Will Focus on
Physical Fitness, Paramilitary
Disciplines, and Law Enforcement
Education For Kids 15-18 Years Old!**



Located At

**The South West Training
Center 2900 Seminary Drive
Greensburg PA 15601**

**Register By
Contacting:**

ablazavich@pa.gov

717.614.7971

Franciscan University Free Webinars

December

- **Tuesday, Dec 3 at 2:00pm** – Practical Evangelization and the Art of Listen in Sharing the Gospel: the Genesis Mission Method for Making Disciples – Fr. Jon Bielawski and Michele Thompson, Diocese of Plymouth, UK

Click [here](#) to register for this webinar.

- **Tuesday, Dec 10 at 2:00pm** – Training Door-to-Door Teams and Street Teams for Effective Evangelization – Dr. Stella Marie Jeffrey of the Catechetical Institute, Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH

Click [here](#) to register for this webinar.

- **Tuesday, Dec 17 at 2:00pm** – In Spanish: Cómo involucrar a los padres de la familia en la formación de sus hijos: Estrategias prácticas // How to engage parents in the formation of their kids: practical tips and strategies – Glenda Aragon, Pastoral Associate in St. Michael's Church in Livermore, CA

Click [here](#) to register for this webinar.





GREENSBURG YMCA TRACK AND FIELD

**TRACK AND FIELD PROGRAM FOR AGES 5 TO 18 SEASON
DATES: APRIL - JUNE 2025 LOCATION: GREENSBURG
SALEM HIGH SCHOOL TRACK PRACTICES HELD 3 TIMES
A WEEK COST: \$185 FOR YMCA MEMBERS \$225 FOR
NON-MEMBERS REGISTRATION OPENING IN
NOVEMBER!**

**A YMCA FAVORITE IS MAKING A COMBACK! JOIN US FOR A FUN, COMPETITIVE
AND SKILL BUILDING EXPERIENCE NOW AFFILIATED WITH USATF (USA TRACK
AND FIELD)**

**WWW.GREENSBURGYMCA.ORG
BRENDA WILLETT - B.WILLETT@GBGYMCA.ORG**