April 2016
SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Notre Dame High School

Both Irish men and women claimed District titles with wins over Signal Mountain.

James West and Luis Sanchez competed in the city-wide American Chemical Society Chemistry Olympiad. Eight schools in the city participated and the Notre Dame students scored in the top 10 for the city! They advanced to compete for a spot on the National team.
Tom Tortora and Reid Mitchell made the Tennessee All-State Band!

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

The OLPH Home and School Association hosted their second annual “Spring Fling” picnic social as a last chance to gather school families together to enjoy a bit of fun and relaxation before the event-heavy month of May.
New Home and School officers for the 2016-17 school year have been announced: Maureen Streko (President), Angie Cummings (VP), Laura Sullivan (Secretary), and Kelley Johnson (Treasurer) and Tammy DeSutter (Faculty representative).

The OLPH School 8th Grade Class travelled to Chicago for a jam-packed few days of fun and learning. They visited the Field Museum of Natural History, the Shedd Aquarium, Museum of Science and Industry, Art Institute of Chicago, Lincoln Park Zoo, and Mass at Holy Name Cathedral, an "Untouchable Gangster Tour," and a Dinner Cruise.
The 8th Grade participated in our traditional "Courtesy Luncheon," a hands-on learning experience about manners and etiquette in a formal setting.

OLPH School welcomed 275 of our very favorite people on "Grandparents’ Day 2016-The Happiest Place on Earth." Our special visitors from across the country were treated to brunch, a musical performance, and special time with their grandchildren.
First Communion – Over 90 second grade students, 24 from OLPH School celebrated their First Holy Communion in two separate services – one in English and one in Spanish - on April 28.

OLPH School families surpassed the $1,500 goal set for the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl campaign this year. The overage of $324.74 will go to the OLPH St. Vincent de Paul Society.
New members of the 6th - 8th grade BETA Club were inducted in a ceremony held on April 7. Invited because of their academic, leadership and character attributes, new members and their parents enjoyed a light buffet hosted by current members of the club.
Students were chosen throughout the year for their dedication and sportsmanship during their physical education classes and were given the "Mr. and Miss PE Award". Monthly winners in grades 5 - 8 were rewarded with a trip to Superfly Jump Park and CiCi's pizza on April 26.

The Class of 2016 participated in a class trip in Washington DC that began on April 28. Students and their chaperones visited many museums, monuments and national landmarks, while at the same time always having a great time and creating lifelong memories!
Knoxville Catholic High School

KCHS celebrated its annual Honors Week on April 4-8. We were able to honor so many of our students for their hard work in the classroom this year. From the National Honor Society inductions on Sunday, April 3, to the Honors Ceremony on Monday, April 4, then the President’s Brunch on Tuesday, April 5, we were once again reminded of the amazing student body that we are blessed with at Catholic High.

On April 7-8, the Class of 2016 made their annual pilgrimage for Senior Retreat at Lake Frances in Crossville. Despite some strong winds and colder than normal temps, the retreat was a great success. Special thanks go out to Fr. Christopher Manning and our entire faculty chaperones for their efforts to make this time meaningful for the Class of 2016.

On Wednesday, April 13, KCHS hosted a “2016 National Signing Day” event, our fourth signing day ceremony of the school year. A total of 12 student-athletes have signed to date. **Congratulations to the following:** Eli Cox - Lincoln Memorial University (Golf). Asad Jooma - The University of Illinois at Chicago (Gymnastics.) Camille Mancini - Benedictine College (Track and Field). Hailey Mesmer - North Carolina State University (Gymnastics).
Mrs. Jenny Fields and members of the Latin Club traveled to the annual Latin Convention in Memphis, Tennessee, April 14-16. They performed very well.
The Choral Department will present a Spring Choral Concert on April 26. The Irish Ensemble, the Women’s Chorus, Men’s Chorus and approximately 35 students from our foundational schools, led by Choral Director, Mr. Daniel Varnell, performed at the concert.

The Robotics Team, and their moderator, Mr. Douglas Parris, traveled April 27-30 to compete at the World Championships in St. Louis, Missouri. It was a wonderful experience and they learned a great deal about Robotics.

The KCHS Band, and their instructor, Mr. Jay Romines, traveled on April 28 to participate at the State Concert Band Festival. This event was held at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee.

KCHS is privileged to announce that three Sisters from the St. Cecelia Congregation have been assigned to Knoxville Catholic for the 2016-2017 School Year. Sister John Catherine Kennedy, O.P., will return on a part time basis as she continues to work on her Doctorate. Sister Susanna Edmunds, O.P. is also returning, and will be joined by Sister Bernadette Mathieson, O.P. Their presence and knowledge mean so much to everyone at KCHS.

Sacred Heart Cathedral School

6th grade IXL Rock Stars!!
All of our 6th grade students have been using IXL to reinforce skills that have been taught in the classroom and for remediation and acceleration. Our students have shared with us that they enjoy IXL for the competition and for extra practice that is provided. They also have come to love the challenge that IXL presents. As of today our students have answered 130,279 problems since November of 2015.
Eagle Arts Spring Play
Castaway Kingdom, an original play written by The Storybook Theatre Company & Ms. Magers-Rankin, had its world premiere Friday, April 8th at 6PM in the SHCS Gym. A matinee showing was also offered Saturday, April 9th at 2PM. This exciting interactive fairy tale, full of intrigue and adventure offered lessons in friendship, kindness, and forgiveness to everyone in the audience, young & old alike!

Southern Appalachia Science and Engineering Fair
Congratulations to the 7th Graders who represented SHCS at the Southern Appalachia Science and Engineering Fair at UT. The students were excellent representations of an ideal Sacred Heart student. They were poised, passionate, articulate and kind. Katie Orillion and Brady Glasgow were recognized with certificates of excellence - indicating placing first in their category. The following students received an honorable mention: Allison Freitag, Lauren Arnone, Wyatt Smith, Caroline Southall, Riley Smith, and Cailey Janoyan. Congrats on a job well done!
Experiential Learning
8th Grade had a great time on their trip to Monticello, Jamestown, Yorktown, and Colonial Williamsburg. All of the students participated in hands on activities and actually set their feet on ground where our country began. This annual trip is an important part of the SHCS 8th Grade experience and is fun for students, faculty, & parents!

SHCS Spring Concert
The annual SHCS Spring Concert was held on Thursday, April 28th and was another inspiring evening of music & storytelling. The concert theme was “God is Still Working On Me” and featured three original pieces of music. K-2 grade performed “Wakadoo Zoo” which featured the original song “God’s Still Working on Us” by Mrs. Townsend. Middle School Liturgical Choir,
under the direction of Ms. Plaag, performed two beautiful choral pieces accompanied by Mr. Jacobs on piano and 7th grader Minh Cao on guitar. 3-5th grade performed “Kids Under Construction” with a script adapted by Ms. Magers-Rankin. This show featured the song, “This is God’s House” written by the 5th grade class and Mrs. Townsend, as well as “Upon this Rock” written by Mrs. Townsend, inspired by the SHCS theme for the year “Upon This Rock I Will Build My Church.” “Kids Under Construction” was accompanied by Mrs. Townsend on guitar, Ms. Rexrode on bass, Ms. Kimbro on violin, 6th grader Anna Ciancone on guitar, 4th grader Hudson Schmitt on guitar, and the 4th grade drummers, Austin Ayo, Miles Erwin, Drew Malone, & Ben Stovall.

St. John Neumann School

SJNCS Band at TMEA State Festival –
On April 28, 2016, St. John Neumann Catholic School’s concert band performed at the Tennessee Music Education Association (TMEA) State Concert Festival at the George and Sharon Mabry Concert Hall on the campus of Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN. A total of 30 middle and high school programs from across the state performed at the event which took place over a two-day period.

The SJNCS band became eligible to participate in the TMEA Concert Festival, when it received a superior rating at the East Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association (ETSBOA) Middle Area Concert Festival on March 9, 2016 at Farragut High School. The superior rating is the highest rating and honor a band can receive. The SJNCS Band also received a superior rating for
their required sight-reading (performing a piece of music they had never seen before) in front of another judge. Forty-seven middle and high school programs performed at the ETSBOA event.

Lead by SJNCS Music Director, Jonathan Leichman, the SJNCS Band performed three songs at the state festival: "His Honor" by Henry Fillmore (arranged by Andrew Balent), “Thoughts and Dreams” by Dwight Beckham, Sr., and "Pinnacle" by Rob Grice. Jonathan Leichman has been the music director for St. John Neumann Catholic School and Church since 2010. He currently teaches grades K-8 general music as well as grades 5-8 band and choir at the school. Additionally, he is the choir director and music coordinator for music ministry at the church. He also works collaboratively with Jay Romines and the band program at Knoxville Catholic High School. Mr. Leichman established the SJNCS Concert Band during the 2011-2012 academic year. Under his direction the band program has grown from 18 to 41 students in this five year period. Under his leadership the SJNCS Concert Band performed at the ETSBOA middle area concert festival for the past two years, marking the first time in history that a middle school band has ever represented the Diocese of Knoxville’s Catholic school system at such a prestigious event. The SJNCS Concert Band performed for “comment only” last year, but this year received a superior rating from all four judges. Mr. Leichman would like to express his gratitude to Jay Romines and the SJNCS administration for their support of the school band program.

![Image of an award plaque](image-url)
SJNCS History Students Advance to National Competition! –

On April 9, 2016, St. John Neumann Catholic School seventh grade history students, Laila Stempkowski and Kaylie Pomerantz, won first place in the National History Day Tennessee state contest in the junior group documentary category in Nashville, TN. This win advances them to the national competition at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD the week of June 12-16, 2016.

Pomerantz and Stempkowski created a documentary titled “Exploration of Tennessee’s Journey to Desegregate Schools and Struggles Encountered Along the Way.” While researching their project, they interviewed a teacher involved in school integration, as well as Mr. Bobby Cain, who was one of the “Clinton Twelve.” While at the state competition in Nashville, the students were also given the special award titled, “Best Project in African-American History,” sponsored by the Planning Committee of the Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture. Earlier this spring, in the regional competition at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Pomerantz and Stempkowski won the East Tennessee History Award presented by Randy and Jenny Boyd.
SASEF Regional Science Fair Results –

The results are in! On April 5, the top finishers in our school science fair went on to the regional competition at UT. The following students were recognized for their outstanding work. (Several of these awards included cash prizes.) We are thrilled with their accomplishments!

**Special Awards** - Ella Renfree, Sarah Schmand, Jodie Spangler, Alonso Vela  
**Honorable Mention** - Madeline Kate Fultz, Ella Renfree, Alonso Vela  
**Award of Excellence** - Jodie Spangler, Meghan van Tol  
**5th Place Overall (Entire Science Fair)** - Meghan van Tol

Art Show Recognition:

**Farragut MS Art Show** - The following students' artwork was on exhibit at the recent art show held in Farragut Town Hall. Acrylic paintings by Eunyoung Hong, Laila Stempkowski, and Scott Timm were displayed. Scott Timm's painting received an Honorable Mention Award. Prismacolor pencil drawings by Emma Browning, Max Carrillo, Adam Cieslik, Megan Hurley, Ben Kozemko, Emily Latham, Jessie Reno, Gabriela Sweet, and Mary Tasket were also featured. Congratulations to all!

**Dogwood Arts Festival** - SJNCS was thrilled to have the artwork of two students on exhibit at this year's Dogwood Arts Festival. The artwork of Emma Browning and Logan Hall was proudly displayed. We were elated to learn that Logan won First Place in the region for fourth grade submissions. Congratulations, Logan!
St. Joseph School

First Holy Communion
In April, the souls of 19 Second Graders from four different parishes were prepared to receive our Lord Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. Many thanks to Miss Magen Davidson, their teacher, and to our parish communities. We are reminded of the words of the Risen Christ to His Apostles on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, “Children, have you caught anything to eat?” John 21:5.

Iowa Assessments – April 4-8
Our students in Grades 1-8 took the Iowa Assessments to determine their areas of strength, growth, and to assess our program needs. We are grateful to our Home & School Association for making it a relaxing and delicious week for our staff!

8th Grade Pancake Breakfast – April 9
Our stellar 8th Grade class hosted a delightful pancake breakfast at Aubrey’s in Powell. The event helped raise several thousand dollars for their class trip to Camp Greenville and had numerous other benefits as well – teaching our young leaders the value of hard work, bringing a community together to support a good cause, and sharing a meal and good will! We are
reminded of some other words of the Risen Christ to His Apostles on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, “Come, have breakfast.” John 21:12

Regional Science Fair – April 5
Several of our Middle School students participated in the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair at Thompson-Boling Arena. Congratulations to all our students who made it so far and to Mrs. Rosemary Calvert, their teacher! The following students received awards for their projects:

**Honorable Mention:**
Meredith Thomas (7th)
Keeley Wade (7th)
Savannah Watson (7th)

**Certificate of Excellence:**
Annalise Weedman (8th)

**Award of Merit:**
Aidan Rangel (7th)
8th Grade Signing Day – April 14
Our 8th Grade Parents hosted the first Signing Day in the SJS Library. Our soon-to-be-graduates shared their stories of favorite SJS memories and hopes for the future at KCHS and beyond in a press-conference format with their parents and teachers looking on and the 7th Grade in the audience. A light reception followed. It was a great way for the 8th Grade to end a busy week of placement tests, with the KCHS Spanish Placement Test on Monday and the KCHS Algebra Placement Test on Tuesday. Special thanks to Jan Adam, Janet Earl, and Robyn Wilson who coordinated the event and to Nichole Pfohl, Dean of Admissions and Freshman Advisor at KCHS, who attended.

Spring Concert – April 20
Our entire student body performed a Bluegrass Concert for their teachers and families. Voices, recorders, pianos, guitars, violins (fiddles that night), a mandolin, and a banjo filled the Gymnasium/Performing Arts Center with song. What a great tribute to our local musical
heritage, to the musical excellence inspired by our very own Mr. William Lovelace, and to almighty God who provided the talent!
8th Grade Trip to Camp Greenville – April 25-29
Our 8th Grade leaders spent a week on top of the mountain ridge on the border between North and South Carolina at YMCA Camp Greenville. Students engaged in ecological studies and outdoor adventure activities, as well as participate in student-designed and led prayer sessions and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Our chaperones received many compliments about our student leaders - we're not surprised!

Blessings
St. Mary School – Oak Ridge

Ethan Chou, Molly Deinhart and Amelia Van Berkel recently qualified to compete in the area You Be The Chemist competition at Pellissippi State. Congratulations to Ethan Chou for placing in the top 6 of the area competitors! We are so proud of our amazing SMS Scientists!

St. Mary's had another fantastic year at the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair!

Congratulations to our 2016 Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair Winners:
3rd place and a Certificate of Excellence – Amelia Van Berkel (plus the Women in GeoSciences, NOAA Taking the Pulse of the Planet, and NOAA (Local Chapter) awards)
3rd place and a Certificate of Excellence – Catelyn Krings
4th place and a Certificate of Excellence – Anna Kasemir (plus the Naval Science Award, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Award)
5th place and a Certificate of Excellence – Ryan Rearden
Certificates of Excellence: Jacqueline Audet (plus the SASEF Committee Award), Sydney Mesmer, Ashlyn Riikola, Sarah Tackett
Honorable Mentions: Ryan Audet, Joseph Duhamel, Mateo Gorondona, Paige Halcrow
Three SMS students - **Elizabeth Brands, Sophie Sherlock**, and **Gabby Wilkerson** - were selected to participate in the TMEA's Treble Honor Choir, an auditioned choir of 130-150 of the best 5th and 6th grade singers in the state under the direction of Dr. Derrick Fox. They performed at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville on April 13\textsuperscript{th} & 14\textsuperscript{th}.

Congratulations to the St. Mary's golf teams! Our boys team is moving on to Regionals, and all of our girls qualified individually to move on to Regionals. We will be hosting the Regional competition at the Oak Ridge Country Club. What a great year they have had! Go Crusaders!

We congratulate our second grade students who received First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 24, 2016. What a beautiful day of celebration for all the families of St. Mary’s Parish and School!
Our students really shared their musical gifts in this year’s Spring Musical, “Where the Wild Things Are” Simply amazing!

Our Grandparents and Special Friends joined us for an All School Mass followed by breakfast and the Spring Musical.

Students enjoyed showing their grandparents around their classrooms.
Our 4th grade students performed “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” during a day and an evening performance. Such creative, talented students!

St. Dominic School
**Garden Update**

We now have a “Seed Lending Library” and the beginnings of gardens in the back of the school. Families may visit the “Seed Lending Library” to get seeds for the garden or leave seeds for others to use.

Kaye Kittrell from Late Bloomer Urban Garden Show on UTube visited our school garden. You can watch her on UTube—Kaye Kittrell, Late Bloomer, Vlog part 8.

**ST. JUDE’S TRIKE-A-THON**

It’s never too early to begin developing hearts of service. Our pre-school children took to their tricycles in support of St. Jude’s, which is a ministry particularly close to our hearts since it is all about children. The children enjoyed bringing their “vehicles” to school and riding around the gym. The event served three purposes. 1. It helped us recognize the special service provided through the people of St. Jude’s. 2. It provided an opportunity to learn more about safety. 3. It helped us all recognize the blessings of healthy children.
Enrichment Opportunity

SDCS was able to take learning outside with a school wide trip to beautiful Bays Mountain Park.

This 3,500 acre nature preserve provided many opportunities for the students to learn the complexity of animals and the wonder of nature.
Our SMS 31st annual Auction was held on Saturday, April 23rd. This fundraiser was sponsored by our Home and School Association and is our largest fundraiser of the year. We enjoyed a silent and verbal auction and a delicious sit down dinner. Our gym was transformed into “Black Nights, City Lights” with beautiful decorations.

Our eighth grade class left for Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, April 26th and returned on Friday evening, April 29th. They visited such sights as: Monticello, Mount Vernon, and the Capitol with a visit with Congressmen Phil Roe, Smithsonian, Archives, Arlington Cemetery, and Monuments. Before returning home on Friday, April 29th, they took a tour at the Basilica and were blessed to have Mass as a group with our Pastor, Fr. Pete Iorio.