



GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

January 20, 2023

“BE THE LIGHT!”



Nelson Takahiro Kishi

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, and Friend of Gibault Catholic High School,

LOOK UP: Mr. Kevin Henke hung this elegant architectural rendering of a panoramic view of the Vatican reproduced from a serigraph this week over the office entrance. It was donated to us by Fr. Gene Wojcik, former Principal of Assumption Catholic High School in East St. Louis. Every system is part of a bigger system. We are part of the Universal Church, and Rome is our headquarters.

UNSUNG HEROES DEPARTMENT: Gibault is blessed with a cadre of excellent staff members who pour their hearts into making our school shine in the most literal sense of the word. Mary Mueller has yet to have a question I ask that she can't answer. Mr. Henke knows his stuff and tackles every request, and our newcomer, Mr. Candler, is fitting in well covering our afterhours. All too often in life we forget to say thanks for the behind the scenes folks who make life easy on our busy schedules. Thanks, Mary and Kevin and Kevin!

MORE UNSUNG HEROES: I had the joy of meeting two of our support groups this week. Both have the Spirit of Fr. Gibault at heart and generate great fellowship!

WOMEN'S CLUB: We are gearing up for The **Taste of the Region** on March 18. Watch for the fliers on this important and enjoyable Fun(D) raiser! A **Poker Run** is scheduled for April 23, and the Club will be assisting with **Post Prom** on May 5th, **Senior Pot Luck**, and a **Party on the Patio** from the Dinner Auction. What a blessing you are!

MEN'S CLUB What a bunch of good stewards here, as well! The Gibault Men's Club takes care of the temporal needs around Gibault. The Men's Club also provides fellowship based on the common cause of Gibault, which is centered on the good of our students. They have renovated 8 classrooms recently and will begin staging for two or three more this summer. Lots of laughs from these guys! And they can get it done!

As part of SENIOR PROJECT, we have 6 students headed to missionary work in the Dominican Republic. We are requesting school supplies, hygiene items, over the counter meds and band-aids to take along. The students are also speaking at the weekend Masses at local parishes asking for support. Please be generous. Some give to the Missions by going. Some go to the Missions by giving! Join us in the Missionary work of the Church!

“CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: FAITH. EXCELLENCE. SERVICE.” CSW IS ALMOST HERE!

From the National Catholic Education Association: 2021-2022 (Catholic schools provide at least 22.7 billion dollars a year in savings for the nation. With 1,688,417 students in 5,938 Catholic schools across the country and based on the average public school per pupil cost of \$14,4551, Catholic schools provide at least 22.7 billion dollars a year in savings for the nation.)

Catholic schools don't cost --- they pay --- in the gift of social capital to the nation --- raising leadership for our Church and country --- by focusing on social justice and The Gospels and then the big tax savings. We love public schools for providing good citizens as well but in the Catholic setting, our hands are not tied and we have greater academic freedom and can speak out freely for social justice. Thanks to Mrs. Haley Kovarik and our Student Activities Board for leading the way!

Monday, Jan. 30

Theme: Community

Dress Down: BBQ Dads Vs. Soccer Moms

Activity: Penny Wars begin (class competition)

Tuesday, Jan. 31 (2:00 schedule)

Theme: Students

Dress Down: Throwback (dress like a picture of yourself as a baby/toddler and bring the picture to school)

Activity: Family Feud

Wednesday, Feb. 1 (late start schedule + long advisee homeroom)

Theme: Nation

Dress Down: Adam Sandler/Anything But A Backpack

Activity: Advisee HR Activity – Candle Decorating

Thursday, Feb. 2 (mid-morning activity schedule)

Theme: Vocations

Dress Down: Be the Light Shirt with Jeans

Activity: Prayer Service – Candlemas

Friday, Feb. 3 (2:00 schedule)

Theme: Faculty/Staff/Volunteers

Dress Down: Pajamas

Activity: Talent Show; Penny Wars end

SS. Peter and Paul Youth Group Presents

A Night Life Series on the Sacraments:

January 22, Seen & Unseen The Grace of the Sacraments
February 12, Touch, Taste, & Smell The Sacraments of Initiation
February 26, Royal Pain The Sacraments of Healing
March 12, In the Flesh The Sacraments of Service

All High School students are invited to join us from 6:30-8 p.m. on the above listed dates. For information please contact Catherine at cburkart@ssppcc.org.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE VS. WADE. May we work together to find a way for all to come to a consistent ethic of life. Babies are worth it. Those with challenges are worth it. The poor are worth it. The sick are worth it. The abused are worth it. The elderly are worth it. Father, guide us as we seek to do your work. Amen.

Our **Students for Life Club** represented us at the **Generation Life** gathering at the Chaffitz Arena today. Thanks to Brian Stark, Hayden Bueltemann, Allison Stark, Hannah Perjak, Alexa Crowe, Claire Higgeson, Lydia Higgeson, Mia Petruso, Ashley Murphy and sponsor, Mrs. Carrie Stark.

SCHOLASTIC BOWL: 2-0 record with a 420-90 win over Dupo High School. Our Freshman and JV teams lost in close matches, but we are in need of more teammates! Avery Herrmann got several toss ups and was in on the collaborative effort on bonuses. With four freshmen, one junior, and three seniors, we have room for four to six more. Drew Schmoll got 11 tossups out of 24 possible (quick on the buzzer he is) and Jacob Durrer and Nate Nevois worked well on the bonuses. (They give a lot of credit to their teachers.) One more thing on Scholar Bowl: So often it comes down to one question at the end. You may not have contributed much during the match, but you might score the winner for us. Many years ago, John Houglund was a sophomore sitting on the bench for our men's basketball team. Due to foul problems for the team, Coach Rueter put him in under duress with seconds to go. He scored 6 points in the last minute of the game for the win. We all have this in us. But we have to take a chance, commit, and then enjoy the team success! Step up, Hawks. This year's success gets us ready for next year! Lead the way, Class of '23!



“Doc, I think it’s my right foot.”

Mr. Dave Schauer, our licensed EMT trainer of one of the most popular courses at Gibault, has put his students into various emergency situations just like real life. This was the scene right before “going blind” on helping someone in the dark. We are proud of him for going the extra mile like so many of our faculty here at Gibault!

The Curious Savage What a production! I am so proud of our actors and so proud of Mr. Skaer and Mr. Martell for stepping up. Hopefully, the courage they have shown will lead some of our male students to the stage. If you want to get into the world of business, you need people skills. The stage is nothing more than learning people skills through the eyes of a stage character. Most of my favorite teachers were passionate actors. They used stage skills to get the message across. Please encourage our male students to audition for the next play. Once they have been on a stage, no one can ever take that away from them. Confidence comes from integrity and performance in the

Kingdom which is right now. Thank you, MaryBeth and our cast and crew for the joy you gave us through the Arts!

Please Promote to Seniors looking for a job: We are in desperate need of students to work at our after school latchkey program at SPPCS. They would need to be 18 years of age and would make the most recent wage increase. We need help Monday through Friday from 3:00 or as close to that as possible until 6 p.m. Any interested candidates should email Sarah Schmitz at sschmitz@sppswaterloo.com

From my notes from Bishop McGovern's talk to the Faculties of Althoff, Gibault, and Mater Dei High Schools last Friday:

Who is Jesus? He has so many names. Why did he come? He is the Second Incarnation after Creation. St. Ignatius said the Trinity sent God for Redemption. What would Jesus say about today's world? What difference did He make? Many today are anti-religious. In a recent commentary, someone used a depiction of the World Trade Center before 9/11 and after as a sign of what religion does. But look at both pictures and see all the hospitals and universities and food pantries and charities that would be gone without religion. As the birth of a baby changes our world, so does Jesus change our world.

There has been a study of picking the best man for a wedding. So often the groom can't decide. It is a sobering study. The depth of friendship is not there. Having Jesus Christ as your best friend throughout your life helps you survive the constant circle of friends that will be changing over your lifetime. Yet the high school experience is often an anchor for friendship and class reunions. We should help students develop real friendships during their high school experience. Often we have many acquaintances but few friends. Finding friends for students without one is important. Friends help us be honest and open. They will speak up to us when we need it. Friends can help avoid the senior slide by encouraging each other. You know someone is a friend if you know their birthday, family background, traumas, life situations and can have spirited conversations. Having friends yields a better student. Complaint driven relationships (The Whiners Club), being united in the negative, are not a friendship. School climate can foster friendship. It would be great to make the whole world classmates. Oftentimes in medical crises, the loss of friends who won't come around or won't talk about is worse than the crisis. Friendship is generative. Some of the Bishop's best friends are his high school classmates from St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago.

The United States has not come to know and appreciate the wisdom of Pope Francis. The first Pope who is not from Europe in over 1000 years is a reminder of where the Church is growing: Latin America and Africa. Cardinal Cupich has reminded us to **share our faith like a grandparent** reaching their grandchildren's hearts. Who wants to be the last generation of Catholics? What attracts us to Jesus was his ability to be in the moment. His way of looking at people is counter-cultural. There is a Mexican saying that "the person you are with is more important than the person you are going to." Be a missionary, a contagious witness of Jesus. Mission is the oxygen of Christian life. We are either on mission or off mission. "He saw a man" is the lead in to many of Jesus' callings and stories. He viewed all the same. He didn't see the distinction. He saw the person. Thus, he could call a hated tax collector into his circle of the very fishermen he was taxing. As Pope Francis says, there is no room for sourpusses in the Church. Ours is a sense of joy and hope. Does our gaze attract?

Jesus, what do you want to see in 2023? **Be bold!**

Bishop McGovern's coat of arms has "You are my friends" inscribed on it. Jesus said "you are my friends if you do what I command you." Friendship is to be shared. We all have a Holy Restlessness---a sense of the unfinished. **So we plant seeds. And the fruit they bear after we are gone endures. This is what we do as high school teachers. God works in the memories of our experiences. Make good memories!**

Editor reflects: Friendship needs our attention. Many of our discipline issues arise because we don't know how to be a friend or don't know how to make a friend. Circles of friendship constantly change over a lifetime. But these years of "finding yourself" in high school are important as a foundation for understanding for a lifetime.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is a man for all times. He played the role of the prophet. "*We honor the prophets killed by our fathers*" is an old axiom. Make Dr. King relevant. Use his words. The world gets to be a better place one person at a time and that's me and you! **Who will speak if we won't?**

LOVE "Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it."

HOPE "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

SERVICE "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

UNITY and EQUALITY "We must learn to live together as brothers and sisters or perish together as fools."

EXCELLENCE "If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well."



**GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
MATTRESS SALE**
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
JACK'S MATTRESS SHACK

Gibault Auditorium
Jan. 27: 2 p.m.-6 p.m. Jan. 28: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Jan. 29: 12 p.m.-3 p.m.

Special Pricing, plus Delivery & Financing available!
Chattam & Wells, Spring Air, Simmons, Capital, & Glideaway

FOR INFO, TEXT/CALL: 314-441-0250

MATTRESS FUNDRAISER FOR GIBAULT Jack Spencer (5 Gibault Grads in the family) has offered a fundraiser for us. **\$1,000 guaranteed!** New floor scrubber here we come!

We need some service hour workers for this set-up please. Especially on Sunday at 3:00. Mr. Kish will make it worth your while. Bring muscles!

RAFFLE-MANIA! With a purchase of a \$25 ticket, you are entered for:

- \$100 Early Bird Christmas Drawing (ticket must be purchased by December 15 to qualify)
- \$30 Daily Drawings on Monday-Friday from January 1 - May 31
- \$100 Bonus Winner the last day of each month (January - April)
- GRAND PRIZES in May for \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500, and \$250!

If your ticket is pulled for a prize, it goes right back in, so you have the chance to win again!

Tickets can be purchased online at: <https://one.bidpal.net/rafflemania> or by contacting any Gibault student, or by calling the school office at 939-3883.

THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE is seeking to fill the following positions:

----Accounts Payable Clerk----Bookkeeper

----Gibault is seeking a principal. Please spread the word. We all know people who just might be the one to come here and lead the way to a good life walking with the Lord!

<https://www.diobelle.org/temporal-affairs/human-resources/employment-opportunities>

PRAYER LIST: Dave Brauer, Kam Hanvey's grandfather, fell and broke some ribs, in thanksgiving for successful surgery for Mrs. Ramlose, in thanksgiving for the continuing recovery of Keith Jackson, who is home, all our families suffering from Covid, for Julie Doerr, Secretary at SPPCS and her husband DeLayne who are suffering from major health issues, for a consistent Pro-Life ethic from the cradle to the grave, and for all the prayers we hold deep in our hearts: We pray to the Lord.

TODAY'S GOSPEL: Jesus calls the 12 Apostles. Jesus calls us as well. And don't forget the Apostle to the Apostles, Mary Magdalene. If Jesus had given women the recognition they were due as he started his ministry, they would have killed him the first week. Yet, who stood at the feet of the Cross when he died? 2 women and 1 guy. We are the Apostles!



Mike Kish
Principal
Gibault Catholic High School