



Amplifier

A Quarterly Newsletter from the
Guerin Catholic Fine Arts Alliance
"Truth in Beauty"

Open House Edition 2014

Welcome Prospective Families!



Welcome to the open house issue of *Amplifier*, the quarterly newsletter of the Guerin Catholic Fine Arts Alliance. I am Karen Dutcher, chairperson of the GCFAA Steering Committee and parent of two Guerin Catholic seniors, Anna and Michael, who have participated in fine arts groups at GCHS since their freshman year. The GCFAA includes parents, teachers, staff and friends

of the GCHS arts community who want to share their time, talent and treasure to support our student artists. I use the term "student artists" to include students involved in theatre, vocal and instrumental music and visual arts. We exist to support them all! There are endless reasons I want to do everything I can to encourage our students to develop their artistic talents. In brief, however, let me say that their participation in artistic endeavors enhances their lives and the lives of every person touched by their work. A prayerful meditation sung during an all-school Mass, a thought-provoking watercolor hung in the Media Center, a perfectly timed comic line delivered in a play – I can't imagine a world without such beautiful, joyful expression.

Please browse this newsletter to learn about the fine arts activities at our school, and as you and your student consider applying to Guerin Catholic, we invite and welcome your family to attend the many events we offer. Come to a play, laugh at Comedy Sportz, celebrate the season at our Christmas concert or stop by our art fair. We look forward to seeing you.

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2014-2015 Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Ensemble</u>
11/9	Open House @ Guerin Catholic High School	All Ensembles
11/14	Art Club Blood Drive In Gym	
11/14*	Open Mic Night at the Guerin Catholic Coffee House In Cafetorium - 7 pm	Open to All
<i>*Note: If the football team advances to semi-state on the 14th, Open Mic Night will move to Tuesday, November 18th.</i>		
11/17	Auditions for Winter Plays Place and time to be announced later	
11/20	Catholic High School Choral Festival @ Marian University	TBA
11/25	Deadline for ISSMA Solo & Ensemble Entries	
12/13	Knights of Columbus State Council Meeting @ SEAS	GoldenVoice
12/18	Christmas Concert @ SEAS - 7 pm	All Ensembles
1/29-31	Winter Plays In Cafetorium - 7 pm	
2/7	Guerin Catholic Gala	
2/28	Deanery Instrumental Festival	
3/19	Guerin Catholic's Got Talent In Gym – Convocation Hour	
4/23-25 & 4/30-5/2	Spring Musical and Art Show In Cafetorium and Media Center - 7 pm	

Events Worth Noting

Sidewalk Mural – Mrs. Wagoner’s Painting II class has started work on a sidewalk mural just outside of the art room. Featured artists on this project include seniors Trace Bulger, Luke DeWaal, Brenna O’Boyle and Ally Zwinski and junior Tori Sullivan.



Art Club Hosts Blood Drive – The Guerin Catholic Art Club has joined with the Indiana Blood Center to host a blood drive on November 14 in the gym. Community members, parents, faculty, staff and students over 17 who are healthy may sign-up. If 16, you’ll need parental permission. So join your friends. Donate blood. Save a life. Go to https://www.donorpoint.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/75010 to sign up.

Open Mic Night at the Guerin Catholic Coffee House – Interested in trying your hand at Open Mic Night? Sign up with Mrs. Murphy in the Media Center beginning November 3. Rather watch and support your friends on stage? Join them on November 14* at 7 pm in the Cafetorium. Coffee house pastries and beverages will be for sale for a nominal fee. *Note: If the football team advances to the semi-state game on the 14, Open Mic Night will move to Tuesday, November 18 at 7 pm.

Upcoming Shows and Auditions – Mark your calendars. The winter production of *Almost Maine* by John Cariani is set for January 29 – 31 at 7 pm in the Cafetorium. Auditions are November 17 after school. Also, this year’s spring musical is *Oliver!* Auditions will be held in early February, and the musical and spring art show will be April 23 – 25, April 30, and May 1 – 2 at 7 pm in the Cafetorium.

Fall Performances – The fall concert featured ten Guerin Catholic musical ensembles including wind symphony, string orchestra, jazz band, guitar ensemble, beginning and intermediate chorus, the women’s group *Cecelia*, and two choral ensembles *Sounds of Providence* and *Golden Voice*. All groups are directed by Mark Duray or John Webber. In addition, two student-led groups entertained. The women’s a cappella group *Guerin Catholic Girls Next Door (GCGND)* sang Kristin Detor’s “Clock of the World,” arranged by senior Emma Rund. The men’s group *Guerin Catholic Gentlemen’s Choral Group (GCGCG)* sang the *Back Street Boys’* “I Want It That Way.”



Besides concert performances, most of the students in these ensembles also help with the school’s music ministry. In fact, they recently sang at the **Guerin Catholic Grandparents’ Day Mass** on October 17. Typically during Mass, one musical group will sing the liturgy. But this Mass, which was concelebrated by Father Joshua Janko and Bishop William Higi and attended by over 400 grandparents, featured all of the school’s talented musicians.

Alumna Profile 1 – Samantha King Talks ‘Toons



When Samantha King, a 2009 graduate of Guerin Catholic High School and an alumna of the California Institute of the Arts steps into her office at Cartoon Network in Burbank, Calif., she's really getting ready to play.

"That's what it seems like sometimes," said King, who has worked as a story revisionist on the show *Clarence* since July. "There's a mirror in my office, so if I need to draw a character with a funny look on his face, I can practice making different expressions in the mirror before creating the one I think will work."

For those unfamiliar with the cartoon, *Clarence* is about a typical boy and his friends who sport typical boy mentalities, said King. "I was a fan before I started because the cartoon shows kids as kids – not sweet angels but kids dealing with real-world things – homework, bullying, pulling pranks or just being gross because they can be. How gross? "Well, I've had to figure out how to draw vomit..."

King explained that story artists work with a team to create episodes and pose out each shot. After a first review, the drawings go to King, who fixes or changes shots as directed. Basically, a revisionist is an apprentice to the story artists, she added.

King, the daughter of Chyrise and Roch King, has wanted to be an animator since she was a sophomore at Guerin Catholic. "I always liked all kinds of art – theatre, music and drawing. With animation, I can incorporate all of those into my work." Still, King acknowledged that it's not easy working in the arts. "My parents were supportive, but my dad wanted assurance that I could be successful. I'm lucky that this industry is pretty secure." King hopes to continue working in animation and someday pitch her own show.

She offers advice to others pursuing degrees or jobs in the arts. "There's no one specific path," King said. "Just keep trying to find your way. I had to work a bunch of rough jobs before I got what I wanted, and you may have to do other things to support your dream, but that's okay. Just give it up to the Lord, and know He'll get you there. King believes the arts are especially important in our world today. "As humans, we all have some kind of arduous journey ahead of us, but through the arts, we can connect with and support each other, and we can make a difference. For me, drawing helps me focus on the positive side of life."

Alumna Profile 2 – Breanna Feigenbaum: Musical Providence

Three months into her first job teaching general music and choir at St. Patrick School of the Terre Haute Deanery, Guerin Catholic alumna Breanna Feigenbaum knows she's where she's supposed to be.

"I especially love Wednesdays because that's when we have all-school Mass," Feigenbaum said. "When I choose songs that students recognize, they sing with such joy. It's wonderful to hear the love in their voices ringing through the chapel."

Feigenbaum hints that being at St. Patrick School might be providential. The Carmel native didn't grow up Catholic, but when she started Guerin Catholic as a freshman, she and her mom Ann Andrews drove to St. Mary of the Woods in Terre Haute to learn more about the then Blessed Mother Theodore Guerin. They returned with a better understanding of the humble nun who journeyed from France to the backwoods of Indiana to educate young women in the first half of the nineteenth century.

So there was that, and then there was Mark Duray, Feigenbaum says, referring to Guerin Catholic's Director of Fine Arts. "I had sung with my church choir and also with the Indianapolis Children's Choir when I was younger, and I enjoyed music very much, but there was something about the music program at Guerin Catholic combined with what I was learning about Catholicism that just instilled a passion for music in me. By the end of freshman year, I'd converted and knew I wanted to teach music in a parochial school."

Feigenbaum studied music education at Valparaiso University, graduating in 2014. She applied for music positions in Indianapolis, Chicago and Terre Haute. While interviewing in Terre Haute, she stopped by St. Mary of the Woods, where she met a sister who'd been a music teacher at Guerin College Preparatory High School in Chicago. It seemed providential. After Feigenbaum got the job and settled in, her mother visited, and the two returned to St. Mary of the Woods for the shrine opening, where, coincidentally, they ran into the same nun. Sister Camille said she'd been praying for Feigenbaum to teach wherever God willed. "I've been blessed to see little glimpses of providence that let me know God is always there to help me and that I am doing what I am called to be doing," Feigenbaum said.

Each day at school, she's affirmed in her work. "I love when kids start to understand a concept, and I can see that light bulb moment happening," she said. Not long ago, one of her first graders looked at the pictures of classical composers taped to the music room wall. He pointed to Johannes Brahms. "Hey, that guy's on the back of a nickel!" he told her. While Brahms doesn't exactly equal Thomas Jefferson, Feigenbaum loved that the young student was thinking about musical concepts and trying to apply them to the world around him. "It shows me that they're interested in music and actively searching for more ways to connect across the curriculum. One day my seventh graders had just learned about nationalism in social studies and blew me away when a few class periods later during our discussion of Late Romantic music, they defined nationalism and proceeded to make educated guesses about its relationship to music. Music is something we can all relate to. It is an international language that allows us to better understand the world around us, and that is exactly what I see happening in the lives of my students."

Feigenbaum enjoys seeing passion for music come alive in her students, and she has some advice for those who are considering a career in music. "Follow your heart," she said. "Trust in God and lean gently into providence, too. If you truly love music, you should have no problem committing yourself to lead with passion and serve with joy."

Rejoice! Carmel Deanery Choral Festival Rocks the House



For the seventh year, Guerin Catholic High School hosted *Rejoice!*, its Carmel Deanery Choral Festival outreach program on September 27. Nearly 250 singers in third through eighth grade from St. Maria Goretti, Our Lady of Grace, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Louis de Montfort, joined fifty Guerin Catholic high schoolers for a day of music and praise. According to GCHS Fine Arts Director Mark Duray, the festival “brings us together as a community of musicians and celebrates what makes us family.”



Throughout the day, singers broke into small groups to get to know one another and learn five musical selections with Duray and other deanery directors including Emily Clark, (SLDM), Janie Richardt, (SMG), Joey Garcia, (OLG) and Larry Krauser (OLMC) before ending the day with a concert.



The students were very focused on the music. Our Lady of Grace third grader Avery Wilson couldn't wait to finish lunch and get back to singing. “It’s exciting because I get to learn about new songs and get to meet new people,” Wilson said. “I really like ‘Turn the World Around’ because Mr. Garcia taught it, and it’s a really fun rhythm.” Sammy Mirande, a seventh grader from St. Maria Goretti wasn't as quick to dismiss lunch. “My favorite part is the cookies,” he said. “My next favorite part is singing with other people my age and giving a concert to show our parents what we can do.”

The students left with some inspirational words from Mr. Duray. “There’s a lot of music out there. Some of it’s good; some of it’s bad. We need better choices. We need some better music. Who is going to give that to us? You are. Singing can bring you closer to Christ, and that’s what it’s all about.”



Student Studio Productions = On-the-Job Leadership Training

When Jack Titus, a 2014 Guerin Catholic graduate approached Media Center Specialist Marcia Murphy about a summer Student Studio Production, she made sure he understood the work involved. “We let the students take complete control of these productions from writing to directing to costumes to solving problems,” Murphy said.” The point of student studios is to build better leaders. The adults let the students figure things out for themselves, and it can be tough.” That didn’t stop Titus, who wrote a script for his play *Tangled under the Sea*, directed 41 cast members and packed the house nightly. Murphy shouldn’t have worried. “Jack is incredibly professional. He was very organized and handled every aspect like a pro. The best part was watching him watch his show and realize the fruits of his labors.”



Two more student-run productions wrapped in late October with new student directors following in Titus’s footsteps. In rehearsals, Molly Moran and Grace Warns, the co-directors of *Detention Never Ends*, were stressed about finding the right costumes and making sure everyone knew their lines. “I’m new to directing, so I’ve had to learn as I go,” said Moran. “But we’re figuring it out.” By opening night, their hard work had paid off.



The actors knew their lines, and the stage crew worked effortlessly between scenes. The production told the story of six high school students who get sent to detention for various reasons, break out and go on a hilarious adventure together. The teens, both as students and in their specific roles, learned more about themselves and about respecting differences.

Senior Tristan Zavaleta wrote and directed *The Magic Store*. He had help from Emma Rund, Emily March and Gracie Poynter with directing, choreography, props, sets, and costumes. Zavaleta’s musical showcased a mix of scripted and Improv jokes while portraying a humorous love triangle in which two members of a *Saturday Night Live*-like cast fall in love with the beautiful star. “It’s funny because



of the cheesy one-liners,” said Tilly Murphy, who played the stage director. Blake Miller, who played a Shakespeare-reciting janitor, added that he liked the randomness of it all. “The audience didn’t know what was coming next.” (Especially, at the end, when the janitor got the girl!) “This play has Tristan’s unique humor all over it,” said Murphy, who didn’t watch the entire show until opening night. “It was a little *Laugh-In/Muppet Show* variety show that kept the audience laughing. I am proud of them.”



Sculpting New Ideas in a New Environment

In October, students in Beth Wagoner's Sculpture I class stepped away from their Guerin Catholic art room and into an outdoor workshop at former faculty member Mike Griswold's farm. Griswold, a retired business man and theology teacher, invited students to spend some time on his property to learn about casting aluminum with scratch molds and lost foam.

"Mr. Griswold is a jack-of-all trades. Besides his work in business and teaching, he's a former set designer for Guerin Catholic plays, a parent of two Guerin Catholic alumni, and he helped create our outdoor stations of the cross at the school," said Wagoner. "So when he offered to help our students learn the process of casting, I took him up on it. I wanted the students to learn the difference between low-relief and high-relief sculpture, understand the casting process, think about what in their lives might be made with this process, and make art that is different from your typical 3D art class."



Senior Sarah Storm made a scratch mold of leaves from a heavy square of sandstone. "I drew the design and then had to dig down into it," Storm said. "It's a little tedious and messy. To get the leaves to stand out, I had to dig down deeper." Wagoner explained that the next step, pouring metal into the molds, was dangerous. "The metal is ready to pour at 1,200 degrees. That's why Mr. Griswold and his son, Dave, did the pouring since they had the most experience with this."

Sophomore Baylie Fisher tried a slightly different project using Styrofoam and a lost foam mold. "I used thick foam and carved a pineapple design," she said. "Then at Mr. Griswold's, I packed it in sand, he poured the hot metal into the foam, which melted, and I ended up with the metal pineapple. It turned out better than I expected. It was cool to see the art transform from one medium to another."

This was the first year Wagoner and Griswold tried this project, and they were pleased, as were the students who got to take their tiles and sculptures home.



"Art is everywhere," Wagoner said, "and I want students to explore the possibilities to express their thoughts whether that be two-dimensionally or three-dimensionally."