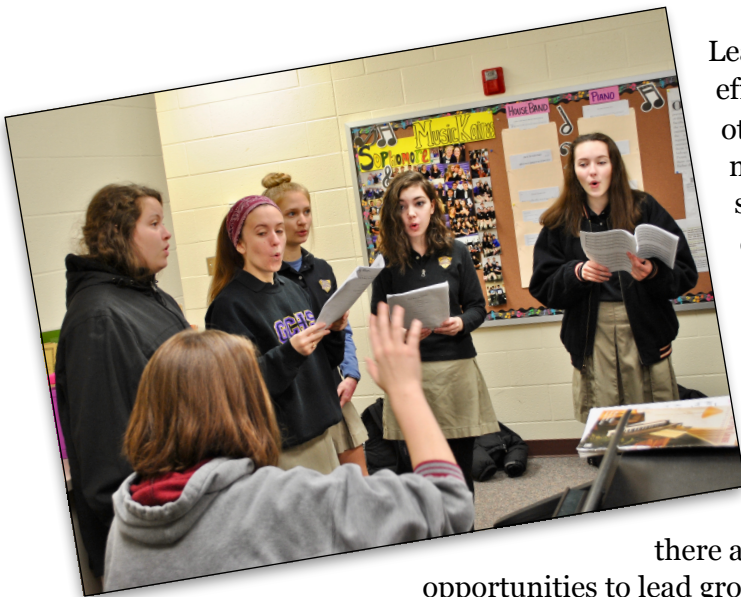




# the Amplifier

A trimester newsletter from the Guerin Catholic Fine Arts Alliance

## Opportunities for Leadership: Student-Led Fine Arts Groups at Guerin Catholic



Learning how to effectively lead others is a skill many high school students don't begin to learn until much later in life. But in the Guerin Catholic Fine Arts Department, there are several opportunities to lead groups and learn the valuable lessons that come with leadership.

Both of the department's acapella groups — the Guerin Catholic Gentlemen's Choral Group (GCGCG) and the Guerin Catholic Girls Next Door (GCGND) — are entirely student-led. That means the groups' leaders hold auditions, schedule and direct rehearsals, select and arrange the music, and teach the music to the group members. It's a lot of responsibility and requires both musical knowledge and leadership skills.

*cont. on page 2*

### In this issue of *The Amplifier*

- Opportunities for Leadership.....pp. 1-3
- Fine Arts and Athletics.....pp. 4-5
- Fine Arts Serves.....pp. 6-7
- Support Fine Arts at Guerin Catholic.....p. 8

### Upcoming Events:

**January 11-13 Winter Play**  
**February 24-28 NYC Trip**

**March 15-17 & 22-24**  
**Musical "Pirates of Penzance"**



# Leadership, cont.

Ellie Svec, a senior, is one of the leaders of GCGND. She says that her greatest challenge as a student leader has been maintaining friendships while having to enforce attendance and solve disagreements. Both Ellie and Dominic plan to study music in college and think that teaching music may be a part of their futures.



Chloe Kennedy, GCGND's other senior leader, explains their leadership strategy this way: "Communication is key. The group dynamic this year is really good and I believe it is because of the communication within the group. We try to take into consideration everyone's

opinions and suggestions and form the group and pieces to their liking. It allows us to not only get stuff done quicker, but create more of a relationship within the group."

The benefit of student-led groups is actually two-fold. Beyond just leadership, there is the opportunity for group members to self-motivate. According to Department Chair Mark Duray, "while I am always challenging students to put what they know into their rehearsal, they are more apt to wait for my encouragement, affirmation and approval. In a student-led group, there's no adult director urging them on. They have to take the responsibility and requirement of their gifts melded with their knowledge, and generate and share their artistry on their own."

Another opportunity for student leadership is the fall "Student Studio Productions". Each year, a few students select a play and produce it entirely on their own. Often these productions have even been written by the students themselves. This fall seniors Michelle Powers, Michael Bailey, Matt Farrell, Sophia Fernandez and Chloe Kennedy — along with music directors Dominic Duray and Ellie Svec — ambitiously put on the musical play "SchoolHouse Rock".

Page 1 photo: Ellie Svec directs a GCGND rehearsal; top: from left to right, student leaders of GCGCG Jake Labus, AJ Hacker, Jack Haddad and Dominic Duray; left: GCGCND leader Chloe Kennedy, right, reviews music for the Christmas concert with a member of the group; bottom: the Student Studio Production of "Schoolhouse Rock"



(cont. on page 3)

## Leadership, cont.

And there is room for new student-led groups at Guerin Catholic as well. Mid-first trimester this year, Mr. Duray suggested that a jazz group run by students would be a good idea. A few students quickly ran with the suggestion and got to work rehearsing Wednesday mornings and Tuesdays after school — and the group is now ready to perform in the Christmas Concert.

Mr. Duray notes “the opportunity for leadership and all that is gained from that experience is priceless, especially for students who may continue to study music collegiately, or envision themselves as directors someday of a community ensemble or church music program. Even a garage band needs leaders!”



*Member of the jazz band prepare for the Christmas Concert during a Wednesday morning rehearsal*



# From the Locker Room to the Stage: Guerin Catholic's Fine Arts Student-Athletes

Today's high school extra-curricular activities are more demanding than ever before. Expectations are very high, and to be competitive, students have to spend considerable time dedicating themselves to their activity of choice. That can make participating in multiple activities a real challenge. Yet at Guerin Catholic, a large number of students manage to participate in both Fine Arts and Athletics.

Seniors AJ Hacker, Jake Labus, Jack Haddad, Grace Scariano and Julia Quinn are a few of the varsity athletes who also participate in Fine Arts. While they would all tell you it's not always easy, one of the wonderful aspects of campus life at Guerin Catholic is the general flexibility teachers, moderators, coaches and directors practice with regards to accommodating students in their activities.

"For me, the hardest thing about juggling these activities is remembering where to be and when to be there. It can get hard keeping track of rehearsal, practice, and show times," says Scariano, who plays volleyball and tennis, sings with GoldenVoice and is involved with the spring musicals.

"Being involved in so many activities forces you to be an extremely good time manager," says Labus, a football and lacrosse player who also sings with GoldenVoice, Sounds and Providence and GCGCG. "I have to keep an updated schedule of events and constantly block out time to juggle schoolwork, rehearsals, practices, work, church, family, etc."

To make all of that juggling possible, Guerin Catholic coaches and directors require students participating in multiple activities to be in constant communication with them, especially when they need to be in two places at once. "There is no contract a student has to sign or long, drawn-out agreement between athletics and music, only the understanding of what's important," says Mr. Duray. For example, if a student needs to be at a rehearsal *and* a practice, they can go to half of both.



(cont. on page 5)

## Fine Arts Student-Athletes, cont.

Rehearsals and practices are more critical on concert days or game days, so flexibility and understanding is key. A big concert or a big game? The student chooses. Whatever the issue, it is resolved with communication.

“You can usually make it work, but sometimes there are direct conflicts between your sport and fine arts groups,” says Hacker, a four-year varsity tennis player and member of GoldenVoice, Sounds of Providence and GCGCG, who also participates in the annual musical. “Every year, I’ve had a big tennis tournament for the team in Jeffersonville on the same day as Sounds of Providence performs at a cancer walk in Zionsville. I’ve had to choose, and tried to do that based on where I was most needed at the time. You hate to miss anything, or let anyone down.”



But the benefit of involvement in both activities is measureless.

“Nothing beats walking out hand in hand on a Friday night with your buddies and beating a rival school,” says Labus.

“But something about music intrigues me. It’s become one of my most passionate hobbies and activities at Guerin because there is a unique sense of beauty and fulfillment.”

Quinn, a volleyball and tennis player who also loves

to sing (in GoldenVoice, Sounds of Providence, GCGND and the musicals), notes that “the best part of doing both sports and performing arts is meeting and getting to know so many really great people!”

Mr. Duray sums it up like this: “We know that the more diverse activities in which a student can successfully participate, the more they learn about themselves, their gifts and talents, strengths and weaknesses. Ultimately, this helps to reveal to them God’s will and plan for their lives.”

*“Find new ways  
to spread the  
word of God  
to every corner  
of the world.”  
-Pope Francis*

## Fine Arts Students Serve

Last month's annual Day of Service led Guerin Catholic Fine Arts students to serve at St. Mary Catholic School for the day in Alexandria.

While some students served by tutoring St. Mary kids in math and science, others spent time reading to them, and others dug in and cleaned everything from classrooms to the gym floor.

Once the work was done, Guerin students served as a receptive audience for a rehearsal of an upcoming program the St. Mary students had been working on.

As Father Haan reminded everyone before they all

*(cont. on page 7)*



## Fine Arts Students Serve, cont.

departed, “You are made for this! You are capable of tremendous love, service and acts of kindness. You are made to give of yourself!”

Guerin Catholic’s Music Department also recently spent the afternoon at St. Augustine Home, performing music for their Christmas reception and visiting with residents, and they have several more Christmas performances in the coming days.



# Become a Member!

The Guerin Catholic Fine Arts Alliance (GCFAA) strives to assist the Director of Fine Arts, Mark Duray, and other faculty of the department of Fine Arts in any way needed. GCFAA serves our young artists by providing the time, talent and treasure necessary to support their efforts. The GCFAA also helps to increase awareness of our fine arts program and the powerful value it brings to our community. Whether through prayer, financial support or direct involvement — WE NEED YOU!

Interested in becoming a member of the GCFAA? See below for a complete list of opportunities for involvement. Or contact our Co-Presidents with any questions or for more information.

**Barb Gallina & Caroline Van Atter**

**guerincatholicfinearts@gmail.com**

(317) 509-2250 or (765) 894-1270



## Be an Archangel! (\$1000)

Includes: 2 GCFAA car decals, 2 GCFAA travel coffee mugs, and donor recognition in event programs.

## Be an Angel! (\$500)

Includes: 2 GCFAA car decals, 2 GCFAA travel coffee mugs, and donor recognition in event programs.

## Be a Saint! (\$200)

Includes: GCFAA car decal, a GCFAA travel coffee mug, and donor recognition in event programs.

## Be a Friend! (\$50)

Includes: GCFAA car decal and donor recognition in event programs.

## Volunteer!

- Assist with Art Shows
- Ticket Sales/Concessions
- Newsletter/Communications
- Chaperoning Trips/Events
- Making Costumes
- Theatre Set Construction
- Coordinating Volunteers
- Meals/Receptions/Hospitality
- Administrative/Clerical
- Assist with Outreach

## Pray for Us!

*Bless the creators, O God of Creation, who by their gifts make the world a more joyful and beautiful realm.*

*Through their labors they teach us to see more clearly the truth around us.*

*In their inspiration they call forth wonder and awe in their own living.*

*In their hope and vision they remind us that life is holy.*

*Bless all who create in your image, O God of Creation. Pour Your Spirit upon them that their hearts may sing and their works be fulfilling. Amen.*