

Lehman Catholic High School
2400 Saint Marys Avenue
Sidney, Ohio 45365
Monday, January 5, 2015
The Feast of Saint John Neumann

Dear Parents:

Happy New Year and the **Feast Day of Saint John Neumann!** Saint John Neumann was born in Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) in 1811. After studying in Prague, he decided that he wanted to be ordained a priest. However, at that time in Europe, they were not completing any ordinations because of the over population of priests. Because of this, he decided to get permission from the Bishop of New York to be ordained a priest in the United States. This was granted and he was ordained a priest at the age of 25. His parish stretched from Lake Ontario in Western New York to Pennsylvania. In 1852, at the age of 41, he became the bishop of Philadelphia. It was at this time that Bishop Neumann organized the parochial school system into the first system of diocesan schools in the United States. He became a founder of Catholic education in the United States and increased the number of Catholic schools in Philadelphia from 2 to 100. He died of a stroke on January 5, 1860, at the age of 48. Bishop Neumann was canonized in 1977, and was the first American male saint. He is buried in St. Peter the Apostle Church in Philadelphia.

I am pleased to announce that Tracy Hall was selected by her peers as the recipient of the **2014 Stanley Harrison Family Distinguished Teaching Award**. Mrs. Hall is a graduate of Wilmington College, with a major in Sports Medicine and she received her Master's Degree in Education from Walden University. Tracy began her teaching career 11 years ago. This is her 12th year at Lehman. This award is named after Stanley Harrison founder of Barclay's Clothiers in downtown Piqua. The Stanley Harrison Distinguished Teaching Award was established by Sammye Harrison following her husband's death not only to honor his memory, but his deep respect for the work our teachers do to produce students who will contribute to society. The family considered a number of ways to accomplish that goal including student scholarship programs, but eventually determined that honoring those who do the hard work at the school – the teachers, was the best way to honor his memory. I would ask that the next time you shop at Barclay's; you thank Mrs. Harrison and/or her son Bert for their generosity to the school. Mrs. Hall is the eighth teacher honored as Lehman's Teacher of the Year. She joins Joe Schmiesing (2013), Jack Albers (2012), Pam Wendel (2011), Melissa Safreed (2010), Barb Saluke (2009), George Grampp (2008), and Sister Ginny Scherer (2007). Please join me in congratulating Mrs. Hall on this prestigious honor!

The Lehman Catholic High School Community rejoiced during the Christmas Season in large part due to the area priests who helped students prepare at our **Advent Communal Penance Services** on December 2nd. Thanks to our northern-area priests, Father Ken Baker, Father Gerry Bensman, Father Tom Bolte, Father Jim Duell, Father Lou Hohlmayer, Father Bill Myers, Father John Porter, Father Dave Vincent, Father Dan Hunt, Father Barry Stechschulte and Father James Riehle, who gave generously of their time and ministry to help! Students also have the opportunity to go to confession every week, as Father Riehle hears confessions during the school day on a weekly basis.

Thank you to everyone who donated the "gift of life" at the **Lehman Blood Drive** on December 5th. We had 74 registered donors and we collected 62 units of blood which was 100% of our goal! We also had 34 first time donors! Our next Blood Drive is March 5th. Please mark your calendars and help us in this life saving mission to provide blood for those in need!

We want to congratulate Tracy Hall for receiving a **Sidney-Shelby County Chamber Foundation Grant** for \$1,000.00 to upgrade microscopes in the Science Department. We thank the Chamber Foundation for their support!

January is **school board recognition month**. Our Lehman students, staff and teachers benefit every day from the dedication and commitment to education of our school board members. They all make personal sacrifices and spend countless hours tending to board business. It is often a thankless job, so we say thank you to Reverend Frank Amberger, Timothy (T.J.) Baker, Reverend Thomas Bolte, Cyndi Cathcart, Jeff Earhart, George Grampp, Rick Husa, Ruth Koon, Jeramie Sollmann, and Tony Walter!

Just a reminder to our **freshmen students**, we will be having our first **Electronic Portfolio Work Day** on Monday, January 12th, from 8-9:45 a.m. Each freshman student will be assigned a faculty/staff mentor who will work with them throughout the school year on their own portfolio which will follow them throughout their four years at Lehman. The portfolio will focus on two school goals: College/Career Readiness and Vibrant Faith Life. This first work day will provide an overview of these electronic portfolios and will provide time for these students to meet with their mentors. Our upperclassmen will have a late start on this day and will not need to arrive to school until 9:45 a.m. If upperclassmen need bus transportation to school, then they must arrive with the freshmen at 8:00 a.m., on the regular school bus route.

You should have received a solicitation for the school's **Annual Fund "20 Days of Giving" Campaign** in December. If you have not already responded and are able, I would ask that you send a gift to the school at this time. The Annual Fund is designed to help us meet the extraordinary needs of the school not covered by tuition, fees, and supplemental fundraising. Our goal this year is just over \$400,000.00. The contributed funds will be used for student tuition; building repair needs; technology needs; and helping to balance the school's budget for this year. I would encourage each of you to consider making a contribution to the Annual Fund so we can meet our goal (small and large gifts are welcomed as well, and if your employer matches charitable contributions, please enclose the paperwork so that we can take advantage of this revenue stream as well). No matter the size of your gift, know that it is appreciated and will be put to good use. Please feel free to pass this information on to alumni, family members or other Lehman supporters who may not have received the mailing information. Additional Annual Fund envelopes will be provided throughout the school year. Our Annual Fund runs from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. Thank you for your help and support!

Lehman Catholic's **Annual Open House for Prospective Students and Parents** is scheduled for Wednesday evening, February 11th. The Open House begins at 6:00 p.m. with tours of the building, the opportunity to meet faculty and coaches, and an information fair about our extra-curricular and co-curricular programs. The Open House concludes at 8:30 p.m. with students and family members having the opportunity to view our Lehman student's Science Fair Projects. Please enter Door #10 closest to the chapel. We especially encourage students in grades 5 through 8 to attend. Our Lehman Student Ambassadors will be providing tours for the evening.

The **Cavs 4 a Cure Team** is still collecting plastic bottles and pop cans. Pop cans may be brought to the school the 2nd weekend of each month (Jan.9-11) or sent to school any time with students. These items can be placed next to the school's garage behind the school building. Please save your cans and help the Cavs 4 a Cure Team Can Cancer.

Lehman Music Boosters will be sponsoring an **Oldies and Square Dance** on Saturday, January 10, 2015, from 9:30 – 11:00 pm (after the boys home basketball game v. Houston). The dance is open to Lehman students, Lehman families and the Lehman community. Cost, at the door, will be \$3 per student, or \$8 per family (includes immediate family members). The dance will be at Lehman Catholic High School in the Cianciolo Family Gymnasium (small gym). Light refreshments will be provided. No alcohol will be permitted. Please come and support the Lehman Music Boosters!

The Music Department has announced the **2015 all-school musical – Once Upon A Mattress**. The performance dates are March 26th, 27th, and 28th. There are lots of wonderful songs, a fun story, and great parts. Participation is open to everyone in the school, both on stage and backstage. We will also need many parent helpers for props, costumes, scenery building, and other jobs. Interested students and their parents should plan to attend the Parent-Student Meeting that will be scheduled after auditions. Auditions will be January 7th at 3:10pm. Please have your student bring the paperwork in the audition packet and their \$20 fee. The cast will be announced on January 9th and a read-through of the script with everyone will be held on that day beginning at 3:10pm.

We have our first **jeans days** of the second semester scheduled for Thursday, January 8th. The money (\$3.00) students pay to wear jeans to school will go to help the Women's Center in Sidney. Thanks to all the students and faculty who help with their donations and support of this organization!

The **Music Department** has been working to prepare for upcoming **competitive events**. On January 17th, a large number of instrumental and vocal students will perform solos and small ensembles at the Ohio Music Education Association District 11 Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event held at Tipp City High School. The Lehman Limelighters will be performing in March.

Grade Card Conferences are scheduled for January 15th from 5-8:00 p.m. I would encourage you to attend the conferences to pick up your student's grades, and to visit with any teachers of classes with whom your student may be experiencing difficulty. I would also continue to encourage you to use Netclassroom weekly to check the progress of your student in his or her classes. The website can be accessed from the Lehman website (www.lehmancatholic.com) under the current student section. If you do not remember your assigned password from the beginning of the school year or forgot how to access or use the site, feel free to contact Guidance Counselor, Charles Hoying (ext. 134) for that information. Netclassroom also allows you to see conduct reports, attendance and class assignments. It is a good way to get a picture of how well your student is doing at school.

The Lehman Pro-Lifeguards are planning to participate in the Annual **March for Life** in Washington, D.C., on January 22nd. Participants march in respect for life and in protest of the Supreme Court Decision in Roe vs. Wade. The trip is designed as a pilgrimage and not a sightseeing tour. The bus carrying Lehman High School students will leave from Lehman High School on January 21st, at 7:30 p.m. and travel through the night to the Nation's Capital, participate in a youth rally, attend Mass and the march, and then return home on January 23rd. There will also be a pick-up in Piqua at 7:45 p.m., on the 21st. Students will be expected to arrive at school on the 23rd by 11:00 a.m. or earlier in order to count toward an excused absence.

Lehman High School Foundation President, Tom Westerheide, has announced that the **38th Annual Foundation Banquet** is scheduled for Saturday evening, January 24th, 2015. This year's speaker will be Deborah Norville, the host of Inside Edition. She is also a journalist, author, wife, mother, knitter and successful business woman. You are cordially invited to attend. The evening will begin at 5:00 p.m. with Mass, celebrated in the school's Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Chapel. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served at 5:30 p.m. in the Schlater Family Gymnasium. Dinner will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. The gala event provides the Foundation with the opportunity to thank the school's many benefactors. Colleen Gilardi, Stacy Scott, and Juli Smith, are again chairing the event. Tickets are \$150.00 per person, and are available at Lehman's school office or from any of the ticket captains. If you have any further questions, please contact Lehman's Development Coordinator, Jenny Weber, at the school (937.498.1161 or 937.773.8747).

On Sunday afternoon (January 25th) at 2:00 p.m. the **National Honor Society Induction Ceremony** will take place at Lehman. The induction will take place in the Elizabeth Ann Seton Chapel and a picture and reception will follow in the hallway outside the chapel. All new inductees are required to attend the induction ceremony.

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated January 24th thru January 31st. The week will begin for us on Saturday, January 24th, with our annual Foundation Banquet. Then on Sunday, January 25th we will have our National Honor Society Induction. On Monday, January 26th the school will celebrate Faculty Appreciation Day and lunch will be provided to our teachers. Archbishop Schnurr will also be visiting Lehman on Monday where he will hold his Archbishop's Teleconference with senior students across the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. On Tuesday, January 27th, we will have the 6th graders from our partner schools, Holy Angels (Sidney), Holy Rosary (St. Marys), Immaculate Conception (Celina), Piqua Catholic (Piqua), St. Mary (Greenville), and St. Patrick (Troy) visiting the school and joining us for lunch. Wednesday, January 28th our student council officers and advisor Melissa Safreed, and Father James Riehle will travel to Dayton to represent our school at the Dayton-area Catholic Schools Mass. Also on Wednesday and Thursday, Lehman will be hosting the Workforce Trailer, along with the Governor's Team and Engineers from Honda. Our students will have the opportunity to go through this trailer and learn more about job opportunities from around the surrounding communities. On Thursday, January 29th, we will celebrate Student Appreciation Day and the students will be provided breakfast in homeroom and will be able to wear jeans to school on this day. Catholic Schools Week will conclude on Friday, January 31st, with our school's Mass at Lehman (10:00 a.m.). Everyone in our Lehman community is invited to join us for Mass on that day. We also want to thank everyone for their continued support of Lehman Catholic High School and your dedication to help provide a Catholic Education for our students!

Opportunity Day 2 will be held on February 4th from 10:05-10:45 a.m. The purpose of this day is to expose students to opportunities for service in our communities. If you have a non-profit organization needing student help and would like to present at our Opportunity Day, please contact me at school. After the talks, the students will have an opportunity to talk to speakers, sign up with these organizations and purchase donuts and juice. All students are encouraged to give of their time and talents. Service and community involvement are things that employers and colleges look for on a student's resume, scholarship form and/or college resume.

Class Registration for the 2015-16 school year will begin in February for students who are currently in the 8th grade and interested in attending Lehman Catholic High School. Registration packets will be sent out to eighth grade students in the partner schools prior to registration week. Current Lehman students will begin the registration process at the beginning of March. The class registration schedules will appear in the February parent letter.

I would also remind you that **tuition assistance dollars** are available to help offset the financial need that families may have. All tuition assistance is need-based, and an application must be completed before tuition assistance is granted. The pot of tuition assistance dollars is not unlimited; however, if you believe you qualify for tuition assistance, please apply on-line at www.sss.nais.org. The deadline to apply is March 15th. If you need help or have questions in filling out the tuition assistance application, please give me or Business Manager Kathy McGreevy a call.

You can order a **2015 Cavalcade yearbook** from now until April 1st by putting the money and the attached form in an envelope and turning it in at the main office. The price is \$45. A limited number of 2014 yearbooks are still available at \$50. Contact the school's front office if you still want one of these books.

The **yearbook staff** is always **looking for photographs**. If you have good quality photos from winter athletic events or candid photos, please send the photos to school on a CD-ROM or flash drive or email them to L.journalism@lehmancatholic.com.

Have you considered hosting a **foreign student**? Such an experience can be very rewarding to the host family and to the foreign exchange student. It sometimes can be an experience that lasts a lifetime. These students are covered by insurance, have their own spending money, and pay their own tuition. We currently have 4 foreign exchange/international students at Lehman this year, two from China, one from Vietnam and one from Spain. Next school year we will have another opportunity for you to host exchange students wanting to attend Lehman. We are currently working with an International Student Exchange Program (ASSE) to place students for the 2015-16 school year. Families hosting an exchange student for the school year and attending Lehman do receive a \$2000.00 tuition discount. If you have an interest in hosting a foreign student, please contact me at school. If you would like to speak with one of our families who have hosted a student over the previous years, please let me know and I can put them in contact with you.

The Lehman Catholic High School Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the **Lehman Hall of Fame**. The Hall of Fame is designed to honor deserving alumni based upon their professional achievements, community service, or their service to the Lehman Catholic High School community or Catholic community at large. Candidates for these awards may be alumni from Lehman Catholic High School, Piqua Catholic High School, Holy Angels High School, St. Boniface High School, or St. Mary High School. Interested individuals are asked to visit the Lehman High School web page at www.lehmancatholic.com under the Alumni Relations Link to obtain a nomination form. Once all information has been provided on the nomination form, please forward it to the Lehman Advancement and Development Office, 2400 St. Marys Ave., Sidney, OH 45365. The eighth annual Hall of Fame induction will be held in August 2015.

The **ACT** is America's most widely accepted college entrance exam. It assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. The Writing Test, which is optional and available for an additional fee, measures skill in planning and writing a short essay. Colleges have begun using this component to evaluate students' writing skills in lieu of essays on college entrance applications. Test dates for the 2014-15 academic year are February 7th, April 18th, and June 13th. Students can register for the test, download sample questions and get updates online at www.ACTstudent.org. Lehman Catholic's testing code is 364-680. Students must register for the test at least 5 weeks in advance.

The **SAT** is the other college entrance exam, and is preferred by some schools and required by colleges on both coasts. We recommend taking both tests if students are unsure about where they will be attending college. The SAT test dates for the 2014-15 academic year are January 24th, March 14th, May 2nd, and June 6th. Students can register on line and get sample questions and other information at www.collegeboard.com. Registration for this test is also at least 5 weeks in advance.

Just a reminder, when a **student is absent or will be late for school**, it is the responsibility of the parent(s) or guardian to contact the school prior to 8:00 a.m. on that day to report the absence. When the student returns to school he or she must submit a parental excuse to the attendance officer noting the dates the student was absent, and it must be signed by the parent/guardian. The note must explain the reason the student was absent and the reason must be authorized by the policies of the Lehman Student Handbook. The student will receive an admission slip to be presented to each teacher whose class was missed. If the parental excuse is

not submitted within two days of the student's return to school, the student will receive a disciplinary notice for each day this notice is not provided.

A reminder to all our Cavalier fans, please make sure that you only **park in designated spots** around the school for athletic competitions. There should be no one parking in the fire lanes. If you park in these areas, you could be towed or ticketed by the fire and police departments. Thanks for your cooperation!

Happy Catholic Schools Week – “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service”!

Have a Blessed New Year!

Denise Stauffer
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Learn, Live, Love Lehman!