Dear Ursuline Families,

Welcome back to all members of the Ursuline Family, especially the 127-strong Class of 2023. We are thrilled to welcome our new freshmen and their families as they begin their high school journey. We also welcome several new and talented teachers to our staff. Mr. John DeSantis, who will teach in the Social Studies Department, is our new athletic director. Mr. DeSantis, Class of 2005, recently was an administrator and teacher in the Warren and Brookfield School Districts. We welcome back Mr. Dan Reardon, our new head football coach, and Mr. Carey Palermo, Class of 2005. Both Mr. Reardon and Mr. Palermo will be teaching in the Social Studies Department. Finally, we welcome two new math teachers, Mrs. Kristina Dugan, who taught Algebra and Pre-Algebra the past seven years at St. Charles School, and Mrs. Norene Kenyhercz, a veteran math teacher who is teaching one section of Algebra II.

This summer brought the usual cleaning, painting, and maintenance to the Ursuline campus. A major rehab of the gym lobby included the removal of asbestos, a new roof, new ceiling and lighting, and new entrance doors to the gym lobby. This space was also air conditioned. Fr. Murphy and I also are excited to announce several projects are in the works to improve the Ursuline experience. The most immediate is the renovation and upgrade of the Ursuline weight and speed rooms for use by all athletic teams. The goal is to have this project completed by the spring. Second, the replacement of all windows in the 1954 section of the building is in the planning stages and we hope to begin this project in the summer of 2020. Third, we are in the very early stages of developing plans for a new auxiliary building that will house a much needed auxiliary gym, baseball and softball training facilities, storage, a new band room and more. We also eagerly await the completion of the Cafaro Family Field on Bryson Street. We will take advantage of the field for football, soccer, baseball, softball, and physical education, all thanks to the Cafaro Family.

The faculty continues to progress toward full reaccreditation from the Ohio Catholic Schools Accrediting Association (OCSAA), which will send a team of Catholic school administrators to verify our adherence to state-mandated educational and safety policies and review our school improvement plan. Once
approved, our charter from the State of Ohio will be renewed for an additional six years. We also are one of the few schools to receive accreditation through AdvancEd, formerly known as the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. This is another accrediting agency that insures the quality of instruction. Ursuline has been accredited since 1927, when the school was known as the Ursuline Academy and admitted only female students.

This school year also brings a new tool to the science department, the Anatomage Table. According to Anatomage the table is “the most technologically advanced 3D anatomy visualization system for anatomy and physiology education. The Anatomage Table is the only fully segmented real human 3D anatomy system. Students can visualize anatomy exactly as they would on a fresh cadaver. Individual structures are reconstructed in accurate 3D, resulting in an unprecedented level of real accurate anatomy, dissectible in 3D.” Students in Biology and Anatomy, as well as students in the Merici Med Prep Program, will take advantage of the table. Ursuline continues to invest in and give students unprecedented opportunities in STEM.

The 2019-2020 school year marks the 115th for Ursuline High School’s service to the Mahoning Valley. Although much has changed in the previous 114 years, many things remain the same, above all the Catholic pillars integrated in all aspects of the school, including prayer, service, and social justice. As we begin this school year, we give thanks for those who laid the foundation for our school, especially the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown; the many who added to the legacy of Ursuline, especially our graduates; and to the current students, parents, teachers, and staff who continue to work for the success of the Irish of Ursuline High. Please pray for the continued success of our students and their safety. Thank you for your continued support. Soli Deo Gloria.

Go Irish!

Matthew Sammartino
Principal
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Go Irish!

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Welcome Class of 2023!

In addition to up-to-date textbooks, each student receives a device for their 4 years at U.H.S.

Athletic Booster
Club Lamancusa
Corn Roast

Freshman
Orientation
The Irish Update—September 2019

Kudos To…

-freshman Luca Ricchiuti (left) for playing in the Pony League World Series. Luca and his team traveled to Washington, Pennsylvania to play teams from around the world. His team finished the tournament 2-2 and ultimately was disqualified after losing to a team from China.

-junior Cassandra Sorber (right) for her participation in the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership Conference this summer. This three day conference focuses on developing leadership skills in students, as well as demonstrating the importance of conscientious citizenship. HOBY was held on the campus of YSU.

-freshman Emma Garon (left) for her work with the Catholic Heart Camp in Mishawaka, Indiana. This week long camp encourages students to seek out the marginalized in their community and bring the light of Jesus into their lives. The camp spreads the Gospel values by prayer, participation in the Sacraments, and direct community service.

-senior Riley Burke and junior Lauren Ladd (right) for their participation in the Playhouse Square Theatre Camp in Cleveland, Ohio. Both students were awarded scholarships to attend this prestigious camp. The focus of the camp was performance in musicals. Riley and Lauren worked with professional actors who were touring in Come From Away. It was a week long intensive program.

-freshman Joseph Criscione and sophomore Ava Wirtz (left) for their participation in the 2019 Ulster Project. This project brings teens from Northern Ireland to the United States for a summer of fun and fellowship with other Northern Irish teens, as well as an American host family. While traveling the region and participating in activities, the purpose of the project is to promote peace and justice amongst the Northern Irish. The Criscione and Wirtz family were first time hosts for the project.
Kudos Continued......

-sophomore **Nina Dill** (left) for her participation in The National Youth Leadership Conference on Law and CSI this summer. Nina traveled to Washington D.C. to be a part of this program. She spent six amazing days in Washington, D.C. learning about careers in law and crime scene investigation (CSI). Nina joined other high school students from around the country for this extraordinary opportunity to learn from and interact with subject matter experts and gain invaluable hands-on experience.

-junior **Cody Clark** (right) for participating in the Future Coalition Summit in Iowa. Cody traveled to work with other teenagers on issues of climate change and the impact on the environment. The group assembled a Youth Climate Action Plan as a part of the Green New Deal.

-sophomore **Grace Campbell** (left) attended Youngstown State University’s Summer Honors Institute. Multiple one week sessions were held throughout the summer on the campus of YSU. Students explored a variety of contemporary topics such as robotics, film making, and forensics. In addition to the classwork, students had the opportunity to stay in the dorms at YSU to get the true college experience.

Opening of School Prayer Service

The Ursuline Family gathered in prayer on Friday, August 30 led by Ursuline President, Father Richard Murphy. Father Murphy’s homily focused on the theme of joy and being stewards of joy to our school family. Father reflected on the words in Matthew’s Gospel, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?” Each student received an Ursuline pin to remind them of our school’s rich 115 year history.
ACT

To view test dates and register for the ACT, please visit www.act.org. The cost of the exam is $52.00 (without writing) and $68.00 (with writing). Each Ursuline junior will take this test this spring at Ursuline. There is no cost to the student for this administration of the test. If a family believes it is eligible for a fee waiver based on low-income status, please contact Mrs. Kakavros for more details. Practice booklets are available in the guidance office. Students also have access to “On to College”, an online ACT preparation course. Students will receive log-in credentials via English class. Please encourage your student to work through this worthwhile program. The next test administration is October 26, 2019.

SAT

To view test dates and register for the SAT, please visit www.collegeboard.org. The exam costs $49.50 (without essay) and $64.50 (with essay). If a family believes it is eligible for a fee waiver based on low-income status, please contact Mrs. Kakavros for more details. Practice booklets are available in the guidance office. The next test administration is October 5, 2019.

PSAT

The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered at Ursuline on Wednesday, October 16, for any interested sophomores and juniors. This test is optional but strongly encouraged for the college-bound student. The cost of the exam is $17. The fee may be returned to Mrs. Kakavros by October 1. Cash or checks made payable to Ursuline High School will be accepted forms of payment.

For juniors, the test may also qualify students for academic recognition through the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT). Of the roughly 1.5 million high school juniors who take the test, about 50,000 students with the highest total PSAT/NMSQT scores qualify for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program. About 34,000 of those students become Commended Scholars. The roughly 16,000 students with the highest PSAT scores in the country (partly based on which state you live in) become National Merit Semi-Finalists, and most of them (about 15,000) move on to become National Merit Finalists.

Advanced Placement (AP)

For students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) courses this school year, there have been some changes made for the end-of-year AP exams. While the exams will continue to be administered the first two weeks of May, signing up for the exam now has a firm deadline of November 15, 2019. The cost of the exams are $94 and if you choose at a later date not to sit for the exam you will be refunded $79. This means that if a student is even considering taking an exam he/she will have to register with the AP teacher by November 15. See Mrs. Kakavros or contact the classroom teachers if you have any questions regarding the changes to AP.

College Financial Aid Night for Seniors & Senior Parents

Ursuline High School will host a financial aid information night for parents/guardians of current seniors at 6:30 on Wednesday, November 13, in the Library/Learning Center. A representative will be here from Youngstown State University’s Office of Financial Aid to discuss FAFSA, scholarships, and grants. Even if you do not plan to attend YSU please plan to attend this helpful seminar. The FAFSA form is required for financial aid at all colleges and universities and will be key to your son’s or daughter’s college scholarship search.

College Credit Plus (CCP) Information Night for Sophomores and Juniors & Parents

Youngstown State University will hold a CCP information night for all non-public school students on Thursday, November 7 in the Chestnut Room at Kilcawley Center on the campus at Youngstown State University. If you are planning to enroll in the CCP program and earn college credits while in high school, this information session is fundamental. Please RSVP to Mrs. Kakavros by calling 330-744-4563 or emailing uhsguidance@youngstowndiocese.org if you plan to attend.
The Senior Class Dinner will be held on Wednesday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Ursuline cafeteria. Information was emailed to senior families and posted on Drund and Facebook. If you did not RSVP, it is not too late! Important graduation information will be reviewed and discussed at the dinner. Please contact Mrs. Carosella with questions about the dinner.

The Varsity Dance is Saturday, September 28 at The Maronite Center from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. Students may bring guests from other schools, but a guest pass must be completed. Detentions must be served in order for a student to attend the dance. All students must be at The Maronite Center by 8:15 p.m. Questions about the Varsity Dance may be directed to Senior Class Advisors, Mr. Sean Fouse at sfouse@youngstowndiocese.org or Mrs. Eleanor Klucinec at eklucinec@youngstowndiocese.org.

Student Council will sponsor a Sign Painting Party for Mooney Week preparations on September 30 from 2:30-6:00. All students are encouraged to participate and will have the opportunity to RSVP to their class advisors or at lunch.

The annual Ursuline Gala Auction, “Celebrate our Legacy,” has been scheduled for Friday, November 8. Tickets are $65 and include dinner and an open bar. This is our largest all-school fundraiser and we encourage everyone to come for a fun night out to support Ursuline High School. Please watch your email for more ways you can help at the 2019 Auction!

Mr. Sammartino, Mrs. Carosella, and Miss Matune want to hear about the accomplishments of our students and the good things they are doing throughout the year to include in the newsletter and for Mr. Sam’s Kudos after school liturgies. We also need your pictures. Send the information or photos to the main office or e-mail them to Miss Matune, mmatune@youngstowndiocese.org.

Teachers will continue to maintain on-line grade books through Power School at ursuline.powerschool.com. Login information was mailed home. Information that can be accessed through PowerSchool includes the teacher’s gradebook, attendance and tardiness records, conduct grade, and teacher comments. PowerSchool is updated on a weekly basis. Please contact Mrs. Viglio at 330-744-4563 with questions.

The Ursuline Home and School Association works hard throughout the school year to provide support to Ursuline High School students. Parents are encouraged to return their membership card and fee to the Ursuline Office. The following Home and School Meetings have been scheduled for the 2019-2020 school year. Any questions about Home and School may be directed to Mrs. Michelle Carosella, Assistant Principal, at mcarosella@youngstowndiocese.org. All meetings begin at 5 p.m. in the Library / Learning Center unless otherwise noted.

October 2, 2019
November 6, 2019
December 4, 2019 at Avalon Pizza
January 8, 2020
February 5, 2020
March 4, 2020 in the Auction Room
April 1, 2020
May 6, 2020

In anticipation of the 17th annual “Celebrate Our Legacy” Auction, a great afternoon of shopping and fellowship for Ursuline High School families and friends has been planned for Sunday, October 6 from 1-4pm. Admission is a $20 gift card that will be used for our auction, Celebrate Our Legacy, on November 8, 2019. All guests will have the opportunity to enter to win one of two door prizes, a $300 gift card tree or a $500 tuition voucher that can be used for the 2019-2020 school year. You may use the tuition for your child, an Ursuline student of your choice, or a donation to the Adopt-a-Student fund. Please RSVP by September 27. You may RSVP by visiting www.ursuline.com, selecting Alumni, and then the auction page. The first 50 shoppers will receive a special swag bag!

**Featured Vendors**

-Coral Rose Boutique
-Captain McFinn
-Rosebuds Children’s Boutique
-Spruce Home Decor
-Ivory and Birch
-Dineen’s Jewelry & Gifts
-Gray Barn Baking
-Natural Health Food Store / Essential Oils
-Magnolia’s on the Green
-Studio Oxygen

and more!
**Family Fun Night at Ursuline**

The Ursuline High School Student Ambassadors proudly present “Family Fun Night” at Ursuline High School on **Friday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m.** for students in grades kindergarten - six and their families. This event will feature fall games and activities, an outdoor viewing on the big screen of “Aladdin”, snacks, prizes and more! Families are asked to please bring blankets or chairs to use for the outside viewing of the movie. If the weather is poor, the event will be moved to the gym.

Please RSVP by visiting www.ursuline.com/calendar and selecting October 4 by Friday, September 27.

Student Ambassadors will also be available to give tours to families prior to the start of the movie.

**Advanced Placement (AP) Excellence**

Ursuline High School is proud to announce an **85% pass rate** on Advanced Placement Exams taken in 2019.

- Ursuline’s pass rate far exceeds the national average pass rate of 61%.
- We are also proud to honor our AP Scholars. 16 members of the Class of 2019 were named AP Scholars.
- Ursuline High School offers 16 AP courses taught at Ursuline, 8 AP courses online & 5 College Credit Plus courses.
- AP Research, AP Studio Art - 2D Art and Design, and AP Studio Art - Drawing were added for the 2018-2019 school year.

Mrs. DePizzo’s AP Chemistry Class earned a **100% pass rate** on the 2019 exam in comparison to the global average of 54%.

Ursuline’s long standing tradition of academic excellence is highlighted by our AP scores.