

Alumni and Friends

St. Cecelia Interparochial Catholic School

An IB World School Grades PK3 through 8th Grade

Volume 1, September 2021



CATCHING UP WITH ALUMNI GRADY TRIMBLE



Grady Trimble is an EMMY-winning network correspondent based in Chicago. He covers the automotive industry, aviation, agriculture and much more for FOX Business and FOX News, specializing in engaging, dynamic, live reporting. Grady graduated from St. Cecelia Catholic School in 2007 and went on to play soccer at the University of North Florida, a Division 1 School.

How did you end up pursuing a career as a news reporter? Growing up, my mom would watch the national news each morning. By the time I started to seriously consider careers in middle and high school, the news was still on every day and I thought, "I could do that." Later on, I researched the career paths of reporters and anchors

I admired and did my best to follow in their footsteps.

What is your favorite part of being a news reporter? Every day is different, and it's not a desk job. One day, you're talking about real estate trends. The next, you might be covering a hurricane. We get to travel all over the country and meet a lot of interesting people along the way, too.

What career achievement are you most proud of? I'm proud to have won an Emmy for a story I did when I worked in local news in Tampa, but hopefully the best is yet to come!

What is your fondest memory at SCS? Between playing on sports teams, the eighth grade dance and our class trip to Ybor, it's hard to pick just one! Clearly, I was more interested in extracurriculars and social events than academics back then.

How did SCS impact your life? Some of my closest friends to this day were classmates at SCS, and later at Clearwater Central Catholic. In fact, one of them helped make the initial connection a few years ago that ultimately led me to my current job. While the education I got in elementary and middle school was obviously important, I'm equally grateful for the people I met there who've become lifelong friends.

What was your favorite class? At the time, I probably would've said I don't have a favorite class. But looking back, I've always enjoyed English. The most critical part of my job is to deliver information clearly, concisely and accurately, and you can't do that without a strong foundation of grammar and writing, which I learned at SCS.

What advice would you give to a current student at SCS? Keep in touch with the friends you make there. Explore as many interests as possible, because they could turn into hobbies or a career that last a lifetime. Work hard. And most importantly, cherish your time there!



St. Cecelia Interparochial Catholic School

1350 Court St. Clearwater • (727) 461-1207 • www.st-cecelia.org

Have news to share? Let us know at rlnhardt@st-cecelia.org

"Celebrate the uniqueness of each person as a child of God while we proclaim the Gospel message, pray together, build community, and serve others..."

Alumni Awards, Honors & News



SCHAFER ECKARDT '17

We are proud to announce alumnus Schafer Eckardt as the Clearwater Central Catholic High School **Valedictorian!** Schafer plans to attend Indiana University Kelley School of Business to study finance. Schafer was also named a 2021 Principal's Scholar Award Winner. The Principal's Scholar Award recognizes students that achieved straight

A's all four years of high school.



MALLORY CASS '17

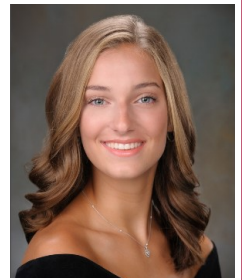
We are proud to announce alumna Mallory Cass as the Clearwater Central Catholic High School **Salutatorian!** Mallory plans to attend Wofford College to study business economics (pre-law track). Mallory was also named a 2021 Principal's Scholar Award Winner. The Principal's Scholar Award recognizes students that

achieved straight A's all four years of high school.



ALEXANDRA QUATTROCKI '17 & EVIE VAUGHAN '17

Congratulations to SCS Alumae Alexandra Quattrocki who received the Principal's Scholar Award, the State Farm Student of the Year Award and the Sisters of Notre Dame Distinguished Graduate Award! She also received the Clearwater Youth Scholarship. Alexandra will attend the University of Florida in the Fall. We would also like to congratulate Evie Vaughan for being awarded the International Baccalaureate Profile in Learning Award. Evie will also attend the University of Florida.



GAVYN RUARK PLUMHOFF '17

Gavyn was recently accepted into and committed to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs! The acceptance rate for the Air Force Academy is 11%, and all attendees require a congressional nomination, with each member of Congress limited to a maximum of five cadets attending the Academy at a time. This is a prestigious honor, and we are so proud to have Gavyn representing our school. Congratulations Gavyn!



STEVE PAUL '71

We are proud that Clearwater Central Catholic recognized SCS alumni Steve Paul's commitment to service by presenting him with the Distinguished Alumni Award for Valuing Service. Congratulations Steve!



EMILY (LEVY) DIXON '03

Emily recently accepted the Director Position at Camp Hollymont for Girls. She grew up going to this camp and has always wanted to be a permanent part of it. The past 7 years, she has been a 5th Grade teacher at McAllister Elementary School in Richmond Hill, GA. She was "Teacher of the Year," for her School and District in 2018 and also won "Richmond Hill's Best Educator," voted by the Parents and Residents of Richmond Hill! She has accomplished so much in such a short period of time and we are so proud of her! Her biggest influence at St. Cecelia was Harriet McLaughlin! If you have or know any girls ages 7-15 that would like to join Emily at Camp Hollymont for the summer, please feel free to reach out to her on Facebook. She can also organize a meet & greet show to learn more about the camp :). Also, young women in College looking for a summer job can apply to be a staff member at www.Hollymont.com.

"Encourage students to open their hearts to God, their minds to learning, and their talents to service..."

Alumni Awards, Honors & News



NEW BABY

Brittany Curinga Purcell and Dr. Chris Purcell from the SCS c/o 2006 welcomed their new son, Parker Purcell, on February 1, 2020. Brittany says, "We are always thankful for the SCS community. After all, it's where Chris and I met!"



NEW PRIEST

Alumnus Michael Kieler '07 was Ordained on May 15, 2021 in the Diocese of St. Augustine. The St. Cecelia Catholic School community is so blessed to celebrate having one of our own alumni becoming a priest.



Alumnus David Habib '07 recently started his own company called Yo Mama's Foods, the company mission is to bring the world back to the table through healthy and delicious foods. You can find his products in retail stores across the country and on Amazon! Pictured is David with his mom as a student at SCS!



ALUMNUS DAVID MARTINEZ-COOLEY NAMED PINELLAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SCS alumnus David Martinez-Cooley was named Pinellas County's 2020 Teacher of the Year. David has been teaching music and math in Pinellas County Schools for the last 13 years, most recently at Leila G. Davis Elementary School in Clearwater.



Nick Gunn '11 is a first year pre-theologian from the Diocese of Saint Petersburg. Please keep Nick and other seminarians in your prayers. For Nick's story please click on the [link](#).



"Strive to provide a strong spiritual and academic foundation so that our students can become responsible members of the Church and the community now and in the future..."



CONGRATULATIONS ST. CECELIA SCHOOL TWO TIME WINNER! 2010 ★ 2020

We are beyond excited to announce that St. Cecelia Catholic School has been awarded the National Blue Ribbon Award, the highest honor a school can receive for academic excellence by the United States Department of Education! This is the second time the school has won the prestigious award, being one of only 11 schools in Florida to receive this award in 2020. Share the good news with your friends and family! Go Crusaders!



OPEN HOUSE DATES

November 3, 2021

February 2, 2022

March 16, 2022

8:30am - 5:30pm

RSVP to 727-461-1207



In Loving Memory



Sr. Mary Patricia Plumb, SNJM, 83, passed away on Friday, January 8, 2021 at Concordia Healthcare Center, Tampa, of complications from COVID 19. A native of



Florida, Sister Mary Patricia entered the SNJM community after graduating from the Academy of the Holy Names, Tampa, in 1955. Her roles in education spanned many areas, and not just at the Academy. She also taught in Albany and Liverpool, New York, as well as St. Cecelia in Clearwater, 1970-1981, where she served as vice principal and principal. She also served on the diocesan Vocations Committee and she was a faithful attendee at Focus 11 every year.

Give A Gift... to help St. Cecelia Catholic School continue its mission of providing students with an affordable Catholic education. Please consider giving a gift that makes a difference... now and forever. Visit <http://www.st-cecelia.org/student-life/alumni/alumni-giving/> to donate.

“CRUSADERS FOREVER! Faith, Service, Athletics, Academics”