JJI CAPSTONE PROJECT

Central Catholic High School
Pittsburgh, PA

CAPSTONE GOAL

This capstone project focuses on the development of a redesigned **Central Catholic Lasallian Intiation Program (CCLIP)** that expands the current one-year introduction into a **three-year faculty formation program.** The goal of this initiative is to provide new teachers with a deeper and more intentional understanding of the **Lasallian charism**, the history and mission of **Central Catholic High School**, and the educational tradition of the **de LaSalle Christian Brothers**.

By extending formation over three years, the program will move beyond a brief introduction and instead provide a sustained experience of mission integration, mentorship, reflection, and practical application in the classroom. Through structured conversations, engagement with key Lasallian texts, and opportunities to connect the charism to daily teaching practice, this program seeks to form educators who fully understand and actively embody the **Lasallian mission of faith, service, and community.**

HISTORY OF CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

IT ISN'T BROKEN…SO WHY ARE WE FIXING IT?

Central Catholic is one of the only Lasallian schools that operates also a Diocesan school.

Matt Stoessel '95 (President) / Jack Wallace (Principal)

- First lay President
- First lay Principal

All Diocesan high school teachers are members of the **Federation of Pittsburgh Diocesan Teachers Union (FPDT)**

- Teachers receive tenure after 3 years of service
- Must complete Equip Training through Diocese of Pittsburgh Catholic Schools Office
  - Curriculum through Franciscan University
- Only required Lasallian formation is one year CCLIP Program

REAL GOAL

DEEPEN UNDERSTANDING AND COMMITMENT TO LASALLIAN MISSION AND CHARISM BEFORE AWARDING TENURE

WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE ARE GOING

Current CCLIP Program

1 Year Program

6 After School Meetings

- Overview of Christian Brothers, Central Catholic
- Introduction to Lasallian charism
  - Deepened during Faculty Retreats

New CCLIP Program (Fall 2026)

3 Year Program

Teachers Remain In Yearly Cohort

Quarterly Meetings Each Year

- Goal – Shared planning period to meet during school day
- More focused and thematic

Required DENA or RELAN participation

- Huether Conference
- Adrien Nyel Retreat

“Artifact” or “Capstone” type of project

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Year 1 Goals

- Introduce new faculty to the legacy and writings of St. John Baptist de La Salle.
- Identify key elements of Lasallian pedagogy, especially concepts of faith, zeal, community, student-centered education, and the elder sibling model of teaching
- Study select passages from *The Conduct of Christian Schools* to understand foundational Lasallian educational practices.

Year 2 Goals

- Deepen understanding of La Salle's writings particularly *The Rules of Christian Civility and Decorum* and *The Duties of a Christian to God*
- Reflect on personal and professional growth through the lens of Lasallian values.
- Recognize teaching as a vocation that shapes faith and daily interactions with students.

Year 3 Goals

- Explore La Salle's spiritual writings including selections from *Meditations for the Time of Retreat*
- Integrate and apply Lasallian principles more comprehensively into one's ministry at Central Catholic.
- Develop confidence in articulating the meaning of Catholic education within the Lasallian tradition today.

BROTHER JOHN JOHNSTON INSTITUTE of CONTEMPORARY LASALLIAN PRACTICE

WHAT WE ARE BRINGING FROM JJI?

Borrow from each of the JJI sessions…

History of the Christian Brothers and de La Salle

What it means to be a Lasallian educator

Importance of ministry and evangelization

Commitment to the principles of faith, community, and association.

Examining the current state of Catholic and Lasallian education and how we can best meet the needs of students

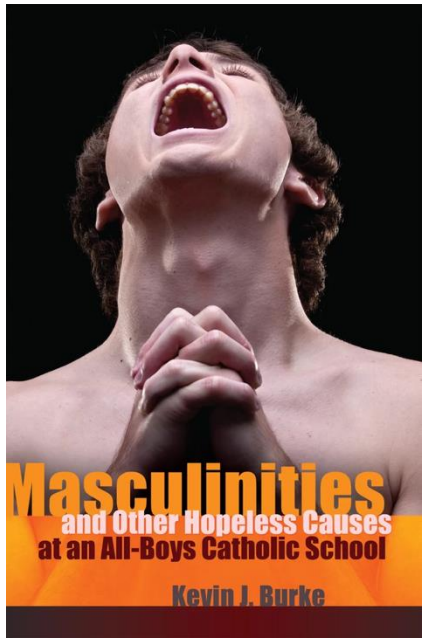
What are the unique development needs of teenage boys and how should those influence or teaching?

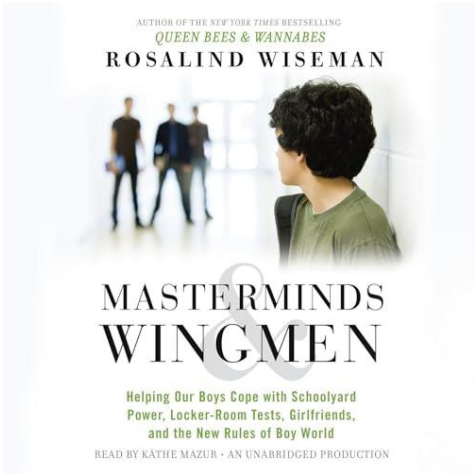
How can we help young men develop character, responsibility, and leadership?

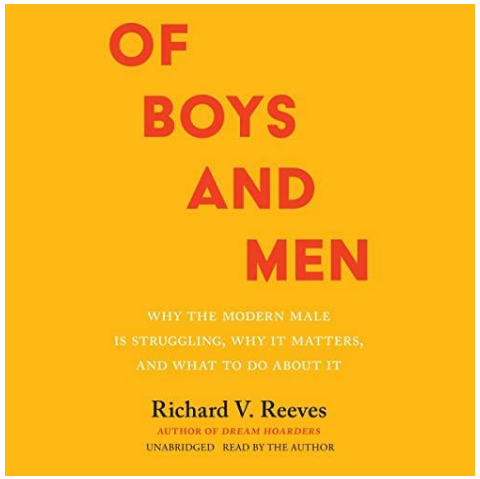
In what ways do boys respond different to structure, competition, and collaboration in the classroom?

How do we challenge boys to grow intellectually while also developing emotional maturity?

What role should teachers play in helping boys become men of faith and integrity?







ADDITIONAL CURRICULUM NOTES AND QUESTIONS

WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE?

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NEW TEACHER FORMATION TEAM

Central Catholic Academic Administration
- Principal, Vice Principals, Deans

Central Catholic President

Central Catholic Advancement and Alumni

Faculty Mentors

Select Faculty Presenters

Lasallian Animator

Christian Brothers

Br. John Crawford FSC ‘72

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXTEND THE CHARISM FURTHER

Conversations about how to better support faculty have led to similar questions about…

- Staff
- Coaches

How do we bring a similar type of program to a non-tenured or part time position?