



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS
CATHOLIC BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

Help Us Continue The Tradition

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE
2004-2005





Dear Explorers:

As I write this letter to you, I think of all the people who have suffered from the hurricanes this year in Florida and of our alumni who have been affected. We pray for them daily and hope they will get through this difficult time. We here in Miami have been spared so far during this season and we thank God for that.

I also reflect on all the brilliant young men that have passed through these halls during the past 46 years, as well as the teachers who have worked here. I think of all those who have passed away and who spent many years helping young men at Columbus like Dick Pollock, Bob Munley, Tom O'Neil, Lou Savino, Richard Esposito, Brother Martin Thomas, and Brother Ben, just to mention a few. I myself, have 33 years of wonderful memories and experiences at Columbus and I thank God daily for them. We have a wonderful family of explorers, that bond together daily.

Many of you helped us each year with a donation to our annual fund and we are so grateful. We would be lost without your generosity. Our mission is to make Jesus Christ known and loved through the Christian education of youth. In order for us to effectively do this, we must provide for the students and faculty.

During this past summer, thanks to you, we were able to wire the entire school for internet access, provide a computer in each classroom for the teachers, and purchase another 50 computers in our labs. We also renovated the B building as well as our locker room facilities. All of this was possible through donations; we never raise the tuition for improvements, only to cover the teacher salaries and the normal operational expenses.

What are our plans for this year? We hope to renovate the C building and begin plans on a new state of the arts facility that will meet the technological, academic and administrative needs of the school. This building will connect the A, B, and C buildings and will face 87th Avenue. We hope to have the architectural plans completed this year and begin construction by the fall of next year if all goes according to plan. We need your help to make this possible. I am asking all alumni to please donate \$200 or more this year for this worthy cause.

Our aim is to provide the best facilities for our students so that they can grow academically, spiritually, socially and athletically.

Please help us as you have in the past; you are our testimony of what a good Marist catholic education is all about. God bless you and your families always.

Ever grateful,

*Brother Kevin F.M.S.
President*



What Will My Donation Be Used For This Year?

1) RENOVATE THE “C” BUILDING

Over the past two years we were able to renovate both A and B buildings with proceeds from our annual fund. We now must improve the learning environment in the C building for our students. These classrooms are in desperate need of new floors, ceilings, and furniture.



*James A. Cannavino Library -
Marist College, NY. Model for
new academic resource center.*

2) BEGIN PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A NEW BUILDING ALONG 87th AVE.

This new building will have four main purposes:

- ***To house a new state of the arts “Academic Resource Center/Library”***

The two-story building would feature an Academic Resource Center/Library on the 2nd floor that would be fully equipped with the latest in computer technology and would include several labs. It would give Columbus the space it needs to expand and offer the latest in technology.

- ***To house administrative offices***

The ground floor will be able to provide much needed office space. Currently, many of Columbus’ administrative offices are found in the “B” building and media center, areas that should be dedicated to academic classroom learning.

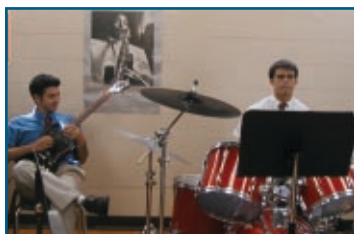
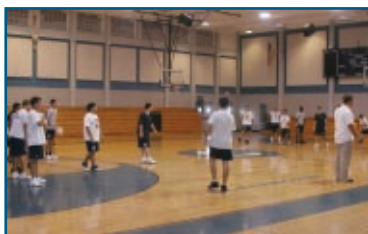
- ***To help create 3 distinct learning environments***

With the new building in place, our current library in the C Building and computer lab areas in the D building would be transformed into more classroom/guidance space. Many teachers currently giving class in the areas near the gym and sports complex will be able to move to the areas of the school where classrooms reside. These changes would enable Columbus to offer three distinct areas for learning:

- Buildings A, B, C, D: Academic Classroom Environment
- New Building: Academic Resource Center, Library, Computer Labs, Offices
- Buildings S, K, Gym, Outdoor Fields: Sports, Music/Band, Art, Clubs

- ***To connect the A, B, and C buildings***

The new building would run along 87th Avenue and would provide for a third convenient connection for the A, B, and C buildings. The building would be highly visible from busy 87th Avenue, giving Columbus more exposure.



ANNUAL FUND DRIVE 2004-2005

OUR GOAL \$225,000

What is the Annual Fund Drive?

The purpose of the drive is to raise funds for campus educational improvements, technical advancements, facility improvements and financial aid.

Why doesn't the tuition cover these items?

Our current tuition is \$5,850; the cost per pupil is \$7,500. If we were to raise tuition to cover actual costs and close the GAP, few of our families would be able to send their sons to Columbus.

What am I expected to do?

Columbus is committed to maintaining as reasonable a tuition price as possible but must depend upon your investment to help us make up the difference in tuition versus actual costs. Columbus High School asks you to consider one of the suggested giving plans below. Please be assured that any gift you choose to give will be greatly appreciated and will help to make a difference in the lives of our students, to insure a promising future.

<i>Champagnat Circle</i>	<i>\$2,500 or more</i>
<i>Marist Circle</i>	<i>\$2,000-\$2,499</i>
<i>President's Club</i>	<i>\$1,500-\$1,999</i>
<i>Principal's Club</i>	<i>\$1,000-1,499</i>
<i>Explorer's Club</i>	<i>\$750-999</i>
<i>Blue & White Club</i>	<i>\$500-749</i>
<i>Columbus Club</i>	<i>\$200-\$499</i>
<i>Century Club</i>	<i>\$100-199</i>
<i>Friend's Club</i>	<i>\$25-99</i>

When do I make my Contribution or Pledge?

The last months of the year traditionally offer a time for reflection. It's time when many of us pause to consider our blessings and give thanks for the good things in our lives. We hope that you will answer the invitation to invest in the future of our youth today. If you wish to make a pledge and pay over a period of time, you have until August 15, 2005 to fulfill your pledge for the year.

How do I make my gift or pledge?

You may pay it in full today by enclosing your contribution in the envelope provided, or you may indicate the amount pledged on the envelope and how you wish to be billed. All checks should be made payable to Columbus Development Program.

Does Columbus Qualify for Matching Gifts?

Yes! There are nearly 500 companies that now match gifts to Columbus High School. In most cases, gifts will be matched for employees, spouses and retired employees on at least a 1:1 basis. Check with your personnel office to see if your company will match your gift to the 2004-05 Annual Fund Drive. Major companies such as First Union, Bristol-Meyers, Eli Lilly Foundation, UPS Foundation, Federated Dept. Stores Foundation, B.F. Goodrich, Merrill-Lynch, Carter Wallace, Bank of America, Florida Power & Light, American Express Co., Chubb & Son, J.P. Morgan, Chase & Co, Pfizer and Wells Fargo & Co. match gifts to Columbus.



What's Been Done With The Proceeds Of Past Annual Fund Drives?

Annual Fund 2003-04:

- Wired entire school for Internet access
- Purchased over 150 new computers
- Renovated entire "B" building
- Installed new flooring and ceilings in locker rooms
- Completed Baseball Complex
- Installed new floor in Lawrence Bell Media Center
- Tiled various walls throughout the school
- Provided financial aid for needy families



Annual Fund 2002-03:

- Renovated five science labs
- Purchased 65 new computers
- Renovated the entire "A" building
- Built new classrooms in the Abraham Science Building
- Renovated the Genevieve Abraham Chapel
- Began renovation of the baseball complex
- Provided financial aid for needy families



Annual Fund Over the Past 5 Years:

- Renovated all science labs
- Purchased 225 new computers
- Built additional computer Lab
- Renovated the gym
- Renovated cafeteria
- Installed awnings throughout school

As you can see, annual fund drives are extremely important to Columbus. Without the generous support of the Columbus Family, our school would not be able to enhance our facilities.

Opportunities for Giving

There are many ways to contribute to the Annual Fund. While most people first think of writing a check, charitable gifts can be made in other ways. Before making a commitment this year, please consider the following:

Gift of Stock – How to Avoid Capital Gains: This may be an excellent time to consider a gift of stock. Giving long-term appreciated stock offers you a two-fold tax savings. First, you avoid paying any capital gains tax on the increase in value of your stock. In addition, you receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock on the date of the gift. For income tax purposes the value of such gifts may be deducted up to 30% of adjusted gross income, with an additional five year carry forward.

Gifts of Cash – Tax Wise and Easy: There is no easier way to garner a charitable deduction – and support us at the same time – than by simply writing a check! If you itemize, your outright gifts of cash are fully deductible for federal income tax purposes up to 50% of your adjusted gross income. If your total gifts should exceed this limitation, the excess may be carried forward for tax purposes for up to five additional years.

Gifts of Life Insurance – A Good Policy for Giving: If you own a life insurance policy that is no longer needed, consider it as the perfect vehicle for a charitable gift! To receive a charitable deduction, name us as both the owner and the beneficiary of the policy. If the policy has a cash value, you can take a charitable deduction approximately equal to the cash value at the time of the gift. In addition, if annual premiums are still to be made and you continue to pay them, those premiums will become tax deductible each year. (It's easy to contribute a life insurance policy to us. Just check with your life insurance agent for details on which forms to complete.)

Major Tax Law Changes

The tax cut package signed by President Bush in 2003 included these major changes:

- Lower Overall Tax Rates. The top income tax rate for 2003 has been reduced from 38.6 to 35%. Most taxpayers will find their tax rates reduced by about 2%.
- Dividend Income Reductions. Effective starting in 2003, most taxpayers will find their dividends taxed at a maximum rate of 15%, rather than at regular ordinary income tax rates of up to 35%.
- Capital Gains Reductions. For sales of stock and certain other capital gain property after May 5, 2003, the top long-term capital gains tax rate is reduced from 20% to 15%.

*For more information from
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