

September 30, 2019

Dear Parent of Helias Catholic Student(s);

As parents of current students and recent graduates of Helias Catholic, we know the challenge of raising high school students who are well grounded and confident in the practice of their Catholic faith. We are very fortunate here in Jefferson City to have Helias Catholic to continue the instruction of the faith we start at home while also educating our children through a strong academic curriculum.

Did you know that statistics show that the largest and fastest growing category of college freshmen is those that claim “none” when asked about their church affiliation? Studies show that 79% of Catholics who leave the faith do so by the age of 23.

As parents of soon-to-be graduates of Helias Catholic, you are to be commended for your commitment to providing for both your student’s academic and spiritual well-being. We are writing to you to encourage you to consider continuing that commitment once your student graduates from Helias Catholic by seriously exploring with them the opportunity to attend a Catholic college or university.

Now, before you decide that a Catholic higher education is out of your budget, please know that nearly all Catholic colleges and universities understand the financial challenges parents and students face and have well-established endowment and scholarship programs to help defray the costs. Many times, the actual cost of a Catholic college or university can be about the same as a public institution.

If exploring the option of a Catholic college or university is of interest to you and your student, we would like to invite you to participate in the upcoming **Benedictine College Night at Helias Catholic**. Benedictine College, founded in 1858, is located in Atchison, KS which is just north of the Kansas City Airport. For more information about Benedictine College, visit [www.benedictine.edu](http://www.benedictine.edu).

Benedictine College has very robust academic offerings including health sciences, nursing, business and a full array of science, technology engineering and math (STEM) including architecture. Bottom line, Benedictine College is committed to offering the most desirable majors for students and employers.

If your student is considering becoming a college athlete, Benedictine College is a member of the Heart of America Conference in the NAIA. The Ravens have enjoyed great success in a number of sports, recently competing for the national championship in football, women’s lacrosse and women’s soccer. They also offer women’s volleyball, men and women’s basketball, baseball, softball, track & field, men and women’s lacrosse and wrestling. Additionally, they feature a marching band, dance team and cheer squads. Benedictine College has over 80% of its student body involved in athletics or other extra-curricular activities. Speaking of scholarships, nearly **100% of the student body receives a scholarship** based on their GPA and ACT scores. **For instance, students with an ACT score of 24 (the Helias Catholic average) and a Helias Catholic GPA of 3.5 qualifies for \$15,000 annually in academic scholarship!**

We are members of the Mid MO Ravens Club, the local chapter for alumni, students and friends of Benedictine College. We have seen the huge value Benedictine College has been for our sons and daughters who have graduated from, or currently attend, Benedictine College. It is truly a special place that will diligently foster your student’s Catholic faith through daily mass, reconciliation and adoration

opportunities, rosaries at the Grotto and just a strong foundation of other faithful students and faculty. The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), a now national program, was founded at Benedictine College in 1998 and today has a presence on 153 college campuses in the United States with over 7,000 students in one-on-one discipleship sharing the faith with their fellow students. What a testament to the strong Catholic identity of Benedictine College. Your student will benefit greatly from the many around them every day who will be modeling strong Catholic values.

**Please join us on Thursday, October 17 beginning at 6:30pm** in the Library at Helias Catholic to learn more about the opportunities at Benedictine College. **Please enter through the doors below the large crucifix.** We'd encourage you to bring your student(s) along so you can learn more together directly from Benedictine College's President Stephen Minnis and their Dean of Enrollment, Pete Helgesen. It's never too early to begin planning for one of the biggest decisions in your child's life. The decision that puts them on a trajectory toward their future, including their future with Christ.

Sincerely;



Kimie and Doug Bax



Sarah and Troy Clardy



Susie and Dan Hinds



Susan and Craig Husting



Valerie and Joe Jones



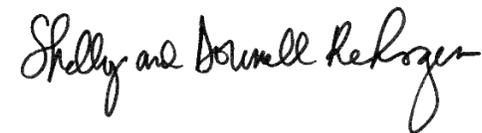
Jill and Jerry Kliethermes



Tricia and Paul Mingucci



Ann and Eddie Mulholland



Shelly and Donnell Rehagen



Joyce and Joe Schaefer



Dana and Gary Wilbers