

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School: Historic Traditions and Dynamic Changes

The state of Oklahoma was just 43 years old when Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School opened its doors in 1950. At that time, it was named "Central Catholic High School", and was a co-educational secondary school from the start. The school has remained in the same location since 1950, but the location is no longer considered the northern fringe of Oklahoma City!

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School has been home to over 7,500 graduates. The school stays true to its rich traditions, even in the midst of exciting growth and changes.

The school adopted the colors of Kelly green and white in 1951, and in 1955 "The Irish" nickname was chosen, with "Clancy" as our mascot.

In 1959, Central Catholic High School was renamed Bishop McGuinness High School in honor of the school's founder, Bishop Eugene J. McGuinness.

In 1995, the students chose Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati as the school patron. He was a young Italian man who served the poor. He died in the early 1900's at the age of 24 and is in the process of canonization. In 1998, the new school chapel was named in his honor.

Improvements to the school have occurred throughout the years in addition to the chapel. In 1984, a gym lobby area was added. Renovations to the stadium were made in 1987 and 2005. A new track and field complex was constructed in 1987 and its most recent resurfacing was in 2006. The theology and art center wing was built in 1991, the library was upgraded to a media center in 1995, and the baseball building was completed in 1998. The softball complex was renovated in 2000, and the auditorium received a complete facelift and was named the Father John Petuskey Performing Arts Auditorium in 2002.

In 2003, it was determined that the facility needed modernization, but was beyond renovation. Plans were drawn to build a new educational facility and join it with the existing west wing and theology wing. Major changes began that year with new perimeter fencing and landscaping. On August 22, 2006, The David L. Morton Educational Facility opened its doors. It included new classrooms, the Father Stanley Rother Resource Center, new offices, and a large multi-function student commons area.

Bishop McGuinness is now completing Phase II of the Building Faith campaign. This phase includes a major gym renovation, addition of a practice gym, and a new wrestling room. The school is also

enjoying new practice facilities for music and dance, a new chemistry lab, and a new softball dressing room. Phase III is also underway, which includes improvements to the stadium and the addition of a new fieldhouse and weight room.

In 1960, Bishop McGuinness received unqualified accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the Oklahoma Department of Education. The school is also affiliated with the National Catholic Educational Association, the College Board, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Athletics have played a part of the rich tradition that McGuinness enjoys. In 1961, the Bishop McGuinness Basketball Tournament was started and is the longest running high school basketball tournament in the state. The Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association granted McGuinness entrance in 1966. Prior to that time, the school competed in and won numerous Catholic school state titles. Since joining the state association, Bishop McGuinness has claimed numerous state team titles and individual state championships. During the 2006-2007 school year, McGuinness teams earned seven state athletic titles.

In 1999, the Academic Team won the school's first academic title and repeated this achievement in 2000. They were named state runner-up in 2002 and 2006.

Our graduates are very loyal and supportive. Many settle in the metropolitan area to raise their families and are influential in the Oklahoma City community and beyond. Approximately 20% of our families represent two or more generations of McGuinness graduates.