



## **THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF COLUMBIA** (Downtown Optimist)

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Mailing address: P. O. Box 1959 \* Columbia, MO 65205-1959  
Web: [www.downtownoptimistclub.org](http://www.downtownoptimistclub.org)

### **In Person/ Zoom Meeting**

**Monday, January 13, 2025**

**Meeting began at 12:00 noon at the Clubhouse**

**Members in attendance: President: Mary Dewey, Pat Brown, Larry Fick, Carl Scott, Ed Musterman, Jerry Sullivan, Bob Slemmon, Barb West, Rick McKernan, Tony Parisio, Sean Reberry, Nadia Ryakmyaulliov, Adam Crumbliss, Jake Jolley, Steve Winter, Mike Hatchett, C.O. Scheffer, and Akbar Hussein**

**Special Guests: Pat Kelley, Athletic Director/ Assist Principal**

**Welcome Back: Everyone I hope everyone stayed safe last week with all the snow that came in.**

**Invocation: Rick McKernan**

**Pledge of Allegiance: Sean Reberry**

**Birthdays/Anniversaries: Thursday, January 2 Mark Stevenson Birthday, Monday, January 6 Jake Jolley, Tuesday, January 7 Jack Crusie Birthday and Friday January 10 Carl Scott Birthday.**

**Pay the pig (Money goes to the OIF Children Cancer: Rick McKernan paid \$1.00 for Kansas University Basketball team, Mike Hatchett paid \$4.00 from making fun of Rick and Kansas University, Carl Scott paid \$1.00 for the Food Bank food drive that was before Christmas and Volunteers needed at the Food Market 2 hours shifts, and Adam Crumbliss paid \$1.00 for Kansas University basketball lose and Mizzou basketball team winners.**

**Board Meeting on Thursday, January 16 at the Club House at 6:00 pm**

**We have 2 Funding Request: Adam Crumbliss from the Heart of MO United Way asking for \$5000 for Reading Across Columbia Program, and Aaro Froese from the Scouting American asking for \$2000**

**I like to thank everyone who came out on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup> and help Jim Murphy put everything up on the tree lot. Carl Scott and Steve Winter to name a few.**

***Bringing Out The Best In Kids Since 1936***

**Nadia Ryakmyatulliov talked about the High School Scholarship is at all 4 high schools and will be due February 19<sup>th</sup>. It can be found on google on our website.**

**Jerry Sullivan want us know that our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pickleball Tournament will take place on Saturday, March 15 from 8:00 to 7:00 pm at the Sports Fieldhouse. He will be looking for volunteers to help with set up on Friday night and Saturday.**

**Rick McKrenan let us know that the Essay and Oratorical Contest will take place in March.**

**Ed Musterman would like to Thank his wife Sue for helping him shovel out the club house parking lot and the others people who came out and help them. He also let us know that Pat Kelly and Kelly Schilling both have been sick and doing well know.**

**Carl Scott let us know that the City of Columbia will be hosting Martin Luther King Day of Service on Saturday from 1 to 3:30 at Rainbow Softball Field.**

**Our Speaker next week will be:**

**Guest Speaker: Patrick Kelly, Father Tolton Athletic Director/ Asst. Principal ( see attached)**

**Club winner: Jack Beard Jr.**

**Optimist Creed was recited and meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm**

**Mary Dewey: President**



**Father Tolton High School**

# Mission Statement

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Fr. Tolton Catholic High School is committed to providing a college-preparatory education rooted in the Catholic faith and designed to help each student grow in Spirit, Heart, Mind, and Body. Inspired by the life of Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, our diverse, Christ-centered community seeks to ensure that all students are equipped to blaze a unique trail in service to God, the Church, and the world.

## History of the School

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Talk of opening a Catholic high school in Columbia had become a serious conversation by the time Bishop John R. Gaydos arrived in the Jefferson City diocese in 1997. In a 2001 statement of his vision for the local Church, he called for “a study of how to expand the possibilities for Catholic secondary education in the diocese.” Feasibility studies indicated strong support among Catholic parishioners in Columbia and surrounding communities for opening a Catholic high school.

Parishioners wanted the school built on a foundation of Catholic spirituality, college-prep academics, and leadership-development opportunities for students. They helped their parishes pay down construction debts, which allowed fund-raising for the new school to begin in earnest. The diocese provided \$1.5 million in seed money through the “Grateful Memories ... Faithful Future” capital campaign in 2006 and the bishop authorized the purchase of 23 acres of prime real estate between Gans Road and Bristol Lake off U.S. 63 in southern Columbia.

Bishop Gaydos appointed Columbia parishioner and retired Columbia Public Schools educator and administrator Dr. Robert F. Nolke to be project’s interim administrator. Former Columbia City Administrator Ray Beck served as project director and headed up the building subcommittee, which worked with architects, engineers and construction contractors and reviewed construction bids. They also worked with Donald Novotney, diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools; Jane Rutter, director of the diocesan Stewardship Office; and an executive committee made up of Columbia parishioners and their pastors, Monsignor Michael T. Flanagan and Dominican Fathers Herbert C. Hayek and Thomas A. Saucier.

Fund-raising progressed, a curriculum was developed, plans were completed, and zoning and permits were obtained.

“This is a work of God!” Bishop Gaydos stated. “One of the main missions of the Church is to teach, to sanctify and to guide. One of the principal reasons we exist is because God has called us to share in that work of Jesus, to teach and to hand on the good news of salvation.”

The community was invited to suggest names and a rationale for naming the new school. A committee narrowed the suggestions down to three and presented them to Bishop Gaydos. He decided to name the school in honor of Father Augustus Tolton (1854-97), a Missourian who was born into slavery in 1854 and eventually become the first African-American priest of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. Dr. Julie Stansfield had suggested the name through the committee. Juanita Yates of Monroe City also suggested it in a letter to the The Catholic Missourian.

A fund drive to raise an additional \$5 million in pledges in 2009 allowed the executive committee to secure financing for the rest of the school's cost. Bishop Gaydos authorized initial site work and excavation for the school to begin in April of that year. He appointed parishioner Dr. Kate Trauth to serve as the chairwoman of the executive committee and of the search committee to find a founding principal. Upon the committee's recommendation, he hired Kristie Wolfe to serve as the school's first president and principal, beginning July 1, 2010. Her mission would be to attract families to the school by setting and helping achieve high standards and keeping the school deeply rooted in Catholic values.

"Trailblazers" was chosen as the school's mascot, honoring Fr. Tolton and all the other historical figures who took risks and endured hardships so people after them could have a better life.



**Mr. Pat Kelly**

[pkelly@toltoncatholic.org](mailto:pkelly@toltoncatholic.org)

Patrick Kelly is our Freshmen Government/Geography teacher and Junior US History teacher but in his time at Tolton has also taught World History, Health, P.E., Intro to Law, Current Events, and AP US History. In addition to running the House Program at Tolton, Pat Serves as the Head Track and Field Coach, the Assistant Cross-Country Coach and sponsors the Key Club, Aquarium Club, and Blazer Athletics Running and Fitness (B.A.R.F.) club. Pat is a member of the inaugural faculty in 2011, coming to Tolton after earning his BS in Secondary Education and obtaining his certification in Secondary and Middle School Social Studies from the University of Missouri. He also has a Master's in Educational Leadership from Columbia College. He enjoys spending time with his wife Lani and their son Jude. Favorite Scripture verse: Proverbs 27:23-24

He started working there for the past 14 years when the school opened in 2011. Father Michael Coleman has also been there since the schooled in 2011. Pat comes from Springfield, MO and went to Mizzou for elementary school. He started working at OLLIS Elementary school his freshman in college at the after-school teacher. When finished college at Mizzou he got a job to teach Social Studies at Father Tolton High School at that time is was made up of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. There were only 60 students at the time. Now there are 360 students 75% of them are Catholic and 25% are non-Catholic.

The athletic have won 20 State title, 53 distract title and 50 tops athletic. This year they took the state softball title with only 10 players. A lot of their students play 2 sports in a season or a sport in each

season. They have 25 different sports the students can play in. They also have a lot of different clubs that they can take part in also if they don't want to play sports.

January 2025						
◀ Dec 2024						Feb 2025 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year!	2 Mark Stevenson Birthday	3	4
5	6 Jake Jolley Birthday	7 Jack Crusie Birthday	8	9	10 Carl Scott Birthday	11
12	13 Patrick Kelly Amisism Director of Father Tolton High School 12:00 pm Club House	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 COSMO Pancake Day 1715 Burlington 6 to 1 pm  Moberly Spaghetti Dinner from 11 to 2 pm at St. Pius X Catholic Church
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025						
◀ Jan 2025						Mar 2025 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Ashland Optimist Club Pancake Day 511 Optimist Dr. 6 to 12 pm  Brent Sappington Birthday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Super Zoom 2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr. at the Downtown Optimist Clubhouse

February 2025						
◀ Jan 2025						Mar 2025 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23	24	25	26	27	28	February 22th Boy's and Girl's Club Chili Contest at Holiday Inn Executive Center at 2:00 pm