



BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL

Lou Holtz, former football coach at the University of Notre Dame was once asked to describe Notre Dame and the feeling you get when you are on campus. He responded, "Those who know Notre Dame, no explanation is necessary. Those who don't, no explanation will suffice."

That is kind of how I feel when people ask me what Bishop Chatard is like. As the new principal, I am being asked this question daily. I often think, "Those who know Bishop Chatard, no explanation is necessary. Those who don't.....well, no explanation will suffice."

When asked to describe Bishop Chatard it's easy to recognize our past success and tout our current course catalog. This information speaks for itself. For example:

- Bishop Chatard offers over 135 academic courses, including 50 Honors, Advanced Placement, and Dual Credit Classes.
- The Class of 2017 averaged nearly \$160,000 per student in scholarships and grants.
- Bishop Chatard has been an "A" rated school every year that rating has been in existence. We are also a "Four Star" school as well as an "AP Distinguished" school.
- Our Catholic identity is second to none, as we offer weekly all-school Masses, numerous retreat offerings, and the constant presence of Deacon Rick Wagner and Father Douglas Hunter

Many of the above things can be measured. Very important, yes, but not necessarily the things that, when Lou Holtz said, "....no explanation will suffice" articulate what truly makes this school and community so special.

I have only been on the job a little over four months, and it is hard to explain the spirit and the love that I feel on a daily basis. We are not a perfect school, but our culture is built around Christ and a desire to form the whole person both academically and spiritually. We have supportive parents, hard-working teachers, fantastic students, and a culture that is welcoming. Culture is what you do, and climate is how you feel. Each day I feel beyond blessed to be a Trojan.

So I guess, until you walk the halls of Bishop Chatard, no explanation will suffice. But I promise to keep on trying to communicate, to those who ask, what a wonderful place this is.

God bless,

Joe Hansen, Principal
Bishop Chatard High School