

# THE SABER FLASH



Pictured from the top down: MCC Class of 2022 celebrates baccalaureate Mass with Bishop Walsh, members of the 2023 senior class register to vote, 3rd grade starts their day with morning prayer, elementary students with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

## School Year Highlights

Saber Robotics program qualifies 6 teams for the State Championships.

2nd consecutive year the Saber robotics program qualifies a team for World Championships in Dallas, TX

Manistee Catholic Central voted Best Preschool by Mansitee News Advocate Reader's Choice Awards

Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Todd Erickson voted Best Coach by Manistee News Advocate Reader's Choice Awards

New gym floor in Saber Gymnasium

Enrollment Increase of almost 10% since Jan. 1st 2023

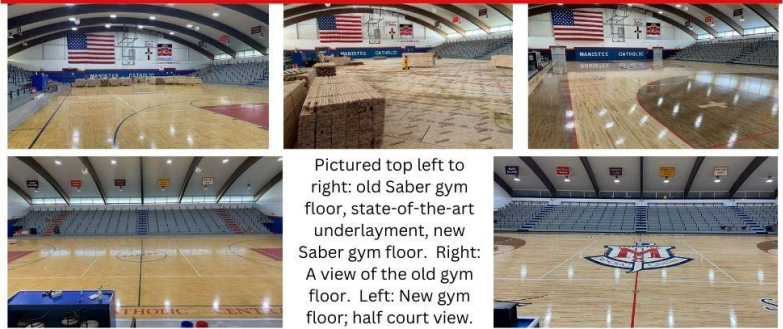


Congratulations to the MCC Preschool program for being voted "Best Preschool" by the Manistee News Advocate Reader's Choice Awards! Our 3-year-old preschool class is taught by Heather (Hansen '08) Johnson and 4-year-old preschool is taught by Sarah Logan. Pictured above: students in the 4-year-old class at their annual Teddy Bear Picnic.



Dental Hygienist Katie (Fischer '03) Close visits the 3-year-old preschool class to teach them about the importance of oral healthcare. Students were able to practice brushing sugar bugs off of teeth and receive goody bags with a toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss.

## Saber Gymnasium Facelift



Pictured top left to right: old Saber gym floor, state-of-the-art underlayment, new Saber gym floor. Right: A view of the old gym floor. Left: New gym floor; half court view.

The Saber gymnasium received a gorgeous facelift thanks in large part to a grant from the Manistee County Foundation and the generosity of Saber supporters. Renovations started in late summer 2022 with hardworking volunteers tearing out the old wood bleachers. Floor Care Concepts laid the new state-of-the-art cushioned underlayment and flooring. More volunteers put a fresh coat of paint on the concrete floors and walls and installed the new composite bleachers. Thank you to all of the Saber supporters who made this project possible!

## Happy Retirement Mr. Shively!

After thirty-four years of dedicated service as the custodian/maintenance man at MCC, Mike Shively finally retired. His last day on the job was August, 31st 2022. The school held a retirement party for Mr. Shively in September. We wish you all the best in your retirement Mike!



Congratulations to Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Todd Erickson for being voted "Best Coach" by the Manistee News Advocate Readers Choice Awards!

## Ellyn Niesen takes over Hot Lunch Program

Delicious meals are being served up for lunch in the Saber Cafe courtesy of Ellyn Niesen '00. Ellyn became the new lunch lady in September 2022 and has implemented fun ways to get students to try new foods such as 'Food From Around the World Day' once a month which highlights cuisine from different countries.



The Saber middle school and high school bands both earned II ratings at Band Festival this year! Senior Lee Pizana was invited to play in the MSBOA All Star Band as well!

## Washington Group Explores D.C.

During the week of March 12th, the MCC Washington Group traveled to our Nation's Capital for the first time since 2020. Highlights of the trip include a trip to George Washington's home Mount Vernon, a visit to the Smithsonian, watching a play at the Kennedy Center, and meeting new friends from El Salvador and Mexico. Thank you to everyone who supported the Washington Group fundraisers over the past couple of years to make this trip possible!



## Bishop Walsh visits MCC

MCC had the honor of hosting Bishop Walsh and his rescue dog Sam just before Christmas. The Bishop co-celebrated Mass with Fr. Z and Fr. Rexroat. He also toured the school, visiting with students and was interviewed by the journalism class for the school paper.



Congratulations to the MCC/MCE co-op cross country teams this year! Boys Varsity, Girls Varsity, and Middle School all won WMD League Championships!

## Saber Robotics Program Headed Back to the World Championships!

For the second consecutive year, Manistee Catholic Central's Robotics program has qualified a team for the VEX IQ World Championships in Dallas, TX. The Robotics program is coached by Laura Cameron and is open to students in 3rd through 8th grades. This year, 3rd grade students Owen and Oliver Kaltunas finished 5th out of 60 teams at the state finals competition which qualified them to compete amongst the best teams in the country during the first week of May. \*Please note: The World Championship competition is a few days after time of print. Stay tuned for further updates!



## Homecoming 2022

Saber spirit was in full effect during Homecoming 2022!

Homecoming week was full of fun activities, which wrapped up with the traditional parade down River Street prior to the game played at Saber Stadium where the Sabers crushed the Onaway Cardinals. At halftime of the game, Lee Pizana and Kaylyn Johnson were crowned Homecoming King and Queen. Pictured above: elementary students show their spirit before the parade. Pictured below: King Lee Pizana and Queen Kaylyn Johnson, the 2022 Homecoming Court.

## H.A.R.V.E.S.T. 2022



The 35th annual Harvest Dinner and Auction was a huge success despite a venue change. The 2022 HARVEST was held at the St. Joseph Parish Center instead of the school due to the gym renovation. Thanks to the generous support of our Saber family and friends, the school raised \$145,639.05 for operating expenses! Raffles winners were: Grand Raffle: 1st Prize: Lori Fortier, Six 2nd Prizes: Pat Zwiefka, Jim Edmondson, Audrey Baranek, Jim Toczynski, Ronda Stutzman, & Judy Rice, Saber Bucks 50/25/25: Mark Fedder & Lindsay Hallead. Proud Saber: Joan Mikula.

The 36th annual HARVEST will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4th and will be a Hollywood themed event!



## 31st Annual MCC Hall of Fame

Manistee Catholic Central has always run on the sacrifice of devoted supporters and volunteers. Each year, a handful of those influential people are inducted into the MCC Hall of Fame. The 2023 Hall of Fame inductees include: Dale Edmondson Jr., Mike Welsh, Mark and Teresa Fischer, Judy (Polcyn) Niesen, Scott and Sam Van Aelst, Gary Niesen, and the MCC Foundation. The Hall of Fame dinner concluded with a brilliant keynote address from Nathan Perry '09. Nathan is currently the manager of media relations for the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in Indianapolis, IN.



## Science Olympiad Students Perform Well at Regionals

Congratulations to our middle school Science Olympiad team on earning a 3rd place finish at the regional competition! Raquel Gilliland and Trinity Hurford earned 1st place in Green Generation. Leia Gilliland and Cheyenne Martin earned 2nd place in Write It Do It. Leia Gilliland and Cy Kosmowski earned 1st place in Rocks and Minerals, and Cy earned 2nd place in Solar System. Raquel, Trinity, Leia, and Cy earned the opportunity to compete at the state level. The Science Olympiad team is coached by Mary Ann Allen.

## New Mass Uniforms

Our students were outfitted with brand-new uniform shirts to be worn on days when we celebrate Mass thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor. Elementary students wear navy blue polo shirts while middle and high school students wear a powder blue oxford shirt with tie. All shirts have the school uniform logo from the 1960's embroidered on the front.



## Mid Michigan Community College



# Upcoming Events



**May 24th** - 5:30pm Baccalaureate Mass at Divine Mercy Parish



**May 26th** - 7pm MCC Class of 2023 Graduation in MCC Gym



**June 6th** - Last day of school



**July 1st** - MCC Class of 1978 45th Class Reunion Bungalow Inn 4pm



**November 4th** - 36th Annual HARVEST Dinner and Auction

## Alumni Spotlight: Cichy Brothers Honor Coach Jake Ciccone's Legacy With Two-Part Series

The Brothers Cichy, Ronald '68 and Jack '72, are professors emeriti from Michigan State University and Davenport University. In addition to holding college professorships in teaching, they have served as executive education professors for decades and have written hundreds of industry articles. Last fall, the Cichy brothers wrote a two-part series for The BoardRoom Magazine that highlights leadership principles as taught by Coach John "Jake" Ciccone. Coach Ciccone was MCC's head football coach from 1964 to 1971. Both Ron and Jack played on winning MCC Football teams. Jack was fortunate to be a member of the '69 State Championship Team and was appointed a Tri-Captain his senior year by Coach Ciccone.

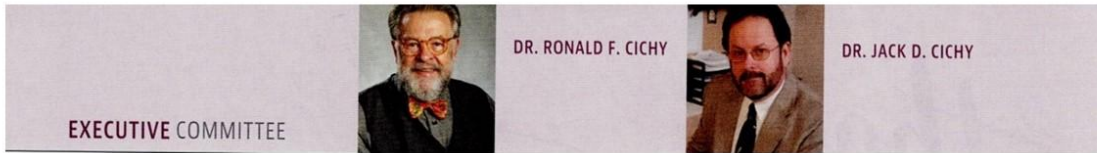
Please enjoy the enclosed copy of the Cichy brother's articles printed with permission from The BoardRoom Magazine, the premiere magazine of the private club industry.

For the latest school information please visit [www.sabers.org](http://www.sabers.org)

## Saber Snapshots

Top Row Left to Right: The Saber Football team (6-3) during pregame warm ups, winter recess fun, 10th grade field trip, students collect food for the Matthew 25:35 Food Pantry at Thanksgiving Mass. Middle Row Left to Right: Kindergarteners collect bugs, praying the rosary on the Blessed Mother's birthday, high school science, elementary sledding party. Bottom Row Left to Right: Mick Szymanski '70 and local veterans teach students the proper way to fold the flag, senior students reading to preschoolers, kindergarten students celebrate the 100th day of school, baby chicks in 2nd grade.





## Never Stop Coaching and Developing Talent

**John “Jake” Ciccone, our high school football coach, taught us foundational keys to success regarding talent development before we knew that this concept existed.**

Among the keys we continue to practice are the seven presented in this article. We practice these keys to make them a permanent part of our behaviors, not to be perfect. As Vince Lombardi, who coached the NFL’s Green Bay Packers and was a role model for Coach Ciccone, said, “Perfection is not attainable. But, if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence.”

We were coached to go far beyond our high school academic education and earn seven college degrees between us. For nearly six decades following our academic preparation, we have shared these keys with thousands of undergraduate and master’s students and business executives in executive development programs. Now we both serve as professors emeriti at our respective institutions.

We have observed that executives like to be recognized as coaches. Business leaders and club board members, in particular, see themselves as coaches and talent developers.

Coach John “Jake” Ciccone had a tremendous impact on how we view the role and responsibilities of a leader-coach. He knew that the seven keys need to be used to unlock the doors if we are to attract, develop, and retain talent we serve.

Perfection is not attainable.  
But, if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence.  
-Vince Lombardi

**1. Clarity** helps us visualize our goals and develop plans to accomplish them. If you want talent to have pride and joy in their work, give them a say in planning their work. Leaders see the vision for the future and must be able to clearly explain it to talent so each can contribute and help make the big dream a reality.

**2. Coach Ciccone was very inspirational** in the ways he would motivate and inspire us to rise beyond our abilities. We had physical practice and first-rate conditioning training. He was the beacon of strength, and it was demanding work, but we were inspired to take it on and do it.

**3. His commitment** showed as he prepared us for our opponents by researching their formations and attributes and

teaching us before each game how we would counter their strengths. He was a role model of commitment.

**4. Coach was congruent** in his coaching philosophies and leadership actions, which were an example for us to follow. We were talent who knew the game and how to win.

**5. The daily practice and conditioning sessions** he developed for us were **organized** exercises that focused on physics and mental techniques and improvement. At the start of each session, we had to participate in grueling “two-a-day” practices, both morning and evening. We learned to organize our football schedules, academic responsibilities, and extra-curricular activities during the school year.

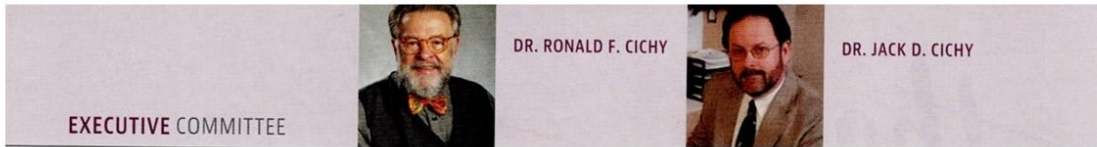
**6. Although Coach was a strict disciplinarian, his style was non-threatening.** You knew you could approach him with any issue. He had a knack for making you comfortable, even when disciplining. He served as a guide who led us by going first.

**7. Coach Ciccone focused on teaching us about football and much more.** He did this consistently as he critiqued our plays and provided an **education** that helped us build knowledge, develop skills, and finetune our attitudes to become a winning team and successful in life.

**Coach John “Jake” Ciccone** was an unmatched leader-coach, teacher, motivator, and talent developer. His surname serves as an acronym for the seven keys presented. Coach **CICCONe**’s name and these keys represent his legacy. Under Coach **Ciccone**’s leadership, Manistee Catholic Central’s 22-man Class C football team became State of Michigan Football Champions in 1969. And in the process, Coach **Ciccone** taught many young athletes how to block and tackle the game of life. BR

Dr. Ronald F. Cichy is professor emeritus at Michigan State University; Dr. Jack D. Cichy, C.M. is professor emeritus of sustainability/management at Davenport University.

*\*Published with permission from The BoardRoom Magazine, the premiere magazine of the private club industry.*



## Never Stop Coaching and Developing Talent—Part II

We were pleased to hear that our September/October article “Never Stop Coaching and Developing Talent” struck a chord with BoardRoom readers. They said that the article brought back memories of past coaches and leaders they admired. They practice lessons in work and play.

We would like to further expand on Coach Jake Ciccone's wisdom with 10 more leadership lessons practiced by Manistee Catholic Central's 22-man Class C football team upon becoming the state of Michigan football champions in 1969. These can be translated and applied to your role as an effective private club leader, as well as to winning in the game of life.

**“Gentlemen, we are here to do business; cinch those ties.”** This was Coach's way of setting the tone for first impressions from those you encounter. We always wore blazers with ties, dress shirts and slacks, and dress shoes. Coach felt that is you looked the part, you would act the part.

*Translated:* You are constantly being watched by people in your club to determine if your persona is consistent with your words. If you are a club leader, look and act the part.

**“I hope it is 110 degrees today out there on the practice field.”** Coach believed that we must deal with the small things, knowing that in life there are bigger fish to fry. *Translated:* If you are a club leader, deal with the important issues.

**“If you think this practice is tough, wait until you get involved in the game of life.”** Everything that we effectively accomplished in practice helped us succeed in life. *Translated:* Life as a private club leader takes unrelenting mental, physical, and emotional toughness.

**“We must avoid playing like the Sisters of the Poor.”** Coach had nothing against the Sisters; he was simply acknowledging that they did not know how to play football. *Translated:* Model your behavior after winners in the “game” you are playing.

**“We are going to take a little jog.”** Then 25 miles later we returned to football camp. *Translated:* Do what it takes to go the extra mile, and encourage others in the club to join you in achieving the vision and living the mission. Set your pace for the long game.

**“Never pass a man to get to a man.”** This advice was constantly drilled into us. *Translated:* Take care of your problems as they present themselves. Focus on the barriers to achieving SMARTER goals with viable solutions along the way.

**“Bring It On.”** The opposing Chicago Mundelein Mount Carmel (Class 3A school) coach said to Coach Ciccone: “I see you have 22 players. Should I put my third string in to go easy on you?” Coach Ciccone said to the Mundelein coach, “No, just bring it on.” *Translated:* In the game of life and in your club, you lead others to develop their skills and play confidently. By the way, after Mount Carmel “brought it on,” we beat them 46-6.

**“Show your spunk.”** Our team played in several pre-fall season scrimmages in the Niles, MI area. After beating every team we played, we did calisthenics after each game.

*Translated:* It is always good to let the competition know you have spunk and courage. Stay the course and give it all you have while showing your strengths as a club leader.

**“Winners never quit and quitters never win.”** With a nod to Coach Vince Lombardi, pause and reflect occasionally on the many ways that you have developed your leadership style.

*Translated:* When you face challenges with perseverance, you will encourage others to win. As a club leader, you are a role model for others.

**“Hells Bells...”** This was Coach Jake Ciccone's attention getter as in “everyone listen up.” Coach knew the key to communication was listening, because listening is the most important communication skill. *Translated:* Pay attention and listen with the intention of understanding others.

These are 10 simple leadership lessons for you to consider in your leadership journey. Modify if necessary and implement them in your practices.

\*Published with permission of The BoardRoom Magazine, the premiere magazine of the private club industry.