

Three Cheers for Central High School!

In light of our upcoming reunion game, Central High School alum, Tim Baker (Class of 63'), sheds light on the former high school's rich athletic history.



A Rich History

In 1913, South Bend High School was our city's only high school. Renamed South Bend Central High School in 1924, Central acquired a reputation for their strong academics and athletics. Although no longer a high school, Central's school spirit lives out in the tales told by alums, such as Tim Baker.

Tim Baker was a senior at Central High School in 1963. He recalls that his four years of high school were amazing and important to his formative years. One thing that sticks out when talking to Tim is how important extracurriculars were to Central's students.

When I think about where I want to give back, I think about where I went to high school.

Tim explains why. It was the culture: "You really supported your school; you went to every basketball game, every football game, you talked about it all of the time. I mean, you just can't imagine what it was like!"

When Tim was a student at Central, being on the swim team was his favorite extracurricular. Although he played on the tennis and golf teams for a few years, swimming was Tim's priority for all four years of high school.



South Bend Central High School Extra-Curricular Activities

Being on the swim team taught Tim the value of teamwork. He learned that being on the team wasn't only about swimming.

It was clearly the camaraderie. Some of your teammates were your best friends. It was a large part of going to school.

Tim was in high school before Title IX brought equality for women when it came to school sports. The only sport available for women at the time was cheerleading. From his own experience, Tim believes in providing access to activities and programs for all students.



Bringing after-school curricular activities to all students

Tim found a way to do just that through his involvement with the South Bend Alumni Association. For the past decade, Tim served as a board member of the South Bend Alumni Association and as chairman of the board for three of those years.



Tim Baker, Central High School Graduate, Class of 63'

South Bend Alumni Association supports extracurricular activity programming for South Bend Public Schools, including, but not limited to, support for athletics, fine arts education, reading programs, and more. As multiple studies suggest, participation in extracurricular activities is associated with “improved grade point average, higher educational aspirations, increased college attendance, and reduced absenteeism.”*

In the past five years, South Bend Alumni Association has contributed over \$250,000 in the form of grants to the South Bend Public Schools to support extracurricular activities. The impact that extracurricular activities can have on students’ desires, as well as abilities, to stay in school is a driving force behind the South Bend Alumni Association.