



CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

From the Office of the Principal

www.catholichigh.org

December 1, 2016

DECEMBER SPECIAL SCHEDULES: ([December Calendar](#))

Thursday, December 8: Schoolwide liturgy at 9:47 a.m.
Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

Monday, December 12: Choir/Band Christmas Concert for student body. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m. (streamed live on www.bruinbroadcast.com at 9:47 a.m.)

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME:

Congratulations to Mike Nola '62 and his son Jeff '94 on being selected by the Catholic High School Board of Directors for induction into the Catholic High School Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 1. The board made the rare decision to have dual inductees but because of the contributions of both men to Catholic High School, the board unanimously voted to induct both father and son. Mike's contributions to both Catholic High, his church community as well as the local community, are extraordinary. His humble generosity and service are positive examples for all of our students. In addition to Jeff being a graduate of CHS, he also served as a faculty member from 1998 until his death from a rare form of cancer in 2010. Jeff was an inspiration to both students and faculty and served as a role model for all those he encountered. Congratulations to the Nola family on this prestigious and well-deserved recognition.

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED

GRADUATE: Catholic High School has selected Maurice Coleman as this year's Distinguished Graduate. Maurice is a fervent supporter of Catholic High School and serves CHS through his position on the CHS Finance Committee and Foundation Board. In addition, Maurice gives his time to work Friday night football games, provides input on various committees, and serves Catholic High in whatever capacity needed. He is an outstanding family man whose sons are CHS graduates, Maurice '13 and Miles '16. Catholic High

School is proud to name Maurice as our Distinguished Graduate. He will be honored at a banquet for all distinguished graduates in the Diocese of Baton Rouge on January 30.

CAMPUS SECURITY: The Catholic High administration continuously evaluates the safety and security of our campus for the protection of our students, faculty, and guests. We also coordinate with local law enforcement to determine how best to protect personnel and property.

During the holiday season, instances of theft, break-ins and other crimes, typically increase and the Baton Rouge area has certainly seen this trend. We urge our parents to have conversations with your sons about standard precautionary procedures that can reduce the likelihood of being a victim of crime.

- a. Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Look for suspicious people when parking anywhere, walking through parking lots, or getting back into a vehicle.
- b. Always lock car doors in parking areas.
- c. Valuables should never be visible through a window. Don't advertise to criminals. Student book sacks and computers are particularly inviting and should be locked in a trunk or out of sight.
- d. If you see something suspicious, tell someone. Students should tell an adult or call the school office immediately (383-0397) if they see something or someone suspicious on our campus.

We are also increasing security procedures on our campus. This includes:

- a. Increased lighting in Westmoreland and the main parking lot.
- b. Increased security cameras throughout campus.

- c. Increased police details during school days and extracurricular activities.
- d. Exterior doors on campus will be locked earlier in the evenings.

I also ask that parents who pick up their sons from school in the afternoons use only the main parking lot on Claycut after 4:00 p.m. Students who are waiting for rides after 4:00 will be instructed to wait in the Mall or on the sidewalk area in the main lot. Students will not be allowed to sit outside and wait in the circle drive on Hearthstone or outside of the Science Building.

Thank you for your assistance in keeping our campus a safe and secure area for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at lharvey@catholichigh.org.

SEMESTER EXAMS: Monday, December 12 is considered a “dead day” prior to exams. This means that students will not have homework or assignments due or be given tests or quizzes on the 12th in order to prepare for exams. Our first semester exam schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, December 13	1st and 4th periods
Wednesday, December 14	2nd and 5th periods
Thursday, December 15	3rd and 6th periods
Friday, December 16	7th and 8th periods

If your son is not scheduled to take an exam during a particular period (ex: he has lunch during 5th period), he does not have to attend school during that time. The daily time schedule for exams is as follows:

7:55 & 7:58	Warning tones
8:00	First exam begins
9:35	First exam ends
10:00 & 10:03	Warning tones for second exam
10:05	Second exam begins
11:35	Second exam ends

Please check the exam schedule carefully so that you can assist your son in preparing for the proper exam on the correct day. Breakfast will be available in the Union before school. Lunch items will be available between exams.

Semester exams are important for your son because they can significantly affect his first-semester grades. Please review with your son the grading policy as stated beginning on Page 46 of the [2016-2017 Student Handbook](#). It is important for students to begin preparing now for exams by developing a schedule for study and time management. Please consult with

individual teachers if you have specific questions about exam preparation.

IMPORTANT STUDENT CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES:

Please remember to follow our established procedures concerning students checking out of school.

School attendance is a priority and students should only check out in the event of illness or for appointments that absolutely cannot be scheduled after school hours. Parents should make every effort to schedule appointments that do not take students out during the school day.

On those rare occasions when a student does need to check out, he should bring a note either the day before or the morning of the appointment. The attendance secretary will give the student a note to leave class at the designated time and report to the assistant principals’ office to sign out.

If an unforeseen and necessary circumstance occurs and a student must check out and he did not know about it, parents must call the school in advance. This situation should only occur in the rarest of circumstances. Please do not just show up at school to check a student out.

It is also important to remember that not all absences are excused and consequences may be given to a student in those circumstances. Please consult the [2016-2017 Student Handbook](#) for further details. Thank you for your help in this important matter.

BRUIN BROADCAST: Many of our home athletic events, along with other special school events, are streamed live on our own student-run network. You can access the stream at www.bruinbroadcast.com.

PLUSPORTALS ACTIVATION AND RE-REGISTRATION

2017-2018: It is critically important that all parents activate their PlusPortals account. PlusPortals gives you access to your son’s official report card, transcripts, and other important information. In addition, you will need your PlusPortals login to re-register your son for next school year. Re-registration will take place January 10th through the 25th. Detailed information about the re-registration process will be sent by email to all families in early January.

If you have not activated your account and need assistance with your login information, please contact Jay Butcher: jbutcher@catholichigh.org. In order to ensure that all parents can access PlusPortals, you will receive an email from me next week asking you to confirm your email and PlusPortals information.

SEMESTER REPORT CARDS: Final semester report cards will be in the E-Locker section of PlusPortals at the end of the last week in December.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND OFFICE HOURS: Our Christmas holidays begin after the last exam on Friday, December 16. Students return to class on Wednesday, January 4. School office hours will be 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Monday, December 19 – Wednesday, December 21; Tuesday, December 27; and Wednesday, December 28. Offices will be closed Thursday, December 22 – Monday, December 26, and Thursday, December 29 – Monday, January 2. Regular office hours of 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. will resume on Tuesday, January 3.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING [from Pinney Johnson, Bookstore Manager]: The CHS Bookstore will offer special Christmas shopping days during the month of December. Besides regular hours on school days, the bookstore will be open from 7:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, December 3 and 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, December 10.

PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES: Please mark your calendar now to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences on Tuesday, January 3 from 7:15- 9:15 a.m. Teachers will be available during this time to discuss with parents first semester grades or other concerns. There is no school for students on January 3. The remainder of the day is designated as professional development for teachers.

Parents do not need to make an appointment for teacher conferences on January 3 but waiting may be necessary if other parents are in line. So that as many parents can speak with teachers as possible, please limit your conferences to 5-7 minutes per teacher.

ACT PREPARATION CLASS: Our next ACT Preparation Class will be offered on Saturday, January 28, and Saturday, February 4. If interested, your son may choose one of these two dates to attend the class. A flier is included in this newsletter with more details about this course, which has been quite beneficial for many of our students. Please e-mail Mrs. Christy Kessler at ckessler@catholichigh.org if you have any questions about the course.

2016 OPEN HOUSE: Catholic High's 30th Open House on November 10th was a great success. Approximately 1,150 guests visited Catholic High School and had the opportunity to see CHS in action. In addition, 500+ spent the evening telling visitors about their school. I have received numerous emails from guests praising the various students they met. Thanks so much to

everyone who assisted us. This event would not be possible without our faculty, students, parents, and alumni. I also thank the Mothers' Club for their continued support during events such as Open House.

TUITION [From Gene Tullier, President]: Remember that in order for your son to take his first-semester exams, his tuition must be up to date as of Monday, December 12. If his tuition is in arrears as of that morning, a school official will attempt to contact you. School policy does not allow a student to take his exams until any outstanding balance has been paid or until an acceptable financial arrangement for payment has been made.

In keeping with the educational tradition of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, **no student is refused admission or asked to leave Catholic High School solely because of his family's inability to pay tuition.** If you are having difficulty meeting your tuition payment obligation, please contact Mr. Stephen Norton, Finance Director, or me immediately to make special arrangements.

It is always unpleasant to have to take action that may interrupt a student's academic experience, especially during exams. Unpleasant or not, it is sometimes necessary to do so in order to ensure the financial integrity of the school. In order for CHS to meet its financial commitments, I must insist that parents meet their financial obligations to Catholic High. I thank you in advance for your understanding in this matter.

FUNDS FOR EDUCATION: A new app is available that allows subscribers to select the school of their choice to receive a portion of the app purchase price. The app is called sLocal and is an educational initiative begun by three Catholic High School graduates. While Catholic High School is not associated with the app, we do encourage our school community to take a look at the app and support Catholic High through the purchase of the app while enjoying discounts at many local businesses. For more information, please view a recent WBRZ story on how sLocal is helping local schools. <http://www.wbrz.com/news/slocal-app-allows-users-discounts-while-giving-back-to-schools>.

CHS MEN'S CLUB – LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL GIFT JUST FOR DAD? Hey, are you looking for that special gift just for dad? Well, look no further. How about a ticket to the CHS Men's Club Annual Stag Barbecue! An evening of food, fun and fellowship – all for dad – Saturday, January 14, 2017. It's easy, just click [here](#) to purchase a ticket online. It's the gift that keeps on giving because proceeds assist the CHS Men's Club

in supporting the young men and mission of CHS through special projects and programs.

UPCOMING MEN'S CLUB EVENTS: [81st Annual Stag Barbecue](#) – Saturday, January 14, 2017

MERRY CHRISTMAS! On behalf of everyone at Catholic High School, I wish you a blessed holiday season. We have much to be thankful for and we are grateful to all of our families for being a part of the Catholic High family. May you all know the love of Christ during this Christmas season and throughout the new year.

ACT PREPARATION CLASS

Where: Brother Gordian Udinsky Science Center Room 271 at Catholic High

When: Saturday, January 28 from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. **OR**
Saturday, February 4 from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$95 (covers book and all materials; \$50 is non-refundable)

It has been proven that test anxiety, knowledge of test format and content, and knowledge of proper test-taking skills and strategies can impact a student's score on a standardized test such as the ACT. Did you ever wonder why your test scores were not as high as you expected? Learn to do your best on the ACT.

This class will present:

- Ways to reduce test anxiety.
- Procedures for being mentally, psychologically and physically prepared for the test.
- Helpful hints for testing day.
- Content summary for the ACT.
- Examples of problems that frequently appear on the ACT.
- Strategies that will improve scores on any standardized test.
- Specific strategies for the items on the ACT.
- Scoring information for the ACT.
- Supplementary materials to guide study and final preparation for the ACT.

Presenter: Mrs. Christy Kessler (ckessler@catholichigh.org)

****Bring a bag lunch due to time limitations.**

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Please detach this form and return to Mrs. Hodges in the Main Office by Wednesday, January 18.

## REGISTRATION FORM - ACT PREPARATION CLASS

Student Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email Address (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, January 28 from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. **OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, February 4 from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Parent's E-mail Address (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks (\$95.00) payable to *Catholic High School*.

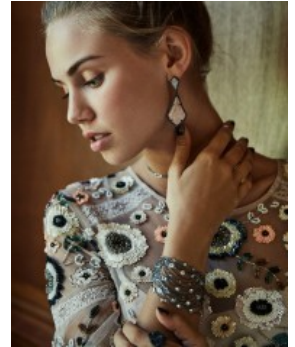


## CHS Mothers' Club News - December 2016

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Kendra Gives Back Party - December 8**

Get a little Christmas shopping done while enjoying sips, sweets, and jewels at Kendra Scott Jewelry in Perkins Rowe on Thursday, December 8 from 6-8 pm. Twenty percent of all proceeds benefit Catholic High School. Grab some friends and join us for this fun event!



#### **CHS Mother Son Breakfast - February 19**

Mark your calendars for the Annual Mother-Son Breakfast on Sunday, February 19 at the Crowne Plaza with guest speaker, Congressman Garret Graves '90. Every CHS student and his mother, guardian or special friend is invited to attend. This breakfast celebrates the relationships between sons and the special women in their lives. The invitations will be going out in early January and will include instructions for online reservations. While you do not have to be a Mothers' Club member to attend, Mothers' Club members will receive discounted admission and preferential seating at the breakfast. We look forward to seeing you all there. And, it's not too late to join the Mothers' Club! Click [HERE](#) to join.

#### **CHS Car Raffle - March 11**

Before Thanksgiving, your son received an envelope that included ten tickets for the CHS Mothers' Club Annual Car Raffle. The winner of this year's raffle may choose either a 2017 Toyota Tacoma, a 2017 Toyota Camry or a 36-month lease on a 2017 Lexus RX 350. The Christmas Holidays provide perfect selling opportunities and we ask that you encourage your sons to sell at least ten tickets, which are priced at \$10.00 each.

All tickets stubs and money for the tickets are to be returned to a box located outside of the front office at CHS. Drawings for gift cards will be held each week for students who return their ticket stubs and money for the tickets by Friday. The student's name is entered into the weekly drawing one time for every ten tickets sold that week.

Each year the Mothers' Club sets up Site Sales around the community to sell Car Raffle tickets to the general public. We need student and parent volunteers to help with these events which continue until the drawing on March 11 at our new Lip Sync Battle with the Bears. Students in grades eight through ten have the opportunity to earn service hours for participating in site sales and a parent volunteer must be present at all times. Please join your son and other parents in representing CHS in the Baton Rouge area. To sign up to sell tickets, click [Here](#).

The Mothers' Club and the entire CHS community thank you for your assistance with this effort. All profits from the Car Raffle go directly to the school to provide additional resources for the students.

### Lip Sync Battle with the Bears - March 11



Save the Date for Saturday, March 11. You don't want to miss our newest fundraiser - Lip Sync Battle with the Bears. For more information or to get information on table sales and sponsorship opportunities, contact Amy Echols at amyecholsbr@gmail.com.

### THANK YOU!

As always, thank you to our volunteers for your very generous donation of time, talent and support. We wish you all a safe and blessed Holiday Season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you from the entire CHS Mothers' Club Executive Committee!



### CHS Mothers' Club Executive Committee

|                       |                    |                             |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| President             | Jenny Ridge        | jennyridge@cox.net          |
| Vice President        | Jodie Johnson      | jodiecrna@gmail.com         |
| Treasurer             | Mary Eymard        | mgeymard@gmail.com          |
| Secretary             | Aimee Aultman      | aaultman@brrg.brcoxmail.com |
| Car Raffle Chair      | Melissa Lantz      | melissa.lantz@balantz.com   |
| Auction Chair         | Lissa Weston       | lissaweston@me.com          |
| Lip Sync Battle Chair | Amy Echols         | amyecholsbr@gmail.com       |
| Past President        | Mary Claire Hotard | m.cl.hotard@gmail.com       |
| CHS Moderator         | Tracy Ducote       | tducote@catholichigh.org    |
| Financial Advisor     | Margie Alexander   | malexander@catholichigh.org |