



NEWSLETTER

From the Office of the Principal

BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART: On September 29, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart will observe the 196th anniversary of their founding. This is a special day in the history of the Brothers and we are privileged to share the occasion with them. We will commemorate "Foundation Day" with a school wide Liturgy at 9:47 a.m. You are welcome to join us for this celebration.

SPECIAL SCHEDULES: ([CHS Calendar](#))

Monday, September 4: Labor Day holiday. No school for students.

Tuesday, September 5: Faculty & Staff Professional Development. No school for students.

Wednesday, September 13: Test Prep Schedule. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

Thursday, September 21: Test Prep Schedule. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

Friday, September 29: School wide Liturgy at 9:47 a.m. Regular dismissal.

SCHOOL CANCELLATION AND MAKE-UP DAYS: As we experienced on August 30 with Hurricane Harvey, in case of a general emergency in which school may be called off due to dangerous weather or other circumstances, CHS will follow the action taken by the East Baton Rouge Parish public high schools. Students and parents should use radio or TV news reports concerning whether or not schools will be open. The information will also be sent through our text messaging system, school email, or through voice mail, and will be posted on the Catholic High website, along with social media, as soon as possible in the given emergency.

HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS: Our hearts and prayers go out to all of the victims of Hurricane Harvey, both in Texas and Louisiana. I have already had inquiries about how Catholic High will respond to the desperate need of

so many. We are discussing what we can do both in the short-term and long-term to assist those affected. In the short-term, Student Council and the National Honor Society will coordinate collecting funds from faculty, students, and others who want to give, in order to send to Catholic Charities in Houston and the Red Cross for immediate needs. This fund drive will take place Wednesday, September 6 through Friday, September 8 during each of the students' lunch periods. In addition, we will begin finding ways to partner with Catholic schools and their families that have been devastated by the storm. We will continue to communicate with both students and parents about our efforts. Catholic High School and our families were the recipients of tremendous generosity last year during the August flooding and we will repay that kindness by assisting those in need.

SCHOOLWIDE LITURGIES: We gather as a school community approximately once a month to celebrate the Eucharist or to participate in some other form of communal prayer. The dates for our liturgies are as follows:

Friday, September 29	Wednesday, February 21
Wednesday, November 1	Tuesday, March 27
Friday, December 8	Wednesday, April 25
Wednesday, January 17	Friday, May 18

Parents are welcome to join us for these gatherings held in our gym. Also, priests from around the diocese will be on campus on Thursday, September 14, and Friday, September 15, to give all students the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

COURSE FEES: The fee for students enrolled in our Band courses is \$185.00. An explanation of the band fee is on page 60 of the [2017-2018 Student Handbook](#). The fee for Advanced Placement courses is \$95.00. All course fees are billed to the tuition account and are due on October 1, with the exception of freshmen taking the AP

U.S. Government and Politics test. Freshmen parents will be billed in February for this test.

SENIOR EXAMS AND EXEMPTIONS: Only seniors may be exempt from final exams so it is important for seniors to begin the school year with an end goal in mind, including exemption from final exams. The exemption policy for seniors is as follows: for full year courses, a student who has a first semester A, and a third and fourth quarter A, is exempt from the final exam. In addition, seniors can be exempt from their semester senior religion course exam in either semester. Students must have an A for the first quarter and an A going into the final exam of the given semester religion course.

Out of fairness to students, a student who qualifies to be exempt from an exam should know by the beginning of “dead days” that he is exempt from the exam. Mid-term exams are December 14-19. December 13 is classified as a “dead day,” which means that no assessments are due and no tests, quizzes or homework are to be given. Seniors in first semester senior religion classes should know no later than Wednesday, December 13 if they are exempt from the exam.

STANDARDIZED TESTING: All students in grades 8 through 11 will take standardized tests on October 9, 10, and 11. The ACT Aspire Test will be administered to grades 8 through 10 on October 9 and 10. Students must attend school both days for testing. The PSAT will be administered on October 11 to all 11th graders, and to 9th and 10th graders who qualify. Regular classes are not held during testing days.

The Aspire tests are computer-based tests and are part of the ACT family of tests. 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students will take reading and science on Monday, October 9 and English and math on Tuesday, October 10.

As part of our standardized test preparation program, all students are participating in five test prep classes prior to the October testing. The dates are indicated on our school calendar, which can be found on our website. Mrs. Christy Kessler, assistant principal for instruction, gave an overview of these test prep classes during Back to School afternoon and demonstrated how parents can monitor their son’s progress utilizing the Naviance program. I highly encourage you to talk with your son about his test prep class and be informed about your son’s progress as he prepares to take the tests in October.

Standardized tests are very important for your son and very important for our school. While test scores do not drive instruction, they do help determine the course of

action for your son’s academic success. Each of your son’s teachers receives the results of his tests and uses these scores to determine what skills he needs in order to be prepared for college. Mrs. Kessler also uses the results to individualize future test preparation classes for your son.

Please encourage your son to take these tests seriously and be proactive in analyzing his scores. You should see an increase in his individual subject area scores from year to year. We view standardized testing as one more opportunity to partner with you in your son’s education.

Test times will be posted in the October *Newsletter*. Please see page 52 of the [2017-2018 Student Handbook](#) for additional testing information. Results of these tests will be given to you later in the school year through your son. Please contact our testing coordinator, Ms. Shelley Vance: svance@catholichigh.org if you have any questions.

PSAT/NMSQT: This test is used to determine National Merit and National Achievement Semifinalists. It is required for all juniors and will be given on Wednesday, October 11. Regular classes are not held during testing days.

IMPORTANT CARPOOL GUIDELINES: Student safety is our primary concern as students are dropped-off and picked-up each day. The only locations allowed for drop-off and pick-up before school and after dismissal are the horseshoe drives on Claycut and Hearthstone. Students may not be dropped-off or picked-up in the senior parking lot or the Westmoreland parking lot. School proctors located in these areas are instructed not to allow drop-off or pick-up in these areas. Please follow these guidelines in order to facilitate our transportation efforts. In the afternoon, we ask that you wait until at least 3 p.m. to pick up your son.

Parents may pick up their son in the senior parking lot at the conclusion of practices or meetings after 4:00 p.m. Please park in the designated parking spaces in the parking lot. Do not line up in the fire lane, handicapped areas, or driving lanes to pick up your son.

CELLULAR TELEPHONES: The school recognizes the convenience, logistical, and safety advantages of cellular phones. A student may have a cell phone in his possession while on campus, but it must remain turned off and be kept stowed away throughout the academic day (7:25 a.m. until 2:47 p.m.). Before 7:25 a.m. and after 2:47 p.m., a cell phone may be used only outside of buildings. Violations of this policy may result in confiscation of the cell phone and/or other corrective

action. Confiscated cell phones are subject to search by the assistant principal for discipline. Please see the Student Handbook for further policies regarding cell phones. If a student needs to make a phone call during the academic day, it must be made through the assistant principal's office or main office.

STUDENT CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES: It is important to remember that 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 *Student Handbook* for further details. Thank you for your help in this important matter.

STUDENTS ON CAMPUS: The [2017-2018 Student Handbook](#) (page 26) addresses when students may and may not leave campus: "From the time he arrives until the end of his last scheduled class period, a student must remain on campus. The assistant principal for discipline is the only person who can give a student permission to leave campus or to enter a restricted area." Students having 8th period unassigned may leave school following their 7th period class and return later to participate in extracurricular activities. However, students are not allowed to linger in the parking lots. Students with 1st period unassigned are allowed to arrive to school in time for 2nd period. Special schedule days should be noted so that unassigned 1st period students are not late for school.

In addition, once a student leaves the CHS campus, Catholic High School is no longer responsible for a student's safety. Students who walk in the neighborhood to get dropped off or meet a ride are no longer under our supervision and are responsible for

their own safety. We highly discourage such action because of the volume of traffic on neighborhood streets after school and ask that parents not engage in such dangerous behavior. We encourage all rides to use the carpool lines. They move quickly once school is dismissed and are the safest point of drop-off and pick-up for your son.

STUDENTS AFTER SCHOOL: Because of extracurricular activities or carpool arrangements, some students are not picked up until after 6 p.m. Students who stay on campus after school occasionally walk to area merchants between the end of school and the start of practice or pickup time. Because their academic day has ended, students are free to do so. The school is unable to provide any sort of supervision of a student once he leaves the campus. If you are uncomfortable with your son leaving campus after school, please discuss this matter with him.

Snacks are available for purchase in the Union every day after school until approximately 3:15 and our library is open until 4 p.m. Please encourage your son to make use of these resources rather than leave campus.

Students not involved in extracurricular activities who stay on campus after school in the mall or in the front of school to wait for rides are welcome to do so, but adult supervision is not on campus after 4:00 p.m. After 4:00, we ask all students to wait inside the building until their ride arrives and not outside in front of the school or outside in the union circle. For those students participating in extracurricular activities, a coach or moderator should always supervise students during pick-up.

ACADEMIC CONVOCATION: Our Academic Convocation will be Thursday, September 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the CHS gym. At this convocation we honor students who had a weighted cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher at the end of the 2016-2017 school year at CHS. Each young man being honored will receive a certificate and a pin recognizing his achievement. Also recognized are students who placed at State Rally in the spring of 2017, students who placed on the National Latin Exam, Cyber Discovery participants, and students being recognized as National Merit Semifinalists and commended students. Five Catholic High School Foundation scholarships will be awarded at the end of the convocation. Qualifying students should receive a letter of invitation in early September. In order that students and their families are able to attend the Academic Convocation without worry of academic responsibilities, Friday, September 29, is a no

assessment day. This means that students will not have homework, quizzes, or tests due on that Friday.

Attendees must park in the Westmoreland parking lot. Do not park on the streets surrounding campus or on any grassy area. Security will be provided.

FOOTBALL BROADCASTS: Catholic High football games will be broadcast live on 104.5 FM, ESPN Radio, Baton Rouge. Live audio streaming of our games will be available through their website, www.1045espn.com. You can also watch the live video streamed through our student-run Bruin Broadcast Network: www.bruinbroadcast.com

CHS MEN'S CLUB SPECIAL GUYS' NIGHT OUT FOR 8TH & 9TH GRADE DADS: Calling all 8th and 9th grade CHS dads – we have a special invitation just for you! Join us for our next Guys' Night Out, on Thursday, September 21, 2017 in the CHS Union. The event is free and features great food and good friends. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. You do not have to be a member to attend, but you can always join when you get there! Please RSVP at this link: [Guys' Night Out](#)

SUPPORT FOR THE ANNUAL FUND: One of the attachments to this month's Principal's Newsletter is a flyer about the 2017-2018 Fund for CHS Parents Appeal. I ask you to prayerfully consider supporting this important endeavor. Your contribution to the Annual Fund, regardless of the size of the donation, supports the education that your son currently receives at Catholic High. Because of the generosity of all those who support the Annual Fund, no family has ever paid the full cost of tuition at Catholic High. I am so proud that 100% of the Catholic High faculty and staff has contributed to this year's appeal. Please join all of us who work with your sons every day in supporting the Fund for Catholic High School.

DUPLICATE MAILINGS: Information addressed and mailed home to students are sent to the address in our database designated as the student's primary address. We do make an effort to send information to parents who do not reside with their son(s). If you would like such information to be sent to you as well, please email Kathie Smith, registrar, at ksmith@catholichigh.org.