

NEWSLETTER

From the Office of the Principal

WWW.CATHOLICHIGH.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2019

BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART: On September 30, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart will observe the 198th anniversary of their founding when the first 10 Brothers took their final vows in Lyon, France. This is a special day in the history of the Brothers and we are privileged to share the occasion with them. In addition to celebrating the founding of the Brothers, this liturgy will also commemorate the 125th anniversary of the founding of St. Vincent's Academy on October 1, 1894. The name of the school eventually changed from St. Vincent's Academy to Catholic High School in 1929. We will commemorate "Foundation Day" and the 125th birthday of Catholic High School with a school wide Liturgy on Monday, September 30 at 9:47 a.m. You are welcome to join us for this celebration.

SPECIAL SCHEDULES:

Monday, September 2: Labor Day holiday. No school for students.

Tuesday, September 3: Faculty & Staff Professional Development. No school for students.

Thursday, September 12: Test Prep Schedule. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

Friday, September 20: Test Prep Schedule. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

Wednesday, September 25: Test Prep Schedule. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

Monday, September 30: School wide Liturgy at 9:47 a.m. Regular dismissal.

[CHS Calendar](#)

SCHOOL CANCELLATION AND MAKE-UP DAYS: 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 school closures. 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.

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:

Monday, September 30	Tuesday, February 11
Friday, October 18	Thursday, March 19
Friday, November 1	Wednesday, April 29
Tuesday, December 10	Friday, May 15
Thursday, January 16	

Parents are welcome to join us for these gatherings held in our gym.

COURSE FEES: The fee for students enrolled in our Band courses is \$185.00. An explanation of the band fee is on page 54 of the [2019-2020 Student Handbook](#). The fee for Advanced Placement courses is \$95.00. All course fees are billed with your regular tuition payment or are billed on October 15, 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 17-20. December 16 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 Thursday, December 12 if they are exempt from the exam.

STANDARDIZED TESTING: All students in grades 8 through 11 will take standardized tests on October 14, 15, and 16. The ACT Aspire Test will be administered to grades 8 through 10 on October 14 and 15. Students must attend school both days for testing. The PSAT will be administered on October 16 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 14 and English and math on Tuesday, October 15.

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, coordinates this program. Most of the sessions utilize the Naviance program which students use to practice test questions, review content and learn test-taking strategies. Students may access this resource at any time by going to the CHS Counseling Center Moodle Page and selecting Naviance Student.

Our standardized test prep program will resume in the second semester in advance of our spring testing. More information about those sessions will be given as the date approaches.

Additional information about our test prep program is included in an attachment to this newsletter. 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 44 of the [2019-2020 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 16. Regular classes are not held during testing days. 8th graders, freshmen and sophomores who are not taking the PSAT, and seniors, do not report to school on this day.

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. Students are not allowed to use their cell phone inside of the 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.

If your son must check out of school:

- Please do not just show up at school to check a student out! Office personnel are not allowed to call into classrooms to request a student be sent to the office to check out. When a parent shows up to check out a student without advance notice, an office staff member must physically go to the classroom to retrieve the student, resulting in that staff member being taken away from their desk where other students or faculty may need assistance.
- Send a note to school with your son the morning of the day that he needs to check out. He must bring the note to the Assistant Principals' Office.
- The student will receive a note to leave class at the designated time and he will then report to the Assistant Principals' office to check out. Parents do not need to come into the school building to check out their son.
- 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.

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. For your convenience, I have included the proper-checkout procedures as an additional page at the end of this newsletter so that you can have it handy when such a situation arises.

STUDENTS ON CAMPUS: The [2019-2020 Student Handbook](#) (page 23) 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 BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL: Students are granted access to buildings beginning at 6:00 a.m. There is no formal adult supervision at this time. Beginning at 7:05 until 7:30, faculty proctors are provided for reasonable supervision of students. Parents may pick up students any time after dismissal at 2:47 p.m. Students are encouraged to remain on campus to use the library, meet with teachers, and participate in extra-curricular activities. Students may remain on campus waiting on transportation, but there is no formal after-school program supervising students. On most school days, CHS does have afternoon faculty proctors who patrol the campus, but their scope in the supervision of students is limited.

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 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. We do ask that when at all possible, parents pick up their sons in a reasonable time period after school ends so that students are not waiting for an extended period of time. 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 Monday, September 30, at 6:30 p.m. in the CHS gym. At this convocation we honor students who had a grade point average of 3.5 or higher at the end of the 2018-2019 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 2019, students who placed on the National Latin Exam, AP Scholars, and students being recognized as National Merit Semifinalists and Commended students. Catholic High School Foundation scholarships will be awarded at the end of the convocation. Qualifying students should have received a letter of invitation. If you did not receive a letter and feel your son should be included, please contact Events Coordinator Tracy Ducote at tducote@catholichigh.org. 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. So that students and their families are able to attend the Academic Convocation without worry of academic responsibilities, Tuesday, October 1, is a no assessment day. Students will not have homework, quizzes, or tests due on that Tuesday.

BBN FOOTBALL BROADCASTS: The Bruin Broadcast Network will be broadcasting Catholic High School football games again this season. You can watch the Bears live on WBTR (Cox 1019, Uverse 19, Eatel 144) or via the internet at www.bruinbroadcast.com. You can also listen live on 104.5 FM, ESPN Radio, Baton Rouge. This year's broadcast will feature spotlights on students, alumni, and faculty so even if you're at the game make sure to DVR it! See Ben DiPalma or Erin Hart with any questions. Go Bears!

CHS MEN'S CLUB: Thank you to everyone who made the Men's Club 84th Annual Stag BBQ a big success! It was a wonderful evening of great food and good fellowship. Mark your calendars now for the Men's Club "Guys Night Out," Thursday, Oct. 3, in the CHS Union. Social begins at 6 p.m. with dinner and guest speaker at 6:30 p.m. The speaker will be Chris Blair, radio voice of the LSU Tigers! This is an adults only free event. You don't have to be a member of the Men's Club to attend, but as long as you are there...why not join!

[Men's Club](#)

[Men's Club Membership](#)

2019-2020 PARENT APPEAL (From Jamie Segar '90, Director of Advancement): Thank you to those how have participated in this year's Parent Pledge Drive! We are off to a good start but have a long way to go in reaching our goal of 100% participation. You still have time to make a gift or pledge before the October 11th deadline. Once the deadline passes, parent volunteers will begin reaching out personally to families to ask for their support, because CHS needs YOU!

Please make your gift or pledge today by going to catholichigh.org/giving or by clicking the link below. To view the current Honor Roll of Parents who have contributed this fiscal year and a breakdown of giving participation by class, please click on the link below.

[Giving](#)

[Honor Roll](#)

MOTHERS' CLUB: It's not too late to register for the CHS Mothers' Club. Join now on the CHS website under the Mother's Club tab.

Calling all CHS moms for some fun at our annual Mom's Night Out!

- September 26, 6-8 pm
- Kalurah Street Grill
- \$25 advance registration under the Mothers' Club tab on the CHS website or \$30 at the door.

Hope to see you there!

[Mothers' Club Registration](#)

[Mothers' Club](#)

CHS GOLF CLASSIC: The CHS Golf Classic is Friday, October 4, 2019 at Santa Maria Golf Course. Registration and lunch begin at 10 a.m. followed by a shotgun start at 11:30 a.m. For information on teams or sponsorships, contact Brian W. Hightower '97 at bhightower@catholichigh.org.

[Alumni](#)

[Golf Class Reg.](#)

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 are currently not receiving mailings and would like such information to be sent to you as well, please email Stephanie Potter, registrar, at spotter@catholichigh.org.

NON - DISCRIMINATORY POLICY: Catholic High School, Inc., is a Louisiana corporation doing business as Catholic High School. Catholic High School admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on any national, ethnic or religious basis in administration of the school's education policies, financial-assistance programs, athletics or any other school-administered activities.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE DANGERS OF VAPING AND MARIJUANA USE IN TEENS:

In our ongoing efforts to partner with parents, especially as it relates to decision making in adolescents associated with substance use, I have included recent information issued by both the Federal Center of Disease Control and the Louisiana Department of Health Emergency Operations Center in regards to adolescent use of marijuana and vaping. Both are additional pages at the end of this newsletter. Please take a few minutes to read this important information and share it with your son. The dangers to adolescents are substantial when using these products and the consequences can be severe. Thank you for your assistance with educating your son about these dangers.

WARNING ABOUT THE DANGERS OF VAPING

Message Urgency: HIGH

This is a message from the Louisiana Department of Health Emergency Operations Center (LDH EOC) to share a Louisiana Health Advisory Network (LA HAN) message on "vaping" associated with severe lung disease in Louisiana. Please share and distribute with relevant stakeholders and partners through your own distribution channels.

Background

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is investigating recently reported cases of severe lung disease among individuals in Louisiana who report e-cigarette product use, or "vaping." According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 193 possible cases, including one death, have been reported by 22 states. These illnesses are primarily occurring among adolescents and young adults. No single product has been implicated. Patients have reported high variability in substances/products they used in vaping, including tobacco and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) containing products as well as other products. LDH is working to determine if the recent cases reported in Louisiana fit the clinical picture being described by other states and the CDC.

Response

LDH asks health care providers to be alert for patients presenting with severe lung disease with an unknown etiology who report a history of vaping and to report suspect cases to LDH by calling 1-800-256-2748.

Clinical Presentation and Evaluation

Patients have initial respiratory symptoms including cough, shortness of breath, and fatigue with worsening over days or weeks before admission to the hospital. Other symptoms reported by some patients included fever, chest pain, weight loss, nausea, and diarrhea. Patients are typically between 17-35 years old and report no significant past medical history. Chest radiographs showed bilateral opacities, and CT imaging of the chest demonstrated diffuse ground-glass opacities, often with sub-pleural sparing. Because symptoms are consistent with an infection, a thorough evaluation for infectious diseases should be conducted.

Recommendations for Louisiana Healthcare Providers

- Clinicians treating patients with significant respiratory disease in the outpatient setting should assess their patients for recent or prior use of vaping products and consider the potential for worsening disease progression if risk factors are present.
- Clinicians in the inpatient setting who are managing patients with severe pulmonary disease should consider the following:
 1. Assess patients for vaping history including vaping tobacco, THC, and/or other products.
 2. Consider this syndrome in these patients, particularly those who have prior history of respiratory disease and no apparent etiology, infectious or otherwise.
 3. Consider a pulmonology consultation to guide additional diagnostics and management for these patients.
- Educate all patients on the risks associated with vaping and the use of tobacco products and provide patients information on where to seek care if symptoms worsen or return after initial resolution.
- Healthcare providers should ask patients about any retained or remaining vaping product, including devices and liquids, in order to ascertain availability for possible testing to be coordinated by LDH.

Case Reporting

All cases of suspected severe lung disease potentially associated with vape products should be reported to LDH's Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section: 1-800-256-2748.

Surgeon General Releases Advisory on Marijuana's Damaging Effects on the Developing Brain

Encourages Youth and Pregnant Women Not to Use Marijuana

Today, Surgeon General Vice Adm. Jerome M. Adams, issued an advisory emphasizing the importance of protecting youth and pregnant women from the health risks of marijuana use.

Marijuana, or cannabis, is the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States. Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), a component of marijuana, binds to receptors in the brain, producing euphoria and a variety of potentially harmful effects, including intoxication and memory and motor impairments. Newer strains of marijuana have also shown to be increasingly more potent, leading to other risks like anxiety, agitation, paranoia and psychosis.

"Marijuana is a dangerous drug, especially for young people and pregnant women," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "This historic Surgeon General's advisory is focused on the risks marijuana poses for these populations, which have been well-established by scientific evidence. As indicated by President Trump's generous donation of his salary to support this advisory, the Trump Administration is committed to fighting substance abuse of all kinds, and that means continuing research, education, and prevention efforts around the risks of marijuana use."

Pregnant women use marijuana more than any other illicit drugs. It is also commonly used by adolescents. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's recently released 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) data showed that marijuana continues to be the most widely used illicit drug and that further, frequent marijuana use, in both youths (12-17 years old) and young adults, appears to be associated with risks for opioid use, heavy alcohol use and major depressive episodes. In 2017 alone, approximately 9.2 million youth aged 12 to 25 reported using marijuana in the past month and 29% more young adults aged 18 to 25 started using the substance.

"There is a false perception that marijuana is not as harmful as other drugs. I want to be very clear – no amount of marijuana use during pregnancy or

adolescence is known to be safe," said Surgeon General Adams.

Compounding concerns regarding marijuana use and the developing brain is the surge in products with a higher THC concentration, and their accessibility. The risks of physical dependence, addiction, and other negative consequences increase with exposure to high concentrations of THC, daily use, and the younger the age of initiation.

As the advisory notes, it is "... intended to raise awareness of the known and potential harms to developing brains, posed by the increasing availability of highly potent marijuana in multiple, concentrated forms. These harms are costly to individuals and to our society, impacting mental and physical health and educational achievement and raising the risks of addiction and misuse of other substances."

Read the [U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory: Marijuana Use and the Developing Brain](#).

GUIDE FOR STUDENT CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES:

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