

# NEWSLETTER

*From the Office of the Principal*

WWW.CATHOLICHIGH.ORG

MARCH 2020

## **MARCH SPECIAL SCHEDULES:**

**Monday, March 2** – Province Day of Reflection for faculty. No school for students.

**Thursday, March 5** – Standardized test prep schedule. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

**Monday, March 9** – Junior Retreat. Testing for 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. Senior job shadowing day or field trip.

**Tuesday, March 10:** Sophomore retreat. Junior ACT test. Senior job shadowing day or field trip. No school for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades.

**Thursday, March 19** – Schoolwide liturgy at 9:47 a.m. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

**Friday, March 20** – Special schedule for Challenge Day pep rally. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

**Monday, March 23:** Faculty and staff retreat. No school for students.

[CHS Calendar](#)

**END OF THE THIRD QUARTER:** The third quarter of our school year will end on Friday, March 13. Your son's third-quarter grades will be based on a combination of daily work, projects, tests and quizzes given during the quarter. Report cards will be in the E-Locker section of PlusPortals by Friday, March 20.

**MARCH 9 and 10 DETAILS:** March 9 and 10 are special days for all students. See the details below for information about activities for each grade level. Breakfast will be available in the Union before school, and snacks will be available after testing.

**8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:** On March 9<sup>th</sup>, all 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the EXPLORE test, which is the same test that students took as their placement test before being accepted as a student at CHS. The results

of this test will be used to determine progress on the college readiness skills assessed through EXPLORE. Students will be dismissed following testing. Students will receive an email the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup> from Mrs. Vance with details concerning testing, including where to report and dismissal times.

On March 10, there are no classes for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:** On March 9, all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will take a retired version of the ACT test. This test is part of our Cambridge Testing Services, and the scores are not reported to colleges. Instead, these scores allow us to compare ACT scores to the predicted score given by the ASPIRE tests. They also give us a baseline of ACT preparedness so that instruction during our standardized test prep sessions can be maximized to its fullest potential for each individual student. Students will be dismissed following testing. Students will receive an email the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup> from Mrs. Vance with details concerning testing, including where to report and dismissal times.

On March 10, all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will be on their mandatory retreat. Detailed information about the retreat will be distributed through religion classes.

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:** On March 9, all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will be on their mandatory retreat. Detailed information about the retreat will be distributed through religion classes.

On March 10, all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the official ACT test on our campus. This test can serve as one of the two suggested ACT tests to be taken in the spring of the junior year. Students paid for this test during orientation in August. Students will be dismissed following testing. Students will receive an email the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup> from Mrs. Vance with details concerning testing, including where to report and dismissal times.

Seniors: On March 9 and 10, the senior class will be divided into two groups. Depending on the day, seniors will either travel to New Orleans to the WWII Museum or participate in Job Shadowing Day. Seniors have already received information about both events. For the WWII Museum trip, students and faculty chaperones will travel by charter bus to the museum and enjoy a full day that includes the 4D film "Beyond All Boundaries," a guided tour of the museum and lunch. The cost of the trip is \$60. This fee includes the cost of the charter bus, admission into the museum, and lunch. The Finance Office will charge each senior family's FACTS account \$60 in March. This is a great opportunity for our students to experience this incredible museum that connects the classroom with the real world. This is a mandatory day of school for all seniors.

The buses will depart Catholic High School at 7:00 a.m. **It is imperative that all seniors be at school by 6:45 so that the buses can load for a 7:00 a.m. departure.** Arrival back at Catholic High will be at approximately 3:00 p.m. Lunch is provided. Seniors must wear standard school attire, including their student ID.

Job Shadowing for Seniors: Each senior will spend six hours at work with a professional of his choice. The professional should be a college graduate and cannot be the student's parents. Afterwards, each senior will complete a reflection exercise that will be turned in to his English teacher.

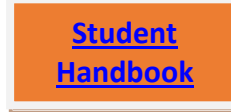
**SENIOR SUPPER**: This year's Senior Supper, co-sponsored by the Catholic High Men's Club, Mothers' Club, and Alumni Association will be on Wednesday, April 1, at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. To ensure that all seniors can attend, the following day, Thursday, April 2, is a "no assessment day" which means that there are no tests, quizzes, or assignments due for seniors.

The program will consist of several brief addresses to our graduating seniors and their families. We will return cumulative school records and distribute graduation invitations and caps and gowns at the end of the evening. Attire for the evening is school dress for seniors and comparable clothing for parents.

Because of limited seating, attendance at this event is restricted to seniors and their parents. Please make every effort to be present for this special event and sit as a family. Please park in the Westmoreland lot and please do not park on the streets surrounding campus. If you cannot be with us that evening, please encourage

your son to attend. Contact Events Coordinator Tracy Ducote if you have any questions.

**ADOLESCENT DECISION - MAKING AND PARENTAL INFLUENCE**: Catholic High strives each day to help our students make good decisions. Our expectations concerning student behavior remain consistent with our 24-7-52 guidelines as indicated in our Student Handbook.



We know that having these high expectations and holding students accountable guide students to make choices that are in the best interests of their formation at this time in their lives.

All too often, we find that parents hinder our efforts by allowing their sons to attend functions or events without proper adult supervision or by allowing them to attend functions where it is very difficult for our students to make good decisions. It is especially distressing when parents actually provide alcohol for their son's activities or try to coordinate an event where they believe they are doing the right thing by taking car keys or having sleepovers. Catholic High School's expectations are consistent, and this permissiveness puts students in situations that are confusing. A consistent message from school and home ultimately gives students the courage to make good decisions.

As the Easter break gets closer and dances and other spring-time opportunities occur, please monitor your son's activities. Suggestions to help your son make good decisions include:

- Insist on adult chaperones that will not place your son in a situation where alcohol, drugs, and other substances are made available to them. One would think that common sense would prevent more parents from engaging in such behavior, but it happens all too often.
- Monitor your son's cellphone and computer. Nine times out of ten, everything you need to know about your son's activity is on his cell phone and/or computer.
- Give your son a reason to say no to irresponsible behavior. Get in front of it. Have clear and specific rules at home with clear consequences. Father Andre Coindre, the founder of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart stated: "It is better to prevent transgressions than to correct them."

Catholic High will do its part by continuing to have high standards and expectations and by holding students accountable. It is my hope and prayer that every one of our students has a successful conclusion to the school year. Please help us help your son in that endeavor.

**WASHINGTON, D. C.:** Is your current sophomore or junior interested in the 2020 Thanksgiving trip to Washington, D.C.? There will be a parent information meeting on Sunday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the Academy Student Center at SJA. Trip details and registration information will be shared. Please email questions to trip coordinators Drew Losavio ([dlosavio@catholichigh.org](mailto:dlosavio@catholichigh.org)) or Vicki Melancon at ([vmelancon@catholichigh.org](mailto:vmelancon@catholichigh.org)). This is a great trip, and I encourage you to consider this opportunity for your son to see our nation's capital.

**2020 - 2021 TUITION AND RE-REGISTRATION PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** A copy of this schedule is enclosed with this newsletter.

#### **DEADLINE FOR REQUESTS FOR TUITION**

**ASSISTANCE [From Gerald Tullier]:** Applications for tuition assistance for the 2020-2021 school year must be submitted by Wednesday, April 29, 2020. Note that applications must be submitted by all persons who are requesting tuition assistance, both those applying for the first time and those who received tuition assistance during the 2019-2020 school year and are re-applying for tuition assistance for the coming school year. Applications for assistance are to be submitted on-line through FACTS. A link to the FACTS web page can be found in the "Tuition Assistance" section of the CHS web page or in the link below. You will need to create a FACTS account and log-in, and then complete the application online.

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.** Tuition assistance is available for students whose families are unable to pay the full cost of tuition.

Any parent who does not have access to a computer or who needs help completing the online application can get assistance by contacting Mrs. Pinney Johnson by phone at (225) 383-0397 ext. #104, or by e-mail at [pjohnson@catholichigh.org](mailto:pjohnson@catholichigh.org).



#### **REMINDER: DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP LOCATIONS:**

Students may not be dropped-off or picked up in the Claycut lot at anytime before school or in the afternoons immediately after school. This rule is for the safety of our students and our faculty members who park in this lot. Parents may pick up students after practices in the Claycut lot after 4:00 p.m. Students may be dropped off and picked up in the horseshoe on Hearthstone Drive or Claycut (near the Union doors) before and after school.

**SUMMER AT CHS REGISTERING NOW:** Information about Summer at CHS 2020 is available at the link below and registration is open.

Courses include:

**Athletics:** Basketball, Baseball, Golf, Football, Soccer, Wrestling, Lacrosse

**Strength and Speed:** Required for current CHS JV and varsity athletes, incoming 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade athletes. Middle School Conditioning course also available.

**Academics:** ACT Preparation\*, Adventure Camp\*, Algebra I Preparation, CHS Writing Boot Camp, College Application Boot Camp\*, English I Preparation, Game Development Using Scratch\*, Keyboarding\*, New Member Marching Camp\*, Percussion Camp for CHS/SJA\*, Robotics\*, Service Week, Study Skills\*, 3D Animation\*

\*Indicates courses open to girls.



#### **GRANDPARENTS DAY – SUNDAY, MARCH 15:**

Grandparents of CHS students are invited to the 2020 Grandparents' Day celebration on Sunday, March 15, from 2-4 p.m. in the CHS Gym. All students whose grandparents are attending are invited to join in the celebration, and all grandparents of current CHS students are invited to attend regardless of whether their grandson(s) can attend. Immediately following the assembly, students and their grandparents are welcome to tour campus. The CHS Photography Club will be on hand to take pictures in the Centennial Courtyard, and a reception in the Union will be hosted by the CHS Mothers' Club. Dress for students is school attire. A map including general and handicapped parking information was included in the invitation mailed to all grandparents in February.

**CHS Men's Club – \$13,000 Raffle Party:** Are you feeling lucky? If so, help support the Men's Club and the mission of CHS, by purchasing a raffle ticket for its annual \$13,000 Raffle. **Only 500 tickets will be sold.** The final ticket drawn at the raffle party on Friday, April 3, wins the grand prize of \$10,000, with lots of other winners throughout the evening. To purchase your ticket, click on the link below.

[Raffle Tickets](#)

**2019-2020 PARENTS APPEAL UPDATE [From Jamie Segar '90, Director of Advancement]: WE NEED YOU!** Please consider giving to the Fund For Catholic High School. Funds donated through The Parents Appeal go directly into the operating budget of the school and help fund the everyday needs of our school. Every student is positively impacted by your generosity when you contribute. Thus far, 30% **(351 of 1168)** of our parents have made a gift or pledge to the Fund. It is not too late to contribute this year, and we need your support more than ever. Remember:

- No student pays the actual cost of tuition
- Your continued generosity is key in providing a holistic educational experience for all of our students.

Please make your gift or pledge today by visiting our website at [catholichigh.org/giving](http://catholichigh.org/giving). We hope you will consider giving The Gap (\$2,135). However, all gifts of any amount make a huge difference and impact every student at CHS.

Thank you for your support of CHS.

[Donate](#)

[Honor Roll](#)

**1894 Minute Challenge [From Jamie Segar '90, Director of Advancement]: March 19 & 20 - 31.5 Hours of Giving Back**

CHS was founded in 1894 by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and in honor of that date, CHS will host its 3rd annual 1894 Minute Challenge. This online giving event will take place on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> during our annual Challenge Week.

All gifts received during the 1894 Minute Challenge will be directed to The Fund for Catholic High School. Each student and faculty member benefits from the support of parents, alumni and friends. Your contributions help

CHS continue *Defining the Difference* for every student, every year.

Our goal this year is to surpass last year's totals with 1000 donors and \$88,000! Gifts can be made through Venmo, Paypal, Apple Pay and through the CHS website at [catholichigh.org/giving](http://catholichigh.org/giving).

During this Give Day event, we challenge you to make a gift, spread the word, and encourage others to participate. Let's help keep CHS strong. Please support the 1894 Minute Challenge on March 19 and 20. Go Bears!

**STUDENT CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES:** In spite of our best efforts to educate parents about the proper procedures for checking students out of school, we continue to have a large amount of parents who just show up to school without advance notice to check out their son. Please note that CHS does not interrupt classes to announce that a student needs to report to the office to checkout. Therefore, when a parent shows up without prior notice, our office staff member must leave her desk to go get the student out of class, leaving others who need assistance unattended. While unplanned circumstances occasionally occur, the majority of these situations are known in advance. Please follow the procedures below when checking your son out of school:

- On those rare occasions when a student does need to check out, he should bring a note to the Assistant Principals' Office the morning of the appointment.
- The attendance secretary will give the student a note to leave class at the designated time.
- The student will go to the Assistant Principals' office at the time noted on their dismissal slip and scan their ID to check 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. Thank you in advance for following these procedures.