

NEWSLETTER

From the Office of the Principal



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CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2020

DECEMBER SPECIAL SCHEDULES:

Tuesday, December 8: Schoolwide liturgy at 9:50 a.m.

Monday, December 14: Student Mentoring Schedule.
Dismissal at 2:54 p.m.

Monday, December 21 – Friday, January 1: Christmas Holidays (No school for students)

Monday, January 4: Parent-teacher conferences, faculty and staff professional development. (No school for students)

To view the full calendar, please click here:

[CHS Calendar](#)

COVID-19 UPDATE: I sent an email to all parents and students on Saturday, November 28 with an update on Catholic High School's procedures due to the state going into a modified Phase 2. Please refer to that email for details.

The one change that this modified Phase 2 does bring to CHS is the reduced capacity in athletic venues. I want to emphasize that we will expect all students to wear a mask and distance from one another at athletic events. Any student who does not comply after repeated warnings will be asked to leave the venue. This is for the safety and protection of everyone involved. I also ask all parents attending athletic events to follow our expectation of wearing a mask and distancing from others.

I continue to be pleased with the relatively few numbers of positive COVID cases among our students and faculty. As of the date of this publication, the percent of students and faculty who are out with a positive diagnosis is 0.26. Of course, we do have many out on

quarantine due to exposure to someone who tested positive. I cannot

stress strongly enough that any student who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home and get tested. Any student who is exposed to someone with a positive case of COVID must quarantine for 14 days.

I fully anticipate that both of these numbers will go up over the next couple of weeks following the Thanksgiving holiday. We must all continue to do everything possible to keep the spread of COVID at a minimum by following all of the recommended guidelines. Thanks to everyone for all you are doing to keep the CHS community safe.

SEMESTER EXAMS: The weekend before exams begin is the opportunity for students to study for their exams. Consequently, Monday, December 14 is considered a "dead day" prior to exams. This means that students will not have homework or assignments given on Friday, December 11 to be due over the weekend or on Monday, December 14. It also means that students will not have any tests or quizzes, or homework due on the 14th. Nothing can be due after class on Friday, December 11.

Our first semester exam schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, December 15	2nd and 7th periods
Wednesday, December 16	3rd and 4th periods
Thursday, December 17	1st and 5th periods
Friday, December 18	8th and 6th periods

Your son is not required to be on campus if he is not scheduled to take an exam during a particular period (ex: he has lunch during 5th period). 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.

Please note: All mid-term exams must be taken on the CHS campus. No mid-terms will be given virtually. For students who are 100% virtual, they will take exams according to the schedule above on the school campus in a significantly distanced setting in the Library. Students who are out on quarantine or because of a positive diagnosis, will take exams when they are able to return to school. Make-up exams will be scheduled individually by Mrs. Vance.

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 42 and 43 of the [2020-2021 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.

REGISTRATION FOR 2021 - 2022: Registration for the 2021-2022 school year will take place in mid-January. Detailed information about the registration process will be sent by email to all families in early January. Please keep in mind that for returning students, there is no registration fee due at the time of re-registration for next school year.

SEMESTER REPORT CARDS: Final semester report cards will be in the E-Locker section of PlusPortals by January 4.

PROTECTING YOUR SONS – NEWS FROM TANYA

STUART: Tanya Stuart, (LCSW-BACS,LAC,CCS), a licensed clinical social worker and a licensed addiction counselor, who has presented numerous times at Catholic High for both parents and our faculty. She is a tremendous resource for Catholic High and offers this information for parents:

Currently, we are seeing an increase in the use of liquid marijuana through a DAB PEN among high school students. In 2015, I was educating myself on nicotine vapes. Today, vaping liquid marijuana is the increasing trend.

“The percent of teens that reported past month marijuana vaping also rose, from 2.6 to 3.9 percent of 8th graders; 7.0 to 12.6 percent of 10th graders; and from 7.5 to 14.0 percent of 12th graders. This increase in the past month of marijuana vaping in high school seniors is the second largest single-year increase ever measured in the 45-year history of the MTF survey, and was only surpassed by the increase in nicotine vaping between 2017 and 2018.”

The article below will explain a little more in detail about, vaping, alcohol, and other substance use with the teen population.

*<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/monthly-monitoring-future-survey-high-school-youth-trends>
Many states have legalized marijuana, which understandably confuses the community about marijuana being unsafe. When you are asked by your teen why marijuana is not safe a few key points can start the conversation with your teen.*

- 1) Marijuana affects every individual differently, not always positive.*
- 2) If you already struggle with anxiety, long term marijuana use can increase anxiety and progress into paranoia.*
- 3) Alcohol is legal, but that does not mean everyone should be drinking alcohol.*
- 4) If it helps your anxiety and stress, let us see a professional that could give you alternatives to managing your anxiety and stress.*
- 5) Your brain is still developing, and it can change the way you learn, manage emotions, decrease concentrate and motivation.*
- 6) It is currently illegal.*

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out in confidence.

*Tanya Stuart, LCSW-BACS, LAC
225-771-9980*

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND OFFICE HOURS: Our Christmas holidays begin after the last exam on Friday, December 18. Students return to class on Tuesday, January 5. School office hours will be 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Monday, December 21; Tuesday, December 22; Monday, December 28; and Tuesday, December 29. Offices will be closed Wednesday, December 23 – Friday, December

25, and Wednesday, December 30 – Friday, January 1. Regular office hours of 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. will resume on Monday, January 4.

PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES: Please mark your calendar now to attend Parent–Teacher Conferences on Monday, January 4 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 4. 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 4 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. Any parent who does not feel comfortable coming to campus on January 4 can make an appointment with your son’s teachers or meet by phone.

PARENT SURVEY: The administration of Catholic High School strives to continuously improve the educational experience of students and our partnership with parents. We realize that we only have a short four or five years with our students to provide a Brothers of the Sacred Heart education and we take that responsibility very seriously. With that in mind, we request your feedback concerning you and your son’s CHS experience. I ask that you complete the survey at this link: [Parent Survey 2020](#). The survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes.

This survey is similar to the one that we sent three years ago in conjunction with the AdvancED accreditation process. We intend to offer this survey annually to our parents to gauge progress in areas that parents indicate need improvement. I have also emailed the survey link to all parents. Thank you in advance for your participation.

ACT PREPARATION CLASS: ACT preparation classes will be offered on Saturday, January 16 or Saturday, January 30. If interested, your son may choose one of these two dates to attend the class. Please see attached flier for 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.

2020 OPEN HOUSE: Catholic High’s 34th Open House on November 12th was a great success. Although much different this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, guests made a reservation and visited Catholic High School in

small groups throughout the day. Tours began in the newly dedicated Brother Donnan Berry, S.C. Student Center and our visitors loved it. In addition, 800+ of our students spent the day telling visitors about their school. Thanks so much to everyone who assisted us, but we especially thank Tracy Ducote, CHS Events Coordinator. This event would not be possible without our faculty, students, parents, and alumni. I also thank the Mothers’ Club and Men’s 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 Wednesday, December 9. 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. Stuart Sonnier, 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.

2020-2021 PARENTS APPEAL UPDATE [From Jamie Segar ’90, Director of Advancement]: In celebration of the Advent season, please consider CHS when making your charitable gifts this December

During the season of giving, we’d like to give thanks for all the blessings we have been given this year, as well as THANK those parents who have made a gift or pledge to this year’s 2020-2021 Parents Appeal. Your participation is key in helping CHS continue to provide a superior Catholic education to the students in our care. We are striving for 100 percent participation! Please make your one-time gift or pledge today! We hope you will consider giving The Gap (\$2,210), but we know that not everyone is financially able to do so. All gifts of any

amount make a huge difference and impact every student at CHS.

Parent volunteers are currently reaching out by phone and email to those families who have yet to make a gift or pledge to The Fund for CHS to encourage their support. Please prayerfully consider making CHS one of your top three when making year-end charitable gifts. Please give to The Fund for Catholic High School by visiting our website at catholichigh.org/giving or clicking the button below.

[Donate](#)

[Honor Roll](#)

MERRY CHRISTMAS! On behalf of everyone at Catholic High School, we wish you a wonderful and joyous holiday season. More than ever, I pray that everyone

takes the time to thank God for all of our blessings and the abundance in our lives rather than focusing on all we have lost this year because of COVID-19. Let us bring the hope that the Christ-child promises to all of us as we celebrate his birth. Please know how much we thank you for the gift of your son and appreciate the trust you demonstrate in us by sharing him with us for this short time during the high school years. May you all know the peace and love of Christ during this Christmas season as we say goodbye and good riddance to 2020. May 2021 be a year of returning to normal and putting COVID-19 behind us. Happy holidays!

ACT PREPARATION CLASS

Where: Catholic High School Library

When: Saturday, January 16 from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. **OR**
Saturday, January 30 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.**

Registration is online at mychs.catholichigh.org or
detach this form and return to Mrs. Hodges in the Main Office by Wednesday, January 20.

REGISTRATION FORM - ACT PREPARATION CLASS

Student Name (please print) _____ \

Student Email (please print) _____

_____ Saturday, January 16 from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. **OR**

_____ Saturday, January 30 from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Parent Email address (please print) _____

Parent Name (please print) _____

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



Mothers' Club News

Car Raffle: Congratulations to William Wallace '24, the November winner of the \$250 Amazon gift card! Keep in mind that raffle tickets make great stocking stuffers for family AND Secret Santa gifts for friends and coworkers! Each ticket sold is an entry for your Bear to be eligible for our next drawing and brings us closer to our goal. In fact, if every student sells his 10 tickets, we would be able to donate \$100,000 back to CHS! Tickets can be purchased at: <https://mychs.catholichigh.org/raffle>.

Instructions for viewing ticket sales purchased in your name

- Go to <https://mychs.catholichigh.org/raffle>
- Select Parent/Student login (scroll down midway to see this button on left)
- Log in to your MyCHS account, and you can see the number of tickets sold through your unique link and to whom they were sold.

Moms' Night Out: Over 100 Mothers' Club members enjoyed the Moms' Night Out festivities at the new Student Center. Many arrived early enough to take advantage of the VIP tours offered. The attendance was incredible, the food was amazing, and the fellowship was even better! Thank you to our Chairs Danielle Mensman, Lindsey Stelly, and Lisa Hebert! We look forward to hosting more Mothers' Club member events in the spring. If you have not yet joined the Mothers' Club, it is not too late. Click here to join now: <https://chsmothersclub> .

Open House: A big thank you to Shannon Anderson and Tami Turnley for chairing Open House for the Mothers' Club this year. They, along with Stacey Mengis, helped coordinate over 30 AMAZING Mom volunteers to blow up over 1000 balloons, set-up, greet, direct and serve over 300 prospective families. Thanks to all the volunteers!

The Mothers' Club is incredibly thankful for all of the wonderful CHS moms who support CHS with their time and talent. Have a safe & happy holiday season!