



# NEWSLETTER

From the Office of the Principal



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CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

JUNE 2023

## **FROM DR. TOM ELDRINGHOFF, PRINCIPAL:**

Welcome to the parents of our newest students who will be entering Catholic High School as eighth graders, freshmen, and upper classmen.

As I begin my new role as Principal, I look forward to working with you and your sons as we strive to become ever more faithful to the mission of CHS and the educational charism of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. I want to thank Mrs. Lisa Harvey for her 12 years of remarkable service and leadership as CHS Principal. I want to assure you that the tradition of excellence that Mrs. Harvey has preserved and enhanced will continue.

**CATHOLIC HIGH NEWSLETTER:** This monthly newsletter is our primary means of communication with parents and is only available online through the Catholic High website ([www.catholichigh.org](http://www.catholichigh.org)). I encourage parents to share the newsletter with their sons. *Educational Mission and Ministry* (see next item) states "we give our personal attention to developing a spirit of openness and cordial relations with students and parents."

Each month every family will receive an email notifying you that the newsletter is available online. Important information is contained in the monthly newsletter, and I urge you to read it carefully.

**EDUCATIONAL MISSION AND MINISTRY:** In 1985, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart of the New Orleans Province published *Educational Mission and Ministry*. This document, which is an articulation of our educational philosophy, was written so we could share our rich tradition with those with whom we are partners in our educational endeavor. *Educational Mission and Ministry* guides the operation of Catholic High. According to this document, "Education according to the tradition of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart is holistic education rooted in

religious values, structured through friendly discipline, nurtured by personal attention and committed to academic excellence."

As parents, you are the primary educators of your children. We thank you for giving us the opportunity to work along with you in educating your son. Together we can achieve the mission of Catholic High: "To teach Gospel values in an environment of academic excellence according to Catholic tradition and the spirit of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart."

**STUDENTS NOT RETURNING:** If your son will not be returning to Catholic High for the 2023-2024 school year, please contact Sally Ash, administrative assistant to the principal, as soon as possible: [sash@catholichigh.org](mailto:sash@catholichigh.org).

**FACTS ABOUT THE CLASS OF 2023:** The Class of 2023's average ACT score was 25.4, with approximately 21% of the class achieving a composite score of 30 or higher. Students in the Class of 2023 were accepted to 125 different colleges/universities and were offered over \$27 million in scholarships (not including TOPS). We are proud of the accomplishments of our recent graduates and wish them the best of luck in their future.

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:** Summer Office hours are 7:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. from May 30 until June 30. Office hours during July are 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. We will close at noon on Friday, July 7, Friday, July 14, Friday, July 21, and Friday, July 28. We will resume regular office hours (7 a.m. until 4 p.m.) on Monday, July 31. Our offices will be closed on Monday, July 3 and Tuesday, July 4.

**COMPUTER ROLLOUT FOR NEW STUDENTS:** If this will be your son's 1<sup>st</sup> year at CHS, part of his obligation as a Catholic High student is to attend the mandatory rollout session that will take place

on Tuesday, August 1 during which we will distribute computers to new students and begin instruction about how to use and care for them. Rollout will take place from 8:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

From 8:00 – 9:00 a.m., we will host a meeting for both parents and students in the gym. We strongly urge at least one parent to attend this informative meeting that will cover all aspects of technology at CHS.

Dress for the day is regular CHS school attire, with the exception of haircuts and shaving. Lunch will be served to students. A \$20 fee will be charged to your July FACTS account to cover the costs, including lunch, associated with rollout. If previous plans prevent your son from attending, there is a make-up session on August 7. I strongly encourage your son to attend on August 1 to receive the most instructional benefit and begin the new school year well. If you must attend the make-up session on August 7, please email Sally Ash at [sash@catholichigh.org](mailto:sash@catholichigh.org).

The dates of the rollout session have been designed to give 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to also participate in "Summer at CHS" programs.

**Please note:** returning CHS students that were in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade here are not required to attend computer rollout.

**STUDENT SCHEDULES:** In January, students completed on-line course selections for the 2023-2024 school year. Students received course verification sheets in early March to ensure that the courses listed were correct and to provide an opportunity for students to request changes. Requests for changes were considered if they met departmental requirements and if there was available space in the courses requested. Schedules showing the courses listed will be available through PlusPortals. You will receive an email over the summer directing you to the schedules. Please be sure you have activated your PlusPortals account by the time schedules are ready in late July.

**TUITION PAYMENT PROCESS:** For 2023-2024, all CHS tuition payments will again be processed through FACTS Management Company. Parents have the option of electing a monthly, semi-annual, or annual payment plan, and as has always been the case, CHS tuition payments are interest free. Each family must establish an individual FACTS account with an active payment plan to process tuition payments.

CHS tuition for 2023-2024 is \$12,795. In addition, there is a \$450 graduation and retreat fee due for the senior class of 2024, and a \$450 re-registration fee (for 2023-2024) for all underclassmen. The total of tuition plus the accompanying fees is \$13,245 and will be charged through FACTS. Additional course fees will be charged for Advanced Placement courses (\$105 for 2023-2024), Summer PE, dual enrollment and band courses, as well as other incremental fees incurred throughout the year by students.

**Monthly Payment Plan**—Families who choose the monthly payment plan will pay tuition in 12 equal installment payments beginning in June 2023 and continuing through May 2024. Families may select either the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of each month as their scheduled payment date. In cases where the 3<sup>rd</sup> or the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on weekends or holidays, the scheduled draft will be processed on the next banking day. FACTS charges a one-time per year \$50 fee for this installment plan.

**Semi-Annual Payment Plan**—Families who choose the semi-annual payment plan will pay tuition in two equal installment payments—July 3 and December 4, 2023. FACTS charges a one-time per year \$15 fee for this installment plan.

**Annual Payment Plan**—Families who choose the annual tuition payment plan will pay tuition in one installment on July 3, 2023. FACTS charges a one-time per year \$5 fee for this installment plan.

All parents of returning students should have already set up FACTS tuition accounts and payment plans. **However, if you have not done so, please do so immediately.**

Also, if a student's tuition account at any time becomes two months or more past due, he is subject to suspension from classes and exams until the outstanding balance has been paid. Any exceptions must be approved by the CHS President, Mrs. Lisa Harvey.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**ORIENTATION SCHEDULE:** Orientation for all students will take place on Monday, August 7, and Tuesday, August 8. Your son must be present for orientation at his assigned time. Corrective measures will result from unexcused orientation absences. Contact Tracy Ducote at [tducote@catholichigh.org](mailto:tducote@catholichigh.org) with questions.

Students must be checked in and seated in the wrestling room by the arrival time listed below:

**2023 – 2024 Orientation Schedule**

<b>Monday, August 7</b>		
Grade	Arrival Time	Alpha Listing
8th	8:00 a.m.	A-H
	8:30 a.m.	I-Z
9th	9:00 a.m.	A-C
	9:30 a.m.	D-H
	10:00 a.m.	I-M
	10:30 a.m.	N-R
	11:00 a.m.	S-Z
11th	12:00 p.m.	A-F
	12:30 p.m.	G-L
	1:00 p.m.	M-R
	1:30 p.m.	S-Z
<b>Tuesday, August 8</b>		
Grade	Arrival Time	Alpha Listing
12th	8:00 a.m.	A-C
	8:30 a.m.	D-G
	9:00 a.m.	H-L
	9:30 a.m.	M-R
	10:00 a.m.	S-Z
10th	11:00 a.m.	A-C
	11:30 a.m.	D-G
	12:00 p.m.	H-L
	12:30 p.m.	M-P
	1:00 p.m.	Q-S
	1:30 p.m.	T-Z

If you are bringing your son to Catholic High for his orientation, we welcome you to come into the Student Center and relax while orientation is in process, but please allow your son to complete orientation himself, unaccompanied by you. The process typically lasts about an hour. Thanks for your understanding in this matter.

**DEBIT CARD BALANCES FOR CURRENT STUDENTS:**

Positive balances on returning students' debit card accounts from the 2022-2023 school year will be carried into the 2023-2024 school year. This

balance will be applied toward your son's minimum deposit at orientation.

**DRESS AND GROOMING FOR ORIENTATION:** All students are required to wear a coat and tie on the day of their orientation and to be properly groomed because school pictures will be taken at that time. If your son does not have a coat, he may come with a dress shirt and tie and we will provide a coat for the picture.

It is particularly important that your son's hairstyle meet CHS grooming requirements. If your son's hairstyle does not meet CHS grooming requirements, he will not be allowed to complete the orientation procedure; in effect, he will be suspended from school until he has an acceptable haircut. We plan to provide a barber on campus to cut hair when needed for a fee of \$20. If your son uses the on-campus barber, the fee will be added to his check-out sheet at registration. If you have any questions about a hairstyle or whether or not it will be acceptable at CHS, please contact Mr. Doug Logsdon, Dean of Students, for an appointment. Please call him in advance of your visit so he can be available.

**SENIORS:** Seniors will take school pictures at orientation for their ID and other school use in addition to the formal portraits (tuxedo/cap and gown) taken by Brad Messina Photography. Details about these portraits were included in the email sent from Events Coordinator Tracy Ducote to junior parents on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Appointments are available now and may be scheduled by visiting <http://www.bradmessinaphoto.com/seniors.html>. The deadline for formal portraits is October 31<sup>st</sup>, so it is important that you review your son's summer plans (summer workouts, vacations, etc.) and coordinate with Mr. Messina to find a date to take the senior portraits.

**PARKING FOR 2023-2024 [From Doug Logsdon]:**

Only those students who pay parking fees will be allowed to park in either the school's Main Parking Lot or the Westmoreland Parking Lot. Security is provided in both lots to help ensure the safety of our students and their vehicles. The CHS Board of Directors has set the parking fee for the 2023-2024 school year at \$325. Seniors and juniors will be able to purchase parking passes during student orientation. Sophomores will be allowed to park if any spots remain after student orientation. Freshmen are not allowed to park in either lot and should plan accordingly. If you have questions about student parking, please contact me.

**FIRST DAY FOR 8TH AND 9TH GRADERS:**

Wednesday, August 9, will be a special day of school designed exclusively for our 8th and 9th graders. 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students are not to report to school. This special day for new students is designed to acquaint them with Catholic High in an atmosphere that is less hectic than a day with the full student body in attendance. We will begin with a liturgy for all 8th and 9th graders at 7:30 a.m. We will run a full schedule of shortened classes. Lunch will be served. Students must have their ID/debit cards (that they will have received at orientation) for this first day of school. Students will be dismissed at approximately 2:47 p.m.

**BACK - TO - SCHOOL AFTERNOON:** Our "Back-To-School Afternoon" will be held on Sunday, August 13, from 3:45-6:30 p.m. Additional details will be included in the August *Catholic High Newsletter*. Please mark your calendar for this important event.

**COUNSELING CENTER INFORMATION:** At the beginning of each school year, the Counseling Center will provide teachers with a confidential "Support Services List" containing the names of students who have special health concerns or diagnosed learning differences. For a student with learning differences to be on this list and receive any classroom accommodations (such as extended time for testing or special seating), a copy of the student's psycho-educational evaluation must be kept on file in the Counseling Center. The evaluation must have been conducted within 3 years of the student's CHS enrollment. For a student with special health issues, a note from his physician is required.

Please note that elementary schools do not transfer documentation of learning needs to the student's high school. Therefore, parents of incoming eighth graders, freshmen and new upperclassmen need to supply that documentation to CHS. Please send all documentation to the Counseling Center by Friday, July 28, 2023.

If you suspect that your son has a learning difference, but he does not have a psychoeducational evaluation, please contact the Counseling Center for affordable testing options.

If a student's name appears on the Support Services List, it is his responsibility to talk to each of his teachers about his health concern or learning difference. If you have any questions regarding

this practice or any other concern regarding your son, please contact the Counseling Center.

**THANK YOU FROM LISA HARVEY, PRESIDENT OF CHS:**

Before I begin my new role as president of Catholic High School on July 1, I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank each of you for allowing me the privilege of serving as principal these past 12 years and for giving me the blessing of working with our students and parents each day. Although I am changing roles, know that my dedication and focus will continue to be on carrying forward the mission of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and providing the best educational experience possible for our students. I look forward to my continued interactions with both parents and students. As always, feel free to contact me if needed.

I have the utmost confidence and respect for Dr. Eldringhoff and I know that the educational tradition of CHS will continue to thrive and expand under his leadership as principal. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic High.

**HAVE A WONDERFUL, RELAXING AND PRODUCTIVE SUMMER:**

I hope that you and your family have a wonderful summer. Please know of our continued prayers for your families, especially for your sons. The August issue of the *Catholic High Principal's Newsletter* will be available in late July.