



NEWSLETTER

From the Office of the Principal

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SEPTEMBER 2023

BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART: On September 30, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart will observe the 202nd anniversary of their founding when the first ten 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. We will commemorate "Foundation Day" with a school-wide liturgy on Friday, September 29 at 9:47 a.m.

SPECIAL SCHEDULES:

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

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

Monday, September 11: Test Prep Schedule. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

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

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

Friday, September 29: Foundation Day Celebration. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

[CHS Calendar](#)

MASS ON TUESDAYS IN THE BROTHERS' CHAPEL: Mass is celebrated most Tuesdays in the Brothers' Chapel at 6:45 a.m. All are welcome to attend. Please check the school calendar for dates.

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 whether or not schools will be open. The information will also be sent through our text messaging system, school email, or through voicemail, and will be posted on the Catholic High website, along with social media, as soon as possible in the given emergency.

COURSE FEES: The fee for students enrolled in our Band courses is \$185.00. An explanation of the band fee is on page 55 of the [2023-2024 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.

The fee for dual enrollment English is \$300 per semester. Fall semester tuition will be billed on October 15, and spring semester tuition will be billed on March 15. The fee for dual enrollment religion is \$300 and will be billed October.

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 6, if they are exempt from the exam.

STANDARDIZED TESTING: All students in grades 8 through 12 will take standardized tests in October.

Monday, October 9: No school for students in grades 8, 9, 10, and 11. Seniors are on their mandatory closed retreat on this day. The campus and offices are closed.

Tuesday, October 10: Students in grades 8 and 9 will take the PSAT 8/9, and students in grade 10 will take the PreACT 10. No school for juniors and seniors.

Tuesday, October 17: Most seniors will take the ACT while juniors will take the PSAT/NMSQT. This test is used to determine National Merit Awards. No school for grades 8, 9, and 10.

Regular classes are not held during testing days, and students must attend school for testing. Test times will be posted in the October Newsletter.

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 at the beginning of this newsletter and on our school calendar, which can be found on our website. Mrs. Christy Kessler, assistant principal for instruction, coordinates this program. During these sessions, students will practice test questions, review content, and learn test-taking strategies. Students may access these resources at any time by going to the Standardized Test Prep Moodle Page. 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 dates approach.

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.

Please see pages 46-47 of the [2023-2024 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, Mrs. Lizzi Canady at lcanady@catholichigh.org if you have any questions.

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 stowed away throughout the academic day (7:30 a.m. until 2:47 p.m.). Before 7:30 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 dean of students. 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 attendance and discipline 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. Click this [link](#) for a summary of attendance procedures.

On those rare occasions when a student does need to check out, he should bring a note the morning of the appointment to the attendance and discipline office. Parents may also send an email to attendance@catholichigh.org, but the student is still responsible for getting a dismissal slip from the attendance and discipline office. The attendance secretary will give the student a note to leave class at the designated time and report to the attendance and discipline office to scan his ID. Parents arriving at school to pick up their son can pull up in front of school in the Hearthstone Circle and call the main office at 383-0397, and we will

send your son out, so you do not need to leave your car.

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. We do not call into classrooms to have a student report to the office, so a member of our office staff must leave their desk and go get the student. This takes time away from our office staff, but it also means that parents must wait longer for their son to check 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 [2023-2024 Student Handbook](#) (page 22) 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 dean of students 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 Brother Donnan Berry, S.C. Student Center every day after school until approximately 3:15 p.m., 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 p.m. After 4 p.m., 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 Claycut circle. For those students participating in extracurricular activities, a coach or moderator should always supervise students during pick-up.

ACADEMIC CONVOCATION: This year's Academic Convocation is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, at 6 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 2022-2023 school year. Each young man being honored will receive a certificate and a pin recognizing his achievement. Also recognized are students who placed on the National Latin Exam and at State Rally, AP Scholars, new members of the ACT 30+ Club, and students being recognized as National Merit Semifinalists and Commended students. Catholic High School Foundation scholarships will be awarded as well.

Qualifying students and their parents will receive an email of invitation next week from events coordinator Tracy Ducote. If you do not receive an email and feel your son should be included, please contact Ms. Ducote at tducote@catholichigh.org.

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 your contact information to the registrar Stephanie Potter at spotter@catholichigh.org.

ACT PREPARATION CLASS: Our next ACT Preparation Classes will be offered on Saturday, October 14, and Saturday, October 21. If interested, your son may choose one of these two dates to attend the class. A flier is included with this newsletter with more details about this course, which has been quite beneficial for many of our students. Please email Mrs. Christy Kessler at ckessler@catholichigh.org if you have any questions about the course.

UPCOMING ADMISSIONS EVENTS: We invite all families interested in considering Catholic High School for their middle school son to take advantage of the numerous opportunities to learn more about CHS and the holistic educational experience we provide. If you know of a family considering CHS, please invite them to participate in any or all of these admissions events.

Admissions Criteria

Typically, the students offered admission to CHS for the 2024-2025 School Year:

- had a good discipline record
- had academic grades of As, Bs, and/or Cs
- had a good attendance record

September - November 2023 - Fall Day Tours by

Appointment: Day Tours provide families with the opportunity to see what a typical day at Catholic High School looks like. In addition to a general tour and overview, parents and their sons are encouraged to ask questions about any aspect of CHS while on the tour.

Day Tours are intended for small groups, so **registration for a Day Tour is limited.** Families interested in attending a Day Tour can click [here](#) to make a reservation. A Day Tour lasts about an hour and a half.

Information Afternoon – September 18, 2023 at 4:30

p.m. This event, hosted in the Brother Donnan Berry, SC Student Center, is designed to give prospective parents and students an overview of Catholic High School and what our community has to offer. This event will feature several presentations on the distinguishing aspects of Catholic High School's mission and school culture. There will also be an opportunity for prospective parents and students to ask questions in a small group setting. This event is especially beneficial if you are considering applying to attend CHS in the 2024-2025 school year. Please use this [link](#) to register.

Band and Bruinette Night – October 20, 2023 This event is open to all 6th-8th graders. This experience gives interested middle school students the unique opportunity to perform with the CHS/SJA Band and get a sense of what it means to be a part of a high school band. More information is available on the [admissions timeline](#) on the CHS website. To experience the spirit of these two well-established high schools and their traditions, use this [link](#) to register.

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.

ACT PREPARATION CLASS

Where: Catholic High School Library
When: Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or
Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Cost: \$95 (covers book and all materials)

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, August 30.

REGISTRATION FORM - ACT PREPARATION CLASS

Student Name (please print) _____

Student Email (please print) _____

CHECK ONE:

- Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or
- Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Parent Email address (please print) _____

Parent Name (please print) _____

Online payments are mychs.catholichigh.org or checks (\$95.00) payable to *Catholic High School*.