



SPECIAL SCHEDULES in SEPTEMBER:

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

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

Thursday, September 5: Test Prep Schedule. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

Wednesday, September 11: Student Mentoring Schedule. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

Thursday, September 19: Test Prep Schedule. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

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

Monday, September 30: Foundation Day Liturgy Celebration. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

[CHS Calendar](#)

MASS ON TUESDAYS IN THE BROTHERS' CHAPEL: Mass is celebrated on Tuesdays in the Brothers' Chapel at 6:45 a.m. – 7:15 a.m. All are welcome to attend. Please check the school calendar for dates.

REMINDER FROM THE ADVANCEMENT OFFICE - NEW PARENT WELCOME PARTY (J.P. Kelly, Director of Advancement). We are excited to invite all new parents to the New Parent Welcome Party on Thursday, September 5th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Brother Donnan Berry, S.C. Student Center. This

event is a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow parents and enjoy fellowship while relaxing with hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. This event is for parents only, and dress is casual. We kindly ask that you RSVP to Shelley Vance at svance@catholichigh.org by September 3rd, so we can properly prepare. We look forward to seeing you there!

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 in the 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.

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 in October.

OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATION ON

CAMPUS: Catholic High keeps a limited amount of ibuprofen and acetaminophen in the counseling center for students who may need it. If your son goes to the counseling center asking for such medication we will only administer it with a parent's permission. Note: if your son has a fever and is seeking the medication for that reason, he will be directed to check out.

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.

BIG READ INFORMATION: Each year, Catholic High School chooses a book to be read by all members of the CHS community. The selection is made by faculty members of one content area, is incorporated into class and school activities, and highlights themes relevant to our community and applicable to the lives of students and faculty members. This year's Big Read is *He Leadeth Me: An Extraordinary Testament of Faith* by Walter J. Cizek, S.J. The reading schedule and primary assessment information will be communicated to students in their social studies classes. Reading assignments for students who only

have a 1st semester social studies class will begin the last week of September and continue until early December. All other students will read the book beginning in January. Please see the flier accompanying this newsletter for more information. Students will receive a rental license for the ebook the week of September 16 for all those reading the first semester. The fee for this rental is \$5.50 and will be deducted from each student's myCHS account on September 16 for those students reading this semester. The rental fee will be deducted in January for everyone else. Please ensure funds are available on your son's school account.

THE CHS MOTHERS' CLUB UPDATE: The 2024-2025 school year is underway, and the CHS Mothers' Club activities are in full swing! We would like to extend a big "THANK YOU" to our chairs who have coordinated several successful events thus far:

- The Fabulous Finds Used Clothing Sale – Theresa Gibson and Kaylin Gifford
- CHS Faculty and Staff Back-to-School Luncheon – Rebecca Valluzzo and Tami Moran
- CHS Back-To-School Afternoon – Amy Daughdrill and Brooke Carter

Also, a special thank you to all the moms who assisted with these activities, whether it was through volunteering their time or donating items toward the events. We could not have done it without you!

There are many more activities planned for the school year. If you have not done so already, please sign up today to be a CHS Mothers' Club member. A reminder that you must re-register your membership every school year. Follow this [link](#) to register. Volunteer opportunities will be sent in a separate email upon completion of the registration process. We have several activities to assist with in the coming months – Information Night, Faculty & Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Student Appreciation Celebration, Senior Retreat Return Reception, Open House and more. The CHS Mothers' Club is a wonderful way to stay involved at Catholic High School. [Join today!](#)

If you would like to learn more about the CHS Mothers' Club and "life" as a Catholic High School student, the Mothers' Club will be hosting a brunch – Moms & Mimosas, for all mothers or guardians of students enrolled at Catholic High. You do not have to be a member of the CHS Mothers' Club to attend. The event will take place on Sunday, Sept. 15 from 11:00am – 1:00pm at the Brother Donnan Berry, S.C. Student Center. While enjoying brunch, you can mingle with school personnel and "seasoned" moms to learn more about navigating the years ahead. The cost of the event is \$24 and you may purchase tickets at this [link](#).

If you have any questions or would like to receive more information, please reach out to the CHS Mothers' Club President Blythe Lamonica at blythelamonica@me.com. Thank you and Geaux Bears!

MEN'S CLUB: Thank you to all who helped make the 89th Annual Stag Barbecue such a success! Over 800 steak dinners were served, and a wonderful crowd enjoyed a fantastic meal and the camaraderie of many CHS friends and alumni.



The 39th Annual Men's Club \$13K Raffle drawing will take place on Thursday, September 26th at 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$100 and only 500 tickets will be sold. There are multiple prizes available, with a grand prize of \$10,000! Purchase tickets using the QR code on the Men's Club Newsletter, the button on the Men's Club page of the CHS website, or [HERE](#).

Thank you for your support of this and all of our events, without which we would not be able to give back to the school in so many ways!

CELL PHONES: 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 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 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 administrative assistant for attendance 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 [2024-2025 Student Handbook](#) 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 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 because they 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 there is limited adult supervision on campus between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. After 4 p.m., we ask all students to wait inside the main building or the mall 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 Monday, September 30, 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 2023-2024 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 should have received an email of invitation on Aug. 29 from Events Coordinator Tracy Ducote. If you did 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 is 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 12, and Saturday, October 19. 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.

WHERE A BEAR FINDS HIS HOME

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

Day Tours September – November 2024:

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 23, 2024 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 2025-2026 school year. Please 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.

Catholic High School Big Read 2024-2025

This year's Big Read is *He Ledeth Me: An Extraordinary Testament of Faith* by Walter J. Ciszek, S.J. The reading schedule and primary assessment information will be communicated to students in their social studies course. Reading assignments for students who only have a first semester social studies class will begin the last week of September and continue until early December. All other students will read the book beginning in January.

This book recounts Ciszek's experience during the early years of WWII as a priest ministering in Poland and Russia who was later accused of being a "Vatican Spy," arrested by the Soviet Union, and sentenced to over twenty years of prison time and hard labor in the gulags of Siberia. More importantly, though, the book includes Ciszek's wisdom concerning how prayer and reliance on God's love enabled him to endure pain and suffering with perseverance.

As a reminder, the mission of the CHS Big Read Program is:

- to integrate a common work of literature into curriculum, enhancing community and creating meaning for academic activities.
- to encourage an appreciation of reading by providing selections that not only have literary merit but are engaging and relatable as well.
- to foster the critical thinking skills our students need to be successful.
- to teach students to engage in constructive dialogue that is respectful, honest, and mature.

We encourage parents to engage their sons in conversation about the readings over the next few months. We look forward to the meaningful discussions and activities that will take place this year as our students and faculty make the most of this work of literature.

ACT PREPARATION CLASS

Where: Catholic High School Library
When: Saturday, October 12 from 9:00AM to 1:30 PM
or Saturday, October 19 from 9:00 AM to 1:30PM
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, October 9

REGISTRATION FORM - ACT PREPARATION CLASS

Student Name (please print) _____

Student Email (please print) _____

Choose one: Saturday, Oct 12
 Saturday, Oct 19

Parent Email address (please print) _____

Parent Name (please print) _____

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