



NEWSLETTER

From the Office of the Principal

CATHOLICHIGH.ORG



JANUARY 2026

SPECIAL SCHEDULES in JANUARY:

Thursday, January 1: Closed for New Year Holiday.

Monday, January 5: Sophomore and parent interviews with mentors, Faculty Professional Development, No School for Students.

Tuesday, January 6: Students Return.

Tuesday, January 13: Liturgy Schedule – Regular Dismissal.

Thursday, January 15: Student Mentoring Schedule. Regular Dismissal.

Monday, January 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

To view the full calendar, please click here:

[**CHS Calendar**](#)

BIMAS-MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING:

Beginning in mid-February, the Counseling Center will conduct a mental health screening of all students. Please see the letter at the end of this newsletter for details about the program.

REGISTRATION FOR 2026-2027:

Registration of returning students for the 2026-2027 school year will be sent by email to all families on Monday, January 12. Please complete the form by Monday, February 2. Also, please keep in mind that for returning students, there is no registration fee due at the time of re-registration for next school year. If you have any questions, e-mail our School

Registrar, Stephanie Potter at spotter@catholichigh.org.

VOTE FOR CHS! Catholic High School has been nominated in the education category in The Advocate’s Best of Baton Rouge contest. Voting opens on Jan. 5. Take a moment and go vote for us by clicking on the image below. Go Bears!



8th GRADE PROMOTION FEE: Parents of current 8th grade students will be charged an 8th grade promotion fee of \$50. This fee will be added to the scheduled February tuition payment through FACTS for current 8th grade students.

The 8th grade promotion ceremony will be held on Friday, May 22nd at 2:00 p.m. in the Catholic High School Gym. The ceremony will include mass and the distribution of promotion certificates. There will be a reception following in the Brother Donnan Berry, S.C. Student Center. Please mark this date on your calendar. Events Coordinator, Tracy Ducote, will send additional information via email.

SEMESTER REPORT CARDS: Final semester report cards will be in the E-Locker section of Plus Portals by Friday, January 2, 2026.

SECOND SEMESTER EXAM SCHEDULES:

Below are the final exam schedules for seniors and underclassmen. Please note that seniors take final exams by subject, not by class period. Parents are encouraged to consult this schedule when planning end-of-year activities. Requests to reschedule exams should be rare and are considered on a case-by-case basis. Not all rescheduling requests are excused and may result in disciplinary consequences, including serving detentions over the summer.

Senior Exam Schedule:

Friday, 5/1	English & Math
Monday, 5/4	History & Science
Tuesday, 5/5	Religion & Elective
Wednesday, 5/6	Conflicts

Underclassmen Exam Schedule:

Tuesday, 5/19	3 rd & 4 th periods
Wednesday, 5/20	2 nd & 8 th periods
Thursday, 5/21	6 th & 7 th periods
Friday, 5/22	1 st & 5 th periods

STANDARDIZED TEST PREPARATION CLASSES DURING THE SECOND

SEMESTER: On January 28, February 5, 11, 26, and March 4 students in grades 8-11 will receive instruction during the school day relevant to standardized tests in order to prepare them for testing in March. Seniors will attend presentations on the topics of sexual consent, mental health resources on college campuses, avoiding peer pressure and good decision making as it relates to situations in the college setting. The remaining two sessions for seniors are associated with the end of senior year and graduation.

PSAT AND ACT PREP CLASSES:

PSAT PREPARATION CLASSES: Dates are available for the PSAT/NMSQT Preparation Course for members of the Class of 2027. This program provides extra practice and instruction for the standardized test that students take in the fall of the junior year. The cost of the PSAT/NMSQT course is \$215. A flyer is included in this newsletter with more details about this course, including dates, times, and make-up sessions. Any current sophomore (including SJA students or students from other schools) may take this course. Registration is available online at mychs.catholichigh.org. Please email Mrs.

Kessler at ckessler@catholichigh.org if you have questions about this course.

ACT PREP CLASSES: ACT Preparation Classes will be offered in the spring of 2026 to all students. All grade levels are welcome but the course is best for those who will be taking the ACT in the spring of 2026. National ACT dates for spring are Feb 14 and April 11. Juniors will also have a school ACT date on March 17. Registration is online at myCHS.catholichigh.org. A flyer is included in this newsletter with more details. Please email Mrs. Kessler at ckessler@catholichigh.org if you have questions about this course.

PARENT SURVEY: Thanks to all of you who have taken our parent survey. If you haven't already done so, please click [Parent Survey 2025](#) and take a few minutes to provide us with feedback about how we are doing. The survey will stay open through the end of January. I will share the results later in the second semester.

COUNSELING CORNER: January is a natural time for students to pause, reflect, and begin fresh. As we start the new semester, we encourage students to use this "reset" as an opportunity to set realistic goals, strengthen positive habits, and refocus on both academic and personal growth. Small, intentional changes—such as improved organization, consistent study routines, or seeking support when needed—can make a meaningful difference. Advise your student to set aside a little study/review time every day, even twenty minutes beats cramming. With encouragement from both home and school, this reset can help students build confidence and momentum for a successful year ahead.

In the coming weeks, the College Counseling team will host virtual *College Coffee Chats* for parents of students in grades 8–11. These sessions will provide grade-level-appropriate guidance on preparing for the college application process. Please watch your email for an invitation with details on how to participate.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE

AWARENESS: The [Rain Will Bring Flowers Foundation](#) is a local organization devoted to raising awareness about mental health and

suicide. Started by Jordan and Lisa Tabor, who lost their son Owen to suicide in 2023, the organization sponsors an annual “Planting Seeds of Hope” event in the Pete Maravich Assembly Center at LSU. The event is open to the public and features speakers and panels who address issues surrounding mental health and suicide. This year’s event is on February 24, at 6 p.m. in the PMAC, and is expected to last about 90 minutes.

This year’s panel includes Clyde Edwards-Helaire, a CHS alumnus from the class of 2017. Clyde is among the few football players to win a state championship (CHS), a national championship (LSU), and a Super Bowl (KC Chiefs). He has been open about facing his own mental health challenges and I know his witness will benefit our students.

To encourage attendance at the event, students who attend will receive service hours, and will receive a gift card for a Raising Cane’s box. Finally, we are making February 25 a no-assessment day. Students won’t have homework due on the 25, and they won’t have quizzes or tests, so they are free to attend on the evening of the 24th.

I have asked club moderators and coaches to encourage their members to attend, and I hope you will encourage your son to do so. Please consider attending with him.

MOTHER’S CLUB: It’s not too late to join the CHS Mothers’ Club—we would love to have you! Membership provides opportunities to support our school community while connecting with other CHS families. Please visit [Mothers' Club Registration](#) to join the Mothers’ Club and stay involved throughout the year.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the Mothers’ Club elves who dedicated their time to decorating and undecorating campus for Christmas, to the Mothers’ Club Executive Committee and the many vendors who helped make the Christmas Market a success, and to Kori Thomas Fontenot for her effort in hosting the Exam Survival Days. Your generosity and support are truly appreciated.

Mother-Son Breakfast Information: Please mark your calendars for the annual Mother/Son Breakfast, to be held on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at the Crowne Plaza from 10:00 to 12:00 (doors open at 8:30 am). To be eligible for priority presale tickets, you must be a current CHS Mothers’ Club member. Individual tickets are \$40 per person (\$80 for one mother and one son), and tables of 10 are available for \$400. All tables are set for 10 guests and cannot be adjusted. Priority presale tickets for Mothers’ Club members will open on Monday, January 5, with instructions sent via email. Ticket sales will open to all CHS mothers on Thursday, January 8, through the CHS website. This is a popular event with limited seating, so start verbally making your arrangements. This event typically sells out.

Car Raffle: There is an exciting update to this year’s car raffle - the purchasing process is so much easier! Please purchase tickets for a chance to win, and please share the link with family and friends, as well as social media. [Mothers' Club Car Raffle](#) The live drawing for the winner will take place on Monday, April 13, 2026.

Mark Your calendar for the [Gumbo Jam and Mothers’ Club Auction](#) on Saturday, February 28, 2026. More details will be shared soon.

CHS MEN’S CLUB: The CHS Men’s Club is excited to invite you to participate in our Inaugural Father–Son Cornhole Tournament on Saturday, February 28, 2026! This special event is designed to celebrate the bond between fathers (or father-figures) and sons while strengthening our school community. The tournament is limited to 60 teams, so sign up today! For more information and to register, visit the [Men's Club Website here](#).

We will also host a Hamburger Supper on Wednesday, January 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the Brother Donnan Berry SC Student Center. Students from the following clubs and teams will be recognized: Basketball, Bear Metal Robotics, Bear Bots, Bowling, Esports, French Club, JCL, Mock Trial, Spanish Club, Science Club and Track.

JANUARY 5, 2026: In conjunction with our Student Mentoring program, the morning of January 5 between 7:15 -9:15 will be used to conduct sophomore/parent interviews. Parents with sophomores will be contacted by their son's faculty mentor to arrange a time for the interview. If it will fit in with your schedule, I encourage you to participate in the interview on January 5. We anticipate that the interview will last between 30-45 minutes. At least one parent, and the sophomore, should attend. Attached to the newsletter email is a document with the names of our mentors and the locations for your meeting. Please come to the main office and check in before going to the interview or teacher conference. The remainder of the day is set aside for faculty professional development.

If that date does not work with your schedule, your son's faculty mentor will be contacting you to find a time to meet during the second semester.

Catholic High School is in its fifth year of the Student Mentoring Program, and I hope you all know that your son meets monthly with his mentoring group and his faculty mentor. The goal of the interview is to receive informed feedback from sophomores and their parents' half-way through their CHS experience. The meeting will take the form of an interview that focuses on the four components of a Catholic High School education that serve as the foundation of our mission and ministry with our students and parents: religious values, personal attention, friendly discipline, and academic excellence.

Thank you in advance for participating in this sophomore interview. It is our hope that the

interview will improve our level of effectiveness with our students and parents during your time at CHS, especially as our sophomores begin to look to the last half of their high school career.

If any parent does want to meet individually with one of your son's teachers concerning his first semester grade, you can also request to schedule a time between 7:15 and 9:15 on the morning of January 6 to set up a conference. Please contact your son's teacher(s) to schedule the conference.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK: January 25 – January 31 is designated nationwide as “Catholic Schools Week.” The theme this year is “United in Faith and Community.” In honor of Catholic Schools Week, many activities take place both nationally and locally. On January 26, the Diocese of Baton Rouge will host a dinner honoring its distinguished graduates from all Catholic schools in the Diocese. Catholic High will recognize Mr. Derek Fife '96 as our distinguished graduate on this occasion. We are proud to celebrate Derek's contributions to Catholic High and the local community. Please take some time this month to remember in your prayers Catholic High and all Catholic schools across the country who work so hard to educate the young people entrusted to our care.

HAPPY NEW YEAR: I pray your Christmas was a happy and holy one, and I wish everyone a Happy New Year! May it bring health, happiness, and peace to you and yours. Thank you for your continued support and for choosing Catholic High School for your son's secondary education. Happy 2026!



CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

A Brothers of the Sacred Heart School Since 1894

January 5, 2026

Dear Parents,

During the second semester, the Counseling Center will once again oversee all students taking an electronic risk assessment survey called the BIMAS-2. This year will be the fifth year we have administered the assessment which identifies strengths and concerning behavior, social and academic functioning, emotional affect, and cognitive/attention abilities. The goal of giving this survey is to better know our students and then identify their behavioral health needs so that our counselors can more thoroughly address a student's individual concerns. The BIMAS-2 was created by a team of psychologists, is research based, and serves over 500,000 students across the country. To encourage the most honest answers from our students, the results of this assessment will be confidential, with only our school counselors having access to the results. The administration, including the principal, will not be notified of the results, except in the case of an emergency. Likewise, parents will be notified only if their son's results indicate a high risk of concerning behavior. This assessment takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and will be administered by first period teachers according to the following schedule:

February 9	8 th & 12 th grades
March 2	11 th grade
March 9	10 th grade
March 30	9 th grade

In their document, *Partners in Mission*, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart state that the school environment "is best described by the term 'sanctuary,' a place where students sense the compassion which motivates those who care for them, where they feel safe to become the best person God created them to be, and where they are known, valued, and treasured." These efforts will help us know our students more fully so that Catholic High can continue to provide an environment that comes closer to becoming the sanctuary that we strive to be every day. Thank you for entrusting your son to us and for partnering with us as together we guide the students of Catholic High School through these formative years.

Please feel free to contact your son's counselor if you have questions concerning the BIMAS-2. If for any reason you do not want your son to participate in this survey, please email me directly at teldringhoff@catholichigh.org.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tom W. Eldringhoff
Principal

JANUARY 2026



HEARTH HAPPENINGS

It's Time To Reach For Your GOALS!

Get your 2026 Spring Calendar from your Religion Teacher.

WORKSHOP

GOAL SETTING ORGANIZATION

Wednesday, January 7th
All Day in The Hearth



TUTORING Options

PEER
Math

Board Games & Chess Club Meetings

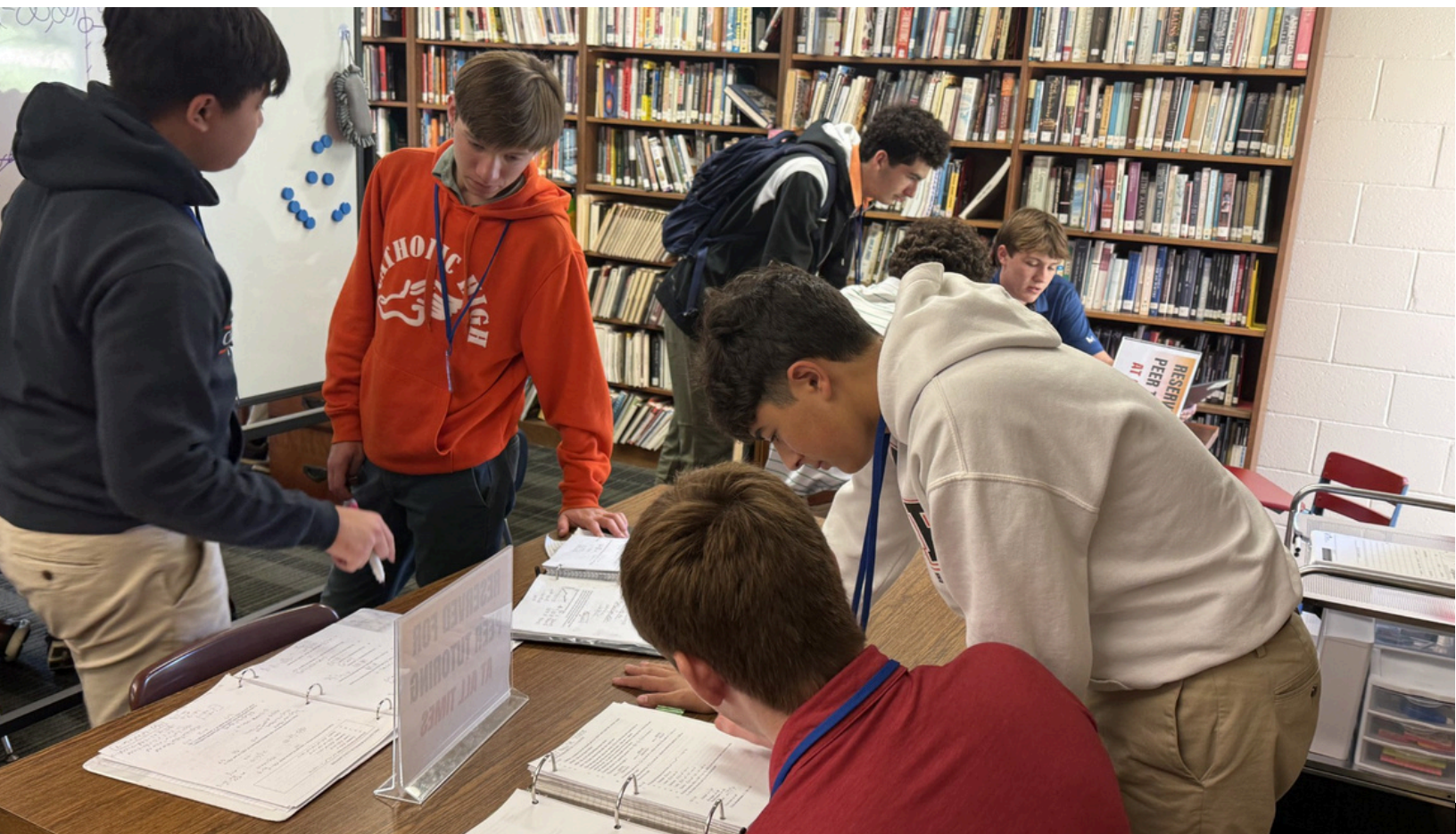
January 9th

January 23rd



Visit The Hearth - <https://www.catholichigh.org/student-success-center>

Goal Setting WorkShop



Get your 2026 Spring Calendar from your Religion Teacher.

WORKSHOP

GOAL SETTING ORGANIZATION

Wednesday, January 7th
All Day in The Hearth



Visit The Hearth - <https://www.catholichigh.org/student-success-center>

Board Games & Chess Clubs Meetings

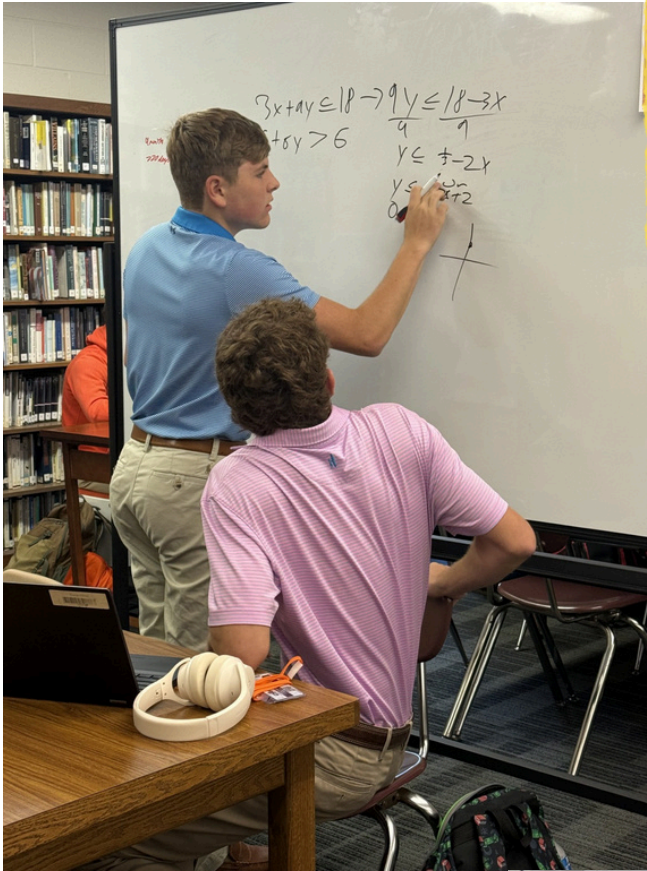


Come Join Us for
fun
&
fellowship

January 9th
January 23rd

Need Help?

**BEFORE SCHOOL
AFTER SCHOOL
ALL LUNCH PERIODS**



TUTORING OPTIONS

**PEER
Math**

