



SPECIAL SCHEDULES in DECEMBER:

Thursday, December 4: Student Mentoring Schedule. Regular Dismissal

Monday, December 8: Liturgy Schedule – Holy Day of Obligation. Regular Dismissal.

Tuesday, December 16 thru Friday, December 19: Exam Schedule

Monday, December 22 thru Friday, January 2: Christmas Holidays

Monday, January 5: Faculty and Staff Development. No Classes for Students

To view the full calendar, please click here:

[CHS Calendar](#)

ADVANCEMENT NEWS: (from Advancement Director Ben DiPalma '00): **National Give Day – Sustained Giving, Annual Giving, Designated Giving!** On December 2nd, we invite you to be part of National Give Day. As a parent of a CHS student, any gift you make to the Annual Appeal goes to help support each student this year! Or you may choose to support a specific program in our designated giving appeals or support the CHS Foundation to help create sustainable revenue for Bears in the future. Please be on the lookout for emails from the Advancement Team on the various ways to contribute, and for information on matching gifts and challenges.

Ready to make a difference? Visit [CHS National Give Day](#) to contribute. Together, we can enhance the experience for our students!

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE

AWARENESS: The [Rain Will Bring Flowers Foundation](#) is a local organization devoted 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.

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.

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.

We are considering ways to incentivize attendance. We will communicate those as we get closer to the event.

SEMESTER EXAMS: Monday, December 15 is considered a “dead day” prior to exams. This means that students will not have homework or assignments due on Monday, December 15 or be given any tests or quizzes on the 15th to prepare for exams. Our first semester exam schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, Dec.16: 3rd and 4th periods
Wednesday, Dec.17: 5th and 7th periods
Thursday, Dec.18: 1st and 2nd periods
Friday, Dec.19: 6th and 8th 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 Prayer, Pledge, 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 before school, and snack items will be available between exams in the Brother Donnan Berry, S.C. Student Center.

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 44 of the 2025-2026 [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.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND OFFICE

HOURS: Our Christmas holidays begin after the last exam on Friday, December 19. Students return to class on Tuesday, January 6.

December Office Hours:

Tuesday, Dec. 16 – Friday, Dec. 19 (Exams):
Open 7 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 22 – Friday, Dec. 26: Closed
Monday, Dec. 29 and Tuesday, Dec. 30:
Open 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 31 and Thursday, Jan. 1:
Closed

Friday, Jan. 2: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 5: Closed – Faculty and Staff Development.

We will resume regular office hours, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 6.

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.

SEMESTER REPORT CARDS: First semester report cards will be in the E-Locker section of Plus Portals by Friday, January 2, 2025.

GRADUATION SUPPLIES AND JUNIOR

CLASS RING INFORMATION: To ensure delivery for our spring events, senior graduation supply orders should be placed by December 15th and junior class ring orders by February 1st. See the emails from Ms. Ducote for details.

You can order your class T-shirts and yard signs now!! See attached flyer for details.

2025 OPEN HOUSE: Our 39th Open House was a success! Hundreds of students and their families visited and were able to see all that Catholic High School has to offer. Thanks to those of you who assisted that evening, and to each of you for being ambassadors for CHS!

TUITION [From Lisa Harvey,

President]: Remember that for your son to take his first-semester exams, his tuition must be up to date as of **Friday, December 5**. 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. We will always try to work with families who are in financial difficulty, but it is imperative that communication take place before exams begin

so that your student is not negatively impacted.

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 immediately contact me, or Mr. Stuart Sonnier, Finance Director, to make special arrangements.

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 however 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: Each school year in December, I send a survey to all parents to request feedback concerning the CHS experience of both students and parents. CHS takes seriously our partnership with parents, and we are always committed to improving the educational experience of our students. With that in mind, we request your feedback, and I ask that you complete the survey at this link: [Parent Survey 2025](#). I will also email the survey link to all parents. Thank you in

advance for your participation. The survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes. I will send out the results of the survey in the second semester.

COUNSELING CORNER: The CHS Counseling Center recently led a series of activities in recognition of World Kindness Day. Our school community joined together to celebrate and promote acts of kindness across campus. We are pleased to announce the 2025 recipients of the CHS Kindness Award—an honor voted on by both students and faculty: Elvin Sterling, Jonathan Thompson, Jay Carter, Sadek Alhorr, Caleb Kirk, William Hardie, Brodie Riddle, and Jude Duval.

Cards with Counselors will resume on Wednesday, January 14. This weekly program takes place every Wednesday during all lunch periods and offers students the opportunity to join members of the counseling team for informal card games, board games, and relaxed conversation.

This year, at the encouragement of several student ministers and with support from the CHS Counseling Center, Catholic High has launched a new Mental Health Awareness Group. More than ninety students and faculty members joined this inaugural ministry. After several months of preparation, the group will host a campus-wide Mental Health Awareness Day on December 3. The event will include a special morning prayer and a variety of lunchtime activities designed to highlight available resources and emphasize the importance of caring for our mental well-being. Students will be encouraged to speak openly about challenges they may be facing so they are more likely to seek support when needed. The Mental Health Awareness Group will continue its efforts in the spring semester as it works to promote positive cultural change on our campus and beyond.

THE HEARTH: Our library has been reorganized and renamed The Hearth Student Success Center (The Hearth, for short). The space still functions as a library but it is also devoted to fostering holistic student success. You can see the resources available at this link: [The Hearth Student Success Center](#). Encourage your son to make use of these resources, especially those centered around

exam preparation. The staff in The Hearth is encouraging students to organize their own study sessions, and is extending the hours the Hearth is open to help students prepare for exams.

Extended Hearth Hours:

- Saturday, Dec. 13: 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 14: 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 15: 6:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- December 16-19: 6:30 a.m.-Noon

More details about “Hearth Happenings” can be found in the flyer included with this newsletter.

SOPHOMORE INTERVIEWS ON JANUARY 5:

In conjunction with our Student Mentoring program, faculty mentors are expected to conduct interviews with their sophomore mentees and their parents in the spring of their sophomore year. The morning of January 5 between 7:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. is an ideal time for those interviews. Parents with sophomores may be contacted by your son’s faculty mentor to arrange a time for the interview. If it fits 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. The remainder of the day is set aside for faculty professional development. Note: only sophomores and parents who have pre-arranged with the student’s mentor should come to campus on January 5 for an interview.

If January 5 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 all of you 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:

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.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES ON

JANUARY 5: The 7:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. time on Jan. 5 is also available for parents who would like to schedule a conference with a teacher to discuss your son’s first semester. Given our time commitment to sophomore interviews, time for general parent-teacher conferences will be limited, but if you believe you need to meet with a teacher please contact him or her to request a meeting time on that date. You are of course welcome to request a parent-teacher conference at any time when you believe circumstances indicate it is necessary.

MOTHER’S CLUB: It’s not too late to join the CHS Mother’s Club—we would love to have you! [2025-2026 Mothers' Club Registration](#)

We extend our sincere thanks to Annette Droddy and Amy Schulze for their hard work and superb organizational skills in chairing the Mothers’ Club activities for Open House. Also, we’d like to recognize Aimee Dawes and Melanie Ford for giving their time and decorating skills to decorate the campus so beautifully for Christmas.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for several exciting events:

- **Mothers’ Club Christmas Market** - Monday, December 8. Guests can enjoy food, beverages, and fellowship while shopping local vendors, artists, and boutiques. [Mothers' Club Christmas Market](#)
- **Car Raffle** – It is now quick and easy to purchase tickets! Please forward the link to your family and friends. The live drawing will take place on Monday, April 13, 2026. [CHS Car Raffle](#)
- **Mother/Son Breakfast** - Sunday, February 1. Ticket information and details

will be coming soon. Current Mothers' Club members will receive early access to tickets.

- **Gumbo Jam & Mothers' Club Auction** - Saturday, February 28.

CHS MEN'S CLUB: Christmas Greetings from the Catholic High Men's Club!

As we prepare to celebrate the joy and hope of the Christmas season, the Catholic High School Men's Club extends warm holiday wishes to all CHS families. May this season bring peace to your homes, gratitude to your hearts, and continued blessings to the entire Bear Nation community.

The Men's Club is grateful for the many fathers, father figures, alumni, and supporters who give their time and energy in service to our school. From community-building events to volunteer support throughout the year, we are honored to play a small role in strengthening the connection among CHS families and supporting the mission of Catholic High.

January 21 – Men's Club Hamburger Supper

Please mark your calendars for the first Men's Club event of the new year, our Hamburger Supper on Wednesday, January 21, 2026. This Hamburger supper will recognize several outstanding student organizations:

Basketball, Bear Metal, Bear Bots, Bowling, Esports, French Club, Junior Classical League, Mock Trial, Spanish Club, Science Club, and Track & Field.

We look forward to honoring these students and celebrating their accomplishments alongside our CHS families. More details will be shared as we get closer to the event.

From our Men's Club family to yours, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

BRUIN SHOP HOLIDAY HOURS: The Bruin Shop will have a few special hours during the month of December to help accommodate your shopping needs! **Come get your CHS gear in time for Christmas!**

Saturday, Dec. 6: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 8: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. in the Student Center

Tuesday, Dec. 16 - Friday, Dec. 19 (Exams)

Open 7 a.m. -12 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 22 - Thursday Jan. 1: Closed for Holidays

Online Pickup Only

Friday, Jan. 2: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! On behalf of everyone at Catholic High School, I wish you a blessed Advent, Merry Christmas, and Happy New year! Please know how much we thank you for the gift of your son and appreciate the trust you place in us by sharing him with us during these crucial high school years. May you all know the peace and love of Christ during this sacred season.

Ametur Cor Jesu!



CLASS T-SHIRTS AND YARD SIGNS \$15 EACH

[Order Here](#)

enter CHS ID carefully as it indicates the
class year

First Distribution December 15-19 for
orders placed by November 21st and then
as supplies permit.



PSAT WORKSHOP 2026

As part of our continuing effort to prepare students to succeed on standardized tests, Catholic High will offer a special preparation program for the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). It is through this test that students compete for the honor of being recognized as National Merit Semifinalist or a National Merit Commended Student. This test is also the vehicle through which qualified students earn the opportunity to compete for National Merit Scholarships.

Mrs. Christy Kessler will be the workshop presenter. The workshop will include six sessions:

PSAT Workshop 2026			
Workshop # 1	Saturday, March 21 9 am to noon	or	Sunday, March 29 1 pm to 4 pm
Workshop # 2	Saturday, April 25 9 am to noon	or	Sunday, April 26 1 pm to 4 pm
Workshop # 3	Saturday, May 9 9 am to noon	or	Sunday, May 10 1 pm to 4 pm
MAKEUP SESSIONS	Workshop #1 Makeup Wednesday, June 17 1 pm to 4 pm	Workshop #2 Makeup Saturday, June 20 9 am to noon	Workshop #3 Makeup Sunday, June 21 1 pm to 4 pm
Workshop # 4	Saturday, August 22 9 am to noon	or	Sunday, August 23 1 pm to 4 pm
Workshop # 5	Saturday, September 19 9 am to noon	or	Sunday, September 20 1 pm to 4 pm
Workshop # 6 MOCK EXAM	Saturday, October 3 9 am to noon	or	Sunday, October 4 1 pm to 4 pm

All sessions will be held in Room 171 at CHS. The \$215 course fee includes all course materials.

Any current sophomore may take this course. Registration is available online at mychs.catholichigh.org or you may bring the form below to the Main Office with the course fee of \$215 by Friday, March 13.

For more information, please email Mrs. Kessler at ckessler@catholichigh.org.

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PSAT WORKSHOP 2026

Registration is available online at mychs.catholichigh.org for CHS families. For non CHS students, please detach and return this portion to the Main Office with a check for \$215 made payable to "Catholic High School".

Please register: _____ (student name)

Student Email: _____ (please print)

Parent Name: _____ (please print)

Parent Email Address: _____ (please print)

ACT PREPARATION CLASS

Spring 2026

Where: Catholic High School Science Building Room 171
When: Sunday, March 8 from 1 PM – 5 PM
or Saturday, March 28 from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM
Cost: \$95 (covers book and all materials)

Registration is online at mychs.cathlichigh.org

The Spring school day test is March 17. Spring ACT National test dates is April 11. The ACT has changed. The scoring, timing, and format of the test is new beginning in September 2025. This course will introduce these changes and plan strategies to maximize each student's score.

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 and examples of frequent questions from the ACT.
- Scoring information for the ACT.
- Supplementary materials to guide study and final preparation for the ACT.

Presenter: Mrs. Christy Kessler (ckessler@cathlichigh.org)

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**Registration is online at [mychs.cathlichigh.org](https://mychs.cathlichigh.org) or  
detach this form and return to the Main Office by Wednesday, before the  
class date**

### **Paper REGISTRATION FORM - ACT PREPARATION CLASS**

Student Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Choose one: ☐ March 8  
☐ March 28

Parent Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

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



# HEARTH HAPPENINGS

DECEMBER 2025



## DEAR SANTA

*You can complete a Dear Santa Letter that focuses on what you are proud of this year along with your Christmas wishes. We will draw one Dear Santa Letter and the winner will receive a Grinch Basket.*

## SUPPORT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

*We're collecting items for members of our community. You will receive one raffle ticket for a Grinch Basket for each item you donate.*

*See this [flyer](#) for the item list.*

## EXAM PREP. WORKSHOP Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

*Peer tutors will hold a workshop to guide students through exam preparation on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> after school. They'll include study tips and best practices in a hands on session that will have you poised for exam success.*

## EXTENDED HOURS FOR EXAMS

*The Hearth is open every school day from 6:30 am – 4:00 p.m.*

*Additionally, we will have special hours to offer students exam support:*

- Saturday, December 13: 2:00 – 6:00 pm
- Sunday, December 14: 2:00 – 6:00 pm
- Monday, December 15: 6:30 am–5:00 pm

*Note: Our exam day hours December 16-19: will be 6:30 am - Noon.*

## MOVIE NIGHT

*We will be hosting a showing of How the Grinch Stole Christmas with holiday snacks and activities.*

*[VOTE HERE](#) to help us pick a day, time, and movie.*

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*We wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and restful break. Thank you for all you've done to make the Hearth a happening place!*