


**SPECIAL SCHEDULES in SEPTEMBER:**

**Monday, September 7:** Labor Day holiday. No school for students.

**Tuesday, September 8**: Faculty & Staff Professional Development. No school for students.

**Wednesday, September 9:** Test Prep Schedule. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 16**: Student Mentoring Schedule. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

**Thursday, September 17:** Test Prep Schedule. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 23:** Test Prep Schedule. Dismissal at 2:47 p.m

**Tuesday, September 29:** Academic Convocation

**Wednesday, September 30:** Liturgy Schedule, Dismissal at 2:47 p.m.

CHS Calendar

**BRUIN SHOP:** The Bruin Shop is now open for in-person shopping! We are open 7:30am-3:00pm, M-F. Come in and look around at all the new CHS gear we have to offer! If you prefer, you can still shop online and pick up in the store. We can't wait to see you! Go Bears!!

**COUNSELORS CORNER (from the Counseling Center):** The Counseling Center has a number of initiatives designed to foster student well-being and provide support to our parents throughout the coming school year:

- Friday Shuffle: We invite all students to join us for games every Friday at all lunch periods outside the Brother's Residence.
- Small groups: We offer small groups that vary in topics like social skills, managing anxiety and stress, and developing executive functioning skills.
- What's Bruin: Presentations to inform parents of current mental health needs. In person and Zoom options to attend; registration is sent through email!
- Support Services: If you find your student is struggling academically, socially or emotionally, please reach out to your grade level counselor – we have an abundance of resources!
- College representatives are beginning to visit CHS! 11th & 12th grade students should regularly check their e-mail for details!
- September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. All student IDs feature Suicide & Crisis Lifeline number 988. 8th-10th grade students will participate in a Suicide Prevention & Mental Wellness lesson through our Test Prep program this school year. This activity provides pertinent tips on looking out for warning signs in themselves and their loved ones.
- Follow us on Instagram to stay in the know! @chsbr_counselingcenter & @chsbrcollegecounseling

**CHANGE IN MARIJUANA LAWS:** On August 1, 2026, Louisiana law concerning

marijuana/THC use and/or possession at school or at a school-related athletic events changed. Governor Landry recently sent letters to Cade Brumley, Louisiana Department of Education Superintendent, and Eddie Bonine, Executive Director of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, addressing this change, and asking that schools disseminate the change to their communities.

ACT 305 changes the penalty for the offenses in and around a school or school-related athletic event. Previously, the penalty was a fine, but now it can include a fine as well as imprisonment for up to a year. The imprisonment could include hard labor. A flyer with the details is included at the end of this newsletter. Schools have been asked to place the flyer in places where students gather, and we will do so.

Marijuana/THC use or possession is a serious infraction of CHS policy, especially on campus or at a school-event. In most instances, such a violation of school policy has resulted in the student no longer attending Catholic High School. While we are not required to report offenses to law enforcement, it is important to note the potential for much more serious legal consequences for either infraction. Please have a candid conversation with your son about the health and legal risks of involvement with illicit drug use.

**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 senior 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 15-18. December 14 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 Friday, December 11, if they are exempt from the exam.

**FEES AND ACCOUNTS (From Lisa Harvey):** Depending on a student's schedule, necessary fees are charged that are particular to individual courses.

Advanced Placement Testing Fee: The fee for Advanced Placement courses is $95.00. This fee is billed with your October FACTS payment, with the exception of freshmen taking the AP U.S. Government and Politics test. Freshmen parents will be billed in February for this test.

Sports Officiating Course: Course fee is $150 and will be billed to the parent's FACTS account in November. For more details about the course, see page 62 of the 2026-2027 Student Handbook.

Dual Enrollment English: The fee for this course is $300 per semester. Fall semester tuition will be billed through FACTS on October 15, and spring semester tuition will be billed on March 15.

Construction Management: Course fee is $300 and will be billed through FACTS in the spring semester.

**OTHER FEES**: With the change to prepaid Orientation Fees in August and i2 Accounts, some charges will now go through FACTS.

Haircuts During Student Orientation: Any student who was given a haircut from the school-provided stylist will be charged $20 on your FACTS account in October.

Replacement IDs: We are experiencing that because student i2 Accounts cannot go below a 0 balance, some students who must buy a replacement ID do not have enough funds on their i2 account to pay the $8.50 for the ID. Mr. Brian Barry issues replacement ID's and for students without sufficient funds to purchase the ID, Mr. Barry is keeping a student list and those charges will be added to the parents FACTS account at the end of each

quarter. If a student's i2 Account has sufficient funds, the ID replacement will be charged to their i2 Account at the time of purchase.

**i2 ACCOUNTS**: In mid-August, all parents were emailed important changes concerning i2 Accounts and how to best manage your son's funds so that he can make purchases at school, especially in the cafeteria. There still seems to be some confusion, especially as it relates to using an ACH bank account to deposit funds. Please read the information below carefully so that you fully understand how funds are deposited into your son's account.

- Deposits made into i2 with a credit/debit card are immediately available. There is a processing fee.
- Deposits made through ACH with your bank account are immediately available, up to $500, with no processing fee. **However, please know that you cannot make another deposit until the first deposit has cleared your bank, which can take between 2-6 days.** Therefore, when using your bank account to deposit funds into your son's i2 Account, make sure that you are depositing enough money to last him through that 2-6 day period. For most students, depositing less than $50 at a time will not be sufficient for your son through that 2-6 day period.
- Auto reload is available on your son's account and is a great way to ensure that he will always have enough funds to make purchases. The same guidelines stated above are in place with auto reload. When using your ACH bank account to auto reload funds, make sure you are re-loading enough money to last him through that 2-6 day period. Based on average purchases in the cafeteria and the time it takes for your bank to clear your deposit, reloading less than $50 is not sufficient to last the average student for the week.
- If your son forgets to bring his ID card to school, he must purchase a new card. The cost for the card with the electronic chip, card holder, and lanyard, is $8.50. This charge goes on his i2 Account. Already this school year, several students forgot their ID and had to purchase a new ID card, then did not have enough money left to purchase food in the cafeteria. Please make sure your son is aware of the cost of the ID card and how it will affect his i2 balance.
- If your son has access to a credit card, he can also load funds on his i2 Account by logging into i2 on his laptop during the day or by going to the Bruin Shop to make a deposit with a credit card. Cash and checks are not accepted in the Bruin Shop.

**CHS MOTHERS' CLUB UPDATE:**
The 2026-2027 school year is underway, and the CHS Mothers' Club activities have already begun! Please see the attached flyer for more information. We are looking forward to another great year at Catholic High!

**MEN'S CLUB:** All current and prospective Men's Club members are invited (at no cost) to join us for our Fall Social on Wednesday September 2nd, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center. Come hear Coaches Fuller & Bass share insight into their current team and how they build their programs. A fun night will be had by all.




The Men's Club annual $13,000 Raffle will be held October 9th. Tickets are $100 and only 500 will be sold. Multiple cash prizes will be won including one lucky winner who will take home $10,000. Buy your tickets today: Men's Club Raffle. Your support of the Men's Club is greatly appreciated and allows us to support the mission and the students of Catholic High in countless ways.

**THE HEARTH – STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER: (Sherie Leblanc, Director)**
Please see the attached flyer for updates on The Hearth Student Success Center.

**MORNING CARPOOL DROP OFF:** Please utilize the carpool lines in the Claycut lot or Claycut horseshoe, but do not park in either lot to drop off your son. We have limited parking for students and faculty, and parking in either spot, even for a brief period, could make it more difficult for teachers or students to find a spot.

**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 complete the Attendance Form, 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 Student Handbook 26-27 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.

Students may not walk in the neighborhood to meet a ride unless they are going to SJA for pickup. We demand all rides use the carpool lines because they are the safest point of drop-off and pick-up for your son. In addition, once a student leaves the CHS campus, Catholic High School is no longer responsible for a student's safety.

**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 The Hearth 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 limited on campus after 4 p.m. After 4 p.m., we ask all students to wait behind a locked door or gate until their ride arrives and not outside. For those students participating in extracurricular activities, a coach or moderator should always supervise students during pick-up.

**PARENTS OF JUNIORS: IMMUNIZATION REMINDER:** The State Department of Health and Hospitals states that all students 16 years of age and in the 11th grade are required by state law to show proof of having received a second dose of the MCV4 (Meningococcal) vaccine or provide documentation from a physician stating that your son is exempt. You will receive an email from my assistant, Mrs. Tammy Feduccia, if we don't have proof of vaccination or documentation of his exemption. Email proof of vaccination or exemption documentation to tfeduccia@catholichigh.org. Please note that a photographed or printed copy from MyChart does not fulfill the state requirement.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Should your home address, cell phone, or email address change, please email this information along with your son's name to our registrar, Caitlin Hester, at CaHester@catholichigh.org so we can update our database.

**ACT PREPARATION CLASS:** Our ACT Preparation Classes will be offered on Saturday, September 12 and Saturday, October 10. A flyer 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.

**BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY**
**UPCOMING ADMISSIONS EVENTS:**
**(Collin Ford, Director of Admissions)**
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 these admissions events.

**Admissions Criteria**
Typically, the students offered admission to CHS for the 2027-2028 school year:

- will have a good discipline record;
- will have academic grades of As, Bs, and/or Cs; and
- will have a good attendance record.

**Day Tours: September – November 2026:**
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 28, 2026 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 to ask questions in a small group setting while the students walk through campus with students and faculty. This event is especially beneficial if you are considering applying to attend CHS in the 2027-2028 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.

**ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN ANNUAL NOTICE:** As required by the Asbestos Hazard

Emergency Response Act, see the Public Notification for the 2026-2027 School Year included with this newsletter.

# MARIJUANA ON CAMPUS IS A CRIME

**LOUISIANA LAW CHANGED ON AUGUST 1, 2026**

**UP TO 1 YEAR IN PRISON**
with or without hard labor

**UP TO A $1,000 FINE**
in addition to imprisonment

## WHERE THE LAW APPLIES

**On school property. Within 2,000 feet of school property. On a school bus.**

This covers every public and nonpublic elementary, middle, and high school in Louisiana.

*La. R.S. 40:981.3(A), (C)(1)*

## WHAT CHANGED ON AUGUST 1, 2026

Act 305 of the 2026 Regular Session set a new penalty for marijuana possession in a school zone: imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for up to one year, plus a fine of up to $1,000. Before August 1, possessing 14 grams or less carried a fine of up to $100.

*La. R.S. 40:981.3(E); La. R.S. 40:966(C)(2)(a)(i)*

## VAPING COUNTS

Act 305 also added a new paragraph reaching anyone who violates the drug laws “while smoking, vaping, or otherwise abusing” a controlled dangerous substance in these locations. A THC vape pen counts.

*La. R.S. 40:981.3(A)(4)*

## THIS IS FELONY-LEVEL EXPOSURE

Louisiana defines a felony as any crime for which the offender may be sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor. The new penalty allows a sentence at hard labor.

*La. R.S. 14:2(4)*

## “I DIDN’T KNOW I WAS NEAR A SCHOOL” IS NOT A DEFENSE

The statute states that lack of knowledge that the act occurred on or within 2,000 feet of school property is not a defense.

*La. R.S. 40:981.3(B)*

## SCHOOL DISCIPLINE IS SEPARATE FROM THE CRIMINAL CASE

A student in grades 6 through 12 found guilty of possessing marijuana at school, on a school bus, or at a school event may be recommended for expulsion on a first occurrence. A second or later occurrence requires expulsion for at least two complete school semesters and referral to the district attorney.

*La. R.S. 17:416(C)(2)(a)(i), (ii), (b)*

**GOVERNOR JEFF LANDRY**

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR · STATE OF LOUISIANA**

Act 305 of the 2026 Regular Session · Post this notice where students gather.

We're excited to begin another great year with the **CHS Mothers' Club!** Thank you to all of our moms who volunteer, participate, and help make the school year special for our students, faculty, and families.

## MEMBERSHIP — JOIN NOW!

Haven't joined the CHS Mothers' Club yet? **Now is the perfect time!** 2026-2027 CHS Mothers' Club Registration - Catholic High School

Membership is a wonderful way to stay connected, support Catholic High, meet other CHS moms, and be involved throughout the school year.

**Not sure if you've already joined?** Our current membership list is available on the CHS Mothers' Club page. Mothers' Club - Catholic High School

**Stay Connected:**
📱 Instagram: **@chsmothersclub**
📘 Facebook: **CHS Mothers' Club**

## THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

A special thank-you to the moms who have already helped make the start of the school year a success!

- **Fab Finds:** Sarah Thompson & Kaylin Gifford
- **Back-to-School Faculty & Staff Luncheon:** Rebecca Valluzzo & Lauren Walker
- **Back-to-School Afternoon:** Amy Daughdrill & Heather Landry
- **CHS Information Afternoon:** Sarah Thompson & Brenda Novoa

We appreciate your time, energy, and dedication to the CHS community!

## 🥂 MOMS & MIMOSAS

**Sunday, September 13, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

Join us for a fun and informative morning with fellow CHS moms!

The event will feature:

- A panel of CHS faculty and parents available to answer your questions
- Exciting door prizes
- Possible pop-up shops featuring CHS spirit gear and accessories

**Registration is required, so be sure to reserve your spot!** 2026 Moms & Mimosas - Catholic High School

## 👜 FIG & DOVE FUNDRAISER

Get a head start on your holiday shopping while supporting the CHS Mothers' Club!

**Order deadline: Monday, September 21, 2026**

Don't miss your opportunity to shop the Fig & Dove fundraiser and support CHS! Mother's Club Fundraiser - Catholic High School

## 🗓️ SAVE THE DATES

**More information coming soon!**

🎄 **Wednesday, December 9, 2026**
**CHS Mothers' Club Christmas Market**
*NEW DATE!*

🍳 **Sunday, January 31, 2027**
**Mother-Son Breakfast**

🎟️ **Saturday, February 27, 2027**
**CHS Mothers' Club Auction**

Mark your calendars now—you won't want to miss these special events!

## 🎓 TUITION RAFFLE — NEW THIS YEAR!

The **Tuition Raffle** is replacing the traditional car raffle!

**The prize:** Tuition for the **2027–2028 school year**

This exciting new fundraiser gives one lucky CHS family the opportunity to win a significant tuition benefit while supporting the Mothers' Club and Catholic High School.

**More details coming soon!**

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## *THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE CHS MOTHERS' CLUB!*

Your membership, volunteer hours, participation, and generosity make a tremendous difference in the CHS community. We look forward to a wonderful year together!

**Go Bears!** 💙

# ACT PREPARATION CLASS
# Fall 2026

Where: Catholic High School Science Building, Room 171
When: Saturday, September 12 from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM
or Saturday, October 10 from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM
Cost: $95 (covers book and all materials)

**Registration is online at mychs.catholichigh.org**

The ACT national test date is October 17, 2026. To prepare for this test, CHS is offering an ACT Prep Class. This course will introduce the scoring, timing, and format of the test as well as 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@catholichigh.org)

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SEPTEMBER 2026

THE HEARTH STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

# Brotherhodd & Belonging

A NEW YEAR, A NEW MINDSET, A NEW YOU

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

## MENTAL HEALTH

Encouragement & Accountability

Face Struggles Together

Brotherhood & Purpose

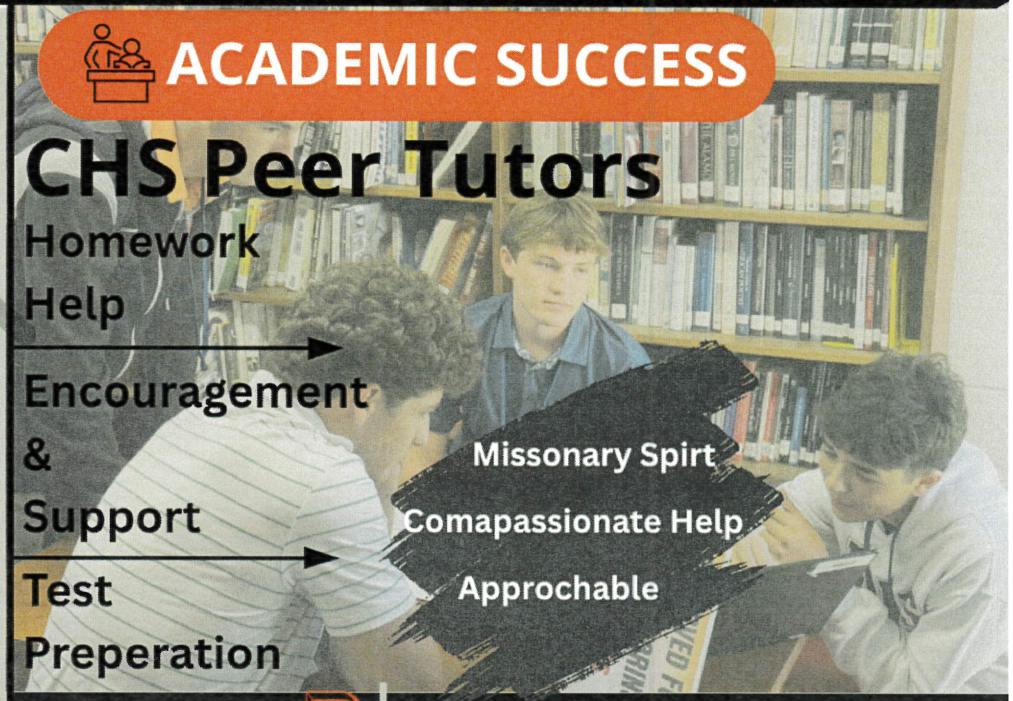
The Power of Connection

Building of Leadership Skills

Increased Resilience

Confidence

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS



### CHS Peer Tutors

Homework Help

Encouragement & Support

Test Preperation

Missonary Spirt

Comapassionate Help

Approchable

## SELF-DISCIPLINE

Accountability Matters

Study Partners | Weekly Check-Ins | Shared Goals

Consistent Effort

| | |
|---|---|
| B | Be Engaged |
| E | Exhibit Respect |
| A | Act Responsibly |
| R | Rise To Your Potential |

AUGUST 2026

# Rise & ReBuild

A NEW YEAR. A NEW MINDSET. A NEW YOU.

THE HEARTH STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

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

## SMART GOALS

**S — SPECIFIC**
Know exactly what you want to achieve.
Ask: Who, What, Where, Why?

**M — MEASURABLE**
Track your progress and measure success.
Ask: How much? How will I know I reached it?

**A — ACHIEVABLE**
Set a goal that is realistic and possible.
Ask: Is it realistic? Do I have what I need to succeed?

**R — RELEVANT**
Make sure your goal matters to you.
Ask: Does this align with my values and future?

**T — TIME-BOUND**
Set a deadline and stay on track.
Ask: When will I achieve this goal?

## MY SMART GOAL

**Specific:** _____

**Measurable:** _____

**Achievable:** _____

**Relevant:** _____

**Time-Bound:** _____

**MY GOAL STATEMENT:**

_____

_____

_____

FROM POTENTIAL TO PURPOSE

## GOAL-SETTING SUCCESS STEPS

**PLAN IT**
Write it down. Make a plan.

**WORK IT**
Take action every day.

**TRACK IT**
Monitor your progress.

**ACHIEVE IT**
Celebrate wins. Keep growing.

## BE THE DIFFERENCE!

Your goals. Your future. Your success.

### HABIT STACKING

Small Habits.
Big Impact.
Stack Your Wins.

### TIME MANAGEMENT

Get Organized.
Stay Ahead.
Finish Strong.

### DAILY SUCCESS ROUTINE

Discipline Today.
Freedom Tomorrow.

SEPTEMBER 2026

THE HEARTH STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

# Brotherhood & Belonging

*IRON SHARPENS IRON*

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



## FOCUS

## We Rise Together

**Strong Friendships Help Us:**

- Overcome Challenges
- Stay Accountable
- Grow in Character
- Become Our Best Selves

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

*PROVERBS 27:17*

## BROTHERHOOD

## Find Your Five

**FIND FIVE CHS ADULTS OR PEERS YOU CAN TURN TO WHEN YOU NEED:**

- Encouragement
- Advice
- Support
- Accountability
- Prayer

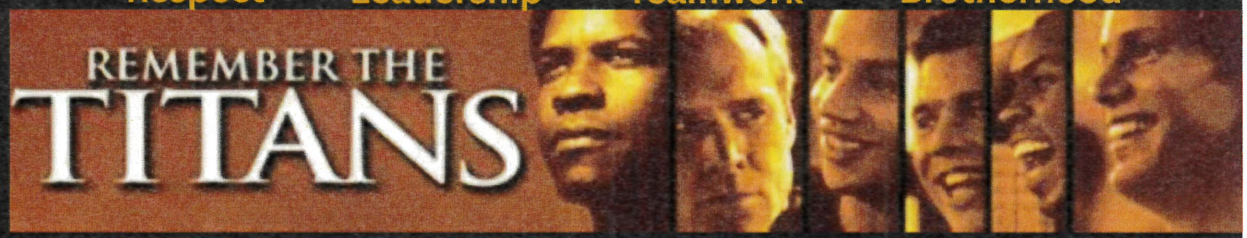
## POPCORN & A MOVIE

A newly intergrated high school football team learns to overcome division and build trust, respect and brotherhood on and off the field.

★★★★★

**Friday, September 25th**
**2:50-4:30 PM**

Respect Leadership Teamwork Brotherhood




**THEIR GREATEST VICTORY**

Was Each Other