



October 2, 2023

INSIDE CHARLESTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Teaching character, compassion, and confidence to the youth of West Virginia for over 90 years

Dear parents and students:

This morning marked the beginning of Homecoming Week! This is a special week at CCHS when we are able to have fun, dress down, and participate in spirited class and grade level competitions and activities. The students' enthusiasm is contagious—it brings such joy to see them entering the building with creative costumes and big smiles. They tend to jump in wholeheartedly to the door decorating, the banner competitions, the pep rally, and so on.

From my perspective, it's so important to let them enjoy this time together and to have some fun. We hold them to high standards and expectations in all things, and that's important. However, this week of fun is important, too. They will still be held to high standards and expectations, but it is an opportunity to foster school spirit and community pride, too.

As we celebrate one hundred years of CCHS, let's remember all the classes who came before us and were a part of our Homecoming traditions. Let's do our part to show our love for our school and our love for another this week.

Go Irish!

Warmly,
Colleen Hoyer

CONDOLENCES -- We express our sympathy to our students and their families who have lost loved ones recently. May the souls of the departed rest in peace: Connor Jarvis' paternal grandmother; Aubrey Walters' maternal grandfather; Jeff Reynolds' maternal aunt, and Emily Bowen's maternal grandmother. Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.

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ACADEMIC UPDATES

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP NEWS— Each fall, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announces the names of the annual National Merit Semifinalists. With great pleasure, we recognize three of our seniors who earned the title of National Merit Semifinalist: **Nicole Gao, Joey Muchow, and Tony Singh!** The National Merit Scholarship competition began last October when the juniors took the PSAT known as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The nationwide pool of semifinalists includes the highest scoring entrants in each state and represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors. These seniors have the opportunity to continue in the competition for the National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$28 million that will be offered next spring. We congratulate Nicole, Joey, and Tony, and we wish them success as they strive to become National Merit Finalists.

FIRST QUARTER PROGRESS REPORTS— Friday, September 22, marked the mid-way point of the first quarter. That means that the RenWeb grade report that you received via email over the weekend contained the halfway point

“progress report.” Last week, teachers distributed grade sheets to their students, detailing student information on homework, labs, quizzes, tests, etc. Please go over this report with them. As you review your children’s progress reports, take time to help them focus on their successes and analyze areas of difficulty. Help them find balance in their lives, so they can manage academics, athletics and other extracurricular interests, social and religious activities, and family. Help them recognize that learning takes hard work, and they are capable of it!

MAP TESTING- All sixth through tenth graders have finished their first round of MAP testing. Teachers will use the information gleaned from test results to design instruction for their students. I hope that students will be motivated to grow in knowledge and improve their scores throughout the year. Score reports will be sent home with first quarter report cards at the end of October. Students will test again in the winter and spring. You can reach out to Mrs. Aubel at meredith.aubel@charlestoncatholic-crw.org if you have questions about MAP test results.

RENWEB UPDATES- Many thanks to all of you who have completed the online beginning of the year forms on RenWeb. I appreciate your patience as we figured out the new process together. If you have not yet completed the forms, please do so ASAP. The updated contact and medical information is critical in case of emergency. Thanks for your cooperation.



SCIENCE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY—Successful applicants for SNHS will be notified of acceptance by October 2. There will be an induction ceremony at lunch on October 10th. See Mrs. Arnold if you have any questions.

FREE MATH TUTORING-- As a service to Charleston Catholic students, our school's chapter of Mu Alpha Theta provides free math tutoring. This year, the tutoring service will take place in the Library on Tuesdays from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Just drop in, no appointments necessary! If you have any questions, email Mrs. Griffith at sarah.griffith@charlestoncatholic-crw.org or Mrs. Walter at jean.walter@charlestoncatholic-crw.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNIOR CLASS FUNDRAISER -- The junior class is fundraising for Prom 2024! Back by popular demand, the juniors will be selling Roger's and Mazza's Pepperoni Rolls and will be taking pre-paid orders from October 9th to October 27th. Each junior will have an order form and would appreciate your support. Please be on the lookout for more exciting fundraisers from the junior class this year! Please contact Mr. Nelson at rick.nelson@charlestoncatholic-crw.org if you have any questions.

SCIENCE SEMINAR- The high school science department provides quarterly seminars for interested high school students covering a wide range of science topics by presenters from a variety of STEM fields. Our first science seminar is on October 19 at 7 pm, and the title of the talk is “The Medical Laboratory: An Introduction.” The speaker is Wendy Morrison who works for LabCorp in Tampa, Florida. All high school students are invited to attend. See any high school science teacher for more information.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES -- Parent conferences for all grades are scheduled for Thursday, November 2, from 8 a.m. to noon; 1 to 5 p.m.; and 6 to 9 p.m. There will be no school for students on this day. Details regarding format and scheduling will be coming soon. Scheduling will open on Wednesday, October 18. Please watch for an email in the next few weeks with important directions and details on how to schedule your conferences.

BASEBALL SPAGHETTI DINNER- The high school baseball team will host its annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Sunday, December 3, from 4-7 pm in the Commons. Tickets will be available in early November.



FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

WANT YOUR PHOTOS IN THE YEARBOOK? - So do we! Students, parents, and teachers can contribute content to the yearbook by uploading photos directly to our app for potential use in the book. You can share photos of sporting events and practices, club meetings and events, school and community events, and student life. Start sharing today! **Share images directly from your phone by downloading the FREE Yearbook Snap app from the App Store or Google Play Store and using school code: goirish**

Be sure to share photos as soon as possible so that our staff can integrate them prior to their quarterly deadlines!

SCHOOL PICTURES -- PhotoGrafix is the official CCHS yearbook photographer. Senior official yearbook photos (i.e., suit jacket, formal drape) will be taken on Thursday, October 12th. An email will be sent to senior families as we get closer to October 12. Make up pictures will be taken for 6th through 11th graders on Friday, October 13. **Students should come to school in their uniforms and bring an outfit to change into that meets the picture day guidelines in the student handbook.** Seniors who want clothing changes and/or indoor/outdoor shots can call and make appointments (304-768-2000). For pricing info, go to the website www.wvphoto.com.

GLOVES?GLOBE?—Our high school science classes would welcome the donation of disposable gloves to be used during lab work. Additionally, Mrs. Arnold could use some student globes in her classroom. Please contact Mrs. Arnold to coordinate a donation or drop off any gloves in the office.

VIRTUS— Be sure you're able to help! All parents or other adults who volunteer, coach, drive students, chaperone, etc., are required by the Diocese to complete the diocesan sexual abuse awareness training before being allowed to work with our students. Training is available online or at sessions periodically scheduled. To begin, visit the VirtusOnline.org and choose the "First Time Registrant" option. Allow 1- 1½ hours to complete the program.

The remaining two components of compliance will be completed using digital forms through the Virtus system (virtus.org). A background check and sign off on the Form Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children **MUST** be completed online before you are able to volunteer. You must add Charleston Catholic as a location where you will be volunteering.

Additionally, adults who volunteer, coach, or chaperone, may be asked to update background and policy forms. Background checks must be updated every three years. Policy questionnaires should be updated if they were signed before 2014. Current Diocese guidelines do not require volunteers to update the training portion of VIRTUS. Please contact Mr. Villers with any questions about how to update your forms.

PRINTING SERVICE—If your child has an assignment due and is unable to get it printed at home, he or she may email it to appointments@charlestoncatholic-crw.org by 7:30am. The assignment will be printed and ready to go in the morning when they arrive. Students will be charged 50 cents for each black and white page and one dollar for each color page that the office prints for them.

ACADEMIC ADVISING UPDATES

1.) **PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT** -- The Preliminary SAT, also known as the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test), is a practice version of the SAT exam given to all juniors and sophomores. 8th and 9th

graders will take the PSAT 8/9 (a version of this test designed specifically for this age group). The NMSQT for juniors is the qualifying test for National Merit Scholarships! This is the first year that students will take the PSAT in their new online format. Please make sure that students are well-rested and have eaten a good breakfast on test day. Registration is done through the school; you do not need to preregister.

- Tuesday, October 17th will be PSAT day for our 9th through 11th graders.
 - Wednesday, October 25th will be PSAT day for our 8th graders.
- 2.) SAT and ACT testing and registration information is available online at --www.collegeboard.org and www.act.org (CCHS code: 490-205). All juniors should take each test at least once this year. All seniors should retake the tests before January if they would like to do better before applying to college.
 - 3.) College visit request forms are available in the office. Students should pick up the forms there and return the completed forms to the office at least 2 days before the trip. Seniors are allowed 2 college visit days; juniors are allowed 2 college visit days. All college visits must be made before May 1.
 - 4.) **College representatives** are visiting, and these meetings typically take place during lunch. Dates and times will be available on the school calendar, and students will be reminded on the morning and afternoon announcements. All high school students should take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about different colleges. Colleges and universities want to see that students are interested in them!
 - 5.) Common Application help is available every Monday during lunch in the library. This will go through October and November to ensure students feel prepared for their approaching deadlines.

FINE ARTS/HUMANITIES REQUIREMENTS – All students should submit their fine art/humanities critiques using the Google Form posted to their English teachers' Google Classrooms. Paper forms will no longer be accepted. If you have any questions, please contact your child's English teacher.

NOTES FROM THE PARENT VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION (PVA)

All volunteers must be 100% VIRTUS compliant.

- 1.) **PVA Polos and Fleece** - Our next order period for white polos and uniform jackets will open on October 30, 2023, and close on November 10, 2023. Order forms for CCHS logo jackets (including the green quarter zip fleece jacket, the heavier weight grey jacket, and also a lighter weight black jacket, both in full zip and quarter zip), white uniform polo shirts, and green athletic/academic competition polo shirts are available on the CCHS website. For questions, please contact Cynthia Hemphill-Reehling (803-242-5087) for jackets, Kristina Whiteaker (304-610-5544) for green polos, and Sara Frame (304-389-1241) for white polos. **OFFICIAL UNIFORM POLOS MUST BE PURCHASED THROUGH PVA.** Please note that students who are members of athletic teams and academic competition teams are permitted to wear an official CCHS kelly green polo shirt with khaki pants to school on designated dates – normally home games and post-season games designated by the principal.
- 2.) Many thanks to those of you who have volunteered to help serve lunch. The schedule for October 2023 is already out. Please contact Tina Caldwell at (304) 546-3081 or tina.caldwell1987@gmail.com if you would like to be on the cafeteria schedule for November 2023 - May 2024. It's not too late! Please take notice of the weekly reminder emails as the lunch times may vary based upon mass schedules and alternate bell schedules. If there is a change in schedule, it will be noted in the reminder email. All cafeteria volunteers should have a food handler card (see below).
 - **The Kanawha-Charleston Health Department requires all cafeteria volunteers to have a food handler card. Cards must be renewed every two years. In order to be in compliance with this requirement, all CCHS cafeteria volunteers must complete a 75 minute online training course and 30 question assessment with a score of 70%. The PVA will pay the registration cost and will provide volunteers with an access code to participate in the course. Please contact Tina Caldwell at (304) 546-3081 or tina.caldwell1987@gmail.com for an access code. **Upon completion please submit a copy to the office which will be kept on file at the school and Athletic Facility.** **
- 3.) **Parent involvement** is a critical component of the successful operation of the CCHS athletic program. Helping transport students to games and practices, working gates, being supportive of the players and coaches, and attending

games are just a few ways that parents help. EVERY parent of an athlete is needed to support the teams! Please check that your Virtus records and background checks are up to date by calling school and talking to Mrs. France.

4.) **Athletic family passes** are available through the PVA. These passes are good for immediate family members only (not cousins, in-laws, ex-in-laws, grandparents, fiancées, etc.) to attend CCHS home games. **The passes do not cover away games, tournaments played at home, homecoming games, or any SSAC tournaments.** Cost is \$175 for all home middle school games only, \$200 for all home high school games only, and \$250 for all home games (both levels). A \$100 student or senior citizen pass for all home games is also available. An order form for sports passes was in the PVA Parent Registration Packet. Please contact Kerri Linton 304-228-4138 or klinton@pcsolutions.com if you have questions about these passes.

5.) **PVA packets** including volunteer forms and all ordering forms for logo jackets, white polos, and green polos are available on the school website (www.charlestoncatholic-crw.org). Forms should be submitted electronically or to the school office.



✝ CAMPUS MINISTRY ✝

All Saints Day is on November 1st and All Souls Day is November 2nd. Charleston Catholic celebrates these days with our Book of Remembrance which has the names of many of our deceased loved ones. The book is brought up during the offertory procession at all of our liturgies during the month of November. To prepare, the Book of Remembrance is in the chapel throughout October. Students can stop in the chapel before and after school or with their theology class to add the names of those who have passed that they would like remembered. Our loved ones will be kept in our prayers throughout November.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND GIVING

CLAY COUNTY CHRISTMAS PROJECT— We will continue our Christmas tradition with Clay County and Risen Lord parish. Each year approximately 300 children and their families are served through this project which provides Christmas gifts and highlights the bond between families in Clay County and the CCHS/ SHGS community. This year we are planning to resume our Christmas party at Risen Lord Church for families picking up their gifts! Seniors will be invited to attend as party hosts and volunteers. Parents and businesses willing to donate goods or funds should contact the school office -- cash donations are needed to assist with extra stocking stuffers and miscellaneous needs. The entire school is involved in the project: getting stockings, providing gifts for specific children, stuffing stockings, bagging gifts by family, loading trucks, and on and on. The gift delivery will take place in Clay County on Saturday, December 2.



The timetable for the Clay County Christmas Project is below:

1.) **Tuesday, November 21 (at the latest)**- Students will receive the name and other information about their Clay County children. Students are asked to purchase a \$45 gift. Please do not exceed the \$45 limit but buy as much as you can for \$45. Try to hit right at the mark! It is very difficult on families when children within the same family do not receive "equitable" gifts. **If a CCHS student is unable to participate in this aspect of the Clay County Christmas Project, please alert Mrs. Hoyer ASAP.** Parents wishing to help with gifts for additional children are encouraged to inquire in the office.

2.) **Tuesday, November 28** – Stockings and stocking stuffers are due to theology teachers. We try to fill 400 stockings, so we count on each student to bring in the requested items. Each student needs to follow the directions below for their grade level's stocking stuffer assignment. The dollar store is a great resource for these items. We are providing this information now so you can keep an eye out for bargains!

Each 6th, 7th, and 8th grader: Two 12 to 14 inch stockings to be filled, 4 small boxes of crayons (8 or 16 count), 4 thin coloring books, 5 mechanical pencils and 2 pairs of stretchy gloves-one size fits all.

Each high school student: One 12 to 14 inch stocking to be filled, 2 hairbrushes, 2 tubes of toothpaste, 2 toothbrushes individually packaged, 2 chapsticks and 1 pair of stretchy gloves-one size fits all.

EXTRA ITEMS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

3.) **Tuesday, November 28**- Food items are due -- Each homeroom will be preparing food boxes. Each student will be asked to provide specific food items. The majority of the food boxes are being provided by Sacred Heart Grade School children. CCHS students help fill the remainder of the boxes required by the number of families participating. Students will sign up for food items in their homerooms.

4.) **Wednesday, November 29** - Wrapped gifts are due to homeroom teachers. Labeling instructions will be provided with shopping details.

5.) **Friday, December 1**- Bags of wrapped gifts are collected and trucks are packed with gift bags and food boxes.

6.) **Saturday, December 2**- Items are delivered to Risen Lord Parish in Maysel. A small group of seniors will have the opportunity to attend and participate in the Christmas party.

Thank you for your generosity to the children of Clay County and your participation in this very meaningful project!

SUPPORT CCHS AS YOU SHOP— The **Kroger Community Rewards can be used every time you grocery shop at Kroger.** To register your Kroger Plus card, go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and use the Charleston Catholic organization number **LH615**. Be sure you have your Kroger Plus card available when you register. Kroger Plus Cards are available at the Customer Service desk at any Kroger. To participate, register your **Kroger Plus Shopper's Card (as outlined above)** and use the card when you checkout, and Charleston Catholic will receive a check from Kroger on a quarterly basis.

HOPE 2023 - Thank you to all who participated in HOPE 2023, and to everyone who donated funds to purchase building materials. During the week of June 25-30, our group of rising seniors, 2023 graduates, and adult work team leaders partnered with our friends at Cabwaylingo Appalachian Mission in Wayne County for our annual summer service of home repair. And what a great week it was! We formed 6 work teams of 7 persons each. Two of our teams continued construction on a new home for a family comprised of a grandmother and her two granddaughters. The modest size house was framed and sided during a blitz-build by another group earlier in June. Our teams built two decks with stairs and railings and installed underpinning. Two other teams reroofed the house of a senior citizen couple. We removed the old tin, installed sheeting and a new metal roof. Fortunately the weather cooperated which enabled the group to finish the roof by the end of the week. Another team put a new metal roof over a single wide trailer for an elderly woman whose roof had been leaking for a long time. Our 6th team reconstructed a dilapidated deck and stairs, and replaced an exterior double door for a senior citizen who is recently widowed. Through the generosity of our HOPE supporters we contributed \$25,000 toward the cost of building materials for the newly constructed house as well as materials for the other repair projects. We look forward to next summer's HOPE for which we will begin planning in October. You can see photos and a few time lapse videos of our work in June on the CCHS website.



ATHLETIC UPDATES

SPORTSMANSHIP AT CCHS – As we approach the first postseason of the school year, it's important to review our expectations regarding sportsmanship. Students learn valuable lessons about teamwork, competition, hard work, and sportsmanship through their participation in athletics and other extracurricular activities. Because of the consistent success of our athletic program, there is often increased attention on our athletes, coaches, and families. **When attending CCHS events, all community members must consistently uphold the Charleston Catholic High School values of sportsmanship, integrity, respect, and community.** It is easy to get carried away in the emotion of the moment; however, our athletes, coaches, parents, and fans should remain positive and focus on supporting our student athletes and our coaches. Charleston Catholic is committed to ensuring that sportsmanship is always a part of our athletic programs. We will require participation in the National Federation of State High School Association's sportsmanship course in the event that a student athlete, student, parent, or fan is ejected from a contest by an official of the sport. The course must be completed for further participation or admittance to athletic contests. In addition, the person ejected from a game must sit out 10% or more of the total number of regular season games (e.g., 2 soccer/basketball, 3 baseball/softball, etc.) following the ejection. For more information about the NFHS course, which gives a better understanding of sportsmanship and how it impacts the educational process, go to www.nfhslearn.com.



FALL SPORTS UPDATE-- The fall sports season is quickly coming to a close!

- The high school golf team finished second in the region and will compete in the State Tournament this week! Will Gruse will return, as well, after finishing as runner up as an individual last year. Good luck!
- The cross country team has been outstanding this year, and there is a lot to look forward to. The boys' team has been running as a top team in the state all season. Isaac Collins, Will Barton, and Hunter Perry have been leading the way, and all three have multiple top ten finishes this year. The girls have been improving all year. They have two strong individual leaders in Bella Boggs and Hannah Fisher who each have multiple top tens this year. Bella finished fourth in States last year. Regionals will be on October 19th at Coonskin, and the State Meet will be on October 28th in Parkersburg.
- The high school soccer teams have been fantastic this season. They are both hitting their stride as we get close to the postseason despite playing extremely tough schedules. Sectionals begin the week of October 16th. Regionals will be October 26th. States will begin Thursday, November 2nd.
- Volleyball has played hard and experienced both highs and lows this season. They are working to catch some momentum and return to the State Tournament later this fall. Sectionals will be the week of October 30th and regionals will be November 4th. The State Tournament will start on November 8th.
- The cheer team has been working hard and will compete this year in Regionals which will be held November 4th at Riverside High School.
- In the middle school Kanawha County Conference, both the boys and girls soccer teams have clinched a playoff spot. The girls are in a heated four way race where all teams have almost identical records. The boys' team is undefeated and tied with rival JA for the number 1 spot. The volleyball team's record is perfect so far—they haven't lost a set! They hope to repeat as champions this year. Cross Country has been doing amazing, and the boys team will be looking to repeat as champions as well.

The middle school tournament dates are listed below:

- **Cross Country:**
Oct. 10 @ Meadowood Park in Tornado
Girls start 4:30
Boys start 5:00

- **Volleyball:**
Oct. 16 and 17 @ WVSU
- **Soccer:**
Oct. 11 Semi-finals at Shawnee
5:30 Girls Semis
7:15 Boys Semis
Oct. 18: @ WVSU
6:00 Girls Final
7:30 Boys Final

We wish our fall athletes much success as they approach the end of the season tournament play! Go Irish!



HANDBOOK REMINDERS

UNIFORM UPDATE – Uniform shorts will be permitted until October 15. As the weather gets cooler, remember that team apparel (including sweatshirts and jackets) is not an approved part of the uniform and should not be worn in the building during school hours. Uniform jackets and fleeces are available through the PVA.

EMERGENCY DRILLS - Fire drills will be carried out according to the West Virginia Fire Code as applied to schools. A record of drills will be kept by the Principal and posted in the main office. Other emergency drills will be held throughout the year as described in the Charleston Catholic Emergency Crisis Plan.

MANY THANKS

- to our outstanding PVA volunteers! The support that they provide for the school comes in many shapes and forms— from working registration to providing teachers with delicious meals on special occasions throughout the year to serving lunch to the students on a daily basis to planning special events for our community— and plays an important part in our community. We couldn't do it without them!
- to our fall coaches for their dedication to our student athletes as they develop their athletic skills and the understanding of the importance of teamwork.
- to parent volunteers Stephanie Sullivan, Dustin Lanning, Gail Carter, and JD Brammer who helped transport the Anatomy students to Marietta College for Sports Medicine Day.

CALENDAR

UPDATED CALENDAR --Please use this calendar in your planning. Please remember that exams must be taken on scheduled exam days, and students who are absent more than 5 days in a semester will have to make up those days at the end of the semester. Please note that, as is the case each school day, teachers administer tests/quizzes, have assignments due, and teach lessons on the days immediately preceding and following school holidays. Students who take extended holidays run the risk of affecting their grades.

Saturday, October 7
Tuesday, October 17
Wednesday, October 18
Friday, October 20

Homecoming
PSAT for 9th, 10th, 11th graders
Scheduling for parent-teacher conferences opens
end of first quarter

Monday, October 23	11:30 dismissal, professional development for teachers
Wednesday, October 25	PSAT for 8 th grade
Thursday, November 2	Parent Teacher Conferences
Friday, November 10	Veterans' Day- no school
Wed., November 22	E-day for students
Thurs., Nov. 23- Fri. Nov. 24	Thanksgiving holiday
Wed- Fri., Dec. 13-15	exams; 11:15 dismissal
Mon., Dec. 18- Tues. Jan. 2	Christmas break
Wed., January 3	classes resume
Mon., January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day- no school
Tues., January 16	e-day for students, teacher professional development
Mon., February 19	Presidents' Day- no school
Mon., March 18	11:30 dismissal, teacher professional development
Fri., March 29- Fri., Apr. 5	Easter Break
Mon., April 8	classes resume
Saturday, May 18	prom
Thurs., May 23	baccalaureate
Fri., May 24	graduation
Mon., May 27	Memorial Day- no school
Wed., May 29- Fri., May 31	exams for 6 th -11 th graders; 11:15 dismissal
Friday, May 31	Moving Up Ceremony for 8 th graders