INSIDE CHARLESTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

September 26, 2025

Teaching character, compassion, and confidence to the youth of West Virginia for over 100 years

Dear parents and students:

What a fun week we are wrapping up! It's always a joy to see the students embrace the costumes and activities for the week. From door decorating on Monday morning, to looney lunch competitions at high school lunch, to the competitive tug of war at the pep rally, the week is full of spirit and enthusiasm. Beyond the fun, though, is the greater idea that we are all a part of this loving community. Father Prakash talked about that idea at our mass this week. Students will be forever shaped by their days and times together as part of the CCHS community.

With that thought in mind, may we all commit to work together to shape our young people in positive ways. While we will not always agree on all things, we can agree to demonstrate respect toward one another and a commitment to make our school community as strong as we can.

I look forward to further celebrating CCHS tomorrow at the Homecoming games and dance. Go Irish!

Warmly,
Colleen Hoyer

CONDOLENCES—We express our sympathy to a few of our students and their families who have lost a loved one recently. May the souls of the departed rest in peace: Dominic Paterno's paternal and Gia Kurten's maternal grandfather; Rocco and Marco Eates' paternal grandmother; Garrett Saville's paternal grandmother; Jack Harwood's maternal grandmother; Maxim Vir's maternal grandmother; coach Bryce Helmick's paternal grandfather; and custodial staff member Darrell Hill's niece. Please keep those families in your thoughts and prayers.

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ACADEMIC UPDATES

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP NEWS– Each September, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announces the names of the National Merit Semifinalists. With great pleasure, we recognize one of our seniors who earned the title of National Merit Semifinalist: **Ellie Hoblitzell**! The National Merit Scholarship competition begins each October when juniors across the country take 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 $26 million in prestigious National Merit Scholarships that will be offered next spring. Many congratulations to Ellie for this achievement and best wishes as she continues in the competition with hopes of becoming a National Merit Finalist.

FIRST QUARTER PROGRESS REPORTS— Can you believe that Friday, September 19, marked the mid-way point of the first quarter? That means that the RenWeb grade report that you receive via email this weekend will contain the halfway point "progress report." This week, teachers distributed grade sheets to their students, detailing student information on homework, labs, quizzes, tests, etc. Please look over this report with them. As you review your children's progress reports, take time to help them identify what's working well this year and what is not. Help them figure out how to manage their time so they can successfully balance academics, athletics, and other extracurricular interests, social and religious activities, and family.

MAP TESTING- Middle school students have finished their first round of MAP testing. Ninth and tenth graders will be testing next week. This initial round of testing gives teachers information about students' starting point this year. They can use the information to design instruction for their students. The goal is for students to grow in knowledge and improve their scores over the course of 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. Score reports will be included with first quarter report cards next month.

RENWEB UPDATES- If you have not yet completed your updates to demographic and medical information in RenWeb, please do so ASAP. The updated contact and medical information is critical in case of emergency. Thanks for your cooperation.

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 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.

SCIENCE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY —Successful applicants for SNHS will be notified of acceptance by October 2nd. There will be an induction ceremony at lunch on October 23rd. See Mrs. Arnold if you have any questions.

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD —We are looking for team members for the 2024-2025 school year. If you are interested in engineering, chemistry, rockets, geology, ecology or any other science topic, you will have a chance to explore that interest as an Olympiad team member. There will be an informational meeting soon, so listen to the announcements or see Mrs. Arnold or SNHS and Science Olympiad Presidents Luca DiCocco or Abigail Dotson for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCIENCE SEMINAR- The Science Department invites speakers in STEM fields to speak to students once each quarter. If you are interested in presenting or have recommendations, please contact any high school science teacher.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES -- Parent conferences for all grades are scheduled for Thursday, November 6, 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 Monday, October 20. 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 7, from 4-7 p.m. in the Commons. Tickets will be available in late October.

FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

PHOTOS FOR THE YEARBOOK? - Attention parents, students, and faculty members: Do you have photos of sports, activities, academics, or just everyday student life? Your photos would look GREAT in the 2026 yearbook! You can share photos directly with the yearbook staff using Yearbook Snap on your web browser, iOS device, or Android device. Use the school code **goirish** to start sharing your photos today!

Prefer to share photos via a Google Photos, Drive, or Dropbox link, or via email attachment? You can send those to kate.shirley@charlestoncatholic-crw.org. The yearbook is better when we represent as many students as possible - thank you in advance for helping us do so!

SCHOOL PICTURES -- PhotoGrafix is the official CCHS yearbook photographer. Make up pictures will be taken for 6th through 11th graders on Thursday, October 16. **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.** Senior official yearbook photos (i.e., suit jacket, formal drape) will be taken on Friday, October 17th. An email will be sent to senior families as we get closer to October 17th. 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.

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 online option. Allow 1- 1½ hours to complete the program. In addition to the training, employees and volunteers are required to complete 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. If you have forgotten your password, or your user name, you can also call the Virtus help desk at 1-888-847-8870.

The Bishop has announced and widely publicized his desire for continuing Safe Environment education for all employees and volunteers throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. **As a result, all employees and volunteers are required to update the training to Version 4.0 of Protecting God's Children.** Please visit www.virtus.org at your earliest convenience and log in and complete the training module. Once you log in to your VIRTUS account, you will find the link for the module by clicking the box that says "Current Training." Going forward, the Bishop requires all employees and volunteers to complete a yearly awareness training module and monthly bulletins. You may complete the module and the bulletins from anywhere you have an internet connection and at your convenience.
Additionally, adults who volunteer, coach, or chaperone, may be asked to update background and policy forms. Background checks must be updated every three years. Please contact Mr. Villers with any questions about how to update your forms.

The Diocese encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, you may also report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel or volunteers of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, by contacting

one of the Bishop's designees at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext.353; Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also visit www.dwc.org, under "Accountability" for additional reporting mechanisms.

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! Students will take the PSAT in its 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 14th will be PSAT day for our 9th through 11th graders.
- Tuesday, October 21st 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!

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)

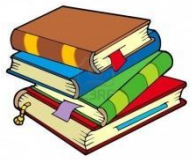
All volunteers must be 100% VIRTUS compliant.

1.) **PVA Polos and Fleece** - Our next order period for white polos and uniform jackets will open on October 8, 2025, and close on October 15, 2025. Estimated delivery is around November 21. Order forms for CCHS logo jackets (including the new 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 Katie Feola (304-552-1896 or Katie.feola@gmail.com) 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.) Thanks to all who have volunteered to serve lunch! **Cafeteria volunteers** are still needed! Please contact Megan Cutlip (304-807-8253 or megan.a.cutlip@gmail.com) if you would like to be on the cafeteria schedule for October 2025 - May 2026. Some volunteers will need to renew their food handlers' cards. Megan will give you information to do so once you have contacted her. Please indicate in your email if it has been more than two years since you took your food handlers course.

3.) **Parent involvement** is instrumental to 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 included in the PVA Parent Registration Packet. Please contact Susan Jarvis (304-552-7831or sjarvis0508@gmail.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). Volunteer forms should be submitted electronically and order forms should be turned into the school office.



CAMPUS MINISTRY

1.) 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 names of those who have passed that they would like remembered. Our loved ones will be kept in our prayers throughout November.
2.) The Junior Retreat will be held on Oct. 8th at Benedict Haid Farm in Quick, WV (that's just beyond Pinch, about 30 minutes from school). Guests will share their gifts and talents to do with creativity, music, mindful awareness, prayer and joy. With good weather, there will be time both indoor and outdoor so juniors should be sure to dress warmly and comfortably. The juniors will meet at CCHS in the morning, then be transported to Quick by parent drivers. Virtus certified parent volunteers are needed. If you are able to drive, please email Mrs. Linehan Belcher.
3.) Are you interested in becoming a role model for a student at the Martin Luther King Center? We are looking for high school students who can participate in Thursday after school visits to the MLK Center. Responsibilities for this service will include help with homework, spending time to read with the students, and build relationships with students. For more information about joining the after school group, please email Mrs. Williams: michaila.williams@charlestoncatholic-crw.org
4.) The CCHS Annual Woodcutting day to Big Laurel in Mingo County will be on Veterans Day which is Tuesday, Nov. 11th. This is an opportunity for juniors and seniors. Mrs. Linehan Belcher will coordinate the group. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND GIVING

CLAY COUNTY CHRISTMAS PROJECT— We are so excited to continue our Christmas tradition with Clay County and Risen Lord parish. Each year, for the last 30+ years, approximately 300 Clay County children and their families are served through this project which provides Christmas gifts and strengthens the bond between families in Clay County and the CCHS/ SHGS community. CCHS seniors will be invited to attend the party in Maysel as party hosts and volunteers. All other students will participate in preparation for the event. 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 Christmas party is scheduled in Clay County on Saturday, December 6.**

The timetable for the Clay County Christmas Project is below:

1.)Tuesday, November 25 (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, December 2 – Stockings and stocking stuffers are due to theology teachers. We try to fill 350 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, December 2- 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, December 3** - Wrapped gifts are due to homeroom teachers. Labeling instructions will be provided with shopping details.
5.) **Friday, December 5**- Bags of wrapped gifts are collected and trucks are packed with gift bags and food boxes.
6.) **Saturday, December 6**- 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.

CCHS GOES GREENER - It's happening! After receiving the necessary permits from the City of Charleston, Solar Holler began installation of our 192 rooftop solar panel system on Monday, August 18. The next step will be for Solar Holler's electricians to connect the power generated from the solar panels to the school's electrical panel. CCHS looks forward to years of reduced electric bills. 100% of the cost of the rooftop system is covered through a combination of generous donations from CCHS alumni and friends, a grant from the Appalachian Solar Finance Fund, and federal government credits under the Inflation Reduction Act. Thanks to all who helped make this significant upgrade to our school's infrastructure.

ATHLETIC UPDATES

FALL SPORTS UPDATE-- The fall sports season is progressing quickly!

- The CCHS golf team has had a great year once again. The team is led by seniors Will Gruse and Ben Carew who have been putting low scores on the board all season. They are looking to make some noise at States this year under first year head coach Davey Potter. Regionals will be at the new site of Riverside this year on October 6th!
- The high school boys cross country team is having their best season in school history so far. They currently have an undefeated record and are 53-0 in head-to-head team match-ups over 4 meets so far. They currently are:
    - 6-0 vs Class AAAA schools
    - 15-0 vs Class AAA schools
    - 20-0 vs Class AA schools
    - 9-0 vs Class A schools
    - 3-0 vs Ohio/Kentucky schools
    - They are currently ranked 1st in the state in Class A, and are ranked 5th in the state across all Classes according to athletic.net. The high school girls are having a great year as well! Sophomore Bailee King has had multiple medal finishes. Senior Bella Boggs has again been running well and is hoping to continue her winning ways in the postseason. Their postseason journey starts at regionals on October 25th at Wirt.
- The Irish boys' and girls' soccer teams are navigating their ways through the toughest schedules in the State to prepare them for the new 3 class soccer format. They will see a lot of the same foes with some new opponents sprinkled in. Don't let their records fool you, though! Both teams will be ready to make some noise in the postseason once again this year. Regionals begin Tuesday, October 21st.
- Volleyball has picked up where they left off last year. They currently have a 19-2-1 record and are ranked #1 in the State in AA and #11 in the State in all classes! They will look to keep adding momentum as they prepare for regionals which begin October 27th.
- The cheer team has been working hard and will compete this year at regionals once again. Last week they competed in Morgantown at the Gameday competition where they did very well. Regionals will be on November 8th at Cabell Midland!
- In the middle school Kanawha County Conference, both the boys and girls soccer teams are rolling. The boys are undefeated, and the girls had one close loss to JA. Both teams should be very competitive in the County Tournament this year. The boys cross country runners have been putting together impressive times, and the program has positive energy from top to bottom. The girls have a young team made up of many multiple sport athletes who have been running well! Volleyball is currently 4th in the conference. Injuries have slowed their momentum recently, but the Irish look to keep building and improving.

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

HANDBOOOK 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.

COLLEGE VISITS--Juniors and seniors are encouraged to visit colleges to help in the college selection process. Juniors and seniors wishing to visit colleges during a scheduled school day will not be penalized for attendance purposes if they do not exceed a total of 2 days for seniors and 2 days for juniors. In order to be approved, requests for college visits must be submitted in writing (form in the main office) at least 48 hours prior to the visit for approval by the academic advisor and principal. Visits must be completed by May 1, unless administrative permission is granted.

MANY THANKS

- to our amazing and much loved PVA volunteers! Their support of so many school activities —from working registration, to providing tasty treats and meals for teachers, to working gates and concession stands at athletic events, to planning fun events (like the Homecoming parade and tailgate!) —build our school spirit. CCHS wouldn't be the same without their creativity, enthusiasm, and involvement!
- to our fall coaches for their dedication to our student athletes as they teach skills, as well as sportsmanship, grit, cooperation, and leadership over the season.
- to parents Jessica Anton, Harmony Brown, Emily Bumgarner, Emily Hopta, Jayna Jackson, Courtney Lohri, and Christie Staun, for driving seniors back to school after their river retreat.
- to Mr. Ravi Jaishankar who spoke to all of our seniors, via zoom, in an introduction to Hinduism. Ravi lives in Colorado, and we greatly appreciate his waking so early to speak with our morning classes!

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, September 27	Homecoming, games at 10 am and 12 pm; high school dance from 8- 10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 8	Junior retreat
Tuesday, October 14	PSAT 9, 10, 11
Monday, October 20	Scheduling opens for parent-teacher conferences
Tuesday, October 21	PSAT 8
Friday, October 24	End of first quarter
Monday, October 27	11:30 dismissal, professional development for teachers
Thursday, November 6	Parent Teacher Conferences- no school for students
Tuesday, November 11	Veterans' Day- no school
Wed., November 26	E-day for students
Thurs., Nov. 28- Fri. Nov. 29	Thanksgiving holiday
Tuesday, December 2	food items and stocking stuffers due
Wednesday, December 3	wrapped gifts due in homeroom
Saturday, December 6	Clay County Christmas Party
Sunday, December 7	Baseball Spaghetti Dinner
Wed- Fri., Dec. 17-19	exams; 11:15 dismissal
Mon., Dec. 22- Fri. Jan. 2	Christmas break

Mon., January 5	classes resume
Mon., January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day- no school
Tues., January 20	e-day for students, teacher professional development
Mon., February 16	Presidents' Day- no school
Mon., March 23	11:30 dismissal, teacher professional development
Fri., April 3- Fri., April 10	Easter Break
Mon., April 13	classes resume
Thurs., May 21	baccalaureate
Fri., May 22	graduation
Mon., May 25	Memorial Day- no school
Mon., June 1- Wed., June 3	exams for 6th -11th graders; 11:15 dismissal
Wed., June 3	Moving Up Ceremony for 8th graders