October 31, 2025

INSIDE CHARLESTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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

Dear parents,

I clearly remember, as a child, using the rhyme "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me" when someone said something mean or something that hurt my feelings. I have a very vivid memory of using it with my next door neighbor when I still lived in Pennsylvania as a young child. I remember that it made me feel stronger, as if I received power through those words. Looking at it through my adult eyes today, I take a very different approach.

Words matter. What we say and how we say it can have lasting implications. This isn't just true of interactions between young people or between adults and young people. The way we interact as adults and the words we use to talk to and about one another also have influence over our young people. They are always paying attention and listening, often when we think they aren't. This fall I have heard, "You're terrible" coming from the bleachers at sporting events toward the officials. The yells come from both sides, home and away. I have received reports of yells to "take down/out" opposing players, also coming from both sides. These words are coming from the adults at the events, and the young people are watching and learning.

It's easy to get angry or protective when we feel our young people are not being treated fairly. It is critically important that we respond by standing up for our young people in a way that teaches them how to solve problems using respect and courtesy. Officials, opposing players, coaches, teachers, and school administrators are people, too. Words hurt. It's not okay to belittle and berate those we disagree with. It IS okay to disagree, and it's worth having constructive conversations about those disagreements, but hurling insults at others is not going to solve a problem. It's not going to bring about a constructive solution, and it's modeling behavior that we do not want our young people to emulate. Taking a deep breath, or a day, before we speak, often gives some perspective and calm that allows us to speak more productively.

I pray that we can all work together to use words to solve problems and interact respectfully. Words can easily make our community stronger or tear us apart. Let's model the positive behaviors we want our students to emulate. Let's choose words to empower and to respect the dignity of one another, even when we disagree.

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: high school girls soccer coach Amy Mullen's father; Madison Villers, Jacob Nelson, and Ricky Nelson's grandfather/ assistant principal Jason Villers' father-in-law. Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.

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ACADEMIC UPDATES

FIRST QUARTER REPORT CARDS ARE IN THE MAIL – First quarter report cards were mailed today. Please review and discuss quarter grades, conduct grades, and teacher comments with your children. Identify whether there is a connection between behavior and achievement. Ask your child(ren) to identify their successes and challenges and what they are most proud of this quarter. Earlier this week, teachers provided students with printouts that include details of first quarter grades which should offer additional insights about their grades. On the report cards, notice that quarter grade point averages are included at the bottom of the quarter one column. The cumulative GPA is based solely on semester grades. The cumulative GPA reported on the current report card is a student's grade point average as of June 2025. Freshmen and middle school students do not have cumulative GPAs at this time. Remember, students must have **an unweighted 2.0 semester (not cumulative) GPA** in order to be eligible to participate in athletics.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR – Our expectations, academically and behaviorally, are appropriately high. Teachers have established clear guidelines for students' in class and school behavior. Students who receive Ns or Us in conduct on their report cards are not meeting school behavioral expectations. Administrators may add behavioral consequences and will follow up with students when such incidents occur in order to set expectations for behavior improvements.

FIRST SEMESTER EXAM SCHEDULE –Now that the second quarter is underway, it is time to start planning for first semester exams. They will be here before we know it. Students will take exams before Christmas, though the semester does not end until January 16. From January 5 (when classes resume) through January 16, teachers will be introducing new material which will be calculated into the second quarter and first semester grade. All classes have exams and exams must be taken at the scheduled times. Students should prepare for exams by reviewing past tests and quizzes, using study guides, rereading notes and homework/class assignments, reworking math problems, and so on.

6th grade:	Wednesday, 12/17	exams for periods 1 and 2; 11:15 dismissal
	Thursday, 12/18	exams for periods 3 and 5; 11:15 dismissal
	Friday, 12/19	exams for periods 6 and 8; 11:15 dismissal
7th/8th grades*:	Tuesday, 12/16	exam for period 3 (8:00 – 9:30 a.m.); 2:45 dismissal
	Wednesday, 12/17	exams for periods 2 and 4; 11:15 dismissal
	Thursday, 12/18	exams for periods 5 and 8; 11:15 dismissal
	Friday, 12/19	exams for periods 1 and 7: 11:15 dismissal

*Please note that 7th and 8th grade students will NOT take an exam in their foreign language or exploratory class. During that scheduled exam time, they will use the period to prepare for other exams.

High school:	Tuesday, 12/16	exam for period 3 (8 – 9:30 a.m.); 2:45 Dismissal
	Wednesday, 12/17	exams for periods 2 and 4; 11:15 dismissal
	Thursday, 12/18	exams for periods 6 and 8; 11:15 dismissal
	Friday, 12/19	exams for periods 1 and 7; 11:15 dismissal

MAP TESTING- Family Reports with student achievement information from the September/October MAP tests for sixth through tenth graders are included in the report card mailing. The Family Report provides details on each student's national percentile and RIT score. They also include details on the student's growth from fall 2024 to fall 2025 if they took MAP last year at any school (not just at CCHS). Students will test again at the end of January and again at the end of April. If you have questions about your child's MAP scores, please contact Meredith Aubel at meredith.aubel @charlestoncatholic-crw.org or 304-342-8415.

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

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES -- Parent conferences for all grades are scheduled for Thursday, November 6, from 8 am to noon; 1 to 5 pm; and 6 to 9 pm. **There will be NO SCHOOL for students on November 6.**

Parents will meet with teachers for 10 minutes. All conferences will be in person and will be held in each teacher's classroom. A bell will ring to start each conference. Please adhere to the time limit out of respect for the parents scheduled in the next time slot.

Teachers will begin conferences by asking you what you would like to know about your child. You will have received the first quarter report card so your questions might focus on comments made on the report card, or on academic achievement, organizational skills (e.g., is child prepared for class, submitting work on time, etc.), or social aspects (e.g., getting along socially, asking content-specific questions, etc.). This is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the home-school partnership to benefit our young people.

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.

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 may be obtained by contacting a baseball player in advance, or they will be available for purchase at the door.

HIGH SCHOOL WINTER WALTZ—Mark your calendars now for the high school Winter Waltz on Saturday, February 21, 2026. The dance will be in the Commons from 8-10:30 p.m. for high school students. Permission slips will be sent home in the week before the dance.

FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

CELEBRATING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AT CCHS-- The International Culture Club (ICC) is proud to announce its **2025–2026 leadership team: President:** Mira Bali; **Vice President:** Lillian Jackson; **Secretary:** Katelyn Hentschel; **Treasurer:** Gia Kurten; **Event Coordinator:** Francesca Fairless; **Historian:** Izzy Paulson.

This year, ICC members are preparing an inspiring lineup of cultural celebrations, student-led programs, global awareness activities, and community fundraisers that will highlight the rich diversity of our world. From international food tastings and music to service projects and guest speakers, the ICC continues to foster an environment where students learn to celebrate, respect, and connect across cultures. **Parents and community members are warmly invited to get involved! If you would like to volunteer, host a cultural dinner or event, share your cultural background, or serve as a guest speaker, please contact:** Brandy Freeman at brandy.freeman@charlestoncatholic-crw.org.

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 Policy Form Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children MUST 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.

SCHOOL SPIRIT SHOP— Cold weather is on its way! We have a variety of gear available in the school spirit shop. Check out the hats and scarves (pictured below!) and sport your CCHS gear while staying warm. Get the hat and scarf combo for $32. If you are interested in ordering any spirit wear, please call the office at 304-342-8415. Go Irish!

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!

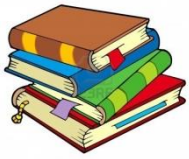
Prefer to share photos via a Google Photos, Drive, or Dropbox link, or via email attachment? You can send those to kate.shirley@charlestoncatholic-crw.org. The yearbook is better when we represent as many students as possible - thank you in advance for helping us do so!

IT'S SENIOR AD TIME! -- The yearbook staff is selling senior ads to honor your graduating senior in the 2025-26 yearbook. The following options are available: full page ($300), half page ($160), and quarter page ($85). Please go to https://www.yearbookforever.com and enter our school details to upload photos, personalize your design, and purchase your ad!

Please note: The only way to reserve an ad space is to complete your design and pay online. The school cannot accept advance payment to reserve space. We **should** have enough space for all seniors whose families wish to purchase an ad, but we will notify you if space becomes limited. The deadline to purchase an ad is January 19th. If you have any questions, reach out to Mrs. Shirley (kate.shirley@charlestoncatholic-crw.org) or look for her email sent on 10/21 which contains more details and FAQs.

NOTES FROM THE ACADEMIC ADVISOR

1.) 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.
2.) 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.
3.) **College representatives** are visiting, and these meetings typically take place during lunch. Dates and times will be sent out in the Sunday email from Mrs. Hoyer, 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!



NOTES FROM THE PARENT VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION (PVA)

All volunteers must be 100% VIRTUS compliant.

1.) **PVA Polos and Fleece** – Estimated delivery for the most recent order is November 21. Our next order period for white polos and uniform jackets will open on January14, 2026, and close on January 21, 2026, with estimated delivery on February 27, 2026. 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 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! **It's not too late to get on the second semester schedule**! Please contact Megan Cutlip (304-807-8253 or megan.a.cutlip@gmail.com) if you would like to be on the cafeteria schedule for November 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 necessary 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.) The CCHS Annual Woodcutting day to Big Laurel in Mingo County will be Tuesday, Nov. 11th (Veterans Day) this year! This is a day of outdoor work of splitting wood and delivering wood to elderly residents in Mingo County who use it to heat their houses. Regardless of weather, volunteers enjoy the opportunity to be outside, to work hard, and to see tangible tasks that serve those in need. This special needs service opportunity is open to juniors and seniors. See Mrs. Linehan Belcher for more details.

2.) 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 visits to the MLK Center after school on Thursdays beginning in late November. Responsibilities for this service will include helping with homework, spending time reading with the students, and building relationships with students. For more information about joining the after school group, please email Mrs. Williams: michaila.williams@charlestoncatholic-crw.org

3.) Our neighbor, First Presbyterian Church has held Hope Village for over a decade, and Charleston Catholic continues to support this effort. Hope Village seeks out vendors who are lifting their artisans out of poverty, marginalization, and sex trafficking. Hope Village obtains beautiful, hand-crafted items on consignment, sells them and returns the proceeds to the vendors. The vendors pay a living wage to the artisans and support programs to educate and train others to engage in work that empowers them. We encourage this intentional Christmas shopping in First Presby's Recreation Room of the activities building (the building on the Boulevard). You can visit Hope Village this year during the following times:

Nov. 9 - Noon - 3 p.m.
Nov. 12, 13, 14, 15 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Nov. 16 - Noon - 3 p.m.
Nov. 19, 20, 21, 22 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Nov. 23 - Noon - 3 p.m.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND GIVING

THANKSGIVING DINNER AT THE MLK COMMUNITY CENTER-- Charleston Catholic High School is once again hosting Thanksgiving Dinner at the MLK Community Center to support local families in need. Last year's event was a tremendous success, and with your help, we hope to make this year even more impactful.

Due to the pause on SNAP benefits caused by the government shutdown, many of our most vulnerable neighbors are facing food insecurity. Now, more than ever, your support can make a difference. **We are asking for turkey donations to help provide a warm Thanksgiving meal for those in need.** For questions or to arrange a donation, please contact Mrs. Williams via email at Michaila.williams@charlestoncatholic-crw.org.

Together, let's ensure every family in our community has a reason to give thanks this holiday season.

CLAY COUNTY CHRISTMAS PROJECT— Plans are progressing for our Clay County Christmas this year. The CCHS/ SHGS community will serve approximately 300 children and their families through this project which emphasizes our bond with families in Clay County. 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 will take place 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.**

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.

Any family unable to participate our Clay County Christmas project should email Colleen Hoyer at colleen.hoyer@charlestoncatholic-crw.org.

Thank you for your support of the children of Clay County and this most important project!

SUPPORT CCHS AS YOU SHOP—For those of you starting to think about holiday shopping, please keep Charleston Catholic in mind. It's easy to do! Thanks to all of you who are supporting CCHS in this way. It is simple to use the **Kroger Community Rewards program, and it greatly benefits the school**. To enroll, 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 in the program, just register your **Kroger Plus Shopper's Card (as outlined above),** use the card when you checkout, and Charleston Catholic will receive a check from Kroger on a quarterly basis.

ATHLETIC UPDATES

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

- The CCHS golf team had an outstanding year, finishing as A State Champions! Will Gruse finished in 1st place and Ben Carew finished in 2nd place, earning spots on the All State Team. Congratulations to our golfers and Coach Potter on a terrific season!
- The cross country team is having another phenomenal year. The boys' team brought home the regional championship with Will Barton placing 1st, Charlie Barton 3rd place, Luke Passmore 4th place, Cole Boggs 5th place, Teddy Passmore 6th place, and Dickinson Gould 10th place! The girls' team placed 2nd at the regional championship with Bella Boggs placing 1st, Bailee King 5th, and Izzy Paulson 9th! They are now preparing for the State Meet at Cabell Midland High School this weekend on Saturday, November 1st. Let's go Irish!
- The high school soccer teams both had amazing seasons! The boys' team lost during regional play to Point Pleasant. The girls' team won their first round of regionals over Winfield but fell short in the regional championship to Nitro. Both teams had a great year and will come back strong!
- The volleyball team has really continued to build their resume. They finished the regular season with an outstanding record of 32-9. The Lady Irish have won their first two rounds of regionals. Regionals continue over the next week. Good luck to the Lady Irish in post season play!
- The cheer team is preparing to compete in regionals, and they are competing in the Gameday competition hoping to secure a bid to nationals. We are happy to congratulate Adele Ball, Olivia Staun, Haley Welder, Reagan Stapleton, and Elaina Delgra on being named All American cheerleaders.

Middle School Update:

- The boys' cross country team finished 3rd in the County with Luke Hevener securing the title of County Champion. The girls' cross country team finished County Runner Up.
- Middle School volleyball had a great season and advanced to the County Tournament where they lost in the first round!
- Boys' soccer finished their season as County Champions after defeating John Adams 2-1 on Wednesday. They boys were both regular season champs and Tournament Champions!
- Girls' soccer finished County Runner Up in both the regular season and the County Tournament after having a very impressive season.

WINTER SPORTS ARE HERE—Practices will be starting soon for winter sports. Please contact the coaches listed below if you are interested in a sport this season.

Middle School Cheerleading- Ashley Stapleton - aj_stapleton@yahoo.com
Middle School Boys' Basketball- Jacob Nelson- jacob.nelson@charlestoncatholic-crw.org
Middle School Girls' Basketball- Keshia Butler- keshia.m.a.butler@gmail.com
High School Boys' Basketball- Hunter Moles- coach.moles@yahoo.com

High School Girls' Basketball- Wes Hevener - wdhevener@gmail.com
High School Swimming- Katie Paulson- katie.paulsonwv@gmail.com

HANDBOOOK REMINDERS

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES--In order to participate in extracurricular activities on a particular day, a student must be in school for the FULL DAY on the day of the event. This "full day" policy includes appointments, so students need to avoid scheduling appointments during the school day. Students who have long-standing medical appointments, family funerals, or similar instances may be excused at the discretion of the Assistant Principal for Operations. Additionally, students must be at school for the majority of the school day in order to be eligible for practice. **Students are also expected to be on time on days following athletic events. If a student is suspended at school, that student is also suspended from athletic practices, games, etc. for the FULL DAY on the day(s) suspended (i.e., if a student is suspended for a Tuesday, the suspension includes involvement in any school activities -- sports, social, etc. -- for Tuesday evening also).**

MANY THANKS

- to the PVA for their tremendous support of and service to our school community. Teachers have been receiving their Wish List items for the last several weeks and they are thrilled! Many thanks for this generosity to our teachers!
- to parents James Adkins, Sara Bailey, Ernest Hentschel, Tristen Judy, Joanne Vella, Pat McCutcheon, Lori Moore, and Cynthia Hemphill-Reehling for transporting the juniors to and from school for their retreat this month.
- to the following guest speakers who took time out of their day to bring the traditions of the world's religions to life: Ravi Jaishankar joined the seniors once again over Zoom from Colorado and deepened our understanding of the mystical philosophy of Hinduism and his practice. Dr. Christine Blice-Baum shared her on-going practice of Buddhism and particularly about her research into Tibetan Buddhist music. Bill and Diana Mehle returned to share about their experience living in Japan as Maryknoll missionaries, whose belief is in the importance of being present to and embracing of different cultures and traditions. They spoke of their observations of the Japanese indigenous tradition of Shinto, woven together with Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism in everyday life. Thank you to each of our guests for bringing our textbook studies and discussions to life in a very real and personal way.
- to the staff and students of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University for giving our Human Anatomy and Physiology students an enlightening tour of the Gross Anatomy Lab. And thanks to the parent drivers that helped make this field trip possible: Ron Rushworth, Jacqui Ranson, Emily Bumgarner, Erin Vriendt, and Emily Hopta.

CALENDAR

2025-26 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.

Thurs., November 6	Parent Teacher Conferences- no school for students
Tues., November 11	Veterans' Day- no school
Wed., November 26	E-day for students
Thurs., Nov. 28- Fri. Nov. 29	Thanksgiving holiday
Tues., December 2	food items and stocking stuffers due
Wed., December 3	wrapped gifts due in homeroom
Sat., December 6	Clay County Christmas Party
Sun., 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
Fri., January 16	last day of the second quarter/ first semester
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
Sat., February 21	Winter Waltz for high school students
Fri., March 20	last day of the third quarter
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