January 28, 2026

INSIDE CHARLESTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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

Dear parents and students:

As we start the second semester, it's time to reflect on successes and challenges of the first semester and to recommit to our goals for the year. I asked the teachers last week to reflect on what has been accomplished so far this year and what changes can be made to help us reach our goals more successfully. It's important to take time and evaluate how far we have come and how much farther we have to go! It is very rewarding to see how much has been learned and accomplished already this school year.

Self-reflection is not easy. Asking oneself the hard questions like "what can I do better?" and "where did I struggle or fall short?" takes courage and honesty. It's much easier to point out others' faults and shortcomings. While others sometimes do fall short, it is important to examine our choices, words, and actions, as well, and to consider how and where we contributed to a challenging situation. By taking time to think about these situations, we are allowing and encouraging personal growth. We are also teaching our young people to be critical thinkers and problem solvers.

I am hopeful we will work together to support our young people's academic, spiritual, and personal growth, through the second semester of the school year. May they develop the self-awareness to foster their personal growth, enabling them to reach their goals this year and beyond!

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: Addy Gray's maternal grandmother; Gavin Lord's paternal grandfather; and Harper, Owen, and Reagan Stapleton's maternal grandfather. Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.

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ACADEMIC UPDATES

FIRST SEMESTER REPORT CARDS – will be mailed today and should be arriving in your mailboxes in the next few days! For seventh through twelfth graders, semester grades are composed of first quarter grades, second quarter grades, and exam grades. Sixth graders' semester grades are composed of first and second quarter grades. Their exams are a part of their second quarter grades. When you examine your child's current report card, please note that **quarter**

GPAs are reported at the bottom of each quarter's column. The **semester GPA,** calculated using current semester grades, is located at the bottom of the semester average column and is recorded on a student's transcript. As it appears on the high school report card, the GPA is weighted. However, the unweighted semester GPA is used for extracurricular eligibility determination (a 2.0 is required). The **cumulative GPA (noted on high school report cards only)**, reported at the lower right under the teacher comments, is the cumulative grade point average for all high school semesters. Please pay attention to each of these details.

PROMOTION POLICY – A review of the CCHS promotion policy is in order, now that first semester grades are official.

1.) All students (grades 6-12) must pass both semesters of theology in order to be promoted to the next grade level in June.
2.) The required number of community service hours and fine arts/humanities credits must also be completed before being granted a diploma or before being readmitted for the next school year.
3.) Promotion to the next grade is granted when a student earns credit for each semester's courses.
4.) Students who fail courses must enroll in CCHS-approved summer school programs during the summer following the failure to make up the credit if they wish to remain at CCHS. Students failing more than two semesters in one school year may be placed on academic probation or may not be readmitted to CCHS for the following school year.
5.) In 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students must earn a total of 7 credits each year. To be classified as a sophomore, a student must have earned 7 credits, 14 credits to be considered a junior, and 21 credits a senior.

MAP TESTING— Ninth and tenth grade students completed their winter MAP testing last week. Middle school students graders will take their winter MAP tests during the week of February 2-6. These results (which will be available later this winter) will allow you to see your child's growth during this school year. All sixth through tenth graders will test again in late April/ early May. MAP scores will be used in course placements for the upcoming school year, so it is important that students do their best on this testing.

CALENDAR AND TUITION INFORMATION FOR 2026-27

TUITION RATES FOR 2026-27— Work has begun on budgeting and tuition rates for 2026-27. As we are an independent school that operates solely on the income generated by tuition and fees, diligent financial planning is of utmost importance to maintain the stability of our school. Much time and focused effort is spent to try to manage school costs carefully while also keeping expenses to families at a minimum. Unfortunately, school expenses continue to rise. Tuition and fees will increase next year. However, the Hope Scholarship also becomes available next year to all families who would like to use it. We also have a number of financial aid opportunities for families who need them. If you have concerns about tuition once it is released, please contact Mrs. Shindle or Mrs. Hoyer to talk about opportunities that are available. Tuition rates will be released in mid-April and invoices will be mailed at that time. The Hope Scholarship is projected to be $5435 for the 2026-27 school year, so it is a significant help to tuition for those who choose to participate.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR DIOCESAN TUITION ASSISTANCE-– For the thirty-fifth consecutive year, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will continue its tradition of offering the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) in an effort to keep Catholic school education affordable for families who desire it but who may need some financial assistance to make that dream a reality. Thanks to Most Reverend Mark Brennan's commitment to Catholic education, funds have once again been allocated for distribution to families in need of assistance. **This year, Phase 1 will be open to Catholic families only, but Phases 2 and 3 will be open to ALL families. A flier is attached to this email with details.** Awards are based upon a family's degree of need relative to all other applicants. Apply on-line at www.factsmgt.com. Click on "Grant and Aid Assessment" and log in. Have your 2025 tax information

available. Catholic families with children currently enrolled or who are applying to enroll for the 2026-2027 school year should apply ASAP. **Applications open February 1.** Phase 1 families must belong to a parish included on the drop-down list as part of the on-line application. **The deadline for Phase 1 is April 30, 2026; the Phase 2 deadline is July 13, 2026, and; the Phase 3 deadline is August 23, 2026.** No assistance will be available from the Diocese or from any school unless an application and all required documentation is submitted, and the fee has been paid by the deadline. The application fee to families is $25. Families should only submit one application per year, not one per phase!

TENTATIVE CALENDAR FOR 2026-27 – Please keep this calendar in mind as you plan for next year. THIS IS A TENTATIVE CALENDAR AND CHANGES ARE STILL POSSIBLE. 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.

Wed., Aug. 19	First day of school for students
Mon., Sept. 7	Labor Day- no school
Mon., Oct. 26	11:30 dismissal, teacher professional development
Thurs., Nov. 5	Parent-Teacher conferences
Wed., Nov. 11	Veterans Day- no school
Wed., Nov. 25	E-day for students
Thurs., Nov. 26- Fri. Nov. 27	Thanksgiving holiday
Wed- Fri., Dec. 16-18	exams
Mon., Dec. 21- Friday, Jan. 1	Christmas break
Mon., Jan. 4	classes resume
Mon., Jan. 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day- no school
Tues., Jan. 19	e-day for students, teacher professional development
Mon., Feb. 15	Presidents' Day- no school
Fri., March 26- Fri., April 2	Easter Break
Mon., Apr. 5	classes resume
Thurs., May 27	baccalaureate
Fri., May 28	graduation
Mon., May 31	Memorial Day- no school
Wed., June 2- Fri., June 4	exams for 6th -11th graders
Friday, June 4	Moving Up Ceremony for 8th graders

SCHEDULING AND ADMISSIONS FOR 2026-27

2026-2027 RE-ENROLLMENT FOR CURRENT STUDENTS – Re-enrollment/ registration for the 2026-27 school year will be distributed to students on Friday, January 30. They should be returned by February 13 with the $200 deposit to reserve your child's spot for 2026-27. Scheduling forms with course offerings and selections will be distributed in April. At this point, students should be focused on doing their best in their current classes because grades and work ethic are important factors in course placement.

NEW STUDENTS FOR 2026-2027– The Admissions Committee has released its schedule for the upcoming school year. Applications are now available online (www.charlestoncatholic-crw.org). Applications will be completed and submitted online. Detailed instructions are available on the CCHS website.

Prospective Parent Open House
Parents will have the opportunity to talk with current parents, students, teachers, Mrs. Aubel, and Mrs. Hoyer in the Commons on Sunday, February 1, from 2-4 p.m. A brief information session, as well as tours of the school building, will be offered. We look forward to this opportunity to introduce prospective students and families to our community.

Fifth Grade Visit Day
Any fifth grade student is invited to attend our fifth grade visit day on Thursday, February 12, from 9 a.m. until noon. Fifth grade students will meet the current sixth grade teachers, take a tour of the school building, eat lunch in the Commons, and participate in their very first CCHS 'pep rally.' Families who do not attend Sacred Heart Grade School should call the school office to register.

Admissions Testing
All students applying to CCHS will take an admissions test prior to their application being reviewed. Any rising sixth grader from Sacred Heart Grade School will take their admissions test at SHGS during the school day. All other students and families will coordinate admissions testing through an online link once the application is submitted.

Admissions Timeline and Calendar
Friday, January 30- beginning of re-enrollment for current families
Sunday, February 1– Prospective Parent Open House
Friday, February 6 – applications accepted for current Catholic school families/parishioners who wish to be given first consideration.
Thursday, February 12- Fifth Grade Visit Day
Friday, February 13- deadline for applications from current Catholic school families/ parishioners to receive first consideration
Friday, February 13- applications open to the general public
Friday, February 20- deadline for all applications for first round consideration
Monday, February 23- Thursday, February 26- Admissions tests after school for students not enrolled in SHGS; will receive link to schedule test once application is submitted
Friday, March 6 – first round of acceptance letters mailed (for applicants whose files are completed by **February 27** – applications received after February 27 will be reviewed periodically by the Admissions Committee and notification as to enrollment status will be mailed at that time)

NOTE – It is rare for CCHS to accept students as juniors and seniors. Only juniors and seniors moving into the area will be considered.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13– This year we will honor the legacy of *Bobby Hypes*, a member of the CCHS class of 2008 who died of heart disease on February 5, 2006, with our annual "Wear Red for Bobby Day." Students may wear red sweaters/shirts with jeans or khakis with a $2 contribution to help fund the CCHS Bobby Hypes Memorial Scholarship. The partial-tuition scholarship, awarded to a rising freshman each year, celebrates Bobby's life and reminds each of us to

live as Bobby did – kindly, appreciatively, and enthusiastically. We are thrilled to continue this tradition and to send pictures of the day to Mr. and Mrs. Hypes who support our efforts! Donations to the scholarship fund are also accepted.

WINTER WALTZ- The high school dance will be from 8:00 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 21. The dance will be in the Commons. Dance permission slips will be sent home the week before. Please pay attention to dress guidelines!

MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATES

EIGHTH GRADE WV WRITING CONTEST-- *Goldenseal Magazine* has partnered with Charleston Catholic to offer the *Goldenseal Magazine* Young Writers Contest! The winner of the essay contest will have his/her article published in the state's *Goldenseal Magazine*. What a wonderful opportunity to become a published author before finishing middle school! All Charleston Catholic eighth graders will be participating. Their articles must be at least 750 words in length and no longer than 2000 words. They may choose any topic they wish as long as it is related to West Virginia and is a work of nonfiction. Topics are being submitted this month and final submissions will be due March 3. Any questions about this contest can be directed to Mr. Cable.

FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP 2026-27-- The Hope Scholarship is a program sponsored by the West Virginia Treasurer's Office. The scholarship allows K-12 students to receive financial assistance that can be used for private school tuition, among other qualifying expenses. Up to this point, eligibility has been based upon a 45 day enrollment in public schools. However, eligibility is expanding in the 2026-27 school year to include all students who are eligible to enroll in a West Virginia public school. This means that students who have always been enrolled in private schools will be eligible to receive the Hope Scholarship. One of the initial steps to qualify is to request a West Virginia Education Information System (WVEIS) ID number from their county board of education for your child if they do not already have one. Without a WVEIS number, a child is unable to apply for the Hope Scholarship. To request a WVEIS number, please complete the form linked here and email it to the county board of education of your county of residence using the email address list found **here**. The Hope Scholarship application window for 2026-27 does not open until March 2, 2026. However it is important to act sooner rather than later to obtain your child's WVEIS number if you plan to participate in the Hope Scholarship next year.

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.

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!

Do your students participate in any activities outside of school, such as orchestra, choir, theater, dance, scouting, horseback riding, hockey, jobs, internships, or other pursuits? We need students' and parents' help to feature these activities in the yearbook! Please share any photos you have of your student participating in outside-of-school activities by emailing them to Mrs. Shirley at kate.shirley@charlestoncatholic-crw.org. Thank you!

FREE MATH TUTORING-- As a service to Charleston Catholic students, our school's chapter of Mu Alpha Theta provides free math tutoring. The tutoring service takes 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. Walter at jean.walter@charlestoncatholic-crw.org or Mrs. Griffith at sarah.griffith@charlestoncatholic-crw.org.

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD —CCHS will be taking thirty tenth through twelfth grade students to the state Science Olympiad competition at Marshall University on March 7. Good luck to all students who are participating.

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE BOOK CLUB-- Over 40 students participated in book club this fall. Students voted to read The Living Medicine: How a Lifesaving Cure Was Nearly Lost - and Why It Will Rescue Us When Antibiotics Fail by Lina Zeldovich for the spring semester. We will be discussing the Introduction and first two chapters the week of February 15. Any high school student interested in participating can join the Google classroom (code: **ku5g47o).** Please contact Mrs. Arnold if you have any questions.

ACADEMIC ADVISING NOTES

1.) **West Virginia Governor's Schools:** The State of West Virginia is proud to offer The Governor's Honors Schools, residential summer sessions for academically and/or artistically talented students from across West Virginia. The programs are based on the premise that West Virginia's youth must be provided with special opportunities for learning and personal development in order for them to realize their full potential. There is no cost to families of students who are accepted to these competitive programs. Those who have attended these programs in the past describe them as "life-changing." It is time to start thinking about whether this might interest your child. For more information, visit http://www.govschools.wv.gov/**.**

- **Governor's Computer Science Institute** (GCSI) – current **9th** and **10th** grade students (application deadline for students is April 3, 2026)
- **Governor's Honors Academy** (GHA) – current **11th** grade students (application deadline for counties is April 3, 2026)
- **Governor's School for Entrepreneurship** (GSE) – current **9th**, **10th**, and **11th** grade students (application deadline for students is March 13, 2026)
- **Governor's School for the Arts** (GSA) – current **10th** grade students (application deadline for students is March 6, 2026)
- **Governor's School for Tourism** (GST) – current 9th and 10th grade students (application deadline for counties is May 1st, 2026)

2.) **PROMISE scholarship and FAFSA deadline** – March 1st. All students in the Class of 2026 must complete BOTH the PROMISE and the FAFSA applications in order to be considered for the PROMISE scholarship. Additionally, colleges and universities throughout the country use FAFSA information to determine scholarships and financial aid.

3.) **Juniors--mark your calendars!** On April 16th, CCHS will participate in the SAT School Day (a *free* test administered to all CCHS juniors; students are already registered for this test). Students will take the SAT at CCHS during a school day.

4.) **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. Students will be taking the **SAT School Day at CCHS on Thursday, April 16th**. There are many ways for students to practice and prepare for the SAT and the ACT.

- Students can link their PSAT results to Khan Academy to create free customizable lessons to focus on targeted areas based on the student's PSAT scores.

5.) **College Visits-** Mrs. Sporck handles college visit requests. Students should pick up the forms from the office and return the completed forms to her 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 1st.

6.) **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!

7.) **College Admissions-** As students start to receive their acceptances to colleges, please let us know! We want to celebrate all of their amazing accomplishments. There are orange slips in the main office for students to fill out so that their acceptances can be shared during morning announcements.

SAT PREP FOR SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS-- We are excited to offer an SAT prep class for sophomores and juniors! This course is designed to help prepare juniors for the SAT School Day, which will take place on **Thursday, April 16.** This course will be taught by Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Shirley, covering both math and English content. There is still time to register for the remaining seven sessions on Sunday evenings.

Class Dates: (January 25) --- February 1, 22 --- March 1, 15, 22, 29 --- April 12

Time: 5pm - 8pm
Cost: $350
Location: CCHS Library

To register, students must bring a check payable to CCHS to the main office and complete this online sign-up form. Spots are limited, so be sure to register soon!

CAMPUS MINISTRY

1.) February 18th is Ash Wednesday this year. We will celebrate with an All School Mass in the Basilica. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent which is the forty days of fasting, prayer and almsgiving that prepare us for Good Friday and then Easter. During Lent we place special focus on receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This year, Charleston Catholic students will have the opportunity to go to Confession in the morning of March 25th.
2.) "What you give up for Lent changes lives" is the theme of the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls this year. This, now fifty year old, program is a major way for American Catholics to be part of the worldwide work of Catholic Relief Services, the bishops' sponsored international relief agency. Proceeds from the Rice Bowl reach communities in 101 countries including some funds that also stay right here in West Virginia. Since its inception in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised more than $350 million. With drastic federal cuts in international humanitarian aid, our support of CRS is even more critical. The bowls will be available to take home in all theology classes and collected after Spring Break.
3.) Charleston Catholic's HOPE Project will host a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, 5:30-7:30 p.m., on Sunday, March 8th in the CCHS Commons. Tickets are $15 a plate. Children, age 5 and under, eat for free. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at the school office or at the door. All of the proceeds from the dinner will go toward the costs for the week-long project in June. HOPE participants commit to raise $25,000 so that the Cabwaylingo Appalachian Mission can build a house for a family in need. Students and adult volunteers spend the week repairing homes and helping with the new construction. HOPE has the dual purpose of improving the quality of housing for low income folks in need and instilling the habit of service in students with a commitment to living the works of mercy.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND GIVING

SUPPORT CCHS AS YOU SHOP— Kroger offers a rewards program that is easy to use and that benefits CCHS. Your support is much appreciated!

- The **Kroger Community Rewards is a simple but beneficial program**. 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.

HOPE 2026 UPDATE – Planning continues for our 21st summer of HOPE. Members of the junior class have applied to participate in our week of home construction and repair, **June 14-19, 2026**. We will partner again this coming summer with Bill & Addie Likens, who coordinate the Cabwaylingo Appalachian Mission (CAM) in Wayne and Mingo Counties. Our group of CCHS students, college age alumni and adult work team leaders will make significant repairs at the homes of several low-income families and seniors. Some of our volunteers will also assist with the construction of a new house for a family in need. We are committed to raising **$25,000 to purchase building materials for the construction of the new home.** CAM will supplement our fundraising efforts with the materials necessary to complete the construction of the new home and to make the repairs on the other houses at which we will work, making these houses **warmer, safer, and drier**. Our **annual funding appeal kicks off later this month** with a link to make a tax deductible donation available on the school website. A **slideshow of our 2025 HOPE experience** is posted on our school website.

NOTES FROM THE PARENT VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION (PVA)

All volunteers must be 100% VIRTUS compliant.

1.) **Catholic Schools Week, January 26th - January 30th, 2026-** United in Faith and Community. CCHS will again participate in National Catholic Schools Week by supporting a number of community organizations. This year, with the help of our eighth grade students and parents, we are supporting six charities that make an impact on their communities. Please mark your calendars and start stocking up now for any donations you are able and willing to make. Our $2 dress down day will be Tuesday, January 27th, and the proceeds will go directly to The Maddox Potter Foundation. Below is the full list of charities and the items that they have requested. If any eighth grade parents would like to volunteer to help work that week, please call or text Erin Ryan (703-505-5108).
Monday, Jan. 26th -Manna Meal- peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, tuna, cereal, canned vegetables or fruits and hamburger helper
Tuesday, Jan. 27th- Covenant House Food Pantry- shelf stable milk, canned meats, canned corn, cereal, pasta, rice, pancake mix, syrup, snack size chips and granola bars
****$2 dress down day to benefit The Maddox Potter Foundation****
Wednesday, Jan. 28th- Second Avenue Community Center - After School Program- canned goods (chicken, fruits, vegetables, ravioli, spaghetti o's, soup), peanut butter or cheese crackers, mac & cheese cups, applesauce cups or squeezers and any healthy packaged snacks
Thurs, Jan. 29th – Gabriel Project - diapers sizes preemie, newborn, 3, 4, 5 and 6; baby wipes, diaper rash cream, baby lotion, baby shampoo; 18 months and 2T clothing (all seasons)
Friday, Jan. 30th–Risen Lord Food Pantry- canned meats, peanut butter, rice, dried beans, cereal, soup, crackers, canned fruits and vegetables

2.) **PVA Polos and Fleece** - Our January order of white polos and uniform jackets has an estimated delivery on February 27, 2026. The next order period is March 4th-11th with estimated delivery on April 17th. 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.

3.) Many thanks to those of you who have volunteered to help 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 the second semester. Some volunteers will need to renew their food handlers' cards. Megan will give you information to do so once you have emailed her. Please indicate in your email if it has been more than two years since you took your food handlers course.

4.) Parent involvement is a vital component of the successful operation of the CCHS athletic program. Working gates and concession stands, being supportive of the players and coaches, and attending games are important pieces. EVERY parent of an athlete is needed to support the teams. Please help how you can and cheer on the Irish!

5.) **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 is available on the school website. Please contact Susan Jarvis (304-552-7831 or sjarvis0508@gmail.com) if you have questions about these passes.

6.) **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.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

KING CAKE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED-- The PVA King Cake Committee is seeking volunteers to purchase King Cakes from Spring Hill Pastry Shop for "Fat Tuesday," February 17, 2026 for the students, faculty and staff to enjoy. If you are interested in purchasing cakes to assist with this project, please contact Kirsten Mork by email at Kirsten.s.mork@gmail.com or cell at 304-989-1412. Mrs. Mork will provide you with details so you can pay for the cakes directly via Venmo.

HANDBOOOK REMINDERS

MEDICATION - Any student taking medication, prescription or over-the-counter, during school hours must report this to the school office. Students taking medication during school hours must have a Diocesan form on file in the school office. **Medication is to be given to the office staff who will dispense it at times designated on the permission slip.** All medications in the office will be returned to students at the end of the year. Medications are not kept from year to year.

SOCIAL MEDIA- Social media and networking are increasingly useful and prevalent in our society. Charleston Catholic High School attempts to provide a safe environment for all individuals in terms of social networking, blogs, and any online publishing.

- The official use of the school logo and name are not permitted to be used on any personal online sources-blogs, websites, private groups, etc. without the written permission of the principal.
- Before publishing pictures of students online, please consider parental wishes.
- Publishing disparaging and/or defamatory comments about the school or anyone in the school community is not permitted.
- Engagement in online activities, such as, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc. may result in disciplinary actions if the content of student or parent's accounts includes defamatory comments regarding the school, the faculty, or other students.

ATHLETIC UPDATES

BASEBALL GAME DAY SPONSORSHIPS- Our high school and middle school baseball teams are scheduled to play 2026 home games at the Shawnee Sports Complex. While the field usage cost of our home games is included in our field sponsorship, we are responsible for the field usage cost for our practice time on the field. **Please consider a Game Day Sponsorship**. A **$200 donation** will help us cover the cost of the field rental for a few days of practice. **Your firm, company, or family's name will be displayed at the field on your game date.** Baseball Game Day Sponsor Forms are available here.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY – In order for students to be eligible for athletics and extracurricular activities, students must have at least **an unweighted 2.0 grade point average for the fall semester** and must be in good behavioral and academic standing at CCHS in order to participate in extracurricular activities.

WINTER SPORTS UPDATES—

Swimming- The swim team has had an exciting year so far! Layla Carter, Izzy Paulson, Harper Cutlip and Zach Lanning competed in the National Catholic Swim meet in Baltimore earlier this month. They are nearing the end of their season. Regionals for the team will be on February 7th, and the State Meet will be February 19th and 20th in Morgantown.

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HS Basketball- The boys' basketball team has faced a challenging schedule so far with an 8-4 record and ranked 7th in the state. They look forward to finishing the season strong in February. The girls' basketball team has been impressive to this point in the season with a 5-6 record and a 7th in the state ranking! Girls will begin regional play on February 21st and boys will begin regional play on February 28th. Their impressive strength of schedule has been the key for both teams this far.

MS Basketball- It has been a rebuilding year for both middle school teams this season. The girls are ranked 8th in the county with a record of 3-6. The boys are ranked 5th in the county. Both teams are looking forward to the rest of the season and fighting to return to the county tournament after a year's absence for both teams.

HS Cheer- Good luck to the cheerleaders who will be traveling to Disney World this week for the national cheer competition. Let's go Irish!

MANY THANKS

- to the PVA Hospitality Committee for the fantastic holiday feast they provided for the faculty and staff during exam week. It was wonderful to gather as a group for a meal before Christmas break!
- to our impressive group of senior volunteers and faculty and staff members Josh Shindle, Mike and Amy Arnold, Jason and Susan Villers, Meredith and Bill Aubel, Molly Linehan Belcher, Sue France, Kate Brown, Rodney LeGrand, Jacob Nelson, Drew Cable, Greg Hoyer and Ted Walker for spending a Saturday morning unloading trucks and organizing and distributing presents and food boxes at Risen Lord Catholic Church as part of our Clay County Christmas Party. It was a happy and fulfilling morning filled with hard work and holiday magic!
- to the following leaders of various Christian denominations for helping the senior class appreciate the diversity of Christian community, worship, and work present here in Charleston. And we were especially grateful for their flexibility with the surprise snow delays and cancellations in December! Pastors Cindy and Derick Briggs-Biondi shared their perspective of Christian Church History and its direct relevance for understanding our current world dynamics. Fr. Alex Mackoul, the Cathedral Dean of St. George's Orthodox community, brought a beautiful icon of the birth of Jesus and interpreted all the symbolism for us. Pastor Jaime Wright of Grace Life Church joined us once again to speak about the benefits and challenges of the non-denominational movement. Pastor Ryan Bandy shared about his process of beginning a new church plant in St. Albans, and also his perspective on creating a Christian life - our second semester theme! Pastor and Doctor Sharletta Green spoke of her life challenges and faith informed by the Methodist tradition that extends now into political policy-making. Fr. John Finnell, formerly of Blessed Sacrament, shared about the concepts of universality and sacramentality that he loves about the Catholic faith and which transformed his own life. We are so grateful for each of these leaders in our community and for their time spent with us. We are all the Body of Christ!

CONGRATULATIONS

-to the students representing Charleston Catholic at the Kanawha County Math Field Day. The middle school team is Ian Alhamwi (6th grade), Madison Leport (7th grade), and Nadia Cicenas (8th grade). The high school team is freshmen Annerae Henson, Claire Hunter, and Kali Shawkey, sophomore Nora Aliff, junior Jude Griffith, and seniors Colin Bown, Luca DiCocco, and Ellie Hoblitzell. Good luck to our Math Field Day teams as they compete on February 4th.
- to senior Ellie Hoblitzell who has been selected as a 2026 Vaughan Fellow. The Vaughan Fellowship is a student fellowship offered by the West Virginia Symphony for student musicians from all around the state.
- to freshman Claire Hunter who emerged as victor after two rounds of expressive and bold poetry recitations in the school Poetry Out Loud competition. Freshman Lauren Fernald finished as runner-up. Claire will represent CCHS at the West Virginia State Poetry Out Loud Championship in March. Congratulations also to all who participated in the school competition.
- to sophomores Henry Adams, Elle Cicenas, Elaina Delgra, and Sabian Rashid who will represent CCHS at the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership seminar this June!

SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION

SCHOOL CLOSINGS/DELAYS DUE TO SNOW/ICE– As we work our way through winter, here's a reminder of the CCHS weather policy. **Remember that school closings and delays are texted through Parent Alert, are announced on the CCHS website, and are reported through local news channels.**

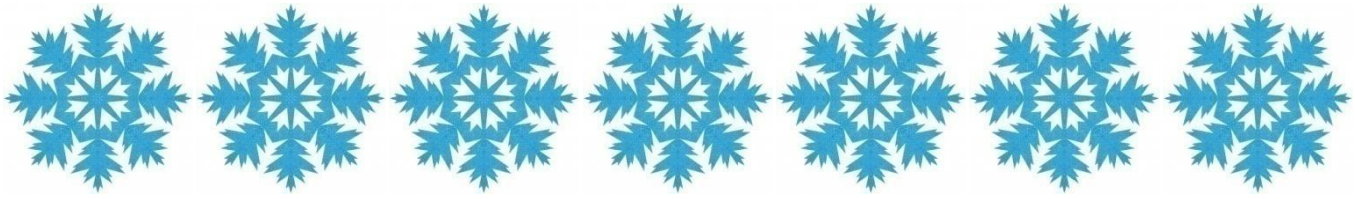
1) CCHS/SHGS will NOT follow ANY of the Kanawha County Schools' weather-related procedures.

2) Families may connect to the CCHS website or listen to the radio/television for changes to CCHS/SHGS schedules. The following stations will be notified by 6:15 a.m. if there are changes to be made: WV Public Radio, WCHS, WCHS-TV, WSAZ-TV, WOWK, V100, 96.1, and WKAZ. **The CCHS website will be updated and a Parent Alert text will be sent. PLANS FOR THE DAY (WHETHER E-DAY OR DAY OFF) WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CLOSURE.**

3) If no announcements are made for CCHS/SHGS, classes will be held on the regular schedule.

4) **If a two-hour delay is announced, classes will start promptly at 10 a.m.** The building will not open until 9:45 to give staff time to get to school. Please do not drop off your children before 9:45!

5) As always, if you cannot get your child to school for health or safety reasons, notify the school.



CALENDAR FOR 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.

Mon. Jan. 26- Fri., Jan. 30	Catholic Schools Week
Mon., Feb. 2- Fri., Feb. 6	MS Winter MAP testing
Fri., February 13	Wear Red for Bobby, $2 dress down day
Mon., February 16	Presidents' Day- no school
Sat., February 21	Winter Waltz for high school students
Thurs., March 19	Golden Horseshoe Test for 8th graders
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., April 16	SAT School Day for juniors
Mon., Apr. 20- Fri., Apr. 24	HS spring MAP testing
Mon. April 27- Fri., May 1	MS spring MAP testing
Mon., May 4- Fri., May 15	AP tests
Sat., May 16	prom
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