October 30, 2026

# INSIDE CHARLESTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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

Dear parents,

We celebrated Homecoming and all things Charleston Catholic earlier this month. It is always a busy, joy-filled week as students embrace the theme and jump wholeheartedly into the games and activities. This year was no different, and we all enjoyed the fun that came with Homecoming- even a "bonus" day after the unexpected early release due to the smell in the building!

One of the things that stood out the most to me this Homecoming was the Penny War. While our students love any kind of competition, they certainly enjoy the opportunity to earn themselves a dress down day! Mrs. Linehan Belcher and a cadre of student volunteers spent time each afternoon counting the donations of the day- coins counting as positive amounts and dollar bills counting negative-- to see which class ended up with the greatest balance. There's strategy and drama involved- high drama, in fact, as the sixth grade arrived at the end of the final day to win the competition by adding a large amount of coins to their bucket and some big bills to their closest competition!

Beyond the win and the dress down day, though, was the fact that we were helping our neighbors. All the money raised in the Penny Wars was donated to the Family Life Food Pantry which provides non-perishable food items for hungry families in the Charleston area. Over the course of four days, our students raised $2250.78, mostly in coins! This fact was not lost on many of our students. In fact, a few of the dedicated counters (who spent 3+ hours counting money with Mrs. Linehan Belcher on the final day of the competition) commented repeatedly on how much food our donation would provide for others and how our fun was actually helping other people.

I hope that all of our students take away the lesson that it's important to come together and celebrate our community and to share our pride in our school. However, it's also important to look outward to others and to share what we have with those who don't have as much. Ideally, we are teaching our young people to live the corporal works of mercy by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and sheltering the homeless. While focusing on our competition, we are also raising our young people to prioritize caring for others- a win for everyone!

I wish you a happy fall!

Warmly,
Colleen Hoyer

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## ACADEMIC UPDATES

**FIRST QUARTER REPORT CARDS ARE ON THE WAY!** – First quarter report cards were mailed today. Please take some thoughtful time to 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 what's going well, what they're struggling with, and what they're 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 2026. 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** – Expectations for CCHS students, 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 we have started the second quarter, it is time to think about 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 15. From January 4 (when classes resume) through January 15, 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. **Please note the adjustment to this year's exam schedule. Exams will start on Wednesday for all students. **Sixth graders will dismiss at 11:15 each day. Seventh through twelfth graders will dismiss at 11:15 on Wednesday and Friday and at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6th grade: | Wednesday, 12/16 | exams for periods 1 and 2; 11:15 dismissal |
| | Thursday, 12/17 | exams for periods 3 and 5; 11:15 dismissal |
| | Friday, 12/18 | exams for periods 7 and 8; 11:15 dismissal |
| 7th/8th grades*: | Wednesday, 12/16 | exams for periods 2 and 4; 11:15 dismissal |
| | Thursday, 12/17 | exams for periods 1, 7, and 8; 1:00 dismissal |
| | Friday, 12/18 | exams for periods 3 and 5: 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: | Wednesday, 12/16 | exams for periods 2 and 4; 11:15 dismissal |
| | Thursday, 12/17 | exams for periods 1, 7, and 8; 1:00 dismissal |
| | Friday, 12/18 | exams for periods 3 and 6; 11:15 dismissal |

**MAP TESTING-** Family Reports with student achievement information from the September 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 2025 to fall 2026 if they took MAP last year at any school (not just at CCHS). Students will test again in the winter and finally 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.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES** -- Parent conferences are next week! Conferences are scheduled for seventh and eighth graders ONLY on Wednesday, November 4, from 1-5 p.m. and on Thursday, November 5 (for all students) from 8 a.m. to noon; 1 to 5 p.m.; and 6 to 9 p.m. **Seventh and eighth graders ONLY will dismiss at 11:55 on November 4.** They will have assignments to complete for their afternoon classes that day. **There will be NO SCHOOL for ALL students on November 5.**

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 build strong communication between home and school.

**BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!**—Join us Friday, November 13, for the Luck of the Irish Bingo, a fun-filled event to raise funds for a new roof for the school building. Come dressed casually and ready to tailgate as we enjoy an evening of BINGO, cornhole, food, drinks, and lots of great prizes! Tickets can be purchased online here, and those interested in sponsoring or donating prizes can contact Chelsea Ruby at chelsea.a.ruby@gmail.com or 304.951.8800.

**SUPPORT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AERIAL DRONE TEAM**-- Join us for a Chipotle fundraiser to help support our middle school aerial drone teams as they prepare for competition. Funds raised will help cover competition registration fees, equipment, and supplies, giving our students the opportunity to develop their skills in piloting, programming, engineering, and teamwork. Enjoy a meal from Chipotle at 2811 Mountaineer Blvd on Wednesday, November 18, from 4- 8 p.m. and 25% of event sales will be donated to our cause.

How to Participate:

- Order online: Place an order for pickup using code D8KMMMJ.
- Order in person: Show the fundraiser flyer in the restaurant.

Every order makes a difference! Thank you for supporting Charleston Catholic's Middle School Aerial Drone Team!

**BASEBALL SPAGHETTI DINNER**- The high school baseball team will host its annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Sunday, December 6, from 4-7 p.m. in the Commons. Tickets are $15 and may be purchases from a baseball player.

# FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

**MOSAIC WELLNESS AND CCHS—** As announced last week, November will begin our partnership with Mosaic Wellness. Through this partnership, we will have a licensed mental health professional available at school for a limited number of hours each week. This partnership will provide opportunities for both individual counseling and small-group sessions focused on topics such as managing stress and anxiety, building healthy friendships, developing coping skills, and navigating social and emotional challenges. **This will not be a drop-in counseling service, and participation will be based on identified student needs, available space, and the provider's professional recommendations.** Please find a parent consent form attached that provides additional details and allows families to opt in or opt out of participation in these services**.** Please complete and return the signed form to the main office.

**HOPE SCHOLARSHIP**- Second quarter Hope accounts were funded earlier this month. Many thanks to all families who have completed their first and second quarter Hope payments. Unfortunately, we have not received all second quarter payments. If you have not yet done so, please login to your Hope account and select the option to pay Charleston Catholic. Your tuition is NOT paid until you complete this step each quarter. Thank you.

**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 2027 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. Here are the categories we historically need the most help with:
- middle school sports
- outside of school activities (arts, scouting, non-school sports, internships, etc.)
- general student life/school spirit/fun photos (first day of school, other events as the year progresses) from each grade level.

The yearbook is better when we represent as many students as possible - thank you in advance for helping us do so!

**ATTENTION MIDDLE SCHOOLERS AND PARENTS**-- We are excited to provide a new opportunity to Charleston Catholic Middle School students this year: MATHCOUNTS! Participating in MATHCOUNTS is a great math enrichment opportunity for students to challenge themselves and improve their problem-solving skills. We meet every Tuesday after school in Mrs. Miller's room and all are welcome at any meeting. See your math teacher for more information.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB—LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! --** The CCHS Middle School Drama Club is excited to announce our first spring production, "*Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Your Teachers (But Were Afraid to Ask)"*, a comedy by Jason Pizzarello! Rehearsals kicked off with our first acting workshop Friday, October 30. All students in grades 6–8 are welcome to join. Regardless of experience level, we encourage you to come explore the fun and creativity of acting or backstage. We are also seeking parent volunteers to help support our spring production. Your time and talents would be greatly appreciated. We look forward to bringing laughter, creativity, and a little teacher-inspired comedy to the stage this spring! Contact brandy.freeman@charlestoncatholic-crw.org for more information.

**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 Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children 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.

In addition, 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, it will be required that all employees and volunteers complete a yearly awareness training module and monthly bulletins. You may complete the module and the bulletins from anywhere you have an internet connection 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.**

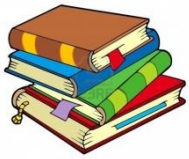
The Diocese encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition 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 $30. We also have stylish canvas CCHS tote bags ($30). If you are interested in ordering any spirit wear, please call the office at 304-342-8415. Go Irish!

## 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!

**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.



## NOTESFROM 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 around November 20. Our next order period for white polos and uniform jackets will open on January15, 2027, and close on January 22, 2027, with estimated delivery in late February. 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, Malena Scalise (304-546-0897) for green polos 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 Cindy Fernald (304-552-3968 or cindyfernald@aol.com) if you would like to be on the cafeteria schedule for November 2026 - May 2027. 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.) **As we prepare for winter sports, it's time to think about an Athletic family pass. 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 Nikki Rohrig (276-614-4897) 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 1 and All Souls Day is November 2. 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 near the office throughout October. Students can stop 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 CCHS Annual Woodcutting day to Big Laurel in Mingo County will be Wednesday, November 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.

3.) Our neighbor, First Presbyterian Church has held Hope Village for over twenty years. Hope Village seeks out vendors who work with artisans lift people out of poverty. 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. 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. 8 - Noon - 3 p.m.
Nov. 11-14 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Nov. 15 - Noon - 3 p.m.
Nov. 18-21 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Nov. 22 - Noon - 3 p.m.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AND GIVING

**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 long-lasting 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 5.

The timetable for the Clay County Christmas Project is below:

**1.) Tuesday, November 24 (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 1** – Stockings and stocking stuffers are due to theology teachers. We try to fill approximately 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 1 pair 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 1**- 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 2** - Wrapped gifts are due to homeroom teachers. Presents should be wrapped and labeled according to the labeling instructions that will be provided with shopping details.
5.) **Friday, December 4**- Bags of wrapped gifts are collected and trucks are packed with gift bags and food boxes.
6.) **Saturday, December 5**- Items are delivered to Risen Lord Parish in Maysel. A group of seniors will have the opportunity to attend and participate in the Christmas party.

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

Thank you for your love for the children of Clay County and your support of this very 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 wrapping up.

- The CCHS golf team had an awesome year culminating in a third place finish at the State Tournament! They also finished as the runner up in the Regional Tournament. Preston Young finished seventh in the State as an individual, earning a spot on the All State Team.
- The cross country team is having a spectacular season. The boys' team brought home the regional championship and hopes to go back to back as State Champions as they compete in the State Meet on October 31. Luke Passmore is the individual Regional Champion! The girls placed second in the Regional and also qualified for the State Meet. The boys' team was also Kanawha County Champions. The boys' first team All County included Luke Passmore, Teddy Passmore, and Peter Basdekis. Joseph Bailey was named second team All County and Freshman of the Year! The girls' second team All County included Grace Long, Breiel Duncan, and Bailee King. Hilton Ingraham was the 2026 Kanawha County Coach of the Year. Good luck to the runners at the State Meet at Cabell Midland this weekend!
- The boys' soccer team had a young team and played hard all year. They fell short in the Regional tournament, losing in penalty kicks. We will say goodbye to seniors Alex Weber and Patrick Kirby, but look forward to a strong team next year.
- The girls' soccer team has had an amazing year under first year head coach Niall Paul. They won the Regional Championship over Spring Valley and will compete in the State Tournament on November 5 in Beckley!
- The volleyball team has fought their way through a difficult schedule and earned the 1 seed in the Region. They are currently ranked #5 in AA. Regionals began on October 29th with the girls advancing over Buffalo. They will play in the regional final next week. Nora Aliff reached her 1,000 kill milestone this season.
- The cheer team is preparing to compete in regionals on November 7th. The big news is that they are going back to Disney in January! They had an outstanding performance at the Game Day competition and advanced to the finals, finishing near the top of the small division to earn their bid to the national competition at Disney World this winter.

**Middle School Update:**

- The boys' cross country team finished as Kanawha County Runner Up. The middle school girls finished as Kanawha County Champions for the first time since 2011! It was a remarkable year for the Cross Country teams!
- The middle school volleyball team had a rebuilding year and started to pick up wins late in the year. They just missed out on the postseason. They will return all but two players next season and look to build on this year's growth.
- The boys' soccer team finished their season as County Champions after defeating Horace Mann/ West Side 3-1 in the Championship game. They completed their second consecutive undefeated season and went back to back as County Champions!
- The girls' soccer team is also your 2026 Kanawha County Champions, defeating JA in an instant classic in PKs in the County Championship to cap off an undefeated season. This is the first County championship for the girls in 5 years!

**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- Jason Gruse- jasongruse@hotmail.com
Middle School Girls' Basketball- Andy Jones - a_jones4040@yahoo.com
High School Boys' Basketball- Hunter Moles- coach.moles@yahoo.com
High School Girls' Basketball- Jay Hewitt - Jayhewitt37@yahoo.com
High School Swimming- Katie Paulson- katie.paulsonwv@gmail.com

## HANDBOOOK REMINDERS

**PICK UP AND DROP OFF -** Students must never be dropped off or picked up directly in front of the school on Virginia Street. Drop off or pick up should occur in the blocks before or after the school on Virginia Street or on Leon Sullivan Way in front of the school. Parents must pull to the curb to pick- up or drop off students. Students are also instructed they must only cross the intersection of Leon Sullivan and Virginia Street when the appropriate walk signal is flashing. Failure to abide by these protocols will result in detention.

## MANY THANKS

- to the PVA for the ongoing love and generosity they show to the school community. The teachers' Wish List items have been arriving, and we are so appreciative of these "special somethings" that PVA provides for our teachers. Thank you!
- to parents Cassie Allara, Joy Curry, Becky Francke, Dickinson Gould, Cynthia Hemphill-Reehling, Kerri Linton, and Ashley Stapleton for driving 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: former *Charleston Gazette* reporter Douglas Imbrogno returned to share about his discovery and efforts of practicing Buddhist meditation in the hecticness of our everyday lives. Later this year, he'll join in the 99th birthday celebrations of the Buddhist monk who started the Theravada forest monastery in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia! Also, Bill and Diana Mehle graciously joined our classes to share about their experience living in Japan as Maryknoll missionaries. They spoke of their observations of the Japanese indigenous tradition of Shinto, woven together with Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism in everyday life, and they were also impressed by what our seniors shared with them about which insights they have gained already through our course discussions! Thank you to each of our guests for bringing our textbook studies and discussions to life in a very real and personal way.

# CALENDAR

**2026-27 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.

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|---|---|
| Wednesday, November 4 | 7th and 8th grade early dismissal (11:55 a.m.) and Parent Teacher Conferences (1-5 p.m.) |
| Thursday, November 5 | Parent Teacher Conferences- no school for students |
| Wednesday, November 11 | Veterans' Day- no school |
| Wednesday, November 25 | E-day for students |
| Thurs., Nov. 26- Fri. Nov. 27 | Thanksgiving holiday |
| Tuesday, December 1 | food items and stocking stuffers due |
| Wednesday, December 2 | wrapped gifts due in homeroom |
| Saturday, December 5 | Clay County Christmas Party |
| Sunday, December 6 | Baseball Spaghetti Dinner |
| Wed- Fri., Dec. 16-18 | exams; 11:15 dismissal |
| Mon., Dec. 21- Fri. Jan. 1 | Christmas break |
| Mon., January 4 | classes resume |
| Friday, January 15 | last day of second quarter/ first semester |
| Mon., January 18 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day- no school |
| Tues., January 19 | e-day for students, teacher professional development |
| Mon., February 15 | Presidents' Day- no school |
| Friday, March 19 | last day of third quarter |
| Friday, March 26- Friday, April 2 | Easter Break |
| Mon., April 5 | classes resume |
| Saturday, May 22 | prom |
| Thurs., May 27 | baccalaureate |
| Fri., May 28 | graduation |
| Mon., May 31 | Memorial Day- no school |
| Wednesday, June 2- Friday, June 4 | exams for 6th -11th graders; 11:15 dismissal |
| Friday, June 4 | Moving Up Ceremony for 8th graders |