



March 30, 2009

INSIDE CHARLESTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Teaching character, compassion, and confidence to the youth of West Virginia for over 80 years

Dear Parents:

Words are powerful. Whether spoken or written, words leave behind impressions that transcend time and space, resurfacing from time to time to uplift or haunt. All of us recall both affirming and hurtful comments. And there are the tidbits from things we've read, heard, or seen that have etched themselves on our memories, jumping into our consciousness from time to time.

Words, tucked away in the recesses of our minds, help form us. Even the less constructive or awkward remarks lobbed our way can motivate us, if we let them. As a teenager spending the summer working on the International War Dictionary in the sub-basement of the Pentagon, I vividly remember the words of an Army Colonel directed my way: "If you can operate a stove the way you operate that typewriter, you'll make some man a fine wife." I was stunned. Cooking?! I was there earning money to help pay for college. But I decided to keep the compliment to my typing, letting the stove remark pass, recognizing in those preliberated days that the Colonel was commenting on my ability to get the job done. And, in the light of experience, I recognize that my husband appreciates my culinary skills, as well, and that's just fine.

It seems that the longer we live the more poignantly we realize the brevity of our lives. But we know that we will leave behind traces of ourselves on the lives we touch if only for an instant. How much better to be remembered for the kind and true and encouraging words we uttered than for those spoken in anger or pettiness. As the life-affirming Easter approaches, with its renewal of hope and faith, let us exhibit for each other the small kindnesses that will lodge in other people's minds and bring small smiles as they are remembered.

Debra K. Sullivan, Principal

CONDOLENCES – We express our sympathy to our students and families who have lost loved ones recently. May the souls of the departed rest in peace: Michael and Morgan Bush's grandfather, Will and Samantha Scriptunas' grandfather, Stephen Gresham and Zoe Schafer's grandmother, Taylor and Morgan Deer's great grandmother, Alex Higgins' great aunt, Ike and Brittany Joseph's great aunt, and Sam Revercomb's grandmother. Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.

WELCOME TO THE CHARLESTON CATHOLIC COMMUNITY – to Jude Andrew Griffith, infant son of math and physics teacher Sarah Griffith and her husband Todd. Parents and child are doing well. During Mrs. Griffith's maternity leave, Mr. Martin Jones will be substituting. We welcome Mr. Jones who has medical school in his future plans and is happy to be a part of our CCHS family in the meantime. Speaking of maternity leave, Mrs. Michelle Patterson is expecting her baby during Easter break. We wish her and her family every happiness and look forward to hearing of the birth of their second child. Mrs. Jennifer Shaf, who has been helping out in the office with administrative responsibilities, will take over Mrs. Patterson's classroom duties for the remainder of the school year. Again, welcome to the newest members of the CCHS family!

OPERATION RICE BOWL – Our high school students recently learned about Catholic Relief Services' work around the world. Mr. Thomas Awiapo from Ghana, accompanied by Ms. Nora Collins of CRS headquarters, spent an hour telling his life's story and the effects of starvation, poverty, war, lack of education, and disease around the world. Students and staff were spellbound and deeply affected by his words and his positive attitude. Mr. Awiapo and Ms. Collins were deeply touched by the warmth extended to them by the CCHS community. Our Lenten collection for Operation Rice Bowl, a CRS project, has already collected over \$1,200.

QUIZ BOWL CHAMPS – Congratulations to our State A/AA Championship Quiz Bowl Team! Charleston Catholic soundly defeated all opponents in a long and grueling day of competition in the state tournament on Friday in Parkersburg. Participating players were seniors John Alan Willis and Andy Phillips, and juniors Ben Williams, Hillary Frame, Sami Sankari, and Josh Arnold. Alternates who accompanied the team and served as tournament workers were Meredith Summers and Michael Carbone. Congratulations to the entire quiz bowl team and faculty advisory Mrs. Amy Arnold for a successful year.

CELL PHONE POLICY – Cell phones may not be used AT ALL while students are in the building 8 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.). They are to be turned off, not merely set on silent. School is supposed to be a safe zone where students are not besieged by text messages from friends, foes, parents, and the like. The upset and distraction that result when students send or receive messages are enormous and have a deleterious affect on students’ wellbeing and the classroom atmosphere. Please do not call or text your children during the school day. While their phones are supposed to be turned off, we have had occasions when students forget and their phones sound off, to the chagrin of the owners, with a parent on the other end of the line. If there is a need to contact your child during the school day, please call the school office. Faculty and staff will take students’ cell phones if they are used in any way (e.g., phone calls, text messaging, playing games, connecting to the internet). Parents must come to the school office to retrieve these phones, with second and succeeding incidents resulting in a \$25 charge. Your help in controlling this nuisance is greatly appreciated.

TUITION INFORMATION FOR 2009-10 -- including invoices and loan information from First Bank of Charleston will be mailed on April 9. In order to keep CCHS as affordable as possible for our families yet enough to keep up with increasing costs, tuition was increased by less than one dollar per day per student (by the way, we typically plan 184 or more days per school year). **Tuition payment in full is due June 15** (late charge assessed at \$1.00 per day after June 15).

SCHEDULING CURRENT STUDENTS FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR – Students have turned in their course selections for the upcoming school year and next year’s high school students will be entering their choices into the computer within the week. Final placement in 7th and 8th grade math and high school honors, advanced honors, and Advanced Placement courses will be made in June after a review of the students’ first and second semester grades, their current and past year’s standardized test results, various placement tests, class availability, and teacher recommendations. Students currently enrolled in Prealgebra 7 must have at least a C for second semester to go on to Algebra I in eighth grade. Eighth graders enrolled in Algebra I must have at least a C to go on to geometry in 9th grade.

2009-2010 DIOCESAN TUITION ASSISTANCE -- This marks the 19th year of the Diocesan tuition assistance program for Catholic students needing financial help. Bishop Michael Bransfield has continued the practice set by Bishop Schmitt, providing Diocesan financial assistance where need is determined. All Catholic students accepted for the 2009-2010 school year in any Diocesan Catholic school are eligible. Determinations are based upon a family's degree of need relative to other applicants. The deadline is April 17, so please start putting together the information you will need to apply (e.g., 2008 tax return information). You can request a form by calling the CCHS office. You may also apply online at www.factstuitionaid.com.

NEW AND USED TEXTBOOKS FOR 2009-2010 -- We will be continuing our system of selling used textbooks and ordering new textbooks through the school. Forms to order **NEW** textbooks will be sent home with students the first week of May. These orders are due with payment by Friday, June 12, following the used textbook sale on Tuesday and Wednesday (June 9-10). **We strongly urge you to buy known (i.e., for required courses and Latin levels 2 through 4) used textbooks and order new books by Friday, June 12, in order to ensure that they will be available for the start of the year. Consumables such as Wordly Wise for all grades, theology in middle school, and health for high school should definitely be ordered at this time.** There will be a second order in August during registration for the additional classes and electives students are scheduled into. Please note that Spanish and French textbooks will be new next year and should not be turned in for resale. Latin books will remain the same.

As in previous years, textbooks that families want to sell will be collected from students as they finish using them for exams. Books to be sold should contain a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** and be turned into the classroom where the book is used. **Used workbooks cannot be resold.** Books will quickly be sorted by staff and PVA volunteers (thank you, PVA!!!!). **The used textbook sale will take place on Tuesday, June 9th, and Wednesday, June 10th.** Used textbooks for required courses and ones that students know they will definitely be scheduled into (i.e. 2nd year of a language) will be available for purchase. Leftover used books and books for additional classes and electives will again be for sale during August registration.

Because of the enormous amount of time involved in processing, pricing, and organizing the used-textbook event, **students must turn in books for resale by Friday, June 5th** (earlier would be better!). Students should NOT leave books in their lockers and assume that they will be processed. Senior books will be collected through their

exam classes during senior exam days May 21st and 22nd. Books for other grades will be collected in their exam classrooms June 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

SPECIAL MEDICAL CONCERNS – Please notify the office if your children develop any special medical needs so we can get the information out to those who need it.

VIRTUS– 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. Complete information, links, and forms are on the CCHS website. Please contact Ms. FitzGerald with questions. The next virtue training is April 18th at 9am at St. Francis (St. Albans). Please pre-register at www.virtusonline.org.

MRS. THOMAS' TIDBITS –

- 1) SAT and ACT testing and registration dates (CCHS code: 490-205)

SAT I and II (can register on line -- www.collegeboard.org):

| TEST DATE | DEADLINE | LATE REGISTRATION |
|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| May 2 | March 31 | April 9 |
| June 6 | May 5 | May 15 |

ACT: (can register on line -- www.act.org)

| TEST DATE | DEADLINE | LATE REGISTRATION |
|-----------|-------------|------------------------|
| April 4 | February 27 | February 28 – March 13 |
| June 13 | May 8 | May 9 – 22 |

- 2) CCHS encourages students to take both the ACT and the SAT before the end of their junior year.

Juniors may need to take SAT II subject tests which are best taken at the end of the junior year or upon completion of courses being tested.

- 3) Seniors will need to complete their community service hours by the second Friday of May (May 8).

4) **Seniors are allowed 2 college visit days; juniors are allowed 2 college visit days. College visits must be made before May 1.**

5) Juniors should visit colleges during spring break – pick up literature about schools, talk to admissions personnel, talk to students, look at dorms and classrooms, try the food, meet professors, ask “Does this atmosphere suit me?”

6) Mrs. Thomas is meeting with juniors individually to discuss their college plans. They review PSAT and Strong Interest Inventory results and discuss how to look for and choose colleges. Afterwards, students receive lists of colleges that fit their interests so they can begin their college searches.

PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL SPORTS -- In order to participate in an athletic event 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 are also expected to be on time on days following athletic events. Students will be given one warning during the course of the year (not per season) for violations of this policy.

GOLDEN HORSESHOE – All 8th graders in West Virginia schools have the opportunity to become Golden Horseshoe winners. The 45-minute computer test will be administered state-wide, with CCHS being scheduled for Monday, April 6. There will be no make-up date.

CCHS ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT – is scheduled for Friday, May 15, at Edgewood Country Club. Registration begins at 11 a.m. with a shot gun start at noon. The cost is \$100 per person (\$35 is tax deductible). Please contact Bill Gillispie to reserve your spot. He can be reached at cchsathletics@yahoo.com or 342-8415.

ADS IN NEWSLETTER – You will notice several ads in this month’s newsletter. These \$25-per-newsletter business-card size spots help our families connect with and support each other, as well as offset the cost of printing the newsletter. Please submit your information with payment to the school office. Thanks to those families who have already submitted their ads for publication!

FINAL EXAMS –Remember, students who miss semester exams for reasons other than illness (who will be given the opportunity to make up the exams) will receive an F for those examinations. Just a reminder regarding the seniors- only exam exemption policy: Seniors may be exempt from second semester exams if: 1) the course is a two-

semester course; 2) the teacher chooses to allow exam exemptions; 3) third and fourth quarter grades average to at least 93; 4) fine arts requirements are completed by March 20 and community service requirements by May 8.

Students enrolled in AP courses must take the AP exam. School finals will not be given to seniors in AP courses but will be administered to non-seniors. Students who elect to take AP tests in non-AP classes will follow the exam exemption policy. Namely, students in non-AP classes who choose to take AP exams will also take teacher-developed final exams unless they meet the exemption standards (seniors only).

SECOND SEMESTER EXAM SCHEDULE –

6th graders' exams

Tuesday, June 2 -- exam 7 (dismissal at 2:45)
 Wednesday, June 3 -- exams 1, 2, 5 (dismissal at 1 p.m.)
 Thursday, June 4 -- exams 6 and 8 (dismissal at 11:15 a.m.)

7th and 8th graders' exams:

Tuesday, June 2 – regular classes 8 a.m. through 1:30 p.m.; period 7 exam (1:30 until 2:45 p.m.)
 Wednesday, June 3 – exams 1, 3, 5 (dismissal at 1 p.m.)
 Thursday, June 4 – exams 2 and 8 (dismissal at 11:15 a.m.)

9th, 10th, and 11th graders' exams:

Wednesday, June 3 – exams 4, 6, 7 (dismissal at 1 p.m.)
 Thursday, June 4 – exams 1 and 2 (dismissal at 11:15 a.m.)
 Friday, June 5 – exams 3 and 8 (dismissal at 11:15 a.m.)

SAFETY ISSUES – As you know, the streets around school become extremely congested around 2:45. It is important that you are aware of the traffic signals, other drivers, and students at this busy time. Please do not double park or ask students to load in an unsafe area. Remember, traffic in front of the school on Virginia Street should be moving – it is not a loading zone. Thank you for your help as we work to kept the students safe.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR FOR 2009-10 –

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, August 19 | first day for students |
| Monday, September 7 | Labor Day – no school |
| Wednesday, November 11 | Veterans' Day – no school |
| Wednesday, November 25 | 11:30 dismissal for Thanksgiving |
| Wednesday-Friday, December 16 – 18 | exams |
| Monday, December 21 | first day of Christmas vacation |
| Monday, January 4 | classes resume |
| Monday, January 18 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – no school |
| Monday, February 15 | Presidents' Day – no school |
| Friday, April 2 | Good Friday – first day of Easter break |
| Monday, April 12 | classes resume |
| Thursday, May 27 | baccalaureate (tentative) |
| Friday, May 28 | graduation (tentative) |
| Monday, May 31 | Memorial Day – no school |
| Wednesday-Friday, June 2-4 | exams for grades 6 – 11 |

NOTES FROM THE PARENT VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION (PVA) –

1) Order forms for fleece jackets with CCHS logo, white uniform polo shirts, and green athletic/academic competition polo shirts are available on the CCHS website. **IMPORTANT UPDATE:** The charcoal gray fleece jackets worn by CCHS high school students are being phased out. A student currently owning a charcoal gray fleece that is in good shape and still fits may wear that fleece during the '09-'10 school year. PVA will hold two special sales of existing charcoal gray fleece to reduce inventory. The first sale will be May 5th, in the Commons, between 2:15 PM and 4 PM. The second sale will take place in June when textbooks are ordered for the upcoming school year. All charcoal fleece will be sold at \$20 each. When the inventory is depleted, the sale will end.

2) The incredible International tasting will be held on Sunday, April 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Commons. Tickets will be available at the door. Prices are \$15 for adults, \$7 for children (under 12), \$45 for families and \$12 for seniors (65 and over). Tickets include 7 tastings, desserts and drinks. Take out is available. Plan on attending this annual event that features homemade culinary delights representing the diverse cultures of CCHS.

- to the high school speech team on their performance at the state tournament. Semi-finalists include Kayla Mason, Meredith Summers, Mandy Harper, Hillary Frame, Ben Williams, and Christopher Skaggs.
- to 6th grader Collin Moore – his essay was chosen as the school submission to the West Virginia Young Writers' Contest.
- to CCHS regional Math Field Day winners Sami Harris (8th grade first place), Michael Mallory (high school alternate), and Andy Phillips (high school second place) who will go on to compete at the State Math Field Day in April.
- to 6th grader Jackson Ellis who will represent CCHS at the state-level National Geographic Geography Bee in April.
- to Brendan Dailey, Cat Higgins, and other students in the CCHS Political Forum who won second place in the WV Public Campaign Financing Act Advertisement Contest with their video.
- to both the varsity girls' and boys' basketball teams on their great seasons including their state runner-up recognition. Maria Femia and Meg Whelan were selected to the All Tournament Team. Maria Femia was named to the 2nd team All State and Capen Evans to the 3rd team All State.
- to the student body and cheerleaders for their positive enthusiasm resulting in the spirit award at the girls' state basketball tournament.

THANKS –

- to the parents who helped transport students to the Latin mini-field day in February which was held at the CCHS Athletic Facility: Caroline Williams, Sarah Casey, Denise Gould, Betty Paolini, Karen Rodgers, Marsha Hoyer, Mary Jo Panaro, Nancy Grist, Julie Robinson, and Jean Kennedy.
- to all of our parents who baked king cakes for our Mardi Gras celebration: Johana Aguilar, Joan Baldwin, Erika Bailey, Kris Blair, Kelly Breese, Mary Crigger, Tricia Dexter, Lisa Dobbins, Georgette George, Caryn Gresham, Judy Hamilton, Jill Helmick, Jeanne Jarrett, Ruth Joseck, Dawn Martinez, Mary McQuain, Sheila Miller, Victor Nease, Cindy Nelson, Lori Ray, Fran Rollins, Iris Settle, Judy Strawderman, and Carla Stricker. Much appreciated!
- to the bowlers and sponsors for the Special Olympics Bowl-a-thon. CCHS helped raise \$11,200 toward the summer Special Olympics.
- to Mike Arnold for sharing his knowledge about invasive species in West Virginia during a recent science seminar.
- to the parents who provided a team lunch experience for the faculty and staff. The delicious meal was enjoyed by all – go Irish!
- to the 74 middle and high school students who participated in the Food Fast Retreat by fasting for 24 hours and collecting over \$2,300 for Catholic Relief Services.
- to parents who have transported quiz bowl and speech teams all over the state. Your help is essential and deeply appreciated.

March/April Menu

NOTE: During Lent, we do not serve meat on Fridays. IF THERE IS A TEAM LUNCH SCHEDULED ON ANY OF THESE DAYS, PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE MEAT IN YOUR RECIPES!!!!

Just a reminder -- no charging lunch! Menu subject to change at the end of each month!

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|-----------------|---|--|--|--|
| March 30 -Pizza | 31 -Breakfast for lunch | April 1 -Fish sandwich Baked potato Bean salad Nachos | 2 - Meatball sub Onion rings Spaghetti salad | 3 - Bean burrito Cheese potato Rice |
| 6 - Pizza | 7 - Pasta buffet Caesar salad Garlic toast | 8 - Baked chicken mashed potato Green beans Rolls | 9 - Hot dogs Nachos Tater tots | 10 – Good Friday – beginning of Easter break |
| 20 - Pizza | 21 - Hot roast beef Sandwich Mashed potatoes Gravy | 22 - Chicken stir fry Rice hummus with pita | 23 - Hamburgers Spicy fries | 24 - Chicken wrap Nachos |
| 27 - Pizza | 28 - Spaghetti Garden salad Rolls | 29 - Chicken nuggets Baked potato Fruit salad | 30 - Soft tacos Super nachos Nachos Refried beans | 1 - Pizza |

CALENDAR FOR 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR

| | |
|---|---|
| Saturday, April 4 | SCORES competition at Marshall University |
| Monday, April 6 | Golden Horseshoe test for 8 th graders (no make-up day) |
| Tuesday, April 7 | PVA-sponsored Focus WV Day |
| Friday, April 10 | Good Friday - first day of Easter vacation |
| Friday, April 17 | Diocesan tuition grant applications due |
| Monday, April 20 | Classes resume |
| Sunday, April 26 | International Tasting in Commons (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.) |
| Saturday, May 2 | Prom |
| May 4- May 15 | AP Exams |
| Tuesday, May 5 | PVA fleece fire sale and shirt presale |
| Friday, May 8 | Freshman Retreat- Camp Virgil Tate |
| Friday, May 15 | CCHS alumni golf tournament |
| Sunday, May 17 | Middle School Athletic Banquet 6 p.m. at John XXIII Pastoral Center |
| Monday, May 18 | 7 th (Carter Caves) and 8 th (Heritage Farms Museum) grade field trips; junior retreat (May 20 rain date) |
| Monday, May 25 | Memorial Day - no school |
| Tuesday, May 26 | Baccalaureate |
| Wednesday, May 27 | Graduation |
| June 2, 3, 4 | exams for grades 6-8 (no exceptions) – early dismissal June 3 and 4 only |
| June 3, 4, 5 | exams for grades 9 - 11 (no exceptions) |
| Thursday, June 4 | 8 th grade moving up ceremony 6:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, June 9, and Wednesday, June 10 | used textbook sale 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in Commons |
| Friday, June 12 | new textbook and consumable orders are due with payment for August delivery |

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HOPE 2009 (Housing Outreach Project Express) – In June 2009, a group of 70 Charleston Catholic students, teachers, parents, and alumni will offer emergency home repair assistance to ten low-income families in Clay County. This summer marks the 19th consecutive year that we have participated in a ministry of emergency home repair in a neighboring county.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT. We need to raise **\$30,000** for construction supplies. Please consider making a donation to purchase needed building materials to make the homes of economically disadvantaged families warmer, drier, and safer. All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to **“Charleston Catholic.”** Note **“HOPE Donation”** on the memo line. Send your donation together with the form below to the school office to the attention of Bill Mehle.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND SUPPORT.

Name _____
Address _____

YES, I want to support the CCHS **Housing Outreach Project Express.**

Enclosed is my check for

_____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$10 _____ other

Checks are to be made payable to **“Charleston Catholic.”**

Send to HOPE, c/o Bill Mehle, CCHS, 1033 Virginia Street E., Charleston 25301