



September 23, 2011

INSIDE CHARLESTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents:

Homecoming week at Charleston Catholic High School is always enjoyable. The hallways and doors are decorated, the clothing is unique and fun, the looney lunches add some humor, the school liturgy is especially beautiful, the soccer games are energetic – and yet learning continues each day. Our students are not celebrating “homecoming” in the traditional sense. Each day they are building memories of their time spent at CCHS and these will tie them to their “home” in future years.

One of faculty and staff’s particular pleasures this time of year – and any time else, of course -- is the serendipitous encounters with alumni. It is always gratifying to hear accounts of graduates’ journeys since they left Charleston Catholic. Regardless of the paths they’ve taken, the ups and downs along the way, a common thread is their preparedness to take on the challenges they face in college and in life, something they attribute in large measure to their time spent with us here at school. All in all, aside from dealing with homesickness, the lack of home cooked meals and their own bathrooms, adjusting to roommates, and having to do their own laundry, they report that they’re doing quite well academically and personally. It is only when our students leave our corner of downtown Charleston that they really begin to understand how atypical their middle school and high school experiences have been. It is satisfying to know that their hard work in high school paid off and that they are reaping the rewards now in college.

I’m looking forward to June 22 – 24, 2012, when we’ll be hosting the Charleston Catholic All-Class Reunion. It’s always good when people can get together and remember shared experiences and also concoct a few new ones that they will carry with them.

Merely attending Charleston Catholic does not make the difference. What makes the difference is taking full advantage of the opportunities that are present here. Encourage your children to do their best and to become involved in the school. Work with the faculty, supporting their efforts to develop strong study habits in your children. Expect your children to do their homework, truly study for tests, and turn in assignments on time, neatly done, and complete. It will pay off in the end. And keep in mind that excellence is not a matter of chance. It is a matter of choice.

Warmly,

Debra K. Sullivan, Principal

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP NEWS -- **The Charleston Catholic High School community celebrates its seniors who have been named National Merit Semifinalists: Zachary Ayoob, Samantha Busch, and Paul Witsberger.** More than 1.5 million juniors across the country entered the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the PSAT in October 2010.

Approximately one percent of the nation’s college-bound seniors are tapped for this honor. We wish Zachary, Samantha, and Paul the best as they go on to compete to become National Merit Finalists!

CONDOLENCES – We express our sympathy to a number of our students and their families who have lost loved ones recently. May the souls of the departed rest in peace: Coach Greg Kozera’s brother, Graham Davis’ maternal grandfather, Matthew and Sarah (CCHS Class of 2011) James’ father, John Riggs’ paternal grandmother, Pyper Roe’s maternal grandfather, and Coach Keith Hutcheson’s mother. Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.

PROGRESS REPORTS ENCLOSED – Please review this information with your children. Additionally, teachers have distributed in-depth progress reports to their students, detailing student information on homework, labs, quizzes, tests, etc. Please check with your children to see this information! As you review your children’s progress reports, take time to help them focus on their accomplishments. Help them find the balance in their lives so they can successfully manage academics, athletics and other extracurricular interests, social and religious activities, and family. Help them determine their “personal best.” The school year is still in its infancy. Everything is possible!

HELPING YOUR CHILDREN STRENGTHEN THEIR GRADES – Why don’t students earn the grades they (or their parents) would like to have? Teachers report the ten most likely reasons, as listed below. Please work with your children to make sure they’re doing all they can (and should!) be doing!

THE TOP TEN REASONS:

- 1) Students fail to turn in assignments. Oftentimes they haven’t written them down in their assignment books so they absolutely forget they have them!
- 2) Students only read the chapter ONCE. Some even wait until the night before a test or quiz to read the chapter the first time!
- 3) Students don’t take good notes in class. They may write down the outline a teacher has written on the board, but they don’t fill it in with additional information that has been discussed or presented.

- 4) If they've taken notes, they don't always review them before tests and quizzes. Similarly, they should use corrected past quizzes and tests as resources to review so that missed material is learned.
- 5) Students aren't following directions. Sometimes they aren't reading every word in a question or they are not listening to and following teachers' verbal instructions.
- 6) Students may assume that instructions are going to be repeated. Or even that explanations and examples during instruction will be repeated! They need to focus their attention on the teacher throughout the period and not rely on the possibility that something will be repeated.
- 7) Students are not asking teachers for help. If your child doesn't ask questions in class, then teachers will not know if or why the child is having problems.
- 8) Students sometimes use tutors as crutches thinking "why do I need to pay attention in class when the tutor will explain it later?" Our teachers are available after school and often before school to work with their students. **Unless there is some very serious knowledge gap to be filled or if a student is experiencing extraordinary difficulty, outside tutors should not be necessary.**
- 9) Students sometimes rush through an assignment just to get it done. Quality counts. Attention to details makes a difference.
- 10) Students need to form a mental overview as to how pieces of a subject fit together. They need to do more than memorize information "for the test." They need to LEARN it so it will be there to help them make conceptual connections in the future.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES -- Because of the large number of parents wishing to attend parent-teacher conferences (we're delighted with the turnout each year!), we must adjust the school schedule to handle these requests. The appointment schedule has been designed to accommodate the greatest number of parent requests -- without totally wearing out the teachers! **Please call the office beginning Monday, October 17, to schedule appointments for students in all grades.**

Parent conferences for all grades are scheduled for **Thursday, November 3** from 8 a.m. to noon; 1 to 5 p.m.; and 6 to 9 p.m. **There will be no school for students on this day.**

PLEASE BE ON TIME AND BE CONSIDERATE OF PARENTS WAITING FOR THEIR DESIGNATED APPOINTMENTS.

1) **6th grade parents** will meet with each teacher (Ms. Wallpe, Mrs. Park, Mr. Shindle, and Mr. Webb) for 7 minutes each. Parents will be scheduled on the half-hour, e.g., 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, etc. All meetings will take place in the library where the four teachers will set up in separate locations in the room. On the half-hour, four sets of parents having that time period as their appointment will enter the library. Each set of parents will begin with one of the four teachers. After 7 minutes, the parents will rotate to the next teacher, and so on. At the 28-minute mark, those parents must leave the library and four new sets of parents will begin their rotation.

2) **7th and 8th grade parents** will meet with each teacher (Mrs. Pile, Mrs. Erby, Mrs. Zboinski, Mr. Villers, and Mrs. Hayes) for 5 minutes each. Parents will be scheduled on the half-hour, e.g., 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, etc. Meetings will take place in the Commons where the five teachers will set up in separate locations in the room. On the half-hour, five sets of parents having that time period as their appointment will enter the Commons. Each set of parents will begin with one of the five teachers. After 5 minutes, the parents will rotate to the next teacher, and so on. At the 25-minute mark, those parents must leave the area and the five new sets of parents will begin their rotation at the half-hour mark.

3) **High school parent-teacher conferences** are scheduled at 10 minute intervals with individual teachers.

Teachers will begin conferences by asking you what you would like to know about your child. *Therefore, before your conference, it might be wise to take time to jot down a few questions. Do you want to know how your child is getting along socially? Do you want to know if work is being turned in? Do you have questions about grades or comments on the report card? Remember, it's your ten minutes and you need to spend your time learning answers to your questions!* Please feel free to call individual teachers at school and talk to them on the phone if you cannot meet with them on November 3 or if you need to talk with them at length.

HELP NEEDED -- A week ago, a fire destroyed the home of one of our 6th graders, Cameron Allen. Cameron's mother, Joella, is raising Cameron and his 3 year old sister. The family lost everything in the fire, and they did not have renter's insurance. Two CCHS parents, Julie DeTemple (jdetemple@me.com - 304-549-8774) & Traci Acklin (traciack@suddenlink.net - 304-546-8884) have volunteered to help coordinate the CCHS support for the family. The Allen family has found a house to rent but could use some help with its furnishings: bed frame with box springs and a mattress for Joella (double or larger); a second double mattress and box springs (they have a frame); one dresser (they have 2 others); washer and dryer; double bed sheets; comforters for two double beds; towels/ washcloths; dish towels; twin comforter and sheet set for the 3 year old (Dora is her favorite!). Donations can be made to CCHS with a note that it is for the Allen family; we will see they get those donated funds. Thanks to everyone for your support.

PARENT SIGNATURES -- When permission slips or papers are sent home by teachers to be signed by the parent, the parent needs to sign the paper so the teacher can tell that it is the parent's signature. We want to make sure that parents are aware of special events, student progress, etc., and are doing our part to make sure you receive accurate information about your child. Please help us help you!

ESCO ON-LINE BOOKS -- Our first experience with ESCO went well with over 3,200 books ordered. As with any new program there is some fine tuning to be done and ESCO has been working closely with us to improve their service, based on input we've received from parents. This is an evolving program. Please continue to help us iron out its details. Please note:

- 1) If you paid for expedited service on your first order, this was unnecessary. Please contact ESCO and this fee will be refunded.
- 2) ESCO has made a commitment for the upcoming school year to have 100% of the books necessary for our population. This means there should be no backordered items. There is a new purchasing agent and new software that should ensure this commitment.
- 3) Many parents would like to know how much they will receive for books through the buy-back. Now that there is an established history with ESCO and parents have a personal account, this information is available on the buy-back return tab.

ALL-CLASS REUNION -- Plans are underway for the Charleston Catholic All Class Reunion scheduled for the weekend of June 22-24, 2012. Events will feature an open house in the Commons, tours of the school building, and an afternoon at the Athletic Facility. All CCHS graduates are invited to join in the festivities and reconnect with classmates.

MOODLE – Are you checking the CCHS Course Extranet (Moodle) on the CCHS website? Teachers are posting dates for quizzes, tests, and major assignments. Use this invaluable tool – you'll be amazed at what you can learn! Check Monday evenings and double-check Wednesday for any assignment updates.

CHECK THE CCHS WEBSITE – for fine arts critiques and community service forms and the handbook -- www.charlestoncatholic-crw.org. The website continues to evolve. Check it out! And remember, weather-related announcements (e.g., snow delays/closings) will be posted there so you won't have to spend time glued to the radio or television!

LATIN IV FIELD TRIP -- Seniors in Latin IV will travel with Mrs. Snyder to Washington, D.C. November 18-20 to study the influence of the ancient Romans and Greeks on Western art and architecture. Activities will include visits to various Smithsonian museums which house not only antiquities but also a wealth of art through the ages with strong classical characteristics. A walk down Constitution Avenue will highlight styles of architecture. Students will also have the opportunity to attend a performance by the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center.

SHAKESPEARE AT CCHS -- Love...intrigue...and a pound of flesh - no more, no less. Join us October 14-15, 2011, as CCHS Drama presents William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. Tickets are available at the door. The show begins at 7:30 p.m.. Don't miss one of Shakespeare's most gripping classics!

UNIFORM UPDATE - Skorts and shorts will be permitted until Friday, October 14. Please remember that skorts must be no shorter than two inches above the knee. This is the final year for skorts for girls. Next year, in efforts to standardize the uniform, all students will be able to wear shorts in the fall and spring (see handbook for dates) and uniform pants for the remainder of the school year.

JUNIOR CLASS FUNDRAISER-- The juniors will be selling pepperoni rolls and cookie dough during November to support the 2012 prom. These items will be great for holiday foods or gifts. Look for details in the next newsletter.

IF YOUR LAST NAME IS DIFFERENT FROM YOUR CHILD'S NAME – please put the child's full name on all checks issued to CCHS.

FAMILIES WISHING NEWSLETTERS/REPORT CARDS/PROGRESS REPORTS SENT TO 2 ADDRESSES – must send in 11 stamped addressed envelopes.

ADDRESS CHANGES -- If there are mistakes on the name/address on the progress report, please notify Mrs. Cielensky so corrections may be made.

LUNCH TIME DRIVING – High school students have less than 40 minutes for lunch. In addition to the CCHS lunch program which serves reasonably priced, tasty meals, there are a number of eateries within walking distance of school. Quite a few parents refuse to allow their children to drive at lunch time. Something to consider. . .

STUDENT DRIVERS – Please encourage your student drivers to be responsible, safe drivers. Talk to them about speeding down the street in front of the school (showing off for friends?), pulling out of parking lots too quickly, ignoring pedestrians, changing lanes abruptly, speeding through yellow lights, texting or talking on cell phones while driving, fiddling with the radio, and so on. Tragedies happen in an instant. If you see inappropriate or reckless driving behavior, please note the license plate and make of car and notify Ms. FitzGerald.

AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK CLINIC -- is the perfect time for students to complete their homework before leaving school! This structured, teacher-supervised time is dedicated to homework completion and study and is free of common distractions (no Facebook, texting, or television here!). Homework clinic meets in science teacher Mrs. Erby's room on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons from 3 – 4 p.m. The cost is \$10/session. Students are encouraged to bring a snack.

AFTER SCHOOL AT KANAWHA PUBLIC LIBRARY – The KPL provides our students with a safe place to study and relax after school! If your children are going to the library after school, please remind them to respect the library's hospitality by following their rules regarding food and drink (none permitted), proper behavior (e.g., no horseplay or loudness), etc. Make sure your children rise to the expectations.

CLAY COUNTY CHRISTMAS PROJECT-- This long-standing (24 years?) project highlights the bond between families in Clay County and the CCHS/SHGS community. Each year over 500 children and their families are served by our Clay County Christmas Project. Also, for the past seven years, our summer HOPE project to make houses warmer, drier, and safer has focused on Clay County, further solidifying our outreach to the residents there. Parents and businesses willing to donate goods or funds should contact the school office -- cash donations are needed to assist with extra stocking stuffers, a special something extra for the food boxes, and miscellaneous needs. Many thanks to CCHS alum Dickinson Gould of Buzz Products for continuing to provide trucks and drivers to transport everything to the party site. The entire school is involved in the project, getting stockings, providing stocking stuffers and gifts for specific children, stuffing stockings, bagging gifts by family, loading trucks, and on and on. The party will take place in Clay County on Saturday, December 3. Two groups of students actually go to the party: 1) morning helpers -- truck unloaders and organizers (who leave CCHS around 7 a.m. and then return midmorning to CCHS); 2) day-long helpers -- older students who have never been to the party before and a few club representatives who have specific tasks to perform. We'd like to take more students but the church facility in Maysel is very small. The timetable for the Clay County Christmas Project is:

1) Friday, November 18 - \$2 jeans day - to raise money for photo paper and ink -- each Clay County child gets his/her picture taken with Santa during our party!

2) Friday, November 18- Students will receive the name and other information about their Clay County children. Students are asked to purchase a \$35 gift. Please do not exceed the \$35 limit. 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. Colleen Hoyer, Assistant Principal for Student Affairs. Parents wishing to help with gifts for additional children are encouraged to inquire in the office.

3) Monday, November 21 – Stockings and stocking stuffers are due to theology teachers. We try to fill 500 stockings so we count on each student to bring in the requested items. Each student needs to bring a 12-14 inch stocking (about \$2 from K-Mart) along with 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: 1 12- 14 inch stocking to be filled, 3 small boxes of crayons (8 or 16 count), 3 thin coloring books, 2 pairs of stretchy gloves-one size fits all, and 2 chapsticks.

Each high school student: 1 12-14 inch stocking to be filled, 1 pair of stretchy gloves-one size fits all, and 2 chapsticks. Additionally:

grades 9 & 12- 5 hairbrushes and 5 bars of soap.

grades 10 & 11- 5 toothbrushes (individually packaged) and 5 tubes of toothpaste.

EXTRA ITEMS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

4) Monday, November 21- Food items are due -- Each classroom 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.

5) Tuesday, November 29 - Wrapped gifts are due with the family number and Clay County child's name securely taped on the front.

6) Various dates -- Our student activity groups, service clubs, and other student groups are also participating by donating cookies, candy canes, etc. These students will receive specific information from their sponsors. *Thank you for your generosity to the children of Clay County!*

AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP – Teachers are on duty until 3 p.m. outside to ensure the safety of our students. Please pick up your children by that time to make sure that they are supervised. Remind your children to be "good neighbors" to our very generous friends at **First Presbyterian Church**. They allow our students to wait for rides on church property. Let's show our thanks by having our children behave responsibly and respectfully. Let's also take care of our neighbors in **Boulevard Towers**. When our families park or drive through their lot (behind the school), they are hindering legitimate occupants in Boulevard Towers' parking spaces (who are paying for those spaces!). Also, the Sacred Heart lot across from the cathedral is for use by CCHS and SHGS staff only. Please heed traffic signals around the school. With such a tremendous volume of cars and pedestrians, caution becomes even more important. Thank you.

KANAWHA, BOONE, AND PUTNAM COUNTY IN-LIEU OF TRANSPORTATION

FORMS -- are past due. If you live in Kanawha County more than 2 miles from CCHS or in Putnam or Boone County and would like to receive reimbursement from the public school systems, you must turn in your form by October 2 to Mrs. Cielensky at CCHS.

MRS. THOMAS' TIDBITS –

1) Do you “Twitter?” Keep up with the latest news, information, and deadlines from Mrs. Thomas’ office by **signing up on Twitter at CCHScollegeprep** to receive periodic “tweets” which may be sent to your e-mail or phone as a text message.

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

SAT and SAT Subject Tests (can register on line -- www.collegeboard.org;

TEST DATE	DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION
November 5	October 7	October 21
December 3	November 8	November 20
January 28	December 30	January 13
March 10	February 10	February 24
May 5	April 6	April 20
June 2	May 8	May 22

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

TEST DATE	DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION
October 22	September 16	September 30
December 10	November 4	November 18
February 11	January 13	January 20
April 14	March 9	March 23
June 9	May 4	May 18

3) Seniors wanting their applications mailed to the colleges before Christmas vacation must have their materials to Mrs. Thomas by Tuesday, November 1.

4) Mrs. Thomas handles college visit requests. Students should get the forms from her 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. College visits must be made before May 1.**

5) College representatives are visiting, typically during the lunch period. Juniors and seniors may come to the library after picking up their lunches to meet with the representatives. Students should take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about different colleges.

6) Senior parents -- parent questionnaires, available at the CCHS website, are past due to Mrs. Thomas. This information is used in writing student recommendations from the school.

7) Scholarship information will be listed on the college counseling section of the website and is also available in Mrs. Thomas' office.

8) Wendy’s High School Heisman Program -- All seniors with at least a B average who are athletes on CCHS teams are eligible to apply. The link to the online application is available at www.wendysheisman.com. Seniors must submit online applications no later than Wednesday, **September 28, 2011, the CCHS deadline**. In order for the application to be considered by the national Heisman Review Committee, the application must first be reviewed online by Mrs. Thomas, hence the September 28 deadline. **Students should notify Mrs. Thomas once they have submitted the application online.**

9) COLLEGE FAIR is scheduled at the Civic Center on Wednesday, October 5. With parent permission, juniors will be dismissed to attend at 10:30 a.m. and **must return to school by 1 p.m.** A permission slip will be given to students and must be returned to Mrs. Vollmer. **Parents are encouraged to attend with their students.**

10) Wednesday, October 12 – sophomores and juniors take PSAT (an SAT-predictor test as well as a qualifier for National Merit Scholarship for juniors only). Wednesday, October 26 - all freshmen and sophomores take PLAN (an ACT-predictor test) and 8th graders take EXPLORE.

11) PROMISE scholarship and FAFSA deadline – March 1.

12) The health department asks all schools to keep students’ immunization records updated. If your child has had recent shots, please send CCHS a copy of new health records.

13) At 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9, a representative from the WV Higher Education Policy Commission will present information on state and federal financial aid and scholarships.

HIGH SCHOOL DANCES -- High school dances are held from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. When students arrive, they must sign in. When they leave, they sign out. Students attending must have a permission slip signed by parents. **Students are permitted to sign out prior to the end of the dance. However, once a student leaves the dance, the student MAY NOT return to the dance.** Parents having questions about when their children arrived at or left a school dance should call Ms. FitzGerald to request this information. In addition to faculty and staff chaperones, an off-duty police officer is hired to perform random breathalyzer checks throughout the evening. This practice is yet another way we work to keep our students safe when they are in our care.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES -- Separate social activities for 6th graders are scheduled monthly and for 7th/8th graders periodically throughout the year. These valuable opportunities enable middle schoolers to relax and enjoy time with their peers in a safe, supervised setting. How generous of the

teachers to volunteer extra time to plan and conduct these activities with our students! For everyone's well-being, **it is important that students be picked up on time.** If a student needs to leave an event held at CCHS earlier than the designated ending time, a parent must send a note and a teacher will escort the child to the Virginia Street entrance. When an activity in the Commons is over, students will leave through the Virginia Street doors only and may be picked up there. For events held at other facilities (e.g., bowling), parents need to arrive on time also and, if picking up a student early, must enter the facility and inform a teacher before taking a child.

REDUCING UNDERAGE DRINKING -- As a school community, we are called to nurture and support not only our own children but other students and parents. One area that benefits from collaboration is controlling underage drinking. **Teenage drinking does not have to happen; it is not inevitable.** But parents are the gatekeepers. You are the only people who have any chance of curtailing teenage drinking and preventing subsequent driving tragedies. It means being the bad guy sometimes with your child and sometimes getting criticized by other parents. In the end, the message parents send makes a difference. Your children DO listen to you! According to the website www.dontserveteens.com, you can take steps in several ways: "1) Stand up, and spread the word that you don't want other people serving alcohol to your teen or condoning teen drinking. **Silence can be misinterpreted.** Let your friends, neighbors, and family members know that the minimum drinking age is a policy that protects teens, and that you do not want your teen to drink. 2) Talk to the parents of your teen's friends. Let them know that teen drinking poses unacceptable risks and that you do not want — or expect — anyone to allow your teen to drink alcohol. 3) Talk to adults who host teen parties. Let them know that, according to national studies, 86 percent of parents support the legal drinking age and a whopping 96 percent of adults agree that it is not okay to serve alcohol to someone else's teen — and not okay to turn a blind eye to teens' alcohol consumption." ***Your involvement can make a difference. Underage drinking is illegal and families are not helpless to prevent it.***

Some facts to ponder:

- While many people believe that underage drinking is a 'rite of passage' - it's not. In fact, alcohol can cause serious and irreversible damage to the growing adolescent brain. (American Medical Association)
- Youth who drink can have a significant reduction in their learning abilities, memory and development - due to damage to the brain's hippocampus and the prefrontal cortex. (American Medical Association)
- The longer you can delay the onset of drinking, the more time you give the brain to grow and develop - and most likely the less of an impact it's going to have. (Dr. Robert Margolis, clinical psychologist)
- Alcoholism is like any other disease - children are at a higher risk to inherit the disease because of their parents' history. If you have a problem with alcohol, sit down with your children - and discuss how it has affected your life, and how it can affect theirs. (Dr. Michael Fishman, addiction medicine specialist)

ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR PARENTS are available from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; Journal of Adolescent Health: A Review of Psychological Risk Factors; and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

LOST AND FOUND – Please encourage your children to keep up with their belongings. We often have shoes, jackets, books, gym clothes, and gym bags full of school uniforms unclaimed. Students have been known to leave their backpacks on the steps of First Presbyterian. Amazing!

CELL PHONES, IPODS, AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY -- The use of cell phones and other electronic devices is prohibited during school hours (8 a.m. until 2:45 p.m.). **Such electronic items, if present in the building, must be turned off and not visible (i.e., kept in backpacks).** Students can check their cell phone messages immediately after school to see if their parents have called to update them. Students who are texting, checking messages, playing with, or otherwise handling cell phones or other electronics in the classroom or in any location within the building during the school day will have these items confiscated. Should this happen, the item will be returned to the parent/guardian of the student (i.e., not to the student) owning the item. A **\$25 fee** will be assessed for each additional infraction. If students need to use the phone during the school day, they may use the office phone or, if they are at lunch or break, the one in the Commons.

H1N1 AND SEASONAL FLU VACCINE -- As we enter into flu season, please remind your student that the number one way to prevent illness is to wash hands thoroughly and often. Additionally, teachers generally have hand sanitizer in their rooms. If you would like to send a bottle of hand sanitizer to school with your child, it will be welcome. The Kanawha County Health Department will be offering the flu vaccine to our students in mid-October. A permission slip will be sent home for you to complete. These forms must be returned in order for your child to receive the vaccine.

MEDICATIONS – For our students having medical needs which necessitate their taking prescribed or over the counter medicines while at school, our goal is to have in the school office one plastic zip-lock bag

per student, well organized and well documented, containing a student's items. When students need to take prescription medication at school, the medicine must be sent to the office with a doctor's order and in a plastic zip-lock bag with the student's name clearly labeled. Also, any medications kept at school for various reasons – e.g., asthma, allergies, etc. – should be sent to the office in a bag with the doctor's order and an allergy or other medical plan, if applicable. Over the counter medicine such as Advil, cough drops, etc. need to be in a plastic bag with student's name clearly marked and with specific information stating when such items should be dispensed. At the end of the school year, we will ask your students to stop by the office and pick up their medications.

9TH GRADE OUTDOOR EDUCATION DAY – Plans are underway for our second CCHS freshman class outdoor education day. Rescheduled for **Friday, September 30, at Camp Virgil Tate**, our freshmen, their teachers, and school staff, will spend the day together learning, reflecting, playing, and creating memories to start their high school careers.

SPELLING BEE- The annual Spelling Bee will be held for students in grades 6-8 in the Commons, on Thursday, October 13, at 3 p.m. Students should see Mrs. Hayes for word lists to study. The winner of the contest will represent CCHS at the Kanawha County Spelling Bee on March 17, 2012.

SENIOR PICTURES AND BABY PICTURES FOR YEARBOOK AND SLIDE SHOW -- Seniors should schedule their formal senior pictures with Mike Hall at Photo Grafix (304-768-2000) if they have not already done so. It's also time to start bringing in baby pictures and senior quotes for the yearbook! They should be turned in to Mrs. Lycan. Additionally, slide show photos (a baby, a middle school, a high school) should be emailed to Mrs. Burch at rebeccaburchcchs@gmail.com.

CALCULATOR RENTAL- The math department has TI-84 Graphing Calculators that are available for student rental. For a fee of \$20, students may use one of these graphing calculators during the 2011-2012 school year in their Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, and Calculus A classes. If interested, please see your math teacher for a form.

NOTES FROM THE PARENT VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION (PVA)

- 1) The 2011-2012 PVA Parent Registration Packet is available online on the CCHS website.
- 2) **PVA Polos and Fleece** - **IMPORTANT UPDATE:** The fleece jackets (both charcoal and heather gray) worn by CCHS students are being phased out. A student currently owning a gray fleece that is in good shape and still fits may wear that fleece as part of the uniform during the 2011-12 school year. Order forms for CCHS logo jackets, white uniform polo shirts, and green athletic/academic competition polo shirts are available on the CCHS website. For questions, please contact Lisa Dundervill (344-2566) for jackets, Paula Jameson (949-2478) for green polos, and Lisa Cassis (925-5946) for white polos. Please note that high school students who are members of athletic teams and academic competition teams are permitted to wear a CCHS hunter green polo shirt to school on designated dates – normally home games and other days designated by the principal.
- 3) **INNISBROOK ORDERS** – may be placed throughout the year and will be shipped directly to you -- and CCHS will get credit for your order. Go to www.innisbrook.com and click on “Buy Innisbrook Products” and enter CCHS school number 121949. Contact Lisa Dundervill (344-2566) for more information.
- 4) Parent involvement is critical for the successful operation of the CCHS athletic program. Helping transport students to games and practices, working gates, being supportive of the players and coaches, attending games, and participating in the team lunch program are just a few ways that parents help. EVERY parent of an athlete is needed to support the teams! Each sport is allocated a few **team lunches**. Guidelines and dates for these lunches (**designated away games only**) will be distributed to parents at the beginning of each season, once team rosters have been established.
- 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 \$150 for all home middle school games only, \$175 for all home high school games only, and \$200 for all home games (both levels). A \$100 student or senior citizen pass for all home games is also available. **Each adult in a family will be issued a pass that must be shown for admission to games.** An order form for sports passes is also in the PVA Parent Registration Packet so you may order them later in the semester. Please ask Eileen Goldberg if you have questions about these passes.

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. Training is available on line or at sessions periodically scheduled. At the VIRTUS website, go to Options, scroll down and choose online. Allow 1- 1½ hours to complete the program. Print out the certificate of completion and submit it to Ms. FitzGerald. It is still necessary to complete the background check and sexual abuse awareness statement which can be done by clicking on the link at the school website at www.charlestoncatholic-crw.org.

EPA ANNOUNCEMENT – In compliance with Environmental Protection Agency regulations regarding asbestos management, we are required to notify all parents and teachers that there is an Asbestos Management plan on file in the school office. Anyone seeking more detailed information should contact Ms. FitzGerald.

TELEPHONE MESSAGES -- Because of the number of students enrolled and the limitations on office staff and telephone lines, **we strongly urge parents to make arrangements with their students regarding transportation, appointments, etc. before students leave home.** If you must leave a message for your child, call the office. The names of students who have messages are announced at the end of each school day.

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY – We continue to expand our “wall of supporters” at the athletic facility. Many thanks to our newest supporter, the Kanawha County Health Department. If you’d like to advertise your business and show your support for CCHS, please consider getting involved in our banner program. To learn more and order a banner for your business, contact Kathy Crain at (304)541-4182.

ADMISSION TO ATHLETIC EVENTS – Just a reminder: CCHS family passes are good for CCHS **home events only – not including homecoming or tournaments.** All schools depend upon gate money to support athletic programs, paying for such items as officials, game equipment, etc. At away events, every CCHS person (except athletes involved in the event and coaches holding SSAC cards) must pay the gate fee. To enter a CCHS home event, every person must either pay the gate fee or show a CCHS family pass (**everyone** must pay for homecoming and tournaments, however).

PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL SPORTS – To participate in athletic events, students must be in school for the full school day on the day of the scheduled activity. If a student is late or absent for any part of the day on a game day, that student is not permitted to play that day. This “full day” policy includes leaving school for appointments, so students need to avoid scheduling appointments during the school day. Students are also expected to be on time each morning following an athletic event. Students who have long standing medical appointments, family funerals to attend, or other similar instances may be excused at the discretion of Ms. FitzGerald. If a student is suspended at school, that student is also suspended from athletic practices, games, etc. for the FULL DAY on the day(s) suspended (i.e., if a student is suspended for a Tuesday, the suspension includes involvement in any school activities -- sports, social, etc. -- for Tuesday evening also). In addition, if a student is suspended for a Friday, the suspension holds for Friday evening but does not continue for Saturday unless the student is also suspended for Monday.

CONGRATULATIONS

- to all of our fall sports teams for their impressive accomplishments (which are announced at school each morning).
- to the high school boys’ and girls’ soccer teams who won the 16th annual Bishop's Cup again this year.
- to art teacher Rebecca Burch's whose proposed artwork has been selected by the Clay Center for the upcoming 2011 holiday exhibit, Illuminations: Holiday of Light. The proposed artwork will be on display throughout its completion in the art room, so students will have a chance to watch the progression from bare canvas to finished artwork.
- to senior Tommy Trupo on his selection to the Region 3 Olympic Development soccer team.
- to junior English teacher and swimming coach Shannon Vollmer for her nomination by the WVSSAC for state, sectional, and national recognition from the National Federation Coaches Association for her countless hours of hard work and dedication coaching young people.

THANKS –

- to Monsignor Sadie for his continuing support of CCHS programs. He is proud of our students, faculty, and staff and speaks authoritatively and positively about all aspects of the school.
- to the 6th grade parents and the PVA hospitality committee for providing cookies (so delicious!) and drinks for the Parent Night reception.
- to the PVA for getting the faculty and staff off to a delicious, nutritious new school year with a luncheon hosted during the opening days of school.
- to all of our parent volunteers for all they do to support our students and staff.
- to the fall coaches for contributing time, encouragement, and expertise to provide exceptional athletic opportunities for students.
- to Roy Moose, USFS, for the Snakes in Your Face seminar for high school and middle school students.
- to everyone - students, faculty, staff, parents, coaches, alumni - who helped make homecoming week so successful.
- to Kirsten and Steve Smith for their generous donation of a flat screen TV for use in Bill Mehle’s theology classes. What a lovely upgrade to this classroom!
- to Kathleen Brothers for her donation of 3 cases of copy paper.
- to CCHS alum John Fluharty (Class of 2003) for spending time with senior theology classes to share his experiences while researching the political landscape in Afghanistan for his dissertation from Oxford University.

- to Gavin McCartney and Sommer West from Health Source Chiropractic for the stress-relieving massages that they provided to faculty and staff members as part of their community outreach program. What a wonderful treat!

FAMILY TRIPS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC. -- Please avoid taking students out of school for vacations, family trips, appointments, etc. If students miss school for any reason (including illness), it is their responsibility to find out what they missed. **If your child is ill or will miss school for any reason, please notify the school office by 8:30 a.m.** In addition, at the end of the semester students will have to stay after school to make up any time missed during excessive absences/tardies.

Tuesday, September 27	picture day – picture day dress rules apply from CCHS handbook
Friday, September 30	9 th Grade Outdoor Education Day at Camp Virgil Tate
Wednesday, October 5	College fair at Civic Center for juniors, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Thursday, October 6	6 th grade retreat at Blessed Sacrament
Friday, October 7	no school for students; teacher in-service
Wednesday, October 12	PSAT for sophomores and juniors
Friday, October 14	last day to wear shorts/skorts
Friday- Saturday, October 14-15	CCHS presentation of <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> in the Commons at 7:30 p.m.
Monday, October 17	first day to call school to schedule November 3 parent conferences
Friday, October 21	End of 1 st Quarter
	7 th - 8 th grade dance in Commons 7-10 p.m.
Wednesday, October 26	EXPLORE for 8 th graders
	PLAN for freshmen and sophomores
Friday, October 28	7 th /8 th grade retreats
Tuesday, November 1	college applications due to Mrs. Thomas
Thursday, November 3	no school for students; parent conferences
Wednesday, November 9	College Financial Aid Night, 6 p.m.
Friday, November 11	Veterans' Day – no school
Friday, November 18	\$2 jeans day for Clay County; distribution of Clay County children names and information
Friday-Sunday, November 18-20	Latin IV trip to Washington D.C.
Monday, November 21	Clay County food items, stockings, and stocking stuffers due
Wednesday, November 23	11:30 dismissal for Thanksgiving
Tuesday, November 29	Clay County wrapped gifts due
Saturday, December 3	Clay County Christmas Party
Wednesday-Friday, December 14 – 16	exams
Monday, December 19	first day of Christmas vacation
Tuesday, January 3	classes resume
Friday, January 13	6 th grade Challenger field trip; end of 2 nd quarter
Monday, January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – no school
Wednesday, January 18	FAFSA night for parents of seniors, 6 p.m.
Saturday, January 21	Winter Waltz for grades 9-12, 8-11 p.m.
Monday- Friday, Jan. 30- Feb. 3	Catholic Schools' Week: "Faith, Academics, Service"
Monday, February 20	Presidents' Day – no school
Friday, April 6	Good Friday – first day of Easter break
Monday, April 16	classes resume
Tuesday- Thursday, April 24-26	Terra Nova testing for 6 th , 7 th , 8 th grades
Monday, May 7	AP tests begin
Saturday, May 19	prom
Thursday, May 24	baccalaureate, 6:30 p.m.; senior retreat
Friday, May 25	graduation , 6:30 p.m.; Project Graduation at YMCA
Monday, May 28	Memorial Day – no school
Wednesday-Friday, May 30 – June 1	exams for grades 6 – 11
Friday- Sunday, June 22-24	CCHS All Class Reunion

October Menu

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3- Pizza Fruit	4- Minestrone soup Greek salad Chicken or egg salad sandwiches	5- Grilled chicken sandwiches Baked potatoes Broccoli and cheese	6- Taco pie Refried beans Spanish rice	7- NO SCHOOL Teacher in-service
10- Chicken soft tacos Refried beans and cheese	11- Taco soup Taco salad Corn bread	12- Chicken parm Baked sweet potatoes	13- Bacon cheeseburgers Steak fries Fruit	14- Meatball subs Antipasto salad
17- Pizza Pasta salad	18- Chicken noodle soup Chicken Caesar salad	19- Chicken teriyaki Rice Pita and hummus	20- Baked penne with meat sauce Garlic toast	21- Fried chicken Mashed potatoes Green beans School rolls
24- Homemade vegetable soup Grilled cheese sandwiches	25- Hot dogs Cole slaw Nachos	26- Chicken strips Baked potatoes Fresh fruit	27- Hot Italian subs Smiley fries	28- Boneless Buffalo chicken strips Celery & ranch Carrots & ranch
31- Pizza Fruit				