

The official Newsletter of Catholic High School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Mr. Ray Simon, Principal

Here's hoping that all students on the CHS campus are off to a good start and are comfortable with their surroundings. One thing that all students were told on orientation day is to ask for help when there is a need to do so. Let's keep all lines of communication open throughout the school year.

I am very pleased with all aspects of life at Catholic

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Ray Simon, Principal

High. We are constantly striving to be the best that we can be in everything we do. Many teachers and

students put in a lot of time this summer to set the stage for a productive school year. There were many professional growth activities for faculty members, and students were involved in everything from campus improvements to retreat planning. All of these dedicated workers are to be thanked and commended for their efforts. Kudos to them!

I want to share a few personal observations with you after being at Catholic High for a little over a year.

The members of the school family have a great love for and loyalty to CHS. This community really loves this school. ***Catholic High provides a tremendous "bang for the buck."*** Our tuition and fees are about half the national average for a

Catholic school in the U.S., yet our "product" rates among the best. Catholic High graduates have excelled in every aspect of life, and our students have the opportunity to "reach for the stars" after graduating. The low tuition does, however, necessitate fund raisers to enable us to have the resources necessary to attain the level of excellence we all seek. I am very impressed by the **Pay to Dress** days that are part of the *Helping Our Own* program. This gives everyone an opportunity to participate and provides meaningful help to some of our needy families. ***We will achieve greater success in extracurricular activities (especially athletics) when more students participate.*** Participation in these programs is obviously optional and up to students and parents. The first step toward increasing participation is to make the programs more appealing to the student. After that, everyone in our school family (students, coaches, sponsors, parents) must promote participation in multiple activities as opposed to "specializing" in just one. Please note that our cafeteria manager, Mrs. Sara Cannon, is working hard to keep everyone up date and out of debt in the cafeteria. She deserves everyone's support!

Join us for as many school activities as time permits. You are always welcome! God Bless You!

PANTHER 21 ACADEMIC NEWS

Eugenie Segura, Academic Vice Principal

It's official! Summer movie marathons, flip-flops, and beach bags have been replaced by weekend football games, uniform shoes, and book sacks!

Despite the heat outside (and no promise of cooling relief in sight), the fall semester of 2011-2012 is well underway.

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This year, Catholic High is continuing its commitment to the academic goals of *Panther 21*,

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our initiative to bring engaged, relevant, 21st century learning to all classes at all grade levels. Teachers have been applying the techniques and strategies they learned at the numerous workshops and seminars they attended during the summer. Students have been discussing summer reading in their classes. Online courses using *Moodle* in the high school and *Quia* in grades 4th through 8th are up and running. A drive to “go green” by putting class management plans and handouts on RenWeb and other online services is in place. Field trips, performances, activities, and projects fill our calendars! Everyone is settling in to a great new school year of learning.

Three academic changes to note:

1. The Catholic High Science and Social Studies Fair will be held in the fall semester this year. The date is set for December 5th. All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and 9th through 12th grade students in honors math, science, or social studies courses are required to enter a project in the fair. Teachers will be sending out assignment details very soon.

2. New Honor Roll criteria are now in place. After careful study, we are returning to a traditional grade letter Honor Roll. This system is appropriate for grades 4th through 12th and acknowledges students who do above average (“A” or “B”) work.

Honor Roll: Students who receive all “A’s” and “B’s” in a grading period **and** who have no grades of “C” or lower in conduct

Principal’s Distinguished Honor Roll: Students who receive all “A’s” in a grading period **and** who have no grades of “C” or lower in conduct

Honor Roll will be published for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters. At the Spring Academic Pep Rally, a certificate will be awarded to each student who has achieved Honor Roll for the 1st, 2nd, **and** 3rd quarters of that school year. At next year’s Fall Academic Awards Ceremony, Honor Roll certificates will be presented to students who have achieved Honor Roll on the previous year’s final averages, with no grades of “C” or lower in conduct during the year.

3. At graduation this May, Catholic High will not name a Valedictorian of Valedictorians. As it is a major accomplishment to receive the title of Valedictorian, all Valedictorians will be honored equally.

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PANTHERS BACKERS READY TO GO!

Mrs. Jeri Beck, Director of Athletics



On behalf of the CHS Athletic Department, I invite you to join the **Panther Backers** and become a part of those on fire with spirit for Catholic High!

Since its 2010 formation, the **Panther Backers** have gotten a wave of school spirit going that is second to none! We recently hosted the 2nd annual Panther Backers Slow-pitch Softball Tournament! This was an outstanding weekend of fun and fellowship.

We will meet on Wednesday evenings throughout the year in the school cafeteria for supper socials at which time we'll hear from our coaches on how their seasons are going, we'll discuss athletic capital improvement projects that are either planned or in process, and, more than anything, we will think of ways to further increase school spirit and get more families involved in the fun!

"FUN" and "FAMILY" are the two words I want to stress when speaking of **Panther Backers**! Though we will support athletic capital improvement projects, our main goal is to create a fun family atmosphere that is warm and welcoming for all who have an interest in Catholic High athletics,

whether they be present families, former parents, alumni, or friends of the school. If you would like to join the **Panther Backers**, please complete the attached registration form. We are also offering red **Panther Backer** shirts we hope everyone will wear to show their school spirit, if you'd like to ride that wave of red into this year's games.

We are also offering "Red Cards" for \$150.00. With the purchase of a Red Card you can gain admittance to any regular season athletic game hosted on the Catholic High Campus. If you would like to purchase a Red Card email Vivian Brown at vbrown@chspanthers.com or call the Athletic Office at 337-256-5216.

If you are interested in Reserved Seating at the football games we still have some seats available. There are 6 home games this season and season tickets in the reserved section are \$70.00. The hard plastic seats that were in this section have been removed and the Football team is selling Stadium seats for \$50.00. If you are interested in football season tickets and/or a stadium seat email Vivian Brown at vbrown@chspanthers.com or call the Athletic Office at 337-256-5216.

CATHOLIC HIGH: MOVING FORWARD

Jerry Reynolds, Development Director

As many of you know, I am new to Catholic High School. I arrived in late July and immediately got to work, as I had some big shoes to fill with the departure of Ms. Jamie Nelson-Hebert, our previous Development Director. I am honored to be serving CHS in this capacity. Thank you for the warm welcome!!

The Development Office at CHS handles a variety of vital school functions, often in a "behind the scenes"

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capacity. These include, but are not limited to the following, Admissions, Advancement/Fundraising and Alumni Relations. We also manage both the school's Annual Fund, which functions as "cash on hand" to support areas of need and endowment, which functions as the school's investment portfolio. This year, Mr. Simon has also asked me to serve as the primary source of mass communication with external outlets, such as media outlets (social and mainstream) and messages to parents. We also have worked very hard to boost participation in our Parents Club, the largest source of Academic fundraising for the school!

Our office has a wonderful staff, consisting of me, Assistant Director of Development, Mrs. Jenny Indest Minvielle and Alumni Relations Officer, Ms. Sharon LeBlanc. We hope you find us to be a great resource for the school. We want an atmosphere where parents, grandparents, alumni and supporters are welcome to actively participate in the life of Catholic High School. Our goals

Embrace the past

Enrich the present

Empower the Future

constant, remain to **Embrace Our Past, Enrich the Present and Empower the Future of Catholic High School!!** Please contact us at 256-5383 or development@chspanthers.com I look forward to working with you for the benefit of the entire CHS community!

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE

Charles Jaubert, Assistant Principal

It is almost time for the heart of our Middle School football schedule. Please join us on September 21, 2011 at 1:15 in the gym for our Annual Pep Rally. We will try to tame the Fatima Warriors. You know

Congrats to the following Middle School Students on their recent election to Student Council!!

8th grade:

President *Jessica Indest*
Vice-President *Wyatt Richthofen*

7th grade:

President *Madicyn Boudreaux*
Vice-president *Abigail Girouard*

6th grade:

President *Taylor Fowler*
Vice-president *Marie Resweber*
Member at Large *Anna Pellerin*

that football fever also means grades have been updated on RenWeb and the first report card is not far behind. Last date for grades for these nine weeks is October 7. I encourage you to discuss with your child the importance of maintaining grades or improving grades after viewing RenWeb. Using RenWeb is one way to stay ahead in planning and preparing for upcoming projects and tests. The teacher's lesson plans are posted as well as assignments, projects, and upcoming tests. Communication between yourself, your child, and the teacher is vital to success. Each teacher has posted times that they provide free tutoring before or after school or by appointment. In addition, the Middle School provides a separate Peer tutoring on Tuesday from 3:00 until 3:45. Please take

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advantage of all the ways Catholic High is trying to live out our mission.

October and the second nine weeks brings about the Science and Social Studies Fair process. All 6th graders will be entering the Social Studies Fair and all 7th graders will be entering the Science Fair. Honors Science and Math students in the 8th grade will have a choice as to which fair to enter. Regular track 8th graders can certainly choose to enter either or both fairs. The teachers will be guiding and working with the students throughout the second nine weeks to complete this project. Catholic High will showcase Fair projects on December 5, 2011 in the gym.

CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

Julie Romero, Campus Minister

As a Catholic High community, let us stand together as a family of faith and do everything for the glory of God! We have several ministry activities planned for the upcoming month. For more information, please contact Julie Romero at jromero@chspanthers.com

Parents Prayer Time: All parents are invited to join in praying for our school family. Every Tuesday 8:00am - 8:30am in Room 101 (on the high school side). Please sign in the main office when you arrive. Some parents have requested a prayer time in the evenings for those who work. If any parents are interested in coordinating an evening prayer time, please contact Julie Romero.

First Friday Adoration: Every first Friday of the month, we will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the school chapel from 7:30 - 2:30. Our first one is Friday, September 2, 2011. All

parents are welcome to come and spend time with Jesus. We are in need of parents who can commit to one hour during the day. Please contact Julie Romero if you are interested in helping with this ministry.



Elementary Retreat: Our elementary students will grow in faith and fellowship with one another on Monday, September 12th. The retreat will be held in the gym at school. Lunch and snacks are provided.

Kairos Retreat: Registration for the Kairos Retreat for juniors and seniors is currently underway. This retreat opportunity is an intense 3 day retreat at the ABC Retreat Center in Richard, LA. It is a special time to grow deeper in relationship with God, ourselves, and others. Students may pick up a registration packet in the Campus Ministry office in Guidance. For more information and/or financial assistance, please contact Julie Romero.

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TECHNOLOGY BITS AND BYTES

Erin Henry, Technology Director

Over the past five years, RenWeb's ParentsWeb communication portal has become a go-to resource for accessing your child's classroom information from home. We recognize that recent technical difficulties have caused interruptions in this ease of access, and so we would like to share an excerpt of recent message we received from RenWeb Support:

RenWeb's www.renweb.com website [has] experienced significant spikes in transaction volumes, causing the website to shut down for a period of time.... This adversely impacted parents (continued from page 5) attempting to log into ParentsWeb, and school staff members attempting to log into FacultyWeb via the website. We have made adjustments to the website to handle the back-to-school load created by parents logging into ParentsWeb for the first time this school year. We have also reinforced the website's capacity by hosting it on two new servers that can support much higher processing volumes. Please know that RenWeb is taking steps to bring you the level of service and reliability you have come to depend upon in ParentsWeb. We apologize for any difficulty you have experienced and are continuing to submit errors to the company in an effort to aid the progress of improvement.

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL Blood Drive

Monday September 19

Location: CHS Library



8am-2:30 pm

To register, please contact

Alycee Indest at aindest@chspanthers.com

Deadline to register is Tuesday 9/6

*If demand exists, additional 3-5pm
appointments may be allowed.*

GEAUX BIG RED!!!

*Best of luck to all
this fall!*

