



Dear Parents,

It's been a great summer for me and my family. We were able to get up to Seattle and visit friends and family. I especially enjoyed spending time with Joanne's grandfather. At 93 years old, he still lives independently, has recently joined Facebook, and seems to appreciate a slower pace. That slower pace was appealing this summer, but now is the time to enjoy the quickening pace of the new school year.

School is right around the corner! We are busily preparing for the students and want to share the following important information and good news about some of our students' and faculty members' summer accomplishments!

1. We're proud of junior Travis Guillory and his performance at the national Beta Convention and freshman Shelby Broussard for her performance at the national Junior Beta Convention. Qualifying for nationals is difficult enough but Travis and Shelby were outstanding in Florida this summer.
2. Did you hear about junior Morgann Leleux's performance this summer? Morgann, who is the three-time state champion in the pole vault (as well as the state gymnastics champion), qualified for the World Championships in Italy and notched her personal best in the event. Earlier this summer, Morgann and a few of her friends were on campus as she was filmed for a documentary about youth sports.
3. If you've noticed that the web site is a little out of date, that is perhaps because Jeri Beck is in Beaumont with her softball team. Team Holiday is made up of Catholic High students and qualified for the national tournament in Beaumont. Congratulations!

4. Speaking of Jeri Beck, she will be serving as Co-Athletic Director this year along with Coach Craig Brodie. She will be responsible for all girls' sports (volleyball, girls basketball, girls soccer, softball) as well as a few others (cross country, tennis, and golf). Through her hard work and dedication, Jeri has certainly earned the promotion!
5. In other personnel news, Josh Guilbeau has been hired as the new Head Boys Basketball coach. It was certainly unfortunate to lose our head coach in the middle of the summer, but the loss was certainly not as severe since we had a well-qualified coach and alumnus ready to take over. Josh, who is the leading scorer in Panther basketball history and a former college basketball player, has the resume, the pedigree, the character, and the commitment to Catholic High that will make him a successful coach.
6. Eve Talley, a current parent and the owner of St. Anne's Child Care, has purchased a school bus and is offering to pick up students from Catholic High in the 4th and 5th grades for aftercare. If you're interested, please contact her at 367-2770.
7. Tomorrow we will welcome nine new teachers to Catholic High. I hope that you make an effort to join us at our Back to School Nights on August 19th (grades 4-8) and August 20th (grades 9-12) to meet these enthusiastic and talented teachers:
 - a. Alan Arabie (Class of 2004), who holds a degree in mathematics from UL and is a former youth minister, has been hired to teach Middle School math and will serve as an assistant boys soccer coach.
 - b. Julie Crawford, who holds a B.S. in Biology from Duquesne University, has been hired to teach biology.
 - c. Jacob Guidry, a McNeese State graduate and former Cowboy football player, has been hired to teach PE and to serve as an assistant coach in football and boys basketball.
 - d. Michael Haik (Class of 1997), who is currently an Assistant DA for Iberia Parish and a practicing attorney in New Iberia, has been serving Catholic High as an assistant football coach. He will teach Middle School Social Studies and serve as an assistant coach for football and track.
 - e. Erin Hawkins, a UL graduate in Visual Arts and English, will teach Middle School Language Arts and Elementary art and serve as an assistant volleyball coach. Erin is a former youth minister and youth basketball coach at Fatima.
 - f. Juliette Lapeyrouse (Class of 2005), who graduated from LSU with a B.A. in philosophy, been hired to teach High School math.
 - g. Stephanie Larriviere, a former Title I reading instructor and an LSU graduate in Mass Communications, has been hired to teach Elementary Language Arts.
 - h. Darlene Scott, who holds a Master's in Educational Administration and is a veteran teacher and campus minister from New Orleans, will teach Senior Religion and direct our Kairos retreat program.

- i. Mary Vidrine, who holds a Master's in English from UL and has been serving as a composition instructor at UL, has been hired to teach High School English.
8. Erin Henry and Julie Romero been working on a new way for our community to communicate and pray together. Soon Erin will debut "CompassionNet" –an online prayer board where people can post prayer intentions and respond to others' prayer intentions.
9. **Kick-off for the Parent Club's new school year will be on August 10th at an open meeting at 5:15 pm in the library.** We hope that by holding the meeting right before new student orientation, many of our new parents will attend and our already established parents will be there too—to welcome newcomers and share thoughts and ideas for the club! We will discuss the mission of the Catholic High Parent Club and accept nominations for the four leadership positions. On August 17th, at 6 pm in the library, we will get together again for a brief meeting to vote for the 2009-2010 officers. The reason for meetings so early in the year and so close together is to provide the opportunity for the executive board to address our Parent Night gatherings later in August!

With a new year come new and exciting opportunities, challenges, and potential for increased Parent Club involvement in the school! Please join us on the 10th and the 17th and start the school year off by becoming an active participant in your child's education! If you have *any* questions **please** do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail or phone. Also-if you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to submit a nomination for president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer you may do so by the same means. Don't think twice about nominating yourself...we want all interested parents to play a part in making the Parents Club a thriving organization and motivating force in our children's education! Contact Mr. Jaubert (cjaubert@chspanthers.com) or Jamie Nelson-Hebert (jhebert@chspanthers.com) for more information.

10. The new student planners are in! Every student in grades 4-8 will receive a complimentary planner. Inside the planner, the handbook is printed. Students will be required to carry the planner with them to every class.
11. Orientation week reminders:
 - a. High school orientation will take place on Monday, August 10th, from 7:50 am until 1:30 pm. Orientation will begin in the gym.
 - b. An orientation for all new parents and students will take place in the gym at 6:00 pm on August 10th.
 - c. Orientation for grades 4-8 will take place on Tuesday, August 11th, from 7:50 am until 1:30 pm. Orientation will begin in the gym.

- d. A meeting for all Sports Parents will take place on August 11th at 6:00 pm in the gym. We ask that every student athlete have at least one parent in attendance.
 - e. Wednesday, August 12th is the first full day of school for all students.
 - f. Friday, August 14th is picture day for all students.
12. Schedule those hair appointments! We've noticed that the boys hair has become more troublesome the last couple of years. Our rules are clear ("Hair will be neat, clean, and cut above the eyebrows and ears and off the collar..."page 17 of the online Student Handbook). Please help us to enforce this rule.
13. Last year, 12 juniors participated in a Kairos retreat put on by another school. This year, we are ready to begin our Kairos retreat program. The three-day retreat will depart on Saturday morning, September 12th, and return on Monday night, September 14th. The retreat is voluntary and this fall's retreat is open only to seniors. The Spring Kairos (March 6-8) will be open to juniors and seniors.
14. This year, our sophomore retreat program will run at full capacity. Last spring, the sophomore retreat was voluntary and we had a great turnout. This year, we are requiring sophomores to participate in one of the two sophomore retreats (September 22-23 or March 11-12). We are asking sophomores to plan accordingly.
15. This year we will continue our one-year tradition of having the Frosh Retreat on campus and requiring all freshmen to attend. The retreat is scheduled for March 11-12 and we are asking all freshmen to plan accordingly.
16. We have also scheduled Saturday retreats for our Middle School and are asking all students to attend. The 8th grade retreat is scheduled for October 3rd, the 7th grade retreat on October 10th, and the 6th grade retreat on November 14th. More details will follow.
17. Last Friday, the School Board met for their annual retreat. There are two kinds of School Board members—appointed and elected. Each of our four owner parishes as well as St. Edward's parish appoints a School Board member for 3-year terms, renewable for one term. Elected members serve 3-year appointments, too, and can be re-elected once. The School Board members for 2009-2010:
- a. Cheryl Barras, appointed from St. Peter's, 1st year
 - b. Angela Langlinais Bourg, elected, three years remaining
 - c. Melissa Dworacyzk, appointed from Nativity, 1st year
 - d. Martha Girouard, elected, two years remaining

- e. Edward Landry, elected, two years remaining
- f. Greg Mullen, elected, one year remaining
- g. Mary Kay Resweber, elected, three years remaining
- h. Maggie Simon, appointed from Sacred Heart, 5th year
- i. Durk Viator, appointed from OLPH, 3rd year
- j. Patrice Vincent, appointed from St. Edward's, 6th year

18. I'm really looking forward to the upcoming year. The year will bring me the challenge of my return to the classroom as I've signed up to teach a Freshman English course and I'm excited for the daily contact with students. I hope you join us in trying to make this the best school year possible!