



CATHOLIC HIGH PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

September 09

INFORMATION

1. Today (Tuesday, September 1st) we're seeing another round of student absences. Although we are seeing a variety of student illnesses (colds, flu, bronchitis, strep throat), the high number means that parents are following our recommendation to keep students home if they are sick—especially if they have fever. We believe that this practice will keep our absence numbers low even though we expect that the swine flu will affect us for some time.
2. Last week, Dr. Angela Langlinais Bourg was kind enough to educate our faculty about the types of flu and the means of prevention. On Thursday, we challenged all students in first period to practice healthy prevention (coughing into sleeves, cleaning hands, etc.). Perhaps the best prevention is requiring our students to go to bed in order to gain what every student needs—more sleep!
3. As most of you know, the school year 07-08 marked a change to a new yearbook company, Taylor Publishing. We were not happy with the quality of service and thus we informed Taylor last fall that we would no longer be utilizing their services. Perhaps serving as proof of the level of their service, the yearbooks have not arrived. The latest communication we received from Taylor is that the books are scheduled to be shipped from Lake Charles on September 11th. There is no guarantee, however, of their arrival date.
4. The good news is that the 08-09 yearbook company, Herff-Jones, has proven to be far more effective. The 08-09 yearbooks are scheduled to be delivered on September 26th. It is possible, then, that we will receive the 08-09 yearbook before the 07-08.
5. Speaking of yearbooks, Scott Breaux photography has informed us that he will no longer provide senior pictures to our yearbook for yearbook ads. Senior parents who like to purchase yearbook ads should be aware of this change.
6. Listed below are Catholic High's average ACT scores as far back as we can find:

Year	English	Reading	Math	Science	Composite
1990	20.9	NA	20.8	NA	20.7
1991	21.1	21.7	22.1	21.3	21.7
1992	21.4	21.5	22	20.3	21.5
1993	21.8	21.3	22.3	21.1	21.8
1994	20.4	19.9	20.8	19.1	20.2
1995	20.7	21	21.6	20.2	21
1996	20	19.7	21.1	19.8	20.3
1997	21.2	20.6	22.2	20.8	21.3
1998	20.3	19.7	20.9	19.6	20.3
1999	20.5	19.2	21.4	19.8	20.3
2000	20.3	19.9	22	20.4	20.8

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2001	21.4	20.1	22	20.4	20.9
2002	21.1	20.2	21.6	20.4	20.9
2003	21.2	20.9	21.6	21	21.3
2004	20.9	20.5	21.4	20.8	21
2005	21.1	20.9	22.5	21	21.5
2006	21.6	21.2	21.7	21.2	21.5
2007	22.9	22.2	23	21.6	22.6
2008	22	21.3	21.6	21.1	21.7
2009	20.9	20.5	21.6	20.8	21.1
1990-1994	21.12	21.1	21.6	20.45	21.18
1995-1999	20.54	20.04	21.44	20.04	20.64
2000-2004	20.98	20.32	21.72	20.6	20.98
2005-2009	21.7	21.22	22.08	21.14	21.68
1990-2009	21.085	20.64736842	21.71	20.563158	21.12

GOOD NEWS

1. We have received confirmation that one of our seniors has been named a National Merit Semi-Finalist. We cannot name him publicly until September 16th. He is the fifth National Merit Semi-Finalist in the last four years and our scores predict that two of our current juniors are well-positioned for next year's contest.
2. We received the fantastic news that 27 of our current 7th graders received invitations to participate in the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP). The Duke TIP identifies 6th grade students who score above the 95th percentile on any subtest of the Stanford, invites them to take the ACT, and follows their scores and progress over the next 5 years. Last year, 12 of our students were invited so 27 is an outstanding number and a tribute to the intelligence, work habits, and excellent instruction that these students have received. Their names: Zoe Ainsworth, Kaschia Benjamin, Nick Bienvenu, Hailey Blanchard, Nicholas Bonin, Jack Bordes, Sam Breaux, Sarah Broussard, Anne Caffery, Kelsey Castille, Mac Duhe, Maci Fremin, Kaylon Gilbert, Stephanie Green, Taylor Guillory, Mary Jaubert, Alexandra Landry, Skylar Landry, Matt Lissard, Lanie Marcantel, Meredith Musso, Caroline Pellerin, Margaret Pellerin, Katelyn Regard, Paul Simon, Gavin Spiehler, Aaron Viator.
3. 12 of our students have signed up to host Guatemalan students as part of the Catholic Student Exchange Program. The students will be matched depending on gender and age. The Guatemalan students will be on campus October 17-December 12th. The number of students who volunteered is a tribute to the generous spirit of our students as well as the unique bond that has been formed between the Catholic High community and our friends in Guatemala during the last two summers on the mission trips.

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4. Over 55 of our seniors have signed up to attend Kairos #1 on September 12-14. This should be an outstanding experience for our students as well as the six faculty members scheduled to attend as leaders (Darlene Doiron, Emmy Dupuis, Charlie Jaubert, Laura LaBiche, Julie Romero, and Darlene Scott). Please pray for our students and for our leaders as they embark on this 3-day spiritual journey which will take place at Maryhill Retreat Center near Alexandria. I will be making the journey north to participate, spend a night, and cook breakfast.
5. We'll have approximately 50 sophomores and 20 junior leaders attending the overnight sophomore retreat on September 22-23. Please pray for them and for their faculty leader, Miss Katie Robicheaux.
6. We had over 250 high school students attend the Back to School dance. Having almost 2/3rds of a student body attend a sock hop is amazing and a sign that school spirit is alive and well. The night before we had a great turnout at the jamboree in Lafayette. The team certainly showed signs of life and of promise for the upcoming year.
7. Last night the volleyball team battled to five sets against NISH. With only 3 seniors, the team showed a lot of grit and potential. Looking ahead, the team has a well-balanced, mostly local schedule which should allow it to build a great fan base as it builds toward the district schedule.
8. We'll honor our first set of Students of the Month on September 17th before the All-School Mass. This will be a great way for those students to receive recognition before the entire school.
9. Mr. Terry is working hard at forming a flag crew in the Elementary wing. We're looking for a few good Cub Scouts!

RESOURCES

1. The Junior League and Iberia Parish School Board have combined forces to present this fall's "AIM for Success" Abstinence Program next week. On Tuesday night, September 8th, the parish-wide parent night will be held in our gym at 6:00 pm. On Thursday, September 10th, the 7th graders will attend the abstinence presentation in the gym and at 1:10 pm the 9th graders will attend the seminar.
2. The Iberia Parish School Board provides Title I tutoring services. Aimee Brasseaux is providing English tutoring in the afternoon during the school day to students who have been targeted for further assistance. Soon, we will identify 4th and 5th graders in need of math tutoring and Shirley Briganti will provide those services.
3. Drug Testing for high school students will begin later this month.
4. Ascension Driving School will be conducting a Driver's Education course on-campus during Thanksgiving Break. Driver's Education is required in the State of Louisiana. The course will include 30 hours of classroom instruction (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00-3:00) and 8 hours of driving instruction. Fliers are available in the main office. The Ascension Driving School will also offer a course in the spring and in the summer.

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5. Soon, Catholic High will launch its on-line prayer board. Erin Henry will launch the site and give directions to parents when the site is ready. In the meantime, we have a basket for prayer intentions available in the Chapel. Everyone is invited to submit intentions which are offered each week at Mass.

REQUESTS

1. Middle School parents are asked to consider dropping off or picking up on the high school side. Also, we reserve the back loop for buses so please do not drop off or pick up in the back.
2. Please consider finding sponsors for the Athletic Golf Tournament or sponsoring yourself. Also, players and teams are needed.
3. We can always use more sanitizer and Kleenex!
4. The Junior-Senior War seems to be one of those traditions that no one is particularly proud of but no one seems to know how to eradicate. On one hand, it seems fun but when people's cars and homes receive damage, it is vandalism plain and simple. Please speak to your sons/daughters about not participating.
5. The Parents' Club is kicking up into high gear this month with several activities. Contact Jamie Nelson-Hebert in Development.
6. Personal recommendations go a long way. This is the time when many 8th and 3rd graders (and their parents) are deciding where to go to school. If a current Catholic High parent were to make an unsolicited call to encourage them to choose Catholic High, that might make a difference in their decision.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Adoration this Friday (September 4th) in the Chapel. The Chapel opens at 7 am. Parents are invited to come in and pray before the Blessed Sacrament.
2. September 8th: Iberia Parish Aim for Success parent meeting, 6:00 pm.
3. Football home games this month: September 18th vs. St. Louis, September 24th vs. Central Catholic.
4. Volleyball home games this month: September 1st vs. Assembly Christian, September 15th vs. Cecilia, September 22nd vs. E.D. White, September 23rd vs. Franklin, September 30th vs. Delcambre.
5. All-School Mass this month is on September 17th, 8:30 am. All are welcome!
6. September 24th: Middle School tailgating at 5:00 before the football game. All Middle Schoolers and their parents are invited.
7. September 25th: No school due to Sugarcane Festival. Teachers will have an inservice that day.
8. October 30th: Elementary tailgating at 5:00 before the football game. All Elementary students and their parents are invited.

Dr. Tim Uhl

September 1, 2009