



**Please read the 2022-2023 Catholic High Student Handbook carefully, then sign and hand-in the attached form.**

### **Philosophy**

Catholic High's basic philosophy is **To Teach as Jesus Did**, which is the title of a pastoral letter written by America's Catholic Bishops. This title provides us with a goal which may be beyond our power to achieve, but which should be sought nonetheless. Catholic High School for Boys is thereby dedicated to the person and ideals of Jesus Christ, recognizing our obligation to foster His way and to promote His truth.

### **Mission**

We are a quality, Catholic, college-preparatory high school for boys. Our two main goals are **Christian formation and quality academics**.

Catholic High for Boys adheres to all the written policies as outlined in the Diocese of Little Rock Policy and Procedure Manual for Elementary and Secondary Schools found on <http://www.dolr.org/schools/policy-manual>.

### **General rules of conduct**

For the benefit of the common good and so that justice will be done, you are expected to **act respectfully toward teachers, school employees, and fellow students**. We have absolutely zero tolerance for bullying. You are forbidden to bring to school any kind of weapon including knives and sharp instruments. You may not use or possess (whether on campus or at any school activity) alcohol, marijuana, narcotics, hallucinatory or hypnotic drugs or any controlled substance. If you are taking a drug(s) during the school day prescribed by a physician, you are to give those drugs to the office and come to the office and take them at the appropriate time. You may not have any type of drug, including prescription and over-the-counter drugs, on your person at any time. To be in possession of any type of drug will be cause for expulsion. You may not possess or disseminate pornographic material. Catholic High reserves the right to search property and vehicles including those off campus at school related activities. Stealing is forbidden, as is fighting or rowdy behavior, whether in the school, on the grounds, or at school-sponsored activities. You may not interfere with instructional procedures. That means if you cause a class disturbance, you're in trouble. Also, you may not deliberately neglect your schoolwork (Students with more than two semester failing grades are subject to being dismissed from the school). Don't litter the campus or deface school property. Related to this is the larger issue: you must avoid conduct outside of school that would bring unfavorable criticism or publicity to the school or that would introduce unhealthy influences into the student body. We're pretty proud of the reputation the school enjoys in the community, and any action in which you participate that detracts from that reputation will result in punishment administered by the school. Once again, your behavior off campus may have serious consequences on campus. You may not visit other schools when they are in session without prior approval of proper school authorities. We will provide firm, fair, fast consequences for inappropriate behavior. Depending on the frequency and/or seriousness of the offense, suspension or expulsion may follow the infraction of the preceding general rules and particular rules that follow.

### **Cell Phones**

You may not possess a cell phone at any time during school hours. If you have your cell phone on your person during school hours, it will be confiscated. If your cell phone causes any type of disruption (ringing in a locker, alarm activating) it will be confiscated. If your cell phone is confiscated, it will be retained by the school until at least the next school day. To retrieve your cell phone, a parent must arrange an appointment with the principal or vice-principal between the hours of 7:45 – 3:45. Based on the circumstances, confiscated cell phones are subject to being searched. At the appointment, the parent will be notified that if the student again has the cell phone on his person during school hours, the student will be suspended for one day and the parent will be required to retrieve the phone through another similar meeting. Cell phones may be used before school or after school, but only in the main lobby, the gym lobby, or the cafeteria. Cell phones may never be used in any other part of the building or campus, including before or after school. For those of you who like to text we have a bonus for you. . . if you are caught texting you will be given ten hours of manual labor. . . of course, if you're caught texting homework or test answers you will be suspended. The taking of still photographs, audio recordings, or video recordings without permission will subject a student to disciplinary consequences at the discretion of the administration.

### **Suspension and expulsion**

Suspension is defined as a temporary exclusion of a student from his classes and school activities for disciplinary reasons. Suspension of a student from CHS is the decision of the principal and the rector. Some behaviors call

for an automatic suspension, i.e. smoking or vaping on campus. Although most suspensions are for a day or two, a student may be suspended for up to 10 days. Suspension is serious business because:

- you serve double the hours you missed of school in detention hall.
- you must complete your missed class work by the day it is due, but you only get 60% of the grade you made on your assignment or test.
- you don't get the day off; it is in-school suspension and you are assigned manual labor or social isolation. School attire must be worn on the day of the in-school suspension.
- you and your parent(s) must meet with the principal before you get back into class. The principal will designate the time and place of the meeting.

Expulsion is the permanent dismissal of a student from CHS by the principal and the rector.

### **Logo use**

Catholic High logos and symbols, including the interlocking "C" and "H," are trademarked and are absolutely prohibited from being used without permission. Using our logos without permission is akin to taking money from the school, so refrain from doing so without permission.

### **Cheating and plagiarism**

Cheating affects every student because each student's class rank suffers or improves due to cheating. Cheating is actually stealing – the 7th Commandment is not called the 7th suggestion, so we have a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY regarding cheating. We take it seriously, regardless of whether it's on a quiz, test, or homework assignment. Don't be surprised if you are suspended for a first offense or expelled for a second. Don't be surprised if an entire semester's grade is adversely affected by your decision to cheat.

In addition to requiring that students not cheat on exams or homework, CHS expects students to understand that plagiarism, which is using the words and ideas of others without properly identifying their source, is prohibited here as it should be in all schools. Students working on research papers, speeches, or any type of school work which involves using sources other than the student himself, should be sure to check with the teacher if there is a question regarding proper identification of sources. Speaking of forgery, for that is what plagiarism amounts to, you should know that forging any type of document, be it a note relating to absence or an early dismissal, a report card, or any other type of document is considered grounds for suspension. Don't do it!

In summary, the offenses that require automatic suspension or expulsion are: 1. bullying of **any** type; 2. use of alcohol /drugs during school activities; 3. disrespect to a teacher or other employee; 4. cheating.

### **Attendance**

Premise: "You can't be taught if you aren't present. Others can't be taught if you arrive late and interrupt the lesson." Think of it! The school year is slightly less than half as long as the year itself. You're out of school more than 50% of the time, so it doesn't seem unreasonable to expect you to show up when you have classes and exams. When college admissions officers and prospective employers ask for your number of days absent and tardy, they have a reason. The numbers reveal something of your dependability and responsibility. Remember Woody Allen's observation: "Eighty percent of success is showing up." When a student misses school, his absence will fall into one of four categories: excused, excused with make-up time, unexcused, or truant.

### **Excused Absences Without Make-Up Time**

We expect you here at school every day, except when legitimately excused for one of the following: serious personal illness or injury, death in the family, or participation in school activities requiring absence. If at all possible, we expect you to provide the attendance office with advance written notice if one of these situations applies. If advanced written notice is not possible, a written note from a parent, stating the reason for the absence, must be delivered to the attendance office the day the student returns. Failure to provide a timely written note means the absence must be counted as unexcused. An excused absence for one of the above reasons does not require make up time, unless the student has exceeded the limit of 10 absences per semester (see Excessive absences).

### **Excused Absences With Make-Up Time**

Excused absences with make-up time are those which have parental consent but are for any reason other than those listed above as excused. Examples of excused absences requiring make-up time include trips, hunting expeditions, travel for sports unrelated to a Catholic High team, college visits that exceed the number allowed, etc. If your absence is excused with make-up time, you are at the mercy of your specific teacher concerning all tests, projects, long-term assignments and homework due the day of the absence. In fact, you may expect a lower grade depending on the circumstances.

Make-up time will be served at the direction of the attendance office, typically before school or on Saturdays. The number of hours will be based on your last report card grades according to the following formula: 3 hours' make-up for an "F", 2 hours for every "D", 1 hour for each "C",  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour for every "B", and 15 minutes for every "A". This make-up time is not punishment. No one is mad at you. It is simply a process for making up missed time and missed work.

### **Unexcused Absences**

Unexcused absences occur when a student doesn't have parental permission for an absence or when a student does not provide timely proof of parental permission. We expect students to provide a written note from a parent for any absence. At the latest, we expect this note on the day the student returns. Failure to provide a timely written note means the absence must be counted as unexcused. Of course, oversleeping is never considered excused. Depending on the circumstances, unexcused absences will either require minute-for-minute make-up time (up to 6 hours for a full day) or will be treated as truancy (see below).

### **Truancy**

Truancy is an old-fashioned word for skipping school, and that means for even part of a school day. Our advice is "forget it!" The first and second time you're caught will result in suspension (that means you and a parent must come to school to discuss with the principal your lapse of judgment). And that's just the start of it! You must also make up on Saturdays the amount of time you missed while truant and double the hours while being suspended. (For example: 6 hours truant + 6 hours suspension =  $6 + 12$  hours = 18 total hours.) Talk about forever in terms of wasted Saturday mornings!! Hate to even bring this up, but for the really profoundly flawed thinker who gets caught skipping the third time, the penalty is the worst one: expulsion.

### **Informing us of an absence and the procedure for returning to school**

In case of an excused or unexcused absence, your parent or guardian is expected to phone the attendance office between 7:30 and 8:00 in the morning to report the absence. If you know you will be absent for a day or more, then a note should be brought to the Attendance Office prior to the date(s) of the absence. On the day of your return you are to report to the attendance office between 7:15 and 7:45 with a note signed by a parent or guardian which explains the reason for the absence and noting the date(s) absent. You will then be given an Admission Slip, which you are to have signed by each teacher whose class you have missed. The slip must be presented to the teacher prior to the beginning of the class. You should give the Admission Slip to whatever teacher or study hall monitor you have at the last period of the day. Another way we might miss you is if you move or change your phone number without notifying us. Stay in touch.

### **Attendance office procedures – blue admission slips**

If you were late for school the previous day and missed one or more full classes, or if you checked out the previous day and missed one or more full classes you must report to the attendance office between 7:15 and 7:45 to get a Blue Admission Slip. If you do not get your admission slip prior to 7:55 you will be fined. You must present the slip to those teachers whose class (or classes) you missed so they can sign it. You must give the slip to the teacher whose class you last missed the previous day.

### **Missed school and make up work**

Missing school does not excuse you from your assignments. Most teachers will expect you to have all homework assignments completed and that you will be prepared for any test they will give on the day of your return if you have missed only one day of class. Do you see why you should take all your books home each night? You should know one or more of your fellow students' telephone numbers so you can find out what assignments have been made for each class. In the case of a lengthy illness, you'll need to make arrangements with another student (who has the same schedule as you) to keep you up-to-date on your work. **The school office does not get a student's assignments for him. You must consider that absence from school puts you behind in your work and thus should be avoided except for serious reasons.** When you return from an absence, it is up to you to approach your teachers about the matter of missed work and tests. If you don't do this, serious academic problems could result from your failure to make sure that all missed work and exams have been made up.

### **College visits**

College visits play an important part in discerning what you do after high school, however, it is strongly recommended that visits occur on days we are out of school. In fact, we have found that it is most beneficial to schedule college visits during spring break of junior year. If the need arises to take a visit when we are in school, students are allotted two college visits junior year and two college visits senior year. These four total visits can be considered excused without makeup time if a student adheres to the

following: mandatory one week prior notice to the attendance office with documentation from the college as proof of the visit. This documentation can be provided before the visit or on the day the student returns from the visit. Lastly, keep in mind that the purpose of an approved college visit should be taking a guided tour of campus, meeting with college representatives, and other official activities. We will not approve visits that consist solely of unofficial tours conducted around athletic events, parties, or other periphery circumstances. We understand special circumstances may occur and will address those on a case-by-case basis. Our ultimate goal is to help guide every boy in finding his purpose. A large part of this is accomplished by helping him to find the right fit for the next four years of his life.

### **Excessive absences**

Note! If you miss excessive amounts of school, you may forfeit an entire semester's credit. Any student missing more than 10 days per semester may lose all credits for the semester. Remember, "Ignoratio legis neminem excusat." Which is to say, pleading ignorance of this will not excuse you. *After the tenth absence an evaluation will be made to decide on whether or not the boy will lose his credits. The boy's parents, the rector, principal, vice-principal and attendance officer will meet during this evaluation and input from the boy's current teachers will be utilized.*

### **Late arrival**

If you arrive late to school, you must check in with the office before going to class. If you have a legitimate reason for being late, bring a note from a parent explaining it. Unexcused lateness is a potential problem. After your third offense per year, you become a member of "the Dollar Club". You'll be fined one dollar for every subsequent time you are late without a written excuse. After five times late without excuse, the fine escalates to \$5.00 for each tardiness. (By the way, if you are wondering where your fine money goes – all fine monies go to various charities, unrelated to Catholic High School). If you should be tardy ten times without excuse in the course of a year, you will be notified that your eleventh such lateness will require that you and a parent have a 7:45 a.m. meeting with the principal to discuss your problem. Unexcused tardiness following the eleventh will oblige you to serve two hours in detention hall for each instance and possible suspension for a day.

### **Medical appointments**

If you must leave school for part of the day for a medical appointment, you must bring a note from a parent to the attendance office between 7:15 and 7:45 on the day you plan to check out. The note should identify the time of dismissal, the name of the medical practitioner, and the approximate time of your return. Don't figure that after-lunch appointments mean that school is out for the day. We expect you back!

### **Leaving prior to vacations**

Holidays at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and Spring Break are great to anticipate, but you shouldn't anticipate them so much that you try to start the holiday with a trip prior to the actual beginning date of the holiday. That would constitute an unexcused absence (see the gory details above) and you'd have to pay for it with plenty o' make-up time! The practice of leaving early is officially viewed as a self-indulgent refusal to abide by the rules which apply to all. And that is bad. **Leaving early to get a haircut will not even be considered.** Take care of items such as these on your off-time, not school time.

### **Leaving the grounds**

You can't leave the grounds without permission. Once you're here, you're here. To promote a good neighbor policy, you must not loiter in the areas of office buildings, apartments, or homes around the school. Speaking of going, don't go too fast! Driving in our parking areas requires caution. Anything over 10 M.P.H. is asking for a fender bender - or worse.

### **Becoming sick while at school**

If you become ill during the day and desire to go home, you must come to the office and obtain permission to phone a parent, who will indicate to a school official by telephone either that you have his/her permission to go home or that you should remain in school until day's end or until a parent can pick you up. As with all absences, you must bring a note from a parent explaining your absence when you return.

### **Tobacco, vaping, and gum**

How about a smoke, a vape, or a chew? Nope. Not in these parts. Not during class or exam time, at dances, b-ball games, or anything in this building or on these grounds or that the school sponsors elsewhere. So holster

your tobacco, no matter what form it's in, and stow that gum. We're trying to keep this community clean and healthy. Violators of the law will be prosecuted (no, that's not "persecuted"). The penalty for smoking or using a vaporizer is stiff. Possessing or using these items in the building, on the grounds, or at an event sponsored by the school is a suspendable offense. Vape products will be treated the same as tobacco products. Don't forget that the time you're out of school has to be made up on Saturdays - and double time at that! For a third offense, it's termination. Expulsion. Exclusion. Sayonara.

### **Food and drinks**

Food and drinks are to be confined to the cafeteria, the corridor next to the study hall, Fletcher Plaza (the area behind the school) and the gym lobby. Prove to everybody how grown up you are by picking up and depositing in the trash containers your own debris. Cleaning up after yourself is one of those rites of passage which shows conclusively that junior high has been left behind.

The same holds true for being able to eat in a civilized manner and doing the right thing when it comes to matters like lining up to buy lunch, milk, or using the vending machines or microwaves. Those who try to gain unfair advantage are revealing character deficiency. Don't take any food or drink into the classroom wing of the school. That's off-limits. It's bring or buy your lunch here. No delivery is allowed whether from a fast food operation, parent, or devoted "admirer."

### **Detention Hall**

Detention Hall (D-hall) is held about once a month. It starts at 9:00 am - on the dot! Sharp! If you're late, you have to add ten minutes to your sentence. So if you stroll in at 9:15, and are scheduled to serve one hour, can you figure what time you'll see the light of day? If you knew it was 10:25, that bodes well for your Math SAT score. D-hall lasts from 9:00 to 12:00 noon, and if you should happen to have more than three hours to serve, don't worry! The Lord High Executioner of Detention Hall will let you go at noon and invite you back to the next D-hall until justice is done. What happens if you skip D-hall? It's horrible to contemplate! Your time is doubled, and you must pay a \$5.00 fine. Skip it a second time and you will face suspension. If you think you have a legitimate reason for missing D-hall, you must bring a parent-written request, at least 24 hours prior to the detention in question, asking to move your D-hall time to the next detention session. A job on Saturday or a trip are examples of reasons for missing Detention hall that will not be excused. Good behavior is the solution to Detention Hall Blues. Remember, all teachers are empowered to enforce school rules, so you can run afoul of the laws with more than just your classroom teachers. If you're assigned to D-hall, be prepared for punishment! What you do there for one, two, or three hours is absolutely... NOTHING. You stare at the wall, your hand, or a fly on the wall, but you can't do homework, catch up on your reading, or write Petrarchan sonnets. It's a drag.

### **Le style, c'est l'homme**

A little bit of French to dress up a discussion of how to dress. "The Catholic High look" is older than you are. Guys who complained about it when they were students here would be incensed if they thought today's students didn't dress as they did. That doesn't mean your tie has to be four inches wide or that you'll be wearing bell-bottoms. But what it does mean is that we wear shirts with collars, ties, and khaki dress trousers.

Dress trousers means no denim, denim related materials, or denim knockoffs allowed. No pants designed for outdoor activities allowed. Are you wondering how to tell the difference between what is allowed and what isn't? Ask yourself: would I wear these pants to climb a mountain, rope cattle, or go fishing? Not allowed. Do these pants have rivets? Not acceptable. Would I wear these to a job interview? If the answer is yes, then you are on the right track.

Socks? Always, and they must be white crew socks. Belts? You bet. Dress shoes or tennis shoes are the only shoes for CHS. No cowboy boots, backless shoes, slippers, etc. Searching for one's identity by means of bizarre clothing has never been viewed here to be an avenue to self-discovery. A dose of common sense about the prevailing customs will go a long way to helping you to deal with "the look."

During those frosty months, you can keep your timbers from shivering by wearing a sweater in class for extra insulation, but sports-jackets, coats, or jackets intended for outside wear are not to be worn during school time. Sweatshirts which feature CHS or college insignia are okay, too, but out-of-bounds are athletic sweatshirts or clothing which features advertising of any type. (Why you'd pay for clothes which advertise for a business you don't own or have a financial interest in is hard to figure anyway.)

Did somebody say "hair?" CHS has been moderate on the subject for decades. When the prevailing style was super-long, we were moderate. When people wanted to sport the cue ball, or have lines carved, or try a

mohawk, we've been moderate. So the corn rows, dreadlocks, cue ball look, and short-on-the-sides-long-on-top faux hawk look are all prohibitively lumped together: they're immoderate. Specifically, moderation in hair at CHS means at least the following: hair shall not touch the eyebrows, hair shall not touch the ears, and hair shall not touch the shirt collar. Violation of these rules subjects a boy to consequences including but not limited to a mandatory professional haircut date or the dreaded emergency on-campus haircut (a markedly nonprofessional last resort). So, think moderate and get the most for your money when getting that haircut. Nothing to it.

"Body jewelry" is out. Necklaces and bracelets and other ornaments are for your recreational self, not your "I'm serious about my education" self. When in doubt, ask a teacher before you don your latest purchase. The only jewelry that is allowed is your senior ring and a religious medal, crucifix or cross on a small chain. Again, moderation is key.

#### **Phone use**

You will be notified of a telephone message for you only if it is thought to be an emergency. Remember, cell phones may never be on your person, much less used, during school hours. If you need to contact a parent, come to the office and we will assist you.

#### **Technology Use**

Common sense dictates that school hours are for learning and not playing video games, using social media, viewing inappropriate material, surfing YouTube, or shopping on the internet. In fact, any use of technology in school is limited to educational purposes. You should only use school issued devices and only wired headphones are allowed during school hours.

Catholic High reserves the right to monitor or inspect any device you use on our campus, even if it's used outside of school hours. Social media posts are subject to the same standards of behavior as any other interactions in our community. This means abusive, rude, or otherwise inappropriate content may subject you to disciplinary consequences. Also, students are prohibited from using other students' logins and passwords. Students who abuse their technology privileges are subject to losing those privileges. Repeated offenses may warrant escalated consequences, such as suspension.

#### **Study time**

The question is, "How much?" The answer, proven over decades, and by people who deserve to be known as "students," is two to three hours per night. Doing homework is not all that's involved. If it were, you'd be known as "homeworkers" rather than "students." There is also the matter of studying what has been covered in class and previewing what's to come. The most successful students have been using this method all along. We thought we'd let you in on their secret.

#### **Semester failures**

If you fail a course for one semester, you must make up this deficit in summer school. Catholic High School's long standing policy is that summer school is only for credit recovery. Upon successful completion of the summer school course, the failing grade will be replaced with a 60%. If you fail more than two such courses, you may have to repeat the year, and, if there is no space available in the class, you may be required to transfer to another school.

#### **Graduation Requirements**

Requirements are: 4 credits of English, 3 credits of Social Studies, 4 credits of Math, 3 credits of Science, 1/2 credit of Fine Arts, 1/2 credit of Economics, 1/2 credit of Health, 1/2 credit of Physical Education, 1/2 credit of Computer Applications, 1/2 credit of Communication, 2 credits of Foreign Language or its equivalent, and 4 credits of electives. That's 23 units, if you're counting. When you add a 1/2 credit of Religion for each of your 4 years, that makes 25 credits.

#### **Concurrent Credit**

In our ongoing effort to provide our students with the best possible opportunities and the most rigor, Catholic High partners with local universities to offer concurrent credit, also known as dual credit. Certain classes at CHS are taught at an advanced level on par with a college course that might be taken with the partner university. The instructors in these courses have advanced training in the content, such as a master's degree in the subject area. Completion of a concurrent credit course and compliance with all of the university requirements will result in the student receiving a grade and credit for both Catholic High and for the partner university.

These courses may be offered starting sophomore year. Students who wish to enroll in a concurrent credit course must meet certain requirements. Typically the student must have a 2.75 cumulative GPA and a minimum of a 20 composite on the ACT. These requirements are subject to change, but it is highly recommended that all interested students take the ACT before they enter their junior year. In the absence of an ACT score, an AccuPlacer score may be used. Additionally, each concurrent credit course has its own cost established by the university, typically \$100 per course.

### **Lost and Found**

The Lost and Found Department is located in the main office. There you may turn in items you found or look for those you've lost. Lost clothing will be kept under the counter. Books will be in the bookcase by the office door. Valuables will be locked in the safe. You should write your name on all books, clothing, and other belongings which you might misplace. Remember to put your books and other articles in your locker during your lunch period. Most of our boys wouldn't even think of stealing an item, but if your calculator or book is taken during lunch you will receive no empathy – you should have those items in your locker!

### **Lockers or “Davey Jones lore”**

You will be assigned a locker for storage of books, clothing, etc. You are responsible for keeping your locker in order and locked at all times. Don't give your locker combination to another student. Items which can turn your locker into an ecological disaster area include wet towels, damp PE equipment and food. These should not be stored for long in your locker.

Don't give in to the urge to “decorate” your locker by attaching stickers to the inside. If you do give in, you may have to carry your books around in a cardboard box after losing your locker privilege.

Avoid the temptation to “rig” your locker. Leaving the combination just a touch from its last number does make getting into the locker a bit faster, but it also makes it easier for those who are wise to this trick to get into your locker and remove anything they judge valuable.

If you abuse your locker, you will lose the right to use it. If you overload it and force the door when it resists closing, you'll damage hinges and the lock itself. Then you've put yourself in the position of having to pay for its repair.

Frequent visits to your locker indicate you're not planning very well. Being tardy for class often results. If you get all the books you'll need for morning classes before school starts, you won't have to make another stop until it's time for lunch. Your after-lunch stop can provide you with all you need for the afternoon. Use your locker as a safe deposit box when you go to PE. Store your wallet and other valuables there before you head for the gym.

### **Parallel lines**

The three parking lots for student use are in front of the school (just one area: facing the flagpole - the rest is for faculty), the east lot in back of the gym (spaces nearest the school are reserved for faculty and staff - they're marked, so there's no excuse if you get caught in one), and the northwest lot at the end of the school farthest from Fr. Tribou Street. You can also park along the driveways (leaving spaces vacant in the front drive all the way to the speed bump - those spaces are reserved for library volunteers). Park within lines wherever they are painted. Illegal parking will result in fines.

When you have parked your car in the morning, you are to leave it as soon as you have gathered what you need for school. No hangin' 'round the lot! And once you've left your car, that's it. There's no going back, whether to retrieve a book, or lunch, or any other item.

### **Guidance**

The counseling program is under the direction of Brother Richard Sanker who aids students in curriculum, as well as spiritual and emotional counseling. Mr. Fred Baker is the Director of College counseling, and will help with college and career choices as well as scholarship opportunities. A testing program which enables you to evaluate your background strengths and interests and preparedness for college is available to all students. Group counseling is administered especially to juniors and seniors regarding college preparation. You can also arrange for individual conferences by requesting such from the guidance counselor. Msgr. Lawrence Frederick, our rector, is especially trained in the area of spiritual counseling. Mr. Ed Dodge is the assistant counselor. Please see them whenever a college, life, or spiritual question arises.

### **Report cards**

Report cards are issued four times per year. Semester grades alone are those which determine if you have passed or failed. All semester failing marks must be made up in summer school. The failing grade on the report

card is the only notice that you and your parents will receive that you must attend summer school.

### **Something extra?**

If you have a documented learning disability and have need of tape recording any classes, you must first receive approval from the teacher prior to making a recording, and such approval must be sought and obtained for every class session which you plan to record.

### **Library guidelines**

The library: a place for study, research, and discovery. All of which are pretty tough to accomplish if people aren't quiet there and if the resources aren't there. So do the right thing with regard to maintaining silence and getting your checked-out items back on time. It is theft, pure and simple, to take materials from the library without first checking them out. If you lose items which are the library's, you naturally will be expected to pay for what you have lost. If you wish to go to the library, you should request a library pass from one of your teachers. The best time to get a pass is to see the teacher before school begins.

### **Athletic guidelines**

All aspects of the school, including athletics, should support and affirm our two basic goals: Christian formation and quality academics. As an integral part of the total school program, extra-curricular activities provide an important vehicle to promote our basic mission. To this end, we will conduct all activities with integrity and in accordance with a sense of fair play while promoting good sportsmanship. Catholic High will strive for excellence in all its extra-curricular activities. Expectations related to athletics will be communicated to all members of the Catholic High family each year by meeting with all parents of student-athletes, as well as in writing. We shall follow all Arkansas Activities Association rules. Our sportsmanship guidelines include:

#### Students

Students are expected to show the same degree of respect and obedience to coaches as is expected of them in their relationship to classroom teachers. During the course of any sanctioned athletic activity, our students, players, and fans, are viewed as representatives of Catholic High School. Students should not engage in any activity or exhibit any behavior which detracts from the goals or image of Catholic High School for Boys.

#### Coaches

Coaches should be mindful of the physical safety of the student and not place the student in a position where serious injury may occur. Coaches must not physically or emotionally abuse any student who is under his or her supervision. We affirm students who wish to play more than one sport. Coaches may not prevent any player from participating in a second sport, unless that sport is in the same season as the first. Coaches who fail to follow these guidelines will lose the opportunity of coaching at Catholic High School. Coaches will show respect toward officials, as well as the coaches and players of the opposing team. Coaches should make every effort to be models of mature Christian behavior.

#### Parents

It is very important that parents function as role models for their children. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend games in which their children are participating. Parental behavior at games should exemplify the behavior expected of the child. Belligerent or demeaning comments or actions toward coaches, players, other parents or game officials often result in a loss of respect for authority by the child and are not acceptable. Parental behavior at games should reflect positively on Catholic High School and should promote good will and positive relationships with other Arkansas Activities Association member schools.

#### Pass and Play

The Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) mandates that you must be passing four academic courses and have a 2.0 Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) or better on the previous semester to play sports. If you do not have a 2.0 G.P.A., you must be enrolled and attending 100 minutes per week of our Supplemental Instruction Program (SIP) which meets the established criteria approved by the AAA. You won't be surprised, however, to know that Catholic High School values its spiritual and academic reputation to the extent that we go well beyond AAA regulations regarding athletic participation. The privilege of athletic participation may be earned only through satisfactory levels of achievement in self-discipline and academics. At any time that organized athletics become a detriment to the student's self discipline or academic achievement, he will become ineligible for athletic participation until a satisfactory achievement level is attained. Students are informed of the requirements which they are expected to meet. Students who do not meet these expectations will find their participation in athletics either restricted or cut off entirely.

If you plan to play, then plan to pass!

### The days of our (high school) lives

The daily schedule will become known to you quickly as to the beginning and ending of periods. You will be given verbal notification of schedule changes, as well as having most of them listed in the attached calendar.

### Sem ex

The semester examination in each academic subject is intended to provide a review of previously covered material, basing the practice on the adage “Repetitio est mater studiorum”. Loosely translated, that means that repeating what you’ve studied may make it stick. Some students who go to college from high schools which exempt students from taking semester tests have reported that they feel unprepared for the effort required to study for and take such tests. When you have semester exams, you may not leave the campus during the lunch break if you have exams in both morning and afternoon; on days when you have only one exam, you need be present at school only for the exam.

### Making the grade

Report card and transcript grades are numbers, but the guide below identifies the equivalent letter grade. Colleges which request grades in terms of a 4-point scale will be so notified after conversion. Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) will be determined by converting the individual course grades for each semester based on the 4-point scale below and then averaged to give the student's G.P.A.

<b>90-100 = 4.0</b>	82 = 3.2	74 = 2.4	66 = 1.6
89 = 3.9	81 = 3.1	73 = 2.3	65 = 1.5
88 = 3.8	80 = 3.0	72 = 2.2	64 = 1.4
87 = 3.7	79 = 2.9	71 = 2.1	63 = 1.3
86 = 3.6	78 = 2.8	70 = 2.0	62 = 1.2
85 = 3.5	77 = 2.7	69 = 1.9	61 = 1.1
84 = 3.4	76 = 2.6	68 = 1.8	60 = 1.0
83 = 3.3	75 = 2.5	67 = 1.7	0-59, no quality points

90 - 100 = A  
80 - 89 = B  
70 - 79 = C  
60 - 69 = D  
0 - 59 = F

### On a roll

The Honor Roll is determined after each quarter's grades are complete. First Honors are obtained by those who have all A's. Other levels of distinction are determined by the number of A's and B's. No student who has a C in any academic subject or any mark other than "Satisfactory" for conduct in any class is eligible for the Honor Roll.

### Fire/tornado etc.

You will receive instructions about and practice in dealing with fire, tornado and other emergencies. Vital to the practice and the reality of these drills is that you must be able to get proper instructions at all times. For that reason, silence must be observed during the drills. Don't make the mistake of thinking that this is just a recommendation. This is an absolute requirement: silence during emergency drills.

### CHS - a home away from home?

Yes and no. Let's start with the "no." After 4:30 on weekdays (and after 12:00 noon Saturdays and all day Sunday), the residents of Catholic High (easily recognizable by their brown or black wardrobes) have a right to expect that their home will not be overrun by students who want to get back in the school to get a forgotten book or some other item from a locker. Don't assume these men have nothing better to do than to leave their rooms and come to the door to admit you just because you have failed to take home an item you now "need." On the other hand, should you need assistance with a personal problem, feel free to call the school "at any time" to set up a time to meet with someone.

### **Fees and Tuition**

School expenses do not lessen when a student departs Catholic High School in the middle of the year: teachers have been hired, utility bills remain virtually unchanged, and administrative costs continue. For this reason, the tuition and registration fees of a student who has withdrawn are not refundable. If a student leaves CHS because he has moved outside the Pulaski County area, registration fees remain not refundable, but tuition overpayments will be reimbursed based on a per diem scale.

### **CHS Custodial Policy**

Catholic High School abides by the provision of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to academic records and other school information regarding his/her child. If there is a court order specifying that there be no information given, it is the custodial parent's responsibility to provide the school with a court-certified copy of the order.

If a student moves from the home of his parent(s), custodial parent, or legal guardian(s), the school administration should be notified immediately.

### **Kind Mother**

Alma Mater, translated above, is the traditional way of referring to one's school, especially when one feels a debt of gratitude to it. The song which celebrates this attachment to Catholic High School was written over thirty years ago by Mr. Thomas Morrissey.

Proudly we speak your name, proudly wear your colors.  
Friendships made within your walls will mellow through the years.  
We, in some distant day, may brush away a tear,  
born of memories as these, we hold so very dear.

### **Non-Discrimination Policy**

Catholic High School admits male students of any race, color, creed, sexual orientation, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarship and student aid programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

### **Disclaimer**

These policies and regulations are subject to change without notice by the administration. Not every facet of the CHS experience is covered by the material herein.

### **Diocese of Little Rock**

### **Addenda to the Manual of Policies and Regulations for Elementary and Secondary Catholic Schools of Arkansas**

## **4.00 STUDENTS**

### **4.42 HUMAN SEXUALITY**

#### **4.42(1) Reasons for a Policy on Human Sexuality**

All entities of the Catholic Church are for the purpose of furthering the saving mission of Jesus Christ and must operate in accord with the truth revealed by God in both natural law and divine revelation. In particular, our Catholic schools must remain in the fullness of the truth in order to carry out their proper mission:

Since true education must strive for complete formation of the human person that looks to his or her final end as well as to the common good of societies, children and youth are to be nurtured in such a way that they are able to develop their physical, moral, and intellectual talents harmoniously, acquire a more perfect sense of responsibility and right use of freedom, and are formed to participate actively in social life. (*Code of Canon Law*, c. 795).

These truths extend into every facet of our lives, including—and perhaps especially—our sexuality.

Regarding sexuality and sexual identity, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "By creating the human being man and woman, God gives personal dignity equally to the one and the other. Each of them, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his sexual identity." {*Catechism of the Catholic Church* <"CCC">, 2360-2363). By its very nature, sexuality is ordered to the conjugal love of a man and woman within the bond of marriage (c. 1055). And

marriage, which is a partnership of the whole of life, is always ordered by its very nature to both the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children (*Ibid*). All persons are called to chastity, to be lived out according to one's state in life (CCCr #2337-2359).

These teachings of the Church are not mere antiquated notions. In fact, Pope Francis has repeatedly stressed the importance of a proper understanding of our sexuality, warning of the challenge posed by "the various forms of an ideology of gender that denies the difference and reciprocity in nature of a man and a woman and envisages a society without sexual differences" (*Amoris Laetitia (\*V4I\*)*, #56). Pope Francis further notes that "biological sex and the socio-cultural role of sex (gender) can be distinguished but not separated," and that although we must always be "understanding of human weakness and the complexities of life," that does not require us to "accept ideologies that attempt to sunder what are inseparable aspects of reality" (*Ibid*).

Ultimately, "[w]e are creatures, and not omnipotent," and we must accept and respect our humanity "as it was created" (*Ibid*; see also Gen. 1:27, Matthew 19:4, and Mark 10:6). The Holy Father then stresses that "the young need to be helped to accept their own body as it was created," so that "we can joyfully accept the specific gifts of another man or woman, the work of God the Creator" (*AL*, #285).

As Pope Francis notes, we must always respect the sacred dignity of each individual person, but that does not mean the Church must accept the confused notions of gender ideology. We must not demean or deny the sincerity and struggle of those who experience same-sex attraction or who feel their true gender identity is different from their biological sex. Rather, we seek to accompany them on their journey of life, offering them the light of the Gospel as they try to find their way forward. These truths are not merely faith-based; rather, such realities are also knowable through the use of properly functioning senses and right reason (Pope St. John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio*, #22). We do not serve anyone's greater good by falsifying the truth, for it is only the truth that frees us for the full life that God offers to each of us. Thus, when a person experiences same-sex attraction or some form of gender dysphoria, such struggles do not change the biological fact of how God created that person, and it would be untruthful for the Catholic Church or our Catholic schools to pretend otherwise. The policies of our Catholic schools, therefore, must reflect these fundamental truths.

#### **4.42(2) Bullying/Harassment/Violence and Human Sexuality**

All persons have inherent human dignity and are thus deserving of innate respect as a person. Bullying, harassment, or threats or acts of violence against any student based on that student's perceived sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity, will not be tolerated {see above, sections 4.26, 4.27, and 4.28}.

#### **4.42(3) Chastity**

All persons are called to chastity in accordance with their state in life. For purposes of the school environment, chastity also encompasses modesty in language, appearance, dress, and behavior. Accordingly, romantic or sexual displays of affection are generally not permitted at school.

#### **4.42(4) Sexual Orientation and Same-Sex Attraction**

Students may not advocate, celebrate, or express same-sex attraction in such a way as to cause confusion or distraction in the context of Catholic school classes, activities, or events. When discussing homosexuality or homosexual inclinations, the use of the term "same-sex attraction" is preferred, as it is a more appropriate description in accordance with the truths of Catholic faith and morals.

#### **4.42(5) Gender Dysphoria (Transgenderism)**

All students are expected to conduct themselves at school in a manner consistent with their biological sex. Schools shall consider the gender of all students as being consistent with their biological sex, including, but not limited to, the following: participation in school athletics; school-sponsored dances; dress and uniform policies; the use of changing facilities, showers, locker rooms, and bathrooms (with rare exceptions only on a limited, case-by-case basis, to be determined by the principal of the school); titles, names, and pronouns; and official school documents (see section 4.43, Official School Documents). If a student's expression of gender, sexual

identity, or sexuality should cause confusion or disruption at the school, or if it should mislead others, cause scandal, or have the potential for causing scandal, then the matter will first be discussed with the student and his/her parents. If the issue is not resolved to the satisfaction of the school, whose primary goal must always be to uphold Catholic truths and principles, then the student may be dismissed from the school, after the parents are first given the opportunity to withdraw the student from the school.

#### **4.43 OFFICIAL SCHOOL DOCUMENTS**

Diplomas, transcripts, school records, and any other official documents of the school ("official school documents") shall be issued in conformity with the student's biological sex as based upon physical differences at birth and at the time of the student's enrollment. Official school documents are also historical documents and, as such, must accurately reflect the name and identity of the alumnus/ alumna during the time in which he/she was enrolled at and graduated from the school. If after graduation an alumnus/alumna legally changes his/her name, for whatever reason, and requests new versions of his/her official school documents, the official school documents may be issued in the following format: "Original Name, n.k.a. New Legal Name."



Please sign this form, cut along the dotted line above, and send it to the school office by August 19,

2022.STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT for 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK.I AGREE TO COMPLY WITH ITS POLICIES AND REGULATIONS. I UNDERSTAND THAT IF I CHOOSE NOT TO FOLLOW THESE RULES AND GUIDELINES, I MUST COMPLY WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date