



# CHAMINADE HIGH SCHOOL

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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

August 2017

My dear Freshman Parents,

I hope that the summer has been enjoyable for you and your family. The beginning of the school year is rapidly approaching. To facilitate your planning and preparation for the opening of school, all the information necessary for an orderly beginning has been consolidated.

***Please take the time to read all the enclosed information carefully. A checklist on buff-colored paper is enclosed to help you keep track of everything.***

Please note that as we move more into the electronic age, much of our communications and information is now being sent digitally. For instance, you will note that the school calendar and the student handbook are not included in this packet. You will need to read the electronic version of the handbook that will be e-mailed to you or that you can read on the school website (student tab). You must then complete the enclosed verification card and return it with the other enclosed cards (which can also be downloaded from the website). The school calendar is also accessible on the school website. There is a print-ready version as well as a current schedule of events.

Please note that there are several changes that are noted in the school handbook:

1. In order to accommodate the expanding academic program and block scheduling, the official school hours are slightly increased from 8:05 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
2. Chaminade will no longer be assigning a student rank. Students applying to colleges simply indicate that Chaminade does not rank its students.
3. Please consult the Academic section of the handbook for a description of the course offerings and supplementary academic classes. Additional information on the four-year program can be found in the Addendum at the end of the handbook.
4. With the four-year roll-out of advanced courses (AP aligned), please consult the section in the handbook on Advancement Protocol for further information on these procedures.
5. Effective this year, music, health and studio art will not be included in the average. These half-credit courses will receive a grade which will be reflected on the report card and transcripts.

In general, successful students spend about three hours per night doing assignments and preparing for class. Assignments should be done neatly and thoroughly. In class, your son is encouraged to ask and answer questions. There is no reason why any student should feel bashful about participating in class; even a mistaken answer is an opportunity to learn. Entry into a new school means more than just finding one's way around a new building; it is also the opportunity to change and improve one's study habits and personal attitudes. We are confident that if your son is diligent and involved, then he will be successful at Chaminade.

The 3-C Program is an orientation program which will help with the transition to Chaminade High School and his next four years. A separate sheet (blue paper) describes in more detail the 3-C Program, which is the first major event in your son's entry into Chaminade. Please note that during the 3-C Program, which is a general orientation to Chaminade, your son will receive his schedule for the year and meet his teachers for the year.

There are a number of specific points which I would like to bring to your attention for the opening of school:

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1. Monday, August 28, 2017 - iPad Distribution and Freshman Parent Orientation Day. It will begin in the Darby Auditorium and conclude with a Freshman Parent Welcome Social in the Activity-Athletic Center. You have already received an email from me with specific details for this day.

Session I – 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Homerooms 1A – 1F (Last names: Abrusci-Ledden)

Session II – 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. Homerooms 1G - 1N (Last names: Lee-Zeppieri)

2. Tuesday, August 29 – Thursday, August 31, 2017 – 3-C Program (8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

3. Tuesday, September 26, 2017 – Meet the teachers (6:30 – 7:30 p.m.)

Freshman Parent Guidance Information Program (7:30 – 9:00 p.m.)

4. I remind you of the requirements concerning a physical examination and the immunization procedures. You have already been informed of these requirements. It is imperative that your son bring the completed health card with him on iPad Distribution Day or the first day of the 3-C Program (unless your son is trying out for football and submits it on the Fall Sports Sign-up day).

5. You are reminded that textbooks should be picked up from the school district according to the schedule set by the district. Residents of New York City will receive their books from Chaminade during 3-C Week. Exercising care in handling textbooks through the year is expected of all students.

6. I recommend that your son know how to use public transportation to get to and from school. In the event that he misses his school bus or stays late for an activity, it will be most helpful for both him and you that he know how to get home on his own. You should check with your district for possible transportation starting September 1<sup>st</sup>.

7. Students who travel by school bus are expected to follow the norms set down by the drivers of the busses serving Chaminade High School. Any issues with these norms, including any form of hazing, should be brought to the attention of Mr. Patrick Kemp, the Dean of Students, or me.

As has been the tradition at Chaminade, the Marianist Community and many student workers completed many projects to improve and renovate the physical plant this summer. These included:

- a) Of course, the major summer project is the ongoing construction of the new Science, Technology and Research Center. The construction is well underway and making great progress. We anticipate its completion for this fall and hope to open the labs in the second trimester.
- b) Several carpentry projects throughout the school. This included initial renovations to the nurse's office, the coaches' office and the Marianist Residence.
- c) Several offices received an energy efficient upgraded air-conditioning system.
- d) We replaced an original boiler with a new boiler for steam heat in the school.
- e) New and efficient L.E.D. lighting fixtures have been installed in the cafeteria, the locker rooms and the gymnasium. We anticipate further upgrades throughout other locations in the coming year.
- f) The summer affords time for several painting and landscaping projects that help enhance the overall aesthetics of the campus.

In addition, a thorough cleaning and general maintenance of all facilities have made the school building quite ready to receive more than 1,700 students in September.

As in the past, various faculty and students also renovated homes in West Virginia through a place called Nazareth Farm. This week of service has been a great benefit to our students and those they help.

According to recent legislation, Chaminade has a developed Comprehensive Attendance Policy (CAP) and a school Concussion Awareness Program. Information on these two programs can be found in the school handbook and on the school website under the "General Information" tab. Please be sure to read the section on reporting absences since the procedure requires a special absent form.

Finally, we hope you can join us at the Parents Club Fall Cocktail Party on Saturday, September 23, 2017.

We look forward enthusiastically to your son's entry into Chaminade and extend our prayers and best wishes for his success during his freshman year.

Sincerely,

Bro. Joseph Dominick Bellizzi, S.M. '78  
Principal

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