



CHAMINADE HIGH SCHOOL

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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

August 2017

Dear 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. Going forward, 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.

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 on Orientation Day. Exercising care in handling textbooks through the year is expected of all students. We recommend that your son purchase any needed materials from the school store on Orientation Day rather than waiting for the first full day of classes.

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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) Meribah's front portico was completely rebuilt and the decking outside the dining room was replaced.
- c) Several carpentry projects throughout the school. This included initial renovations to the nurse's office, the coaches' office and the Marianist Residence.
- d) Several offices received an energy efficient upgraded air-conditioning system.
- e) We replaced an original boiler with a new boiler for steam heat in the school.
- f) 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.
- g) 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.

There are several changes for the beginning of the school year for both students and parents:

1. Sophomore, junior and senior student orientations will all take place on Tuesday, September 5, 2017:
 - Sophomores - 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
 - Juniors – 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
 - Seniors – 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
2. First day of classes for all students – Wednesday, September 6, 2017.
3. Parent Orientations (more details to follow)
 - Sophomores and Juniors – Tuesday, September 12, 2017 (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)
 - Seniors - Monday, September 11, 2017 – Meet the teachers (6:30 – 7:30 p.m.)
 - Senior Parent College Information Program (7:30 – 9:00 p.m.)

Please note that, 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 the upcoming school year and extend our prayers and best wishes for your son's continued growth and development.

Sincerely yours,

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

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