

CAMDEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2008/January 2009

From the Principal

Dear Camden Catholic Families:

This Christmas season causes us to focus more intently than ever on the religious meaning of the holiday season. As our nation and world confront the economic conditions that fill the nightly news, we as a community focus on the life giving message of the newborn Jesus that our salvation does not come from the things of this world, but from the everlasting love of God who lives among us. May the Christmas and New Years celebrations bring us closer together as families, as friends, and in the words of Charles Dickens, as fellow travelers on life's journey.

This *Newsletter* seeks to keep you informed of several issues that arise with the coming of the New Year. First, semester examinations begin on January 13. These are serious events for our students and should be treated as such. Students are encouraged to organize their class work, and become aware of the exam requirements announced by each teacher. As they engage in this exercise students should also ask their teachers about review strategies in preparation for their personal study schedules. In addition, students are encouraged to organize peer study groups to learn from each other during this preparation time.

Families are reminded that financial obligations must be met prior to students taking exams. Exam Admit Cards will be distributed on Tuesday, January 6. Students with outstanding balances will not be given Exam Admit Cards, and must contact the business office immediately. No student will be permitted to take an exam on the same day as a payment is made. The exam makeup day is Friday, January 16.

Also in this *Newsletter* are several announcements and directions from the Guidance Department about dealing with the college preparation process. I encourage you to check our website and *Edline* for updates on student health precautions to be taken during the winter months, events that fill the CCHS calendar, and the many achievements of our students. Finally, directions and advertising forms for the annual Ad & Patron Drive are included on the last pages of the *Newsletter*. The product of the Ad & Patron Drive is the yearly publication of the Spring Musical Program.

Best wishes to all CCHS families from the Faculty, Staff, and Administration of Camden Catholic.

Warm regards,

Tom Kiely

FOCUS ON EXAMINATIONS

A significant component of Camden Catholic's educational planning initiative concerns student performance on semester and final examinations. Nationally, examinations are major part of educational assessment on the elementary, secondary and collegiate levels. The ability to draw together large amounts of information and the skills associated with this information are a crucial part of a student's preparation for college, and for life in the ever-changing world of the 21st century. Families are asked to set aside significant amounts of study time for students to prepare for exams. Students ought to have a grasp of what is expected of them on their individual examinations, and what they need to accomplish in order to succeed on each exam. Exams are worth 20% of each student's semester grade, and can significantly affect student progress in both positive and negative ways. Please work with your students to ensure that their preparation is significant, and that they have a mastery of the material on which they shall be examined.

INFORMATION REGARDING JANUARY MID-TERM EXAMINATIONS

	Tuesday January 13, 2009	Wednesday January 14, 2009	Thursday January 15, 2009	Friday January 16, 2009
First Session	English	Foreign Language Psychology	Religion	Make-up Exams/ Conflicts
Second Session	Science Philosophy	Math	Social Studies 2nd Math	Make-up Exams/ Conflicts

Exam Schedule

8:15	Report to Session 1 exam room, prayers and announcements
8:20 - 8:25	Attendance, check exam admit cards Distribute exam materials
8:25 - 9:25	Session 1 exam
9:25 - 9:30	Collect exam, dismissal from Session 1 exam
9:30 - 9:45	Break
9:45	Report to Session 2 exam room
9:45 - 9:50	Attendance, check exam admit cards Distribute exam materials
9:50 - 10: 50	Session 2 exam
10:50 - 10:55	Collect exams
11:00	Prayers, announcements, and dismissal

Room assignments will be announced and posted. Students are expected to report promptly to the rooms assigned for each exam as scheduled. Lateness may result in the student not being able to take the exam. **All students are to report to school in full uniform on all exam days. Policies and procedures will be posted in homerooms.**

All students are required to take all examinations according to the exam schedule. If a student is legitimately absent on the day an exam is given, he/she must make up that exam on the make-up exam day. In addition to the regular exam schedule above, make-up exams will be administered on Friday, January 16th. If a student's absence on an exam day is determined to be unexcused by the Vice-Principal for Student Affairs, that student is not permitted to make up the missed exam(s). All absences must be verified with a doctor's note upon the student's return to school.

Transportation to school on exam days will be provided as usual. Return transportation will be provided **following the second session exam**. Students who do not have a Session 1 exam must wait in the cafeteria. Students who do not have a Session 2 exam must either wait for the bus in the cafeteria or arrange to be picked up before 9:45 am, the beginning of the second exam. There will be no transportation on the make-up exam days.

SCHOOL SECURITY

Doors to the school are locked at 8:15 am. The only entrance is through the **MAIN DOORS** at the front of the building. If students arrive late or leave early please use this entrance only. **ALL VISITORS MUST SIGN IN AT THE MAIN OFFICE.** All students are reminded to have good sense when being approached by strangers on or off the campus.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES



Financial Obligations

All financial obligations for the first semester (equivalent of 7 monthly payments plus fees) must be taken care of by **January 5, 2009**.

Anyone on the two-payment plan, tuition is due now.

A reminder - You must re-apply each year for tuition assistance. Applications for the 2009 - 2010 school year are now being accepted at www.smarttuitionaid.com. Please use school code 10373 when applying. Please call (856) 663-2247 ext. 34 or 16 with questions.

Report Card Distribution

Student Report Cards will be distributed on Monday, January 26, 2009.

Course Withdrawal

Due to the serious nature of our academic program, the need to meet graduation requirements, and the forwarding of transcripts to colleges, students will not be permitted to withdraw from any course.

Registration for 2009-2010 School Year

Registration for the 2009-2010 school year will begin with class assemblies in February. Students will receive registration forms and course guides from their homeroom teachers. During the assembly, the registration process as well as graduation requirements for each subject will be explained to the students. The registration form and a fee of \$200 will be collected in homeroom at the end of February. Check Edline during the month of February for details.

Emergency Closings - CCHS Closing Number 586

When bad weather (snow/ice) makes it necessary to close school for the day, you will receive a Honeywell Instant Alert message via the communications device you have selected. Please make sure that you are registered and your contact information is correct and up to date. In addition the news networks will be informed, and their websites will be updated as well.

Finally, the school's *Edline* site will be updated to keep all families informed of schedule changes as a result of the inclement weather. Take special note of your school district's status if you receive transportation from your public school district.

If your school district is closed, there will be no transportation provided to Camden Catholic. **Do not call the school - please check EDLINE or the website at www.camdenatholic.org**

Reminder from the Nurse's Office

All Juniors need a physical. If your child had a recent physical, a new one is not necessary. Please have the doctor complete the physical form based on that exam. If your child hasn't had a recent physical or is due for a check-up, physical forms are available in the Nurse's Office or from the school website link for "Athletic Physical Form." The same form is used whether or not your child plays a sport. If you have any questions please contact the Nurse's Office at Ext. #21.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Information for Seniors

Financial Aid Forms

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid worksheet (FAFSA) is now available in the Guidance Office. Seniors should file this form as close to (but not before) January 1, 2009 as possible. Eighteen (18) year old male students using the FAFSA must register with Selective Service. Register online at www.ss.gov.

Scholarships and Financial Assistance For Colleges and Post Secondary Schools

Two very successful programs have been presented during the first semester of this school year. The first was held on Tuesday, September 16th and informed senior and junior parents with their students about all sources of financial assistance. A second program held on Tuesday, November 25th informed parents and students how to fill out the necessary forms to receive the various types of financial assistance, especially the Free Financial Aid Form, known as the FAFSA. Some colleges require students to have parents fill out an additional application such as the CSS/Financial Aid Profile. Students must check and see whether this additional form is required. Students must check deadlines in this very important matter.

Last year, nearly \$100 billion dollars was available in financial aid (scholarships, grants, loans, and part-time employment opportunities) to help students pay their share of college costs.

Last year members of the senior class received over \$15 million dollars in scholarship grants and other free grants awarded by educational institutions, federal and state grants, community organizations, corporations, and many types of grants too numerous to mention.

Father William Hart is the scholarship advisor in our school. Please call him at (856) 663-2247 ext. 24 for assistance. Check EDLINE for posted scholarships as they are received. Seniors should also check the website provided on your college application guideline page for financial aid and scholarships.

(FAFSA) Free Application for Federal Student Aid Code Information

The 2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) instructs students to identify the college(s) they have selected to receive their financial aid information by name and also by code. The Department has assigned a unique code to all institutions participating in the Title IV student financial aid programs for 2009-2010 award year. To assist students in locating the correct code(s), FAFSA has compiled a list of those institutions including the name, address, and code. We recommend you put New Jersey schools first. This maybe obtained at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Parent, son or daughter should apply for a PIN at www.pin.ed.gov in order to sign the FAFSA on the web electronically.

The code needed for the FAFSA may also be obtained by contacting the **College Financial Aid Office, The Public Library or our Guidance Office**. The Title IV Institution Code List is available in Guidance for any student to obtain the necessary codes. **CCHS Guidance Office will not take telephone calls for institution codes.**

Seniors who must send semester grades to colleges must fill out the appropriate form in Guidance in order to have the grades sent. By this time, **all seniors should have applied to their post secondary school of choice.**

Scam Alert

Due to a number of scholarship scams, the following letter from the New Jersey Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators should be given careful consideration.

If your son or daughter is a high school senior, you may have already been contacted. If not, chances are you will be! A letter or post card arrives with a personalized invitation for you to attend a free seminar to learn about financial aid. It states that many students miss out on financial assistance. There is a number to confirm your reservation. You are urged to take advantage of this free offer before it's too late!

What you may not know is that the Federal Trade Commission recently identified "Free" financial aid seminars as "**the latest trend in scholarship scams**". In fact, the FTC has successfully filed lawsuits against some of these companies for deceptive business practices. At best, the seminars are a marketing ploy to get you to attend a sales presentation where you will be pressured by financial aid "consultants" to sign a contract for services. The usual pitch is that "secret strategies" will be used to reduce your expected family contribution so you will qualify for more financial aid. Fees vary, but commonly run as high as \$1,000.00 or more.

In most cases, the strategies involve some form of asset manipulation. However, since the vast majority of families with high assets also have high incomes, such strategies rarely produce more financial aid. And they have no impact at all on eligibility for merit scholarships where need is not a factor.

Consultants may also try to convince you that applying for financial aid on your own is just too complicated, or that you will lose eligibility if you make an error on the form. This is just not true. Most families can complete the application form in about an hour without assistance. If you need help, experienced professionals are readily available free of charge by calling any college financial aid office or the toll free Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID. Mistakes, if you make any, can be easily corrected before any funds are disbursed.

The real financial aid professionals who work with students and families every day throughout New Jersey to make college more affordable urge you to be very suspicious of anyone who claims they can increase or maximize your eligibility for financial aid. There is simply no evidence that you will receive more financial aid using a consultant than without one. On the other hand, the FTC warnings and lawsuits are indisputable evidence of the need for caution.

If it sounds too good to be true, you can bet it is.

Bloustein Distinguished Scholars

The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) an independent agency of the State of New Jersey, administers the Garden State Scholarship Program, which includes the Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar Awards. Students with a combined score of 1260 on the SAT on the critical reading and mathematics as well as being in the top 10% of their class receive a \$1,000.00 award pending available state funds. The list of scholars will be published in our next newsletter.

Information for Juniors

All Juniors planning to attend college are expected to take the SAT at least once during the second semester of junior year. The Guidance Department strongly recommends that students do several practice tests (available at local book stores) before they take the SAT for the first time. The Guidance office will counsel juniors on the SAT process, college programs, college application guidelines along with college and financial aid internet sites. Any student interested in SAT preparation courses should see his/her guidance counselor for information on programs and individuals who provide this service. This is the time of the year when colleges start advertising summer courses for juniors. Check the Guidance office for information.

SAT Information

CCHS School CEEB #310185 (must be put on SAT registration form). NCAA CEEB #9999.

SAT TESTING DATES:

January 24, 2009	Deadline: December 26, 2008
March 14, 2009	Deadline: February 10, 2009
May 2, 2009	Deadline: March 31, 2009
June 6, 2009	Deadline: May 5, 2009

ACT TESTING DATES:

February 7, 2009	Deadline: January 6, 2009
April 4, 2009	Deadline: February 27, 2009
June 13, 2009	Deadline: May 8, 2009

Attention Parents or Guardians: My College Quick Start:

As stated in last month's newsletter, we are repeating information on My College Quick Start. Because your high school student took the PSAT/NMSQT in October, she/he has **FREE** access to My College Quick Start, a free online personalized planning kit based on their test results. Students are able to take the next steps towards college with these unique features:

- An online score report, including projected SAT score ranges, state percentiles and the power to sort answer explanations by difficulty and by question type;
- A customized SAT study plan;
- Personalized list of colleges, majors and careers;
- Access to My Road - a college, majors, and careers exploration tool.

Students register for My College Quick Start by visiting www.collegeboard.com/psatextra and entering the access code printed on their official PSAT/NMSQT paper score report along with some identifying information.

College Goal Sunday

What is College Goal Sunday?

One Sunday each year financial aid administrators and other qualified aid officers volunteer at selected sites throughout the state to help low-income and/or first generation families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Who sponsors College Goal Sunday?

Three years ago the New Jersey Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NJASFAA, together with the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), applied for and received a grant from the Lumina Foundation to sponsor a College Goal Sunday event in New Jersey.

When is New Jersey's College Goal Sunday?

College Goal Sunday will take place on **Sunday, February 8, 2009** with a snow date of **February 15, 2009**. **The event will start at 1:00 p.m.**

Where can students attend College Goal Sunday?

Camden - Camden County College
Elizabeth - Kean University
Jersey City - New Jersey City University
Long Branch - Long Branch High School

Newark - New Jersey Institute of Technology
New Brunswick - Rutgers University
Ocean County - Ocean County College
Paterson - Passaic County Community College
Trenton - Mercer County Community College

Who can I contact to obtain additional information?

Please contact Amy Novosel at (609)584-9622 or anovosel@hesaa.org

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Reminder to Seniors

The final payment for your class trip is due by January 15, 2009. A **mandatory** meeting for all parents and students will be held in the cafeteria on Monday, March 2, 2009 at 7:00pm.

REBEL (Reaching Everyone by Exposing Lies)

Members met at the Cooper River to clean up the cigarette butts and filters. About 25 members spent 2 1/2 hours collecting approximately 5000 cigarette butts and filters, which will be sent to a major tobacco company.

Performing Arts

CCHS students as well as 30 elementary students presented "Miracle on 34th Street" on December 4, 5, 6, and 7, 2008. This was our third annual Fall Production and offered the audience a theatre experience that included engaging characters, colorful sets and many exciting scenes. The cast and crew truly demonstrated the importance of the process that connects the initial rehearsal to the production itself. We look forward to next year's fall production.



Ad and Patron Drive

The **Ad and Patron** drive for "The Music Man" will begin on January 20, 2009 and end on February 9, 2009. This is one of the three main fundraisers Camden Catholic has during the school year that assists us with the budgeted operational expenses of our school programs. Each student is required to participate in the **Ad and Patron** drive by bringing in at least \$35 worth of ads or patrons. While there will be incentives for student participation during the drive, I remind the parents that the biggest incentive is the opportunity to pay down the school fee of \$200 by participating in the drive. Similar to the Magazine Drive in October (20%) and the Windfall Raffle in December (50%), you will be able to apply to your school fee obligation 50% of what your child brings in for the **Ad and Patron** drive. In other words, if your child brings in \$100 in ads or patrons, \$50 of that money will be applied to your school fee invoice. Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation in this important fundraiser.

Msgr. Martin

Thank you for placing an AD in the Camden Catholic High School's 2009 Play Book. To insure the accuracy of your information, please complete this form carefully.

Please indicate **AD SIZE** by checking appropriate box.

NAME OF ADVERTISER _____

INSIDE FRONT COVER = \$500.00*
 INSIDE BACK COVER = \$500.00*
 BACK COVER = \$750.00* - SOLD

PAGE _____

Size of AD _____ Advertiser Phone Number _____

FULL PAGE = \$200.00

Please Attach Exact Copy of Ad or email Ad directly to:

artdept@auragraphicsinc.com

HALF PAGE = \$125.00

Checks or cash must accompany this form for student to receive credit. Please make checks payable to:

CAMDEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

QUARTER PAGE = \$75.00

In response to your support of a \$125 HALF PAGE AD, you will receive an invitation to a Preview Performance of "The Music Man" on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

Please send an invitation for the Preview Performance to this address:

EIGHTH PAGE = \$35.00

Name _____

Address _____

Student Name & Homeroom# _____

Homeroom Teacher _____

Address _____

\$ _____ Amount Enclosed

Cash ()
Check ()

City/State _____

Zip Code _____

() Thank you, but we will not be able to attend.

This form must be returned to CCHS with payment

I wish to be a **PATRON** of Camden Catholic High School's 2009 Play:

“THE MUSIC MAN”

\$10.00 for **SILVER** Patron **NAME ONLY - no messages**)

\$20.00 for **GREEN & WHITE** Patron (**NAME ONLY**)

Please type or Print (Please use a separate sheet for each patron)
This is my name **EXACTLY** as I wish it to appear in the Play Book:

\$10.00 Patron (NAME ONLY) _____

\$20.00 Patron (NAME ONLY) _____

(Name of Student)

Homeroom #

Date Submitted

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Homeroom #

Date Submitted