



Christian Academy
OF LOUISVILLE

CAL HIGH SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER FALL 2024-2025

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FROM MR. BEHNKEN...

Brilliance in the basics...Former Secretary of Defense and 4-Star General James Mattis penned the book *Call Sign Chaos*. There are many interesting pieces of useful information, but one that stuck with me the most was the simplicity of focusing on the basics and repeating them until you cannot get them wrong (as opposed to until you get them right).

This hyper-focus on the "big rocks" proved useful in his experience and both our students and our staff can benefit from it. In my experience, the most important ingredient to student success is effective executive functioning. This student success goes beyond simply learning material. It refers to all the responsibilities students have in each class—readings, homework, papers, projects, etc—and the ability to prioritize what to do and complete each task in the assigned time frame. Students who can effectively manage their "student life and responsibilities" achieve success consistently.

The first counsel I provide to students who are struggling always begins with how they remain aware of their workload and plan for its completion. Being one who was not a "natural" at these skills, you must continue to seek to find a system that works. The key point is that it must become a system. Parents, you might support your struggling student by helping him or her develop a calendar or list of assignments, projects or tests during the coming week and planning out the week with them (in a 15 minute meeting each Sunday?--think of this as a prep meeting for the week). Understand that this will be a trial and error experience for your student (and you as you choose to engage). Don't give up if the first couple options don't work out. Consider consulting books from the business world focusing on efficiency in the workplace or executive function for tips also (Covey, et al).

If your student can become "brilliant in this basic" skill, they will sense a comfort with their classes and a confidence of being well-prepared.

RESOURCES & UPCOMING

CANVAS logon & tips

TECHNOLOGY FAQs

 CollegeBoard

PSAT

October 24, 25 @ 7pm
October 26 @ 3 & 7pm
Tickets \$10
cal.booktix.com

All Juniors & Sophomores will take the PSAT at CAL tomorrow, Tues., Oct. 22 in the morning through 2nd block. It will be a regular school day for 3rd & 4th.



SEMESTER EXAM INFORMATION

Please plan trips AFTER Dec. 20

Exams are Dec. 17, 18, 19 and 20. Complete details can be found here and we will also provide students with the following Finals FAQs. Parents will receive emails from individual teachers with information pertaining to final exams/projects.

General Info:

- Review Days:
 - Blue Day Classes – Friday, December 13
 - Red Day Classes - Monday, December 16
- Attendance will be taken during the Review Days. During the Exam Periods, students only have to be at school if they have an exam. If they remain on campus, they will be in an assigned Study Hall and cannot hang out in other areas of the school.
- Please make sure that you communicate clearly with your student what they are supposed to do during any block that they do not have an exam.
- Finals cannot be rescheduled for convenience.
- Please remind your student that they need to begin preparing for finals early. Students should know if they are exempt and have study materials the day before each block's assigned review day. Refer to teacher emails for specific information on exemptions and exam weighting.
- All fees, cafeteria charges, library fines, parking fines, athletic fees, etc. must be paid prior to taking exams.
- If a student misses an exam due to sickness, the make-up day is on Monday, January 6.
- Semester 1 report cards are typically sent out before January 15.

COUNSELORS CONNECTING

We hope that the first quarter of the school year has been a good one for your student. It has been a whirlwind for us of adjusting schedules, hosting the freshmen in our offices and meeting with the seniors and their parents about their next steps after high school. In addition we have enrolled students in AP, Dual Credit, Co-op and Internship classes. In October, we will administer personality inventories to juniors and engage them in role play activities. They will explore their unique, God given gifts and the careers that match their personalities.

As school counselors, we are grateful for the opportunity to partner with you and your student on their academic, career and social/emotional development. Check out our [HS Counselors' Page](#) for lots of variety of topics you may find helpful. We are looking forward to a great school year of seeing your student grow in wisdom, stature and in favor with God and man.

FAMILY CALENDAR

You can always access the High school calendar online [HERE](#).

Major Dates

All Dates Subject to Change

10/22 PSAT for 10th & 11
10/24-26 Fall Play
10/29 Christian College Fair
11/4-11/5 no school for students
11/14 Junior Ring Ceremony
11/27-11/29 Thanksgiving
12/17, 18, 19, 20 Exams
12/23-1/6 Christmas Break
1/20 MLK Day
1/25 Winter Dance
1/28 Blood Drive
1/31 Remote Learning
2/13-2/14 PD Days, no school for students
2/17 President's Day no school
3/31-4/4 Spring Break
4/18 Good Friday, no school
5/2 Recess Day
5/23, 27, 28, 29 Exams
5/30 Graduation SECC