



Class of 2026



Senior Parent Guide

July 2025

Dear Senior Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well. It is hard to believe that the Class of 2026's senior year is already here! Please know of our continued commitment to our seniors as they begin their journey to the finish line and continue their preparation for life after Bishop Chatard.

This guide contains useful information to make your child's last year at Bishop Chatard a successful one. Your child's final year will be filled with numerous experiences that are unique to this particular school year. This guide has been prepared from the questions and suggestions of senior parents who have come before you. A great deal of information about your child's senior year can also be obtained by visiting the Senior Page on our website at www.BishopChatard.org/seniors. This content will be updated regularly, so please visit the page often!

As our students prepare for the many exciting, yet challenging, moments that senior year brings, please know that your sons and daughters will be remembered throughout the year in the prayers of the entire Bishop Chatard community. We pray for a successful, memorable year, one marked by great strides in developing lifelong commitments to faith, service, learning and leadership.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

God bless,

John Hasty, Principal
Bishop Chatard High School

Senior Activities

Senior Parent Meeting

Date: Wednesday, Aug. 13

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Bishop Chatard Gymnasium

This meeting will go over all important information needed for senior year. It is strongly encouraged that at least one parent attend this meeting.

The Living Rosary

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 8

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Bishop Chatard Gymnasium

Attire: Dress Code for Specific Senior Dress Up Days (see guidelines later in this guide)

The Living Rosary, a prayer service put on by the senior class, is one of the oldest school traditions. It allows seniors the opportunity to lead the school in prayer to Mary, Mother of God, the Patroness of Bishop Chatard High School. Parents of seniors are invited to join us for this event and a reception will follow in the cafeteria. Seniors are dismissed for the day following the reception. More information will be sent out in September.

Senior Mass with the Archbishop

Date: Friday, Dec. 12

Time: TBD

Attire: School Uniform

The Class of 2026 will celebrate Mass with other seniors from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. This is a required day for seniors. They will be dismissed for the day once they return to BCHS.

Senior Grandparents Mass

Date: Thursday, April 9, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Bishop Chatard Gymnasium

Attire: Dress Code for Senior In-School Dress Up Days

Junior-Senior Prom

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026

Time: 7 - 10:30 p.m.

Location: Dallara IndyCar Factory

BCHS juniors and seniors in good standing may attend the prom. Freshmen are not allowed to attend, even as guests.

Senior Activities (continued)

Graduation Practice

Date: Thursday, May 14, 2026

Time: 1 p.m. until approximately 3 p.m.

Location: Bishop Chatard Gymnasium

Any senior who wishes to participate in the Commencement ceremonies must attend the practice, unless excused by an administrator of the school.

Baccalaureate Mass

Date: Thursday, May 14, 2026

Time: 6:30 p.m. (Seniors must be at school with their gown (no cap) by 5:45 p.m.)

Location: Bishop Chatard Gymnasium

Attire: Dress Code for Specific Senior Dress Up Days

The Baccalaureate Mass marks the end of each senior's high school experience in thanksgiving to God for all the blessings they have received, and in prayer for God to be with them as they continue on toward higher education and careers. Any senior who wishes to participate in the Commencement ceremonies must attend the Mass, unless otherwise excused by the principal and/or president.

Commencement Ceremony

Date: Sunday, May 17, 2026

Time: 1:30 p.m. (Seniors must be at school with their cap and gown no later than 12:45 p.m.)

Location: Bishop Chatard Gymnasium

Attire: See below

Participation in the Commencement ceremony is a privilege. Students who earn this privilege have completed the work required and conducted themselves in a way that befits the values promoted by the school.

Please Note: Admission to Commencement is by ticket only. The number of tickets that each senior will receive is determined by the size of the class and the capacity of the facility. For the Class of 2026, each student will receive 6 tickets. The school does not provide extra tickets. If a senior needs additional tickets, he or she may talk with other seniors and obtain tickets from classmates who are not using their full complement. The tickets are given to the senior at graduation practice, and it is up to him or her to work out arrangements where there are custodial and non-custodial parents.

Commencement Information

Graduation Announcements

In mid-October, Bishop Chatard's diploma company, Herff-Jones, will contact you with information regarding graduation announcements and other keepsake items that may be purchased. Orders for these items are placed in early November. **These items are not included in the graduation fee**, and there is no obligation to purchase them.

The announcements are not invitations to the Commencement ceremonies. Graduation announcements are typically sent to out-of-town relatives and friends who would not attend the Commencement ceremonies, but may like to send a congratulatory note or gift to the senior. The school has chosen the style of the announcements, and name cards personalized for the graduating senior can be purchased to insert inside the announcements. The company also offers items such as photo albums, picture frames and thank you notes. Again, all of these items are optional and there is no obligation to purchase them.

Graduation Fee

The graduation fee of \$150 will automatically be billed to you as part of the tuition and fees for senior year.

The fee is used for the following:

- Diploma covers and printing of diploma inserts;
- Rental of caps and gowns;
- Program printing for the Baccalaureate Mass;
- Decorations and program printing for the Commencement ceremonies.

Dress Codes for Specific Senior Dress Up Days

The following dress codes apply to the Living Rosary, Grandparents Mass, Baccalaureate Mass, Commencement, and in-school Senior Masses held throughout senior year. Any questions about the appropriateness of attire for senior dress up days can be brought to Mr. Hasty prior to the event at jhasty@bishopchatard.org.

Living Rosary

Boys:

- Solid white shirt and tie (sports jacket or suit jacket is worn only for the Living Rosary), dark dress pants with a belt (pants should be navy blue, black or charcoal), dark colored socks and dress leather shoes. Boys should be groomed and clean-shaven. No facial jewelry.

Girls:

- Option A: A dark, solid color (navy blue, black or charcoal) dress with sleeves or wide (3+ inches) straps (no strapless dresses, spaghetti straps, plunging necklines or backless dresses). No dresses that have large slits (a 2 - 3 inch slit is fine), uneven hemlines or are too tight or form fitting. The hem of the dress must extend to the top of the kneecap.
- Option B: A loose-fitting (not transparent) white or black top or blouse (with sleeves) and dark slacks. No capri or tight-fitting slacks, yoga pants or leggings.
- Option C: A loose-fitting (not transparent) white or black top or blouse (with sleeves) and classic A-line dark solid skirt. The skirt must not be tight-fitting. The hem of the skirt must extend to the top of the kneecap. A small slit (2 - 3 inches) is acceptable.
- Hair should be well-groomed. No facial jewelry or large dangling earrings. Dress shoes are required (no sneakers). Shoes should be dark or neutral in color. Open-toed shoes are acceptable. No flip flops, clogs or boots. Flat or low-heeled shoes are required for Living Rosary.

Baccalaureate and Commencement

Boys

- Solid colored shirt and tie, dress pants with a belt, dark colored socks, and dress leather shoes. Boys should be groomed and clean-shaven; no facial jewelry or earrings. No shorts allowed.

Girls

- Skirts, dresses or dress pants with the following guidelines:
 - No denim, jeans, or skinny pants.
 - Skirts and dresses should not be shorter than 2 inches above the top of the knee.
 - Skirts and dresses must not be skin tight or form-fitting. No more than 3 inch slit.
 - Shirts should not be low cut, sheer or transparent, or skin-tight or form fitting.
 - Shoes - Flats or low-heeled, comfortable shoes are suggested.

Senior Dress Codes (continued)

Senior In-School Dress Up Days

Students should observe modesty when dressing up for Senior Masses (that take place during the school day), including Grandparents Mass.

Boys:

- Shirt and tie, collared shirt, polo shirt or sweater (no t-shirts) are acceptable. Students who choose to wear a shirt and tie must wear their shirt tucked in and a belt.
- Dress pants or khakis are appropriate. Pants should not have holes or rips. Jeans are not acceptable.
- Dress shoes are preferred

Girls:

- Shirts or sweaters must not be sheer, low-cut or form-fitting. Please do not expose bare shoulders.
- Skirts and dresses must be no shorter than two inches above the top of the knee.
- Colored jeans (not denim blue) with no holes or rips are acceptable, but must be worn with a modest length shirt. Yoga pants are not acceptable.
- Low-heeled shoes are suggested

If you are in doubt about what is appropriate or acceptable, please consult with an administrator or a teacher before Mass. Students who do not follow this outline run the risk of losing future dress up privileges. Administration will be holding separate meetings for senior girls and senior boys to discuss expectations.

Senior Pictures

We are pleased to have Jolene Broad of Jolene Broad Photography (www.jolenebroad.com) offer her services as our senior photographer. All students in the Class of 2026 **MUST** have their yearbook photo taken by Jolene Broad. Photos will be scheduled for October and will be taken in the Bishop Chatard SBC Conference room. Details will be sent to parents and seniors in the first weeks of school to sign up for their senior yearbook portrait. There is a \$40 sitting fee for the portrait. More detailed information about the yearbook photo and portrait packets will be distributed once school starts.

Students must follow the school dress code when taking their yearbook picture.

Girls should wear dresses, sweaters, or blouses. Strapless, low necklines, and spaghetti straps are not permitted. Any colors are allowed, but bold prints take away from the student's portrait. Boys should wear a dress shirt, tie, sport coat or suit and be clean shaven. No facial hair or earrings.

Campus Ministry

Senior Discipleship Retreat

Dates:

- October 5 - 6, 2025
- December 7 - 8, 2025
- February 8 - 9, 2026
- March 8 - 9, 2026

The Discipleship retreats have two main areas of focus: discernment and discipleship. Discernment is a process of holy decision making, and we want to equip the seniors to make prayerful and sound decisions as they go forth from Bishop Chatard. “Which college should I attend?” “Should I enter a trade or the military?” “Am I called to give my life to God and the Church as a religious sister or brother?” “What is God asking me to do with my life?” These questions and more can be answered as the fruit of prayerful and intentional discernment.

Discipleship means having a mature, adult faith in Jesus Christ. In a few months, seniors will no longer be taking theology classes or going to Mass on Thursdays at Bishop Chatard. How will a relationship with Christ and a commitment to the Church be a priority in the next phase of their lives? We hope to provide concrete tools for our students to continue actively engaging with their faith long after graduation.

The Discipleship retreats will be two days long (one overnight) and packed with fun and meaningful activities. These retreats take place at St. Joseph Retreat Center in Tipton, IN and occur throughout the school year to accommodate for the schedules of busy seniors. Faculty, staff and BCHS alumni will help make these retreats successful. Retreats are an essential part of being a Bishop Chatard student and all seniors are expected to attend. Any student who has concerns about participating in their class retreat is encouraged to reach out to Campus Ministry to discuss this. Over and over again, students tell us how much they appreciated their retreat after being hesitant to attend.

Additional information about Campus Ministry can be found on our website at <https://www.bishopchatard.org/ministry>.

Academics

Receiving a Diploma

Requirements

In order to receive a diploma from Bishop Chatard High School, students are required to:

- Complete a total of 8 semesters in high school;
- Successfully complete the academic requirements for either a Core 40 (48 credits) or Core 40 with Academic Honors diploma (55 credits);
- Meet the requirements for Indiana's graduation pathways.

Clarifications

Any student who does not pass all required courses will not be permitted to participate in Commencement ceremonies. As soon as the school receives official notification that the work has been successfully completed, the school will send a diploma.

If a student completes all of the necessary requirements, but is involved in any major violation of the school rules, he or she may not be permitted to participate in the Commencement ceremonies. Any such decision will be made by the administration after recommendation from the Discipline Board. The student is entitled to a diploma if he or she completed the requirement, however, he or she does not have the right to participate in Commencement.

Unless excused by the principal, any senior who does not attend the graduation practice may not participate in the Commencement ceremonies. All tuition and fees must be paid to receive a diploma and final grades.

We realize that it is a heart-wrenching experience for a senior not to be able to participate in Commencement, but these policies were developed in fairness to the many seniors who have worked long and hard towards graduation. Bishop Chatard reserves the right to establish policies concerning a student's participation.

College Planning

Important Dates

- **August 1** begins the college application cycle for the Class of 2026. Most colleges will have application requirements on their website up-to-date at this point.
- **August 12 - 14** there will be sessions on each of these days in the morning during Silas period for seniors to meet with the college counselor to get started on the Common Application, talk about letters of recommendation, etc. Info on which session your senior has been assigned to attend will be shared soon.
- **August - October** is the time to watch priority deadlines for university applications very carefully. Almost all universities, including IU and Purdue, have priority deadlines in the fall.
- **September 18** during progress report night we will host a College Financial Aid Night in conjunction with INvestEd Indiana.
- **September 23** is College Application Help Night during College Go! Week.
- **October 1** is when the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) opens. To be eligible for state, federal, and some institutional aid, students should fill this out in a timely manner.
- **October 2** is Campus Visit Day for seniors. Admissions offices tend to receive many requests for campus visits on this day. Call and schedule your student's visit early. It is PSAT testing day for all other students. The SAT will also be available to seniors who have yet to take the exam or wish to improve their score.
- **October 8** is the date of the Bishop Chatard Living Rosary. Many seniors take this opportunity to visit nearby colleges after dismissal from the Rosary.
- **October 18** is the final request date for all E-transcripts, ESSR, and other application materials to be processed prior to November 1. To request these documents for applications, students must move colleges to their "applied" column in their Scoir "My Colleges" list. Once they do that, their counselor will be notified that they need transcripts sent to those schools. Students must also request test scores to be sent to each school directly from ACT/College Board.
- **November 12** we will hold a FAFSA workshop in conjunction with INvestEd Indiana.
- **May 1** is National College Decision Day. You must submit a deposit to your school of choice to hold your spot in the incoming class.

SAT 2025 - 2026

(Find testing locations and register at www.collegeboard.com. BCHS code is 151654.)

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Register By</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u>
August 23	August 8	August 12
September 13	August 29	September 2
October 4	September 19	September 23
November 8	October 24	October 28
December 6	November 21	November 25
March 14	February 27	March 3
May 2	April 17	April 21
June 6	May 22	May 26

ACT 2025 - 2026

(Find testing locations and register at www.act.org. BCHS code is 151654.)

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Register By</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u>
September 6	August 1	August 19
October 18	September 12	September 30
December 13	November 7	November 24
February 14	January 9	January 23
April 11	March 6	March 24
June 13	May 8	May 29

Applying for College

Essays

Essays are not required for all applications. These were written in your child's junior English class. Specifics for essay topics will be on the application. Remind your students to take their time and dedicate some time to writing a great essay with ***absolutely no grammatical or spelling errors!*** Students can always ask their English teacher or counselor to proofread college essays.

The Common Application (www.commonapp.org)

Many colleges, but not all, accept the Common application. Specific college websites will let you know; there is also a list of schools on the Common app website. Students complete the Common application online, then send it to as many schools as they like. We recommend using this method to apply.

Counselor Recommendation Forms & ESSRs

Some colleges require their own form. Students need to read individual school's instructions and forward requests to the college counselor. For general letters of recommendation, we ask that students request those through Scoir rather than the Common App.

SAT/ACT

Colleges have a variety of test score requirements in their application process. It is very important that students check directly with each college and university to make sure they know the policy for each application they are sending. It is a student's responsibility to send scores from the testing service. Check the Important Dates on page 9 and 10 for SAT/ACT testing dates!

****Note - If a student is retaking the SAT/ACT this fall and has already applied to colleges in August, he or she needs to send new scores directly to those colleges. Students are in charge of getting their scores to colleges. Additionally, if a student submits an application indicating they are applying test-optional to a school and then later receive a SAT/ACT score they would like to submit as part of their application, they need to tell the college they no longer want to apply test-optional.

If a student qualifies for an SAT/ACT waiver (free/reduced lunch), he or she also qualifies for college application fee waivers. These fee waivers will be in Scoir for students to sign so they can be sent to the appropriate colleges to waive that fee. See the college counselor, Kate Burkett, with questions.

Applying for College (continued)

Prospective Student Athletes

Potential Division I or Division II athletes must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center in addition to applying to their colleges. To register and for more information go to <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3>.

Students pursuing NAIA athletics must register with the NAIA Eligibility Center in addition to applying to their colleges. Test scores must be sent directly to NAIA from the testing companies using the code 9876. To register and for more information go to <https://www.naia.org/findyourpath/highschool/index>.

Financial Aid - FAFSA - www.studentaid.gov

There is no fee for completing and submitting the FAFSA. Visit fafsa.ed.gov for more detailed information. It is recommended that you complete FAFSA as early as possible. College Financial Aid Info Night for BCHS senior parents will be held in conjunction with Progress Report Night. A FAFSA filing night will be hosted at BCHS later in the semester.

How to Stay Up-To-Date

Check the main BCHS calendar to see which college reps will be visiting BCHS. Students can sign up for these meetings in Scoir. Students and parents will receive monthly newsletters via email from the college counselor with general information. Students need to check their college websites for information specific to their schools. Scoir is our college exploration tool and communication platform.

It is important that students keep their Scoir “my colleges” tab updated with the schools they are applying to. It is also important they fill out the letter of recommendation surveys in Scoir. Check the Counseling page on the BCHS website for some scholarship information. Check the College Counseling Drive for more information. It is essential that students read the application requirements for their colleges on the college’s admissions website. If you have any questions, please visit the Guidance Office.



**Follow the BCHS College Counselor on
Twitter and Instagram @BCHScollege**

★ **Bring your Acceptance Letters to the Guidance Office!** ★
Bring your Scholarship Award letters to the Guidance Office!

College and Scholarships - Areas of Responsibility

Student

- Visit your school counselor often to keep them up-to-date with your plans and keep your Scoir “my colleges” tab updated with your application status.
- Check your Scoir account to sign up for college rep visit days.
- Check the Bishop Chatard website under Academics for the link to the College Counseling page. Check the websites of those colleges that interest you throughout the year for information on deadlines, scholarship opportunities, visit days, open houses, etc.
- Complete all scholarship and college applications online and in a timely manner.
- Allow 10 full working days for the processing of e-Transcripts, Electronic Secondary School Reports (ESSR) and recommendations.
- Know your deadlines and be courteous! Always request letters of recommendation from teachers in advance (at least 10 full working days).
- Save your scholarship award letters and acceptance letters to report in the spring semester. Visit the Guidance Office for helpful information on colleges, majors, careers, and college rep visits to BCHS.

Parent/Guardian

- Read every BCHS Weekly Parent Newsletter.
- Visit the Bishop Chatard website often under Academics for up-to-date information concerning your child and senior activities.
- Ask your child to add you on Scoir so you can fill out a parent “brag sheet” and make sure the right information is being communicated to the Guidance Office.
- Remind your child of approaching deadlines! Help your senior keep track of college and scholarship applications, but do not complete applications for them.
- Provide credit card information, if necessary, for online applications.
- Encourage your child to write thank you notes to teachers who provide recommendations.
- Remind your senior to save scholarships and college acceptances to report in the spring semester.

College Counselor

- Provide advice and direction on post-secondary options.
- Post and update information on rep visits and general college and scholarship deadlines on the Bishop Chatard website.
- Process transcripts, ESSR, and letters of recommendation when requested by the student in Scoir and process within 10 working days.

Health

Meningococcal Vaccine Requirement

Timely attention to senior vaccines is important, especially the Meningococcal vaccines. There are two different meningococcal vaccines (MCV4 and Meningococcal B).

1. Seniors are REQUIRED to have two MCV4 vaccines prior to the start of his or her Senior year.
Note: individuals who receive dose one on or after the 16th birthday only need one dose of MCV4, per the Indiana State guidelines.
2. Meningococcal B vaccinations are “recommended” for Senior year, however most colleges and universities require the two-shot series prior to admission.

The complete list of required vaccines can be found at
www.in.gov/health/files/2025-26-School-Immunization-Requirements.pdf

If your senior has not received all required vaccinations, please make arrangements to get these vaccines and forward proof of immunization to BCHS. Your child may bring immunization documentation to the Nursing office, or email documents to nurses@bishopchatard.org. Documents can also be faxed to 317-251-3648. County Health Departments can assist with these vaccinations.

Questions? Contact the School Nursing Office at 317-251-1451 ext. 2245, or email nurses@bishopchatard.org.