



Hilltop Notes
for the CHS Community
10.2.21



National Merit Commended and Semi-Finalists

Congratulations to Manu Anpalgan '22 and Brennan Overhoff '22 who have been named National Merit Semi-Finalists based on their PSAT scores. Good luck to both Centaurs as they submit their applications for the next round of the National Merit Competition. We are currently awaiting the final list of students receiving commendation for the National Merit. We hope to publish that in the next issue.

Metro Service for Grade 7/8 Students

The school district will be piloting the option for grade 7/8 students to use the metro system instead of yellow busses. This will only be available at grade 5-12 buildings including CHS during the pilot. This will be an option program for families that feel their grade 7 or 8 child would be better served by riding a metro bus. Families that participate and do not find the metro system to meet their needs may return to yellow bus transportation. The district will be mailing a letter home to all CHS grade 7 and 8 families sometime next week. The letter will provide the metro route your child would use, ask you if you would prefer to have your child ride the metro system and provide additional information. This effort is being coordinated by the school district transportation office. We would ask that you hold off on contacting the transportation office for questions until you have had an opportunity to read the letter sent by the district.

NFTA Grade 9-12 Bus Passes

The district is still distributing permanent bus passes for students in grades 9-12. "September Only" passes will be effective until October 15 to allow the district additional time to get the last of the bus passes distributed.

CHS PTSCO & Foundation Family Contact Sharing

The City Honors Foundation and City Honors PTSCO (Parent, Teacher, Student, Community Organization) have worked to support the mission of our school for decades. Each year, our school shares family contact information with these organizations so that they can notify families about special events, meetings and initiatives to benefit our students. Both groups have strict policies preventing the sharing of their family databases with any additional parties.

This is the information we share: Parents name, student name, student grade level, home mailing address, family email address. We do not share family phone numbers with these groups or any other information.

If you DO NOT want your family contact information shared with one or both of these groups, please complete the form [at this link](#) to opt-out by Friday, October 8th.

More information about PTSCO can be found [at this link](#). More information about the Foundation can be [found at this link](#).

Rotary Exchange Scholarships

City Honors has been a partner with the Rotary Clubs of Buffalo for the past 16 years, helping countless incoming and outgoing students to learn through highly supportive international exchange experiences. This is the time of year when the Rotary Clubs of Buffalo are in recruitment mode for Youth Exchange programs for the year 2022-23.

The Rotary short term exchange program (6-8 weeks in the summer-underclassmen or seniors) is a direct family-family exchange program with participating partner countries. The Long Term Program (10-12 months- current seniors participate following graduation) takes place starting in the late summer of 2022.

There will be an informational session for any high school student interested in short or long term exchanges via Zoom on **October 6th at 7:00pm**. Families interested in attending this meeting should email Jill Norton, Rotary representative (and parent of a proud CHS alum!), at jillnorton620@gmail.com

For those who already know they want to apply for a Rotary Exchange:

In efforts to simplify the process, we have installed an online application process for the PRELIMINARY APPLICATION. All applications will be received at the Rotary district level and distributed to the corresponding club. This application is [available at this link](#).

In terms of timelines, once the clubs receive the preliminary application they will set up a time to interview and select students in November. As soon as a Club chooses their candidate, they will notify the student that they are to immediately start to complete the LONG FORM APPLICATION (also located in the same tab on our website), and identify to the Rotary district their selected candidates by NO later than the beginning of December.

Rotary district interviews, where further eligibility to the program is confirmed, will be conducted on the weekend of January 15th and 16th, 2022.

All information about the program is available at our [website](#). Please contact Rotary Club of Buffalo Sunrise representative, Jill Norton for questions at: jillnorton620@gmail.com

CHS Environmental Club

Do you want to make a difference and see a greener world? You can do so by joining the CHS Environmental Club. We have fun activities, guest speakers, action projects and more! Join us Thursdays after school in room 321. Questions? Contact Mr. Richards at trichards@buffaloschools.org.

CHS Key Club is Looking for New Members

Looking for a way to give back to the community? The City Honors Key Club, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Buffalo, is open to all students in grades 9-12. Aside from the joy of providing service to others, students in the IB Diploma Program can also receive CAS recognition for their work in Key Club. The first meeting of the Key Club this year will be October 6th in Mrs. Ziolkowski's room (304).

Meetings take place twice a month on Wednesday afternoons. Questions? [Visit this link to learn more](#) or contact Ms. Ziolkowski at nziolkowski@buffaloschools.org

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding COVID Safety and Response

How many cases of COVID have there been among our students and staff?

To date, we have had 9 members of our school community diagnosed with COVID since the school year began (out of 1081 students and 156 staff). Tracing has found no evidence of spread within the school building. All cases were contracted at home or in the community. This is consistent with schools around the state last year where there was little or no spread within schools due to mask wearing, distancing and good hygiene practices on campus. Please make these things a part of your family's routine in the community and at home. We strongly encourage all members of CHS families who are 12 and older to receive a COVID vaccine if approved by your family doctor. The vaccines are safe and work to reduce the spread and impact of COVID.

Who notifies the school of a positive COVID case or a student's need to quarantine?

It is the primary responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the school if their child tests positive for COVID or has been exposed and needs to quarantine. The Department of Health's notification to schools will be delayed as cases in the county increase, so we cannot guarantee that they will be able to notify the school as quickly as families can.

Who do I notify if my child tests positive for COVID or needs to quarantine?

Parents/guardians can email Ms. McDow (cmcdow@buffaloschools.org) and Nurse Cammarata (dldcammarata@buffaloschools.org). Parents are always able to call the school at (716) 816-4230 and request to be transferred to the Nurse or Ms. McDow, but email notification is the fastest way to notify us. Parents/guardians will receive a call when the message is received to get additional information.

What is the timeline between a positive test result and the letter sent out to the school community?

COVID Notifications go out the day we receive them. In the event notification occurs during the weekend, notification will go out on that next school day. When you see a gap in time from notification to when the individual was in the building last it is because it was not reported to us immediately.

When a student is sent home early due to illness, what happens next?

When a student is sent home sick, the nurse will be notifying a member of the clerical staff, who will in turn send the student's teacher an email message that states they are being sent home sick and the student is eligible for concurrent learning until documentation is received that clears the student to return to class. That timeline does not extend past 10 days unless the student continues to have symptoms and is unable to get a clearance note from their medical provider.

How does my student access learning while at home?

All students can access their classes concurrently on any computer, laptop, tablet or iPad. Students should log into their Schoology account as they did last year, and their current classes are loaded onto their dashboard. Students would click on the teachers link to log into the class. Students accessing concurrent learning must be demonstrating COVID-like symptoms or be in quarantine.

Concurrent learning is not to be used when students miss a bus, do not want to come to school, when families are on trips etc. **Students learn best when attending school in person and our teachers teach best when they do not have to teach classes concurrently.**

My student is unable to log into their class online, what should I do?

Step 1: The parent should email the teacher to alert them of the issue. Students are also able to message their teachers directly through Schoology. Teachers are not always able to respond on the spot because they are teaching, but all teachers will follow up as soon as possible.

Step 2: Parents should contact our IT department at (716) 816-7100 for technical support

My student does not have technology at home to log into their classes online.

Parents should email the students teachers to inform them of the lack of technology and to request work be placed in the main office for pick up.

IB World Language Classes Need Your Help

Students in CHS IB World Language classes are accepting donations to help Afghan Refugees arriving in Buffalo in cooperation from Jericho Road Community Health Center.

Personal hygiene items are being collected in Senora Didas' room (204) and Madame Roche's room (221). Gift cards to Aldi, Price-Rite, Target and other grocery stores are also being accepted.

Please contact Mrs. Didas or Mrs. Roche for more details about helping. Flyers with a full listing of the hygiene items needed have been posted in all homerooms.

Attn Grade 10/11 Parents

The PSAT Workshop run by Courier College Prep on September 30 at CHS was at full capacity. Thank you to all of our students who participated. There are **8 seats left** for the PSAT Workshop on **Tuesday, October 5**. We have 20 students registered already so the workshop will take place regardless of whether these final seats are filled. [Families can register at this link.](#)

This workshop will help prepare students who will sit for the PSAT on October 13th. The class will be taught by Brian Eldridge, a leading SAT/ACT tutor, certified college counselor and founder of Courier College Prep. This session will run a little over two hours. The cost is \$20 per student. The City Honors Foundation will cover fees for students who have documented financial fees. Students are encouraged to register early as seats and fee waivers are limited. This workshop will be held in the Large Group Instruction Room (LGI) at CHS.

-All questions about the PSAT should be directed to your child's school counselor.

-All questions about the PSAT seminar should be directed to [Courier College Prep](#).

COVID Testing

30% of staff and students at CHS will continue to be randomly tested for COVID each week pursuant to current district procedures. This year, CHS will conduct the more accurate and less invasive 24-

hour turnaround mandatory Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing for COVID-19. **We encourage all staff and students to participate in testing in order to reduce the number of times individuals will need to be tested.** Families are asked to [use this link](#) to provide consent to include their child in the pool of students to be tested.

Daily COVID-19 Health Screener

Families should complete the daily health screener once again each day BEFORE their child leaves for school. [This link will take you to this year's screener.](#) Families are encouraged to paste the link into the 'reminder' app on their smart phone to alert you each morning.



When You Need A Helping Hand

BPS Staff and Family Helpline: The Buffalo Public Schools have established a 'Staff and Family Helpline' at 716-816-7100 to provide answers within 24 hours to our most frequently asked questions in the areas of Technology, Mental/Physical Wellness, Instruction and Professional Development, Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Initiatives (CLRI), Multilingual, Elementary and High School needs, Food Services, Child Care, and Volunteerism. If you need assistance in any of these areas, please contact the hotline number.

The CHS Student Support Team (SST): If you are seeking additional support or assistance, please do not hesitate to make a referral to the CHS SST. The Request for Assistance Form can be found [at this link](#). Once your form is submitted, a member of the SST will be in contact with you.

Mental Health Supports: Here is a [quick reference guide](#) which provides contact information for mental health support from the Buffalo Public Schools and our partner organizations.

Connect with CHS!

Click on the following links to better connect with the CHS Community

[CHS Website](#)

[CHS on Facebook](#)

[CHS on Twitter](#)

[CHS on Instagram](#)

[Pelion Outdoor Classroom at City Honors](#)

[Easy/No Cost Ways to Support City Honors](#)

[Fosdick Field Restoration Project](#)

[City Honors/Fosdick-Masten Park Foundation](#)

[PTSCO Minutes and Information](#)

Children are endangered by underage house parties and underage drinking. Concerned adults, teachers, students and friends can call 24 hours a day in Erie County to report planned underage drinking parties; underage drinking parties in progress or other activities that may be harmful to the health, safety and welfare of young people. The tip line (1-800-851-1932) is ANONYMOUS, CONFIDENTIAL and free. Erie County now has a "Social Host Law" that holds adults accountable for allowing minors to drink. [LEARN MORE](#)