



Hilltop Notes
for the CHS Community
11.19.21



No School November 24... Don't Miss School November 22 & 23!

The Board of Education voted this week to give students and staff a day off on Wednesday, November 24th, the day preceding Thanksgiving. However, our teachers are preparing a full day of important lessons on November 22nd and 23rd. Because our students have had their education interrupted for the past two years, we need them in school and on-time any days we are open.

Please send your child to school on Monday and Tuesday, we'll take care of the rest!

CHS Food Drive

The City Honors student council has launched its annual food drive to benefit the Buffalo City Mission and the neediest in our community. Students may drop-off nonperishable food donations in their homerooms until December 17. Every item donated by a student will earn a point for their grade level toward Cardinal Craze week in February and help their class to have an opportunity to win [the Rock of Mt. Pelion](#). The overall donation levels of our student body will also offer our students a chance to dress up Dr. Kresse and our staff in unique ways right before the holiday break. Stay tuned!

Final Theme Day of Fun-ember!

Student Council keeps adding more 'Fun' to Fun-ember. Here's **ANOTHER TWIST** from the best student government in the galaxy...

Tuesday, November 23rd will be our final theme day for Fun-ember. This day will be 'Dress for Cardinal Craze Points Day.' Yes, you got it. Any student who dresses up on Tuesday will score points for their class toward winning the [Rock of Mt. Pelion](#) in February during Cardinal Craze Week. Early bird gets the worm Centaurs!

Where's the vote for this theme day you say? No vote this time, but lots of choice. Students who dress to fit **ANY of these categories** on Tuesday will score points for their class:

- Minions (yellow and jeans)
- Twins
- Mix and Match
- Disney
- Animal

Ok, time to start planning your outfits for Tuesday!

Centaur Cross Country at Sectionals

Congrats to the CHS Cross Country team on an excellent performance at the Sectional Championships. Seven girls and seven boys represented CHS at the final meet of the season. Katie Eagan will be participating in the Western Region Championships on November 21st at Knox State Farm. Thank you to Coach/Dr. Van Remmen for leading both the boys and girls teams this year,

taking our harriers to so many invitationals, challenging them to continually improve and develop a love for running and fitness.

CHS Mock Trial Team Announces Tryouts for Students in Grades 9-12

Come one come all! We will be hosting tryouts for all grade 9-12 students interested in the City Honors Mock Trial team. Last year the team was the Erie County champion, Western Region champion and finished in 5th place in NYS out of over 200 teams! You can try out as an attorney, a witness, or both. Please see the instructions on the attached packet.



Tryouts will be held over Zoom just after Thanksgiving break, starting at 7:00 pm on both Tuesday, November 30th and Wednesday, December 1st. We also will make accommodations for any students that require alternate dates and times. [Review the try-out packet at this link first](#) and contact attorney advisor Judge Henry Nowak with any questions at henryjnowak1@gmail.com. Printed copies of the packet can also be found on the shelves outside the IB Office on the first floor. Good luck!

CHS/Kenmore Field Hockey

Congratulations to Genevieve Mucitelli '23 of the Kenmore-City Honors Field Hockey team who was named to the Niagara-Orleans All-League First Team. The league's top 11 players were selected for this honor!



Speech and Debate Lands in Top Spot Again

The City Honors Speech and Debate team performed exceptionally well once again last Saturday at the 3rd Genesee Valley Forensics League Invitational, placing 1st overall out of 6 schools in team standings. 11 of our 13 student competitors medaled in their respective categories.

For the categories of Speech, sophomores Sophia Bensch and Elizabeth Patrone placed 1st and 2nd in Declamation, both earning the necessary point to now become fully qualified for April's state tournament at Hofstra University. In the category of Varsity Oral Interpretation, junior Lauren Foster also fully qualified for states, after finishing 1st, while Phoebe Lawton took home the bronze medal. Sophomore Annika Wilewicz continued her strong performances this season by placing 2nd in Dramatic Interpretation. Seniors Shoshanna Hertz, Aaron Weinmann and Jeronimo Silva each took home the silver medal in their respective categories of Original Oratory and Duo Interpretation.

In Varsity Lincoln-Douglass debate, Senior Luke Sheehan took home the gold medal in his first tournament of the year and is nearly qualified for states! Juniors Zach Biniszkiwicz and Jake Baldwin placed 1st in their category of Public Forum Policy debate, also receiving a state tournament qualification point.

Congratulations to all on another strong team performance!

More Information on DASA

In our last *Hilltop Notes* we discussed the New York State Dignity for All Students Act (DASA). We

have permanently installed a link at the bottom of the Hilltop Notes that provides for more information about DASA. The most common question about DASA is "what constitutes bullying"? The term bullying is frequently used these days in our society but here is how NYS looks at it:

Bullying is characterized by an imbalance of power between two students. If two students are equally engaged in an altercation, this is not a bullying situation, but instead considered a "conflict" between the two students. When an imbalance of power is present, it can be seen in small ways over a long period of time or in a large way all at one time.

Examples of a large incident is much easier to see, recognize, and address. The person who is doing the bullying has been vocal and physical to the bullying victim. He/she might threaten the other student with bodily or psychological harm and finds ways to fulfill the threat. The victim has no means of escape or is unable to fight back and is physically or emotionally harmed. Anyone who witnesses such events should report it immediately to administration. The DASA online reporting form can also be used for this purpose.

Examples of bullying over long periods of time are much more difficult to detect and protect the student. It could include name calling, making the student the focus of jokes, cyberbullying, constantly bumping into the student, taking personal belongings of the student, threaten to harm if they tell, etc. In this situation the student victim often is quiet, tries not to make trouble, and feels he/she can handle the problem on their own. *The wall of silence is represented by the student not telling any adults, and peers not stopping the bullying or telling an adult.* Adults in the area may not even notice the bullying going on.

Attention Grade 11 Students

The Mercy College Business Honors Program hosting its annual Summer Leadership Academy in July 2022 for high achieving Juniors/Rising Seniors (graduating 2023). There are THREE separate week-long experiences to choose from.

-[Click here](#) for flyer.

-[Click here](#) for more information and application

Keep Our CHS Students and Staff in School- Keep Our Families Safe!

CHS Families and Staff: We strongly encourage you to consult with your family doctor about having everyone five and older in your household vaccinated for COVID/receive a COVID booster where applicable. Need more reasons to get vaccinated? [Read more from the CDC](#). This is a critical matter for our school to function and to keep our community safe!



Reporting COVID Cases in Your Household

Please email news of any COVID cases in your household to Ms. McDow, assistant principal, and Nurse Cammarata. These staff members are managing our COVID safety initiatives and response. They can outline next steps for your family as it pertains to school. It is important that you email Ms. McDow (cmcdow@buffaloschools.org) and Nurse Cammarata (dcammarata@shccares.com) as this will allow them to receive your communication outside of school hours and provide the quickest possible response. **Please do not leave voicemails or messages in the main office.**

As we move indoors more and more due to the cold weather, the COVID virus has a greater opportunity to jump from person to person. We are emphasizing good safety practices with our students including distancing, proper mask wearing and hygiene. Please stress these practices with your child at home and with family members. We strongly encourage anyone in your household approved by your family doctor and eligible to receive the flu and COVID vaccines to receive them as soon as possible, if they have not already. These steps will help to keep our students and staff in school where they need to be!

COVID Testing

30% of staff and students at CHS will continue to be randomly tested for COVID each month 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](#)

[CHS PTSCO \(Parent, Teacher, Student, Community Organization\)](#)
[New York State Dignity Act \(DASA\) 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](#)