



Hilltop Notes
for the CHS Community
2.26.23



Ready to Restart!

Our faculty and staff are ready to welcome our students back to school tomorrow (2/27)! Believe it or not, we only have 25 days of school until Spring Break so we want to make the most of each day. Our students are showing continued progress in recovering from learning and socialization gaps from the pandemic and we want this progress to continue. Each day that a student is healthy, we ask that they come to school and arrive on-time. A reminder that free breakfast and lunches are available to all students at our school.

The efficiency of daily safety screening using the new 'Evolv' screeners for our high school students continues to improve but we still have room for growth. High school students are reminded to reduce metallic clutter in their backpacks. Parents are reminded that they should plan to have their high school students at CHS no later than 7:55am to be sure their child has time to pass through screening and to get settled in their homeroom on-time for morning announcements and attendance. Students may enter the building as early as 7:00am.

It's Time to Join Spring Athletic Teams!

Students in grades 7-12 are invited to participate in spring sports teams. Now is the time to give sports a try in order to stay healthy, make friends and have fun! Spring sports include: Baseball, Lacrosse, Softball, Track & Field, Boys Tennis and Unified Basketball. Please [see the flyer at this link](#) for information on how to join a spring sport.

You Are Invited to Join the March PTSCO Meeting

Dear CHS Families and Staff: PTSCO will meet Wednesday, March 1 from 5:30pm – 6:30pm. PTSCO will be discussing plans for upcoming social events at City Honors School. [Use this link](#) to join our virtual meeting.

Agenda items must be sent to to Kate Helfer at kehelfer@gmail.com two days prior to the meeting. For more information about PTSCO, upcoming events, and meeting agendas please go to chsptsco.org. Thank you, PTSCO

Attn Grade 11 Families

All Grade 11 students in the Buffalo Public Schools are scheduled to take the SAT during the school day on April 25 (fully paid for by the Buffalo Schools!).

This is a reminder to [follow this link](#) to information about a low-cost SAT prep session we will be offering Grade 11 students at City Honors leading up to the April 25th SAT. This four session course is great way for students to get familiar with the SAT and to feel comfortable when taking it. We have worked with Courier College Prep for many years and our students have always given us positive feedback about their approach.

The City Honors Foundation is sponsoring a limited number of scholarships for students with documented financial need. Students who believe they need a scholarship to participate in the course should contact their school counselor. Scholarships will be handed out on a first come, first serve basis to students who qualify.

Free Tickets Available for National Geographic Live this Tuesday

Kleinhans Music Hall is hosting the National Geographic Live Speakers Series – featuring three incredible explorers/photographers. The first event, *Secrets of Whales*, on Tuesday February 28 at 7:00pm, features Brian Skerry.

Thanks to some generous patrons, there are number of free tickets available to City Honors families. Students with interest in attending this event may pick up tickets in the main office (limit two per family) but must have a note from their parent verifying:

- they will attend the event
- that they understand this is not a school event
- that families must provide their own transportation and supervision of their child.



Students interested in more than two tickets may request to be put on a wait-list. We will distribute any unused tickets to students on wait-list after 12pm on Tuesday. All tickets are first come, first serve so don't delay!

Celebrated National Geographic Explorer and photographer Brian Skerry has spent nearly four decades exploring and documenting the world's oceans. For his latest project, he turns his lens to one of the world's most beloved animals to illuminate groundbreaking new insights into their lives and culture. Skerry spent more than two years in 24 locations around the world capturing remarkable images and video for a landmark National Geographic book, magazine story, and television series, *Secrets of the Whales*.

Hear his behind-the-scenes stories straight from the field and get an inside look at the groundbreaking science of whale culture—and its startlingly human parallels—across four different species. Read more about Brian and the event [at this link](#).

Special Musicians to Visit the Hilltop

On 2/27, the Harlem Quartet will be visiting CHS and conducting workshops with our orchestra students and performing a concert in the CHS Auditorium. The Harlem Quartet is an award-winning string quartet of Black and Latino Musicians that are working to change the stigma of 'classical music' and share different styles of music, and music by minority composers.

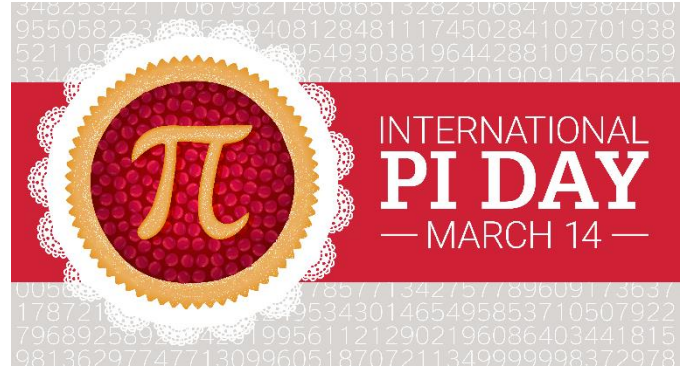
On 3/6, the Midnight Ramblers from the University of Rochester will be visiting CHS to conduct workshops with CHS Chorale students as well as a concert. The Ramblers are an internationally recognized, competitive TTBB A Cappella group with an extensive recording catalogue and rich history. We are excited to welcome Charlie Morse '20 back to the Hilltop as a member of the Ramblers.

Many but not all classes have been selected to attend these concerts. Students highly interested in attending these concerts must see Ms. Czyz (Harlem Quartet) or Mrs. Saxon (Midnight Ramblers) for passes to attend.

Thank you to Ms. Czyz, Mrs. Saxon and our entire CHS music faculty as well as the CHS Foundation for making these opportunities possible for our students!

Pi Day Olympics at CHS

[International Pi Day](#) (3/14) is almost here and our CHS math teachers are so excited they can hardly sleep! They have been using their restless evenings to plan out the "CHS Pi Olympics" to celebrate Pi Day 2023! Please [see the flyer at this link](#) for more information explaining how students can join the fun. Submissions for most of the categories are due March 6 so don't delay! Students should contact their math teacher for any questions.



CHS Mock Trial Defeats Sacred Heart



Our CHS mock trial team won again on Saturday, February 11 narrowly beating a superb Sacred Heart team. Attorneys Annika Wilewicz, Daniel Moka and Liam Cobb battled tough objections and challenged the Sacred Heart witnesses. The CHS attorneys represented a construction worker, played brilliantly by Liam Rio, who was badly burned by an electrical wire. Tim Tidd played a tough union leader and Issy Prova expertly played an accident investigator. The team's second win (CHS defeated Williamsville North in the first round) in as many rounds guarantees a strong seeding in the Erie County playoffs next month, where the team will try to "three-peat" as champions!

Annual Fund- Every Gift Matters!*

Since 1996, the CHS Annual Fund Drive has helped to reduce the need for our students and teachers to fundraise so they can focus on what is most important: the joy of teaching, learning and enrichment! The Annual Fund also helps to ensure that EVERY student has what they need to enjoy the best possible CHS experience.

The City Honors/Fosdick-Masten Park Foundation asks all members of our school community to consider a contribution to the Annual Fund. When we all participate, we make a real difference for our students.

[Please use this link](#) to:

- Make a quick and easy online donation.
- Print out a donation form if you prefer to mail a check.
- Read the 2022-23 Annual Fund letter.
- Learn more about how the CHS Annual Fund and CHS Fosdick-Masten Park Foundation help our students.

Thank you for supporting the CHS Annual Fund Drive and our students!

** Please Note: Announcements in this newsletter marked with * mean the activity is not organized by City Honors School or the Buffalo Public Schools. The school and school district neither endorse nor sponsor the organization or activity represented in this material. The distribution of this material is provided as a community service.*

Reminders for Our Families During This Time of COVID

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

Free COVID Testing: The ECDOH offers free, walk in rapid ID Now and PCR testing at 608 William St Buffalo, NY from 9AM-3PM and at 3359 Broadway Cheektowaga, NY at 8AM-PM M-F. [Click on this link](#) for more information on these sites.

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](#)