



City Honors School
Start-of-School: Survival Guide for Families
 2021-2022 School Year



Athletics:

Most Fall athletic practices have just begun. If your child would like to join a Fall team, please use the email addresses below to reach out to the coach:

Boys Varsity Soccer	Mr. Massaro	dmassaro@buffaloschools.org
Boys JV Soccer	Mr. Catalano	jcatalano@buffaloschools.org
Girls Varsity Soccer	Mr. Milne	jasonmilne76@gmail.com
Girls JV Soccer	Mr. Smith	nsmith14220@gmail.com
Boys Varsity Volleyball	Mr. Juergens	cjuergens@buffaloschools.org
Boys JV Volleyball	Mr. Gibson	jgibson@buffaloschools.org
Girls Varsity Volleyball	Ms. Matos	dmatos@buffaloschools.org
Girls JV Volleyball	Ms. McClean	sherrellmclean1@gmail.com
Girls Varsity Swim	Mrs. Yager	jmyager@buffaloschools.org
Coed Varsity Cross Country	Dr. Van Remmen	mcvanremmen@buffaloschools.org
Boys Varsity Golf	Mr. Krause	ajkrause@buffaloschools.org
Girls Varsity Golf	Mr. Kudla	jkudla@buffaloschools.org
Girls Varsity Tennis	Ms. Juergens	kjuergens@buffaloschools.org

Information will be forthcoming from the district regarding a new modified co-ed flag football program as well as the middle school co-ed cross country team.

We continue to receive inquiries regarding CHS middle school club soccer, rowing and hockey in the fall. Please note: The superintendent of schools has issued a directive no longer permitting schools to communicate information regarding club and community athletic teams. We regret any inconvenience. CHS sincerely thanks our parent and community volunteers for all their past partnership and ongoing commitment to our students.

COVID Safety:

-Masks are required for all individuals inside school buildings regardless of vaccination status. When outside, masks may be removed if activities are socially distanced for the majority of the activity.

-CHS will adhere to the CDC distancing requirement of a minimum 3 feet among individuals when inside. CHS will again use a system of one-way stairwells.

-Students will have assigned seats in all classes until further notice to help with contact tracing should the need arise. Teachers are required to maintain seating charts.

-Cleaning and Sanitizing Cleaning protocols are unchanged from our rigorous 2020- 2021 Re-opening Plan. We have ample PPE, sanitizer, masks, face shields, gowns, gloves, surface cleaning supplies, temp scanners, etc.

Students and staff will be provided every opportunity to properly wash their hands throughout the school day. Training of children to ensure coughing and sneezing etiquette, and to keep hands away from their face will continue.

-CHS will follow all current ventilation protocols, including mechanical and natural ventilation where appropriate. CHS does not recycle air at this time. All air movement in our building is fresh air being brought into the building.

- Daily health screening protocols for staff remain in place. All temp check protocols previously in place for staff continue, including accompanying wellness questions prior to entering the building each day.
- The school café will not be used for breakfasts. Students will pick up grab and go breakfasts and go to homeroom to eat. During lunches, students will minimally distance at 3 feet apart when masks are removed for eating. We have modified the types of café seating to provide for better distancing and reduce face to face interactions. Students will be assigned seats to assist ECDOH with contact tracing and quarantine decisions.
- All COVID-19 Isolation Room protocols previously in place will continue.
- CHS will conduct the more accurate and less invasive 24- hour turnaround mandatory Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) weekly testing for COVID-19. 30% of staff and students will continue to be randomly tested each week pursuant to current permission procedures.
- The District has offered its school buildings to serve as vaccination centers for the community. The District has also offered to serve as a pilot district for in-school vaccinations for children during the regular school day. The District strongly urges and expects all staff to be fully vaccinated. Children are safer when the adults who care for them are vaccinated.
- To address the national bus driver shortage, the District is examining minimally adjusted scheduling to cover all bus runs. Masks shall be required for all riders.
- NFTA Bus Transportation Students shall follow the established safety guidelines determined by the NFTA. HR Protocols for C19 Staff Sickness
- Physical Education classes will be conducted outside in acceptable weather. When classes are conducted inside, students will be masked. Teachers should make specific efforts to establish properly distanced mask breaks for students (in groups or as a class) during inside activities.
- The BPS After School Program is on hold until further notice as well as our annual Back-To-School Picnic and Grade 5/6 Haunted Lockers/Ice Cream Social Event.
- Until further notice, BPS has determined that field trips will not be scheduled. The CHS Science Research Program shall commence on schedule on September 8.

Dismissal:

Parents who plan to pick up students after school are required to pick children up at dismissal time, which is at 2:45 PM. Again, your child's safety is our first priority. Parents who are unable to pick up students at dismissal time are asked to plan for alternate arrangements, such as after-school care. Families who are not respectful of this requirement may receive written notification from the school to remediate the situation, as unsupervised students cannot be left in the building. Our transportation coordinator can assist middle school parents with PM bussing destination changes if they are required for after-school care or custodial arrangements. Students who are staying after school as members of athletic teams, extracurricular clubs or musical productions must be with the supervising adult until they are picked up.

Entrances:

- For the safety of our students, they should not arrive prior to 7:55 AM unless they are attending a specific, pre-approved scheduled practice with adult supervision, or their yellow bus drops them off prior to 7:55. We realize that students using the NFTA may have variable arrival times. Plan accordingly.
- Students must be in homeroom by 8:12 AM and will be considered late if they arrive after the 8:12 bell.
- Students who are dropped off by parents may use the west entrance to the atrium on Fosdick Street. Fosdick Street is a one-way street. You must enter from East North Street and exit from Best Street. We strongly encourage parents dropping off students to have them exit the vehicle onto the school sidewalk so they will not need to cross the street.

- The Buffalo Public Schools Director of Security Services has reminded us that the district reserves the right to “wand” students as needed to protect student safety.
- Students in grades 5-8 on yellow buses are released to the Atrium doorway on Masten Avenue to enter the building.
- **Do not use Masten Ave. or North St. as a student drop-off, as this creates dangerous interactions with buses.** *Students with mobility or injury issues should see an administrator for special accommodations.* The service lot and loading dock door on Masten Avenue should never be used as a student entrance/drop-off.
- Grab and go breakfasts are available for all students as they pass through the café in the morning. Students in all grades will eat breakfast in their homerooms.

Household Income Forms (formerly known as “Free and Reduced Lunch Applications”):

These forms will be sent home with students as soon as they are made available. Families need to complete only one form regardless of the number of children attending BPS. Although you may not have submitted a form in the past, ALL families are asked to submit these applications. **We cannot tell you how many times we have had families fill out these forms and find, to their surprise, that they do indeed qualify.** Schools that include secondary grade levels, such as City Honors, historically have fewer families applying for this program than actually qualify. This lack of participation hurts the school district when it comes to state and federal funding, which in turn hurts our school. In addition, families that qualify help to provide access to funding for AP and IB programming and tests. **There are also other programs, grants, and scholarships your child may have access to if they qualify. Regardless of whether you think you qualify, we ask all families to submit this form for the possible multiple benefits to the school and your child.**

Laptop Devices:

All CHS students will once again be issued a District laptop. All laptops were cleaned and received updated software over the summer. The district plans to distribute these in a phased manner by grade level during the first few weeks of school. Teachers will adjust their lessons and assignments during the first few weeks based on whether students have access to their devices. Students will need to take these devices and charging cords home each night so that our school community is prepared should we face additional short or long term closures. Students should not store their devices in their school lockers. Please carefully read the CHS family handbook for more information regarding care of devices.

Lockers:

Students who returned to school last year will have the same locker assignment as last school year. Students who remained entirely remote last year have new locker assignments. Locker assignments and combinations can be found on a sticker placed at the top of the schedules mailed home in back-to-school packets.

Parent Portal:

All BPS guardians have access to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. The parent portal provides online access to your child’s grades, attendance and assessment data in real-time. If you are new to the Buffalo Public Schools, email our main office clerk, Ms. Maracle at jmaracle@buffaloschools.org or Ms. Lawrence at amlawrence@buffaloschools.org. Please use “Parent Portal Access” as the subject line and include your name, your child’s name and grade in the email. If you do not have email, please call the main office at 816-4230.

Swimming:

There will be swimming classes and teams at CHS this year! We are fortunate to have a competitive-level natatorium at our school. We believe that swimming is a life skill, and all City Honors Centaurs should be, at least, proficient swimmers by the end of the 9th grade. To achieve this goal, students in grade 6 swim for part of the year, and students in grade 9 swim all year for their physical education requirement. Please plan to have your 6th and 9th graders ready to swim. Sixth graders will learn their specific swim schedules at the start of

school.

Student Schedules:

Your child's draft schedule is enclosed in the back-to-school mailing you should have received at your home. The schedule can also be viewed in the Parent Portal. It is important to note that schedules and room locations are being adjusted right up until the first day of school to balance class sizes. If you use the schedule from Parent Portal, be sure you do not print it until the day before school starts. Students who do not have a schedule for some reason should report to the school auditorium on the first day of school.

A 'Scheduling Adjustment Form' has been enclosed with this mailing. Students should return this form to the school counseling office if they believe there is an error with their course requests. Students should follow their current schedule until called to discuss change requests with their school counselor. High school students are reminded that course requests cannot always be honored, as we have a limited number of seats in our classes, and sometimes demand exceeds supply.

September Events:

Opening Day, Wednesday, September 8 (This is a full day of school): Please remind your child that attendance on the first day (and every day) of school is critical to their success!

Parent "Get Acquainted" Night, Tuesday, September 14, 6-8 p.m.: This annual tradition allows parents to follow their child's schedule, meet teachers, receive course syllabi and hear teacher presentations about their courses. This event will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams. We will email home teacher classlinks and instructions closer to the date.

Student Dress:

As you shop with your child for clothing for the school year, please keep in mind that we have the expectation that students will dress in a conservative fashion, appropriate to a school setting. Although our dress code allows many freedoms, we do ask students to dress in a manner that does not detract from the learning environment. The lessons we teach our children now about dressing appropriately in certain settings will serve them well later in life. Students are expected to cover all underwear with appropriate outer garments, including the wearing of pants at waist level. Per the current District Dress Code, please **avoid** all of the following:

- Shirts and tee shirts with slogans or advertisements that support unhealthy lifestyles or denigrate any particular person and/or group
- Clogs, flip-flops, or backless shoes of any kind
- Hats or headgear (including earbuds or other electronic devices except as required by a physician, etc.)
- Revealing garments such as tube tops, net tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, plunging necklines (front and/or back)
- Excessively short skirts or shorts and see-through garments

Masks are required of all students to start the school year. We ask that parents send student to school with two freshly washed (or disposable) masks each school day so they can change masks halfway through the day. Masks are not required to be worn while students are seated and actively eating in the café.

Supplies:

Supply lists where available were distributed by teachers at the end of the school year and at new student orientations. These lists have also been posted to the school website on the Parent Resources page. Teachers of students in grades 9-12 will inform students of needed supplies for their classes as a part of their annual course syllabi which are distributed on the first day of school.

Student Planners/Handbooks:

Planners will again be distributed in homeroom to all students at the start of school. Organizational skills can have a powerful effect upon student learning and performance. These planners are one of the best tools for fostering your child's organizational skills. The City Honors/Fosdick-Masten Park Foundation fully funds these planners. Please consider donating to the Foundation's Annual Fund each fall to help continue the tradition of providing these items to our students at no charge. Parents are asked to carefully review the CHS student handbook, which is inserted at the front of the planner, with their child.

Summer Reading:

If your child has not completed their summer reading yet, please work with them to see that they do so. Teachers in ELA classes will be engaging students in assignments and discussions related to summer reading assignments as the school year starts. Summer reading lists are posted on the Parent Resources page of cityhonors.org in the Back-to-School drop down menu.

Transportation:

Our traffic, parking, and entry patterns are designed with student safety in mind. Please note the following details:

- Parent drop-off/pick-up of students is on Fosdick Street.
- Visitor parking is on Fosdick Street. Abide by all street signs. Again, we ask parents dropping off students to enter Fosdick Street from North Street so that students can exit right onto the school sidewalk and will not need to cross the street.
- **The west side of Fosdick Street is now Buffalo Roam two hour parking.** Please be sure to load the Buffalo Roam app to your phone if you come to visit the building and need to park during the school day. We ask that our families do not drive the side streets of the Fruit Belt and Cold Springs neighborhood looking for parking or idling while waiting for students. The city has adjusted the parking rules on Fosdick Street to provide more visitor access at City Honors in order to reduce traffic on neighboring streets.
- Yellow bus drop-off/pick-up is on Masten Avenue, through the Atrium doors. Parents: please do not attempt to use Masten Avenue or the Masten Avenue service lot/delivery door as a student drop-off from your car. It creates dangerous issues for our yellow busses and student safety.
- NFTA end-of-school-day 'Specials' line up on Fosdick Street.
- The parking lot on North Street has one entrance/exit and one direction through the lot. The entrance to the lot is on North Street. This lot is not for student drop-off or pick-up. For the safety of our students, there is no entry, except for handicapped, faculty, and staff parking from 6:00 AM to 3:15 PM on school days.
- Handicapped visitor parking and an access ramp are located in the main parking lot.
- As pandemic precautions continue, visitors to the building are discouraged. If necessary, visitors should buzz the main entrance door on Fosdick Street where our office staff will screen and provide remote entry to visitors. Please do not allow others inside the building by opening entrances for them, as this activity compromises the safety of our students and staff.
- Grade 5-8 students being picked up by parents at the end of the school day should report to the Fosdick Atrium entrance to sign out their child.
- Students in grades 9-12 being picked up at dismissal should wait in the auditorium if their parents are not outside on Fosdick Street to pick them up. Students leaving to Fosdick for immediate pick up should exit using the yellow or green stair exits to Fosdick to keep the front doors clear.
- Please continue to drive cautiously and carefully around our school building. There is a 20 mph speed limit.
- Parents dropping off by car are asked to avoid the bus zones on North Street and Masten Avenue and coned areas reserved for metro buses in the afternoon.
- For the health of our students, please do not idle your car or truck near the school. This is a city ordinance and signs are posted along the perimeter of the campus.

Additional Grade 5-8 Transportation Details:

If you do not plan to have your child ride BPS yellow busses or one of the legs of yellow bus transport, please, please call the BPS transport office at 816-4895 and let them know as soon as possible. There is an extreme shortage of school bus drivers. If the district knows you will not be using all or part of yellow bus transportation they can consolidate routes to get our students to and from school faster.

Parents with questions about transportation issues prior to the start of school should contact the BPS transportation hotline at 816-4895. Once school begins, middle school parents should contact the school's designated transportation coordinator, Mrs. Arnold, by calling the main office at 816-4230. Be aware that this is a part-time responsibility and someone may not be available to address your concern immediately.

Additional Grade 9-12 Transportation Details:

BPS students may access the NFTA system without a bus pass during the first week of school. NFTA-Metro passes will be distributed at the start of school. New NFTA riders will have their photos taken by security for permanent passes during the first month of school. Students should follow the route designated on the back of their bus pass in order to receive service. Families can request a change to the route issued to their child and find out more about the appropriate NFTA-Metro routes from the BPS Transportation Office website or on the NFTA website, which offers a route planning tool. Our school security officers are also a valuable resource to students regarding NFTA bus passes and routes. NFTA special buses line up on North Street at the end of the school day. Students are asked to use the front sidewalk to make their way to the NFTA busses, as crossing the parking lot and driveway is not safe.

What else should you find in your packet?

- A letter from Dr. Kresse
- Your child's schedule, locker combination and locker number.
- The Buffalo Public Schools 'Calendar at a Glance' with Color Coding and CHS dates added
- Student Census Verification Form from Infinite Campus – *this one-page print out shows the current address and contact information we have for you, and any non-household contact information you have provided. If any of this information needs to be updated, please make clear corrections to the sheet and return it to school. Our clerical staff will update Infinite Campus. Contact the main office if you have an address change so that you can provide needed supporting documentation of the new address.*
- Grade-specific required immunizations/student health updates sheet
- Food allergy informational sheet
- A Scheduling Adjustment Form
- Infinite Campus Parent Portal flyer
- United Way/SEFA Flyer from CH/FMP Foundation
- Flyer listing all the communication outlets that CHS offers to keep you up-to-date on all the latest happenings at our school.

**Our faculty, staff and administration welcome
all Centaurs back to the Hilltop.
WE ARE READY TO RESTART!**