



City Honors School Start-of-School: Survival Guide for Families

2023-2024 School Year



Athletics

Some Fall teams are still looking for additional team members! If your child would like to join a Fall team, please use the email addresses below to reach out to the coach:

Varsity Boys Soccer	Coach Catalano	jcatalano@buffaloschools.org
JV Boys Soccer	Coach Sardo	dsardo238@gmail.com
Varsity Girls Soccer	Coach Milne	jasonmilne76@gmail.com
JV Girls Soccer	Coach LaFlore	aclaflore@buffaloschools.org
Varsity Boys Volleyball	Coach Lyman	jlyman@buffaloschools.org
JV Boys Volleyball	Coach Wilkinson	jawilkinson@buffaloschools.org
Varsity Girls Volleyball	Coach Matos	dmatos@buffaloschools.org
JV Girls Volleyball	Coach McLean	smmclean@buffaloschools.org
Varsity Girls Swim	Coach Yager	jmyager@buffaloschools.org
JV/Varsity Co-ed Cross Country	Coach Monaco	mcvanremmen@buffaloschools.org
JV/Varsity Co-ed Golf	Coach Krause	ajkrause@buffaloschools.org
Varsity Girls Tennis	Coach Lewis	mlewis@buffaloschools.org

COVID Safety

- Masks are optional for all individuals inside school buildings.
- Cleaning and sanitizing protocols are unchanged from our rigorous COVID Re-opening Plan. We have ample PPE, sanitizer, masks, face shields, gowns, gloves, surface cleaning supplies, etc. to be used as needed.
- Students and staff are provided opportunities to properly wash their hands throughout the school day. Families are encouraged to review coughing and sneezing etiquette, and to keep hands away from their faces to prevent the spread of illness.
- CHS will follow all current ventilation protocols, including mechanical and natural ventilation where appropriate. CHS does not recycle air. Fresh outside air is pulled into the building. Austin Air Purifiers, built right here in the city of Buffalo, have been added to all classrooms and offices that do not already have MERV filtering systems.
- All COVID-19 isolation protocols previously in place will continue if a student tests positive for COVID while in school.
- NFTA Bus Transportation Students shall follow the established safety guidelines determined by the NFTA including wearing masks while on NFTA vehicles if required.
- Physical Education classes and grade 5/6 recess will be conducted outside in acceptable weather.

Dismissal

Parents who plan to pick-up students after school are required to pick children up at dismissal time, which is at 3:09 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. The district's transportation office (816.4895) 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.

Entrance to School Begins at 7:30 AM

- Only those students who have passes for morning ensembles or clubs may go to classrooms prior to 8:15 AM, and students cannot enter the hallways before 8:15 AM. All students being dropped off and entering school between 7:30* and 8:15 AM will use the main Fosdick Street entrance. **This early arrival time is contingent on staffing availability and may change if needed.*
- All yellow bus students enter through the Masten Street Atrium doors and will wait in the cafeteria area. Those students entering at the main Fosdick entrance will wait quietly in the Auditorium. Both areas will be staffed with a limited number of teacher aides to supervise students.
- Both the atrium and main entrances will have Evolv security scanners in place. ALL students must be prepared to remove their laptops, metal 3-ring binders, umbrellas, and metal water bottles. These are placed on a pass-through table prior to walking through the Evolv system. A security guard will be at both locations to provide secondary screening. The District reserves the right to “wand” students entering the building each day as needed to protect student safety.
- Students must be sitting in their Period 1 class by 8:30 AM and are considered late if they arrive after the bell.
- Fosdick Street is a one-way street. You must enter from East North Street and exit from Best Street. We require parents dropping off students to have them exit the vehicle onto the school sidewalk so they will not need to cross the street.
- 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 the main office for special accommodations.* The service lot and loading dock door on Masten Avenue should never be used as a student entrance/drop-off.

Food Allergies

Food allergies are a very serious issue for children and their families. The USDA Child Nutrition Program recognizes the importance of following the medical directives for food allergies. Meal modifications are implemented based upon medical assessment and treatment planning and must be ordered by a recognized medical authority.

Schools cannot make food substitutions or alter the student’s diet without proper documentation from the healthcare provider. An annual medical script is required for each child describing their allergy and diet recommendations. A recognized medical professional signature is required on this document (this documentation is required each year).

SUBMIT THIS MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION to your child’s school administrator, nurse, or food service staff the first week of school, or throughout the school year when changes may occur. If you have any questions, please contact the Child Nutrition Services at 716-816-3688. We want to work with you to ensure your child is safe and has a mealtime plan that everyone will be happy with.

Food Service

The Buffalo Public Schools provide universal free breakfast and lunches to all students every day of the school year. Students are trained in café procedures during the first few days of school. A separate area of the café is set aside for students with documented food allergies. Students may bring bagged lunch to school, however for the safety of students and staff, the school cannot not accept food from delivery services or restaurant orders dropped off by parents or delivery services. Delivery services will be turned away and the school cannot be responsible for any cost incurred by students or families.

Laptop Devices

Please be sure that your child powers on their BPS laptop if they have not been using it regularly so that it can download updates and work properly with the network in our building when school starts September 8.

- If your child does not have a device yet, needs to exchange their device or needs repairs to their device, you do not need to wait until school starts. All families may report to the BPS Tech Center to be sure their child device is in their hands and working on September 8. The sooner you report, the more likely you are to beat the rush:
 BPS Center for Innovation, Technology, and Training
 1515 South Park Ave
 Buffalo, NY 14220
 Phone: (716) 816-7100
 Monday-Friday ~ 8:30 am – 3:30 pm
- All CHS students who have not been issued a BPS laptop yet will be issued one near the start of the school year. If your child has an iPad that was issued at another BPS school, they will need to return that device in exchange for the Windows-based laptop used by CHS students. At the time of this printing, we do not have the exact date when new devices will be distributed. Teachers will adjust their lessons and assignments during the first few weeks based on whether students have access to their devices.
- Students must take these devices and charging cords home each night to charge them, and so that our school community is prepared should we ever face unexpected closures. Students should not store their devices in their school lockers or classrooms.
- Personal computing devices should not be used instead of the BPS laptops. Cybersecurity safeguards will prevent students from accessing needed programs if they are not using the BPS computers that have been properly configured and updated on the District’s network. Grades 5 and 8 will be taking New York State ELA and Math assessments online, and AP and IB are also moving to computer-based assessments.

Lockers

Students who returned to school last year will have the same locker assignment as last school year. Our security officers and our main office staff will have a list of all student lockers as well.

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. Soundara at BSoundara@buffaloschools.org. Please use “Parent Portal Access” as the subject line and include your name, your child’s name and grade in the email.

Swimming

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 ninth grade. To achieve this goal, students in grade six swim for part of the year, and students in grade nine swim all year for their physical education requirement. Please plan to have your sixth and ninth graders ready to get in the pool. Sixth graders will learn their specific swim schedules at the start of school.

Student Schedules

Your child will report to a schedule distribution location on the first day of school to pick-up their schedule. The schedules that can be seen in Infinite Campus during the scheduling process are not final, so please do not become attached to them.

A Scheduling Change Form has been enclosed with this mailing for students in grades 9-12. Return this form after the first day of school if there are issues after the first day. Students should follow their current schedule until called down by their school counselor to discuss change requests. High school students are reminded that course requests cannot always be honored. We have a limited number of seats in our classes, including our lunch rooms and physical education classes, and certain courses which are only offered once per day may not work with every student’s requests.

Middle School Students:

Grade 5 students should report to the auditorium.

Grade 6 students: A-E report to room 11 (Mrs. Reiss), F-M report to room 18 (Ms. Wolff),
N-Z report to room 29 (Mrs. Becker)

Grade 7 students: A-L report to room 110 (Mr. Talford); M-Z report to room 224 (Ms. Lu)

Grade 8 students: A-L report to room 218 (Mr. Serotte); M-Z report to room 318 (Mr. Mueckl)

High School Students:

Grade 9 students: A-L report to room 323 (Mr. Vandehei); M-Z report to room 305 (Mr. O'Neil-White)

Grade 10 students: A-L report to room 219 (Mrs. Brandquist); M-Z report to room 200 (Mrs. Castillo)

Grade 11 students: A-L report to room 214 (Mr. Ross); M-Z report to room 328 (Mr. Bement)

Grade 12 students: A-L report to the Gym (Mr. Kudla); M-Z report to the Gym (Mr. Moretta)

Once students receive their schedule, they should report to their homeroom.

September Events

Opening Day, Friday, 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, Thursday, September 14, 6-8 pm: 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 in person this year! More information to come via email.

Family Welcome Back Night, Friday, September 22, 5-8 pm: Join us on the Hilltop for PTSCO's annual bonding event for CHS Families:

-Learn more about various clubs, activities, and parent committees

-Join a tour of Pelion Outdoor Classroom, and take part in Pelion Garden's Chokeberry Challenge or snap a Sunflower Selfie

-Shop Chiron's Corner Bookstore

-Enjoy some of the best food from local food trucks in Buffalo.

We are still looking for musicians to entertain families! Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up.

Please contact Cristina Garcia Glover at cgarcia4268@gmail.com.

School Picture Day with Jostens for grades 5-11, Tuesday, October 3: Look your best! Families may opt-out of having their child's photo included in the yearbook, but for emergency response purposes we ask that all students are photographed. More information will be distributed via email.

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.

From the current District Dress Code in the 2022-2025 Code of Conduct:

When on school property or at a school function, a person's dress, grooming and appearance must:

- *Be safe, appropriate to a professional learning environment, and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.*
- *Not include clothing (including all pants, skirts, shorts, and tops) that is see-through, excessively tight, or excessively short.*
- *Cover all undergarments with appropriate outer garments, including wearing of pants at waist level.*

- *Include safe and appropriate footwear. Inappropriate footwear includes but is not limited to backless shoes (i.e., flip flops, bedroom slippers). Exceptions will only apply to documented medical conditions.*
- *Only include headwear that is required by medical or religious reasons.*
- *Not be lewd, vulgar, obscene, and libelous or denigrate others, or cause a disruption to the school that impedes the educational program.*
- *Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.*
- *Sweatshirts with hoods (or “hoodies”) can be worn, but hoods must always remain down inside of buildings.*
 - *Not include jewelry that may be deemed a weapon. This includes, but is not limited to, a ring/piece of jewelry covering multiple fingers, spiked necklaces or belts, belts with large removable buckles, chain-like neckwear, or ninja-type star jewelry. Belts must be buckled.*
 - *Not include clothing that is associated with or identifiable as a symbol of gang membership (where gang is defined as an organized group of criminals).*

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 printed 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 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 North Street.

2023 - 2024 SCHOOL YEAR		NFTA Specials at #195 - Buses depart 195 at 3:25 PM
Route	DESTINATION SIGN	ROUTE
20S (2 buses)	20S ELMWOOD/ KENMORE	E NORTH, R-MICHIGAN, L-BEST, SUMMER, R-ELMWOOD TO KENMORE (1ST STOP ELMWOOD)
22S	22S WEST SIDE	E NORTH, R-MICHIGAN, L-BEST, CONT REG RT
104S	104S KENMORE/ STARIN	E NORTH, R-MICHIGAN, L-BEST, R-MAIN, L-PARKER, R-AMHERST, L-MAIN, L-HERTL, R-STARIN
111S	111S CITY LINE	1ST STOP BDWY, LAYOVER E NORTH, VIA E NORTH, L-MICH, L-SENECA, R-LOUISIANA, L-SO.PARK, ABBOTT, R-SO.SIDE, L-MCKINLEY, L-DORRANCE. I-ABBOTT, R-CAZENOVIA, R-SENECA, TURN AROUND IN SCL LOOP, L-SENECA, R-BAILEY, R-LOVEJOY

- 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 7:00 AM to 3:35 PM on school days.
- Handicapped visitor parking and an access ramp are located in the main parking lot.
- 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. Be sure to download the FirstView App. on your electronic cellular or tablet devices. This tool will allow you to see in real time when your child’s bus will actually be arriving at their scheduled stops.

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 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. Students must wear masks on NFTA transportation.

Visitors

All visitors must press the “call button” located at the Main Entrance Door. Office staff will answer using the intercom system and greet visitors and ask the following questions. Visitors do NOT need to press the button for their responses to be heard.

1. Good morning/afternoon.
2. Please state your child’s name.
3. Do you have a scheduled appointment? If so, with whom?
4. If you do not have a scheduled appointment, please state the reason for your unscheduled visit.

- If the visitor has an appointment or acceptable reason for their visit, the office staff will contact a security officer to report to the main entrance before buzzing the visitor in the school. This is required by BPS Security protocols.
- Please do not allow others inside the building by opening entrances for them, as this activity compromises the safety of our students and staff.
- Upon entering the Main Office, the visitor should be prepared to show government issued ID (driver’s license, passport) and sign in using the “visitors’ book” which is to be placed on the counter in the Main Office.
- Visitors will be issued a pass which is to always be worn and shown visibly on the visitor’s top. These passes will only be issued at the Main Office.
- All visitors must sign out in the “visitors’ book” and return the visitor’s pass before departing.

What else should you find in your packet?

- A letter from Dr. Kresse
- The Buffalo Public Schools ‘Calendar at a Glance’ with Color Coding and CHS dates added
- Student Census Verification Form from Infinite Campus and Directions Page
- Family Engagement Flyer
- Family Welcome Back Night flyer
- Jostens School Picture Day flyer
- Infinite Campus Parent Portal flyer / Parent Schoology flyer
- United Way/SEFA Flyer from CH/FMP Foundation
- Class of 2022 Destinations
- Flyer listing all the communication outlets that CHS offers to keep you up-to-date on all the latest happenings at our school.
- A Scheduling Adjustment Form for Grades 9-12 only

**Our faculty, staff and administration welcome
all Centaurs back to the Hilltop!**