City Honors School

Start-of-School: Survival Guide for Families

2026-2027 School Year

CHS Athletics

CHS Fall athletic teams are still looking for additional team members!
To find out what sports are available to your child, to contact coaches and complete paperwork needed to participate, please visit the Final Forms portal at: https://buffaloschools-ny.finalforms.com/ or use the QR code at right.

Cell Phones/Personal Electronic Devices

New York State's new distraction-free, no personal smartphones/electronics policy requires students to store their internet-capable personal devices from the first bell to final dismissal in a secure, designated storage area at their school. This includes smartphones, smartwatches, cell phones with any internet capability, iPads, or similar devices. Our current three-level progressive approach to this is based on feedback from stakeholder representatives on our School Based Management Team. We will continue to monitor and adjust this system where needed.

All grade 7-12 students must place their cellphones in their lockers when they arrive at school and grade 5/6 students in their cubbies. Students may not take them out until they are dismissed at the end of the school day.

Parents who need to contact a student during the school day may call the main office to pass along urgent, time-sensitive messages for their child. Parents may also use Schoology to communicate with their children.

Students who need to speak with their parent/guardian may do so by dialing out from the classroom phone or from the main office.

Students found to be in possession of a cell phone during prohibited hours will be asked to return it to their locker, a parent/guardian will be contacted, and a record will be added to the Parent-Teacher correspondence tab in Infinite Campus. If this method proves ineffective and the student is found with a prohibited device again, the device will need to be confiscated and stored in the school vault until a parent/guardian comes to the school to pick up the phone and, if necessary, conference with an administrator. Students who habitually take their phone out of their locker during the school day will not be permitted to bring a phone device into the school building.

Dismissal

-The school day concludes at 3:09pm. **Families who need to sign children out early must do so prior to 2:45pm, or wait to pick them up at our 3:09pm dismissal.**
-Grade 5/6 students must be signed out of the school atrium on the Fosdick Street side of the building by a parent or guardian.
-Parents should ONLY pick up their children on Fosdick Street and should use the curb closest to the school so students do not walk in the street. Masten Avenue and North Street are for yellow bus traffic only. Best Street is one lane each way, and is not safe for student pick up.
-The district's transportation office (816-4895) can assist parents with PM bussing destination changes if they are required for after-school care or custodial arrangements.
-Students who are staying for after school as members of athletic teams, extracurricular clubs or musical productions must be with their supervising adult until they are picked up.

Entrance to School

-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 Avenue or North Street as a student drop-off, as this creates dangerous interactions with buses.
-Do not use Best Street as a drop-off as it is one lane in either direction. Attempting to drop students off on Best Street creates a dangerous situation and frustrates other drivers.
-*Students with mobility or injury issues should see the main office for special accommodations.*
-**The main parking lot on North Street and service lot on Masten Avenue should never be used as a student entrance/drop-off**.
-All students should enter through the main entrance to the school on Fosdick Street, except for students being dropped off by a yellow bus. Our main entrance is opened by security at 7:30am for students with special ensembles or club meetings.
-Yellow bus students enter through the Masten Street Atrium doors.
-Students who enter school prior to 8:15am will wait in the Auditorium, which has a limited number of teacher aides assigned to supervise students. Only students who have passes for morning ensembles or clubs may go to classrooms prior to 8:15am.
-Both the atrium and main entrances have Evolv security scanners in place. Students must arrive early enough to successfully complete the security process. ALL students must be prepared to remove laptops, metal 3-ring binders, umbrellas, and metal water bottles (students are asked to use plastic three ring binders and water bottles if possible as this will move them through screening much faster). These items are placed on a pass-through table prior to walking through the Evolv system.
-Security officers are 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.
-First period begins at 8:30am. Students must be sitting in their Period 1 class by 8:30 AM and are considered late if they arrive after the bell rings.

Food Allergies

Please see the memo enclosed in this mailing.

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 a bagged lunch to school, however for the safety of students and staff, **the school cannot accept food from delivery services or restaurant orders dropped off by parents. Delivery services will be turned away and the school cannot be responsible for any cost incurred by students or families.**

Laptop Devices

Students will need to allow their BPS laptops to install updates and probably restart multiple times when they first log on. Students should turn off their laptops at the end of the school day. BPS has designated Wednesdays as "Restart Wednesdays" to ensure that everyone has the most current updates.

Over the summer, Buffalo Schools replaced many laptops, and those that were not replaced were cleaned and stickers were removed. Your child may put one small, removable sticker on their laptop to help them identify it easily and personalize it.

Laptops will be issued during the first few weeks of school for in-school use only. If your child had a device issued at another BPS school, and they did not return it, they will need to return that device. Any homework assignments will take into account that students will not have use of their district laptops at home until at least November.

Please have the "Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for Information Technology Students" form completed prior to picking up your laptop. The completed and signed document, which must include signatures from both the student and a parent/guardian, is required before a laptop can be issued. Beginning the first full week of school, students should keep this letter with them until it is submitted. Once received, the form will be stored by the City Honors School IT Department. Students are responsible for bringing the completed form with them when they pick up their laptop. Laptops will not be issued unless the completed and signed form is presented at the time of pickup.

Cybersecurity safeguards prevent students from accessing needed programs if they are not using BPS computers that have been properly configured and updated on the district's network. **The school and school district cannot be responsible for theft or damage to any personal computing device brought to school.**

Lockers for Students in grade 7-12

Students who were here last year will have the same locker assignment. New students will find their locker assignment and combination in Infinite Campus. Our security officers and all staff will have access to student locker information as well. Students in grades 5/6 have cubbies in their classrooms.

Parent Portal & Schoology

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. Please scan the QR code at right for assistance with your parent portal account.
https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/dept-accountability/page/parent-portal

Schoology is our district's digital platform for student learning and communication with teachers. Parents are encouraged to activate their parent Schoology accounts so they can support their child's learning. For assistance with your parent Schoology account, please email schoologyadmin@buffaloschools.org

Student Schedules

Your child will report to a schedule distribution location listed below on the first day of school to pick-up their schedule. **The schedules can be seen in Infinite Campus during the scheduling process but a word of warning that they are not final and may shift as we put the finishing touches on, right up until the day before school begins.**

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 they are 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 19 (Ms. Wolff), N-Z report to room 28 (Mrs. Becker)
Grade 7 students: A-L report to room 114 (Mrs. Saxon); M-Z report to room 226 (Ms. Lu)
Grade 8 students: A-L report to room 326 (Mrs. Przybyla); M-Z report to room 318 (Mr. Mueckl)

High School Students:
Grade 9 students: A-L report to room 211 (Mrs. Collesano); M-Z report to room 302 (Dr. Weaver)
Grade 10 students: A-L report to room 323 (Dr. Vandehei); M-Z report to room 205 (Mrs. Didas)
Grade 11 students: A-L report to room 214 (Mr. Ross); M-Z report to room 332 (Dr. Ziolkowski)
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, Thursday, September 3 (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, Wednesday, September 9, 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 18, 5:00-7:30pm: 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 snap a Sunflower Selfie
-Shop Chiron's Corner Bookstore for great CHS gear
-Play yard games on Fosdick Field
-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 Jane Pietraszek at volcanojane@gmail.com.

Student Dress

Please keep in mind that we have the expectation that students will dress in a conservative fashion appropriate to a school setting. Although the 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 Dress Code in the 2026-2027 Buffalo Public Schools Student Code of Conduct:

When on school property or at a school function, a person's dress, grooming and appearance must:
1. Be safe, appropriate to a professional learning environment, and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
2. Not include clothing (including all pants, skirts, shorts, and tops) that is see-through, or excessively short.
3. Cover all undergarments with appropriate outer garments, including wearing of pants at waist level.
4. 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.
5. Only include headwear that is indicated by medical or religious reasons.
6. Not be lewd, vulgar, obscene, and libelous or denigrate others, or cause a disruption to the school that impedes the educational program.

7. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
8. Sweatshirts with hoods (or "hoodies") can be worn, but hoods must always remain down while inside buildings.
9. 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.

Supplies

Supply lists 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 with their child (printed at the front of the planner).

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 the west curb of 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.
- Families are reminded that if you need to sign your child out of school early, you must do so by 2:45pm. If you are unable to do so prior to 2:45pm, you will need to wait to pick them up until dismissal at 3:09pm. Beginning at 2:45, we must move our security officers and teacher assistants into place for transportation staging. Dismissing 1100 students each day in eight different grades is a complex affair and we need to be sure that all staff are fully focused on a smooth and safe departure for our students. We appreciate your cooperation.
- 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 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 buses and student safety.
- NFTA end-of-school-day 'Specials' line up on North Street:

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR NFTA Specials at #195 (Buses depart 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-HERTEL, 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 in the main parking lot.
- Grade 5-6 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 7-12 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 at dismissal via 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 buses 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 still a 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 be arriving at their scheduled stops. The district code on the FirstView app is **26j4e**

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; please note NFTA will update their route schedules 8/29. 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 buses, as crossing the parking lot and driveway are not safe.

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 grade and full 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.

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