



City Honors School

AT FOSDICK-MASTEN PARK

William A. Kresse, Ph.D. PRINCIPAL Tandy J. Hamilton ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Angela R. Hannah ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Carla L. McDow ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

August 19, 2021

Dear CHS Families:

It has been a long road, but we are ready and excited to have our students back in person five days a week! The first day of school for students will be **Wednesday, September 8**. This will be a full day of school.

Over the past year and a half, schools have learned how to minimize risk related to COVID transmission. While we will be much closer to the school experience we knew prior to the pandemic, there will be some modifications which all families should be aware of:

- All students must wear masks while in the school building and on the bus to and from school. They will not need to wear masks while actively eating in the café.
- Students will be distanced by 3 feet (from nose to nose) in all classrooms and the school café.
- For the time being we will be unable to offer large assemblies, field trips or some special events after school hours that include large crowds.
- Students will find that stairwells are still one-way.
- Parents and visitors, with a few exceptions, will not be admitted to the school building. Please call our office staff to determine if a visit is required or if the matter can be handled in a remote way.

What will return for our students:

- Swimming
- After school clubs and sports
- One way hallways were eliminated from last year's plan
- College representative visits will be in person
- Activities at Pelion Outdoor Classroom at CHS will resume

Please carefully read the enclosed materials including our CHS Start-of-School Survival Guide which provide additional details about safety measures in place at the school and all of the nuts and bolts operations information you will need to help your child begin the school year successfully.

Your support and participation will be crucial in helping our students to succeed and return to normalcy. Here is how parents can help:

- The school district will continue to test 30% of our students and staff each week for COVID using the more accurate PCR test and a simple nose swab that can be self-administered for ages 13 and up. The school nurse will be sending home a COVID-testing consent form. Please consider allowing your child to be tested to minimize the number of times all our students will need to be tested throughout the year.

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- The district is experiencing a critical shortage of school bus drivers. This will affect our students in many ways. If you are a grade 5-8 parent who does not intend to have your child ride a yellow bus one or both ways, please call the BPS transportation office at 816-4895 as soon as you receive this letter. This will help the district to consolidate routes and get our students to and from school on-time.
- Send your child to school each day with at least two clean masks and a water bottle.
- Please, please have anyone 12 or older in your household vaccinated for COVID if approved by your family doctor. The vaccine saves lives and brings us closer to the world we knew prior the pandemic.
- Monitor your child’s progress finishing up their CHS summer reading. Links to summer reading lists for each grade level and all of the documents included in this mailing can be found at the [Parent Resources page](#) of cityhonors.org under the ‘Back-to-School Fall 2021’ tab.
- Participate in our Parent-Teacher “Get Acquainted” Night on **Tuesday, September 14** from 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 again be held virtually via Microsoft Teams. We will email home teacher classlinks and instructions closer to the event.

Please welcome the following teachers who are new to our faculty at City Honors this school year:

- **Mrs. Karen Saxon** Vocal Music
- **Mr. Erik Hecker** Technology Education
- **Mrs. Jessica Koeppel** STARS Grade 5
- **Mrs. Melissa Hudecki** STARS Grade 5
- **Ms. Angela Swistowski** STARS 7-12 Science
- **Ms. Kailey Czyz** Strings/Orchestra

We are excited to announce that **Ms. Sara Ceraso** who has been a STARS ELA long-term temporary teacher for us in the past, will now be with us permanently. In addition, **Mrs. Patricia Wojtowicz** who has been with us as a part-time business teacher has been made full-time by the district in order to offer a half credit college transition course developed by the Gates Foundation to our juniors and seniors. I want to thank all of the parent and teacher representatives who lent their time to serve on teacher hiring committees this summer. Parent and teacher voice is essential in identifying the most qualified teachers for our students.

Again, I cannot tell you how thrilled our teachers and administrative team are to have our students back to school. Children learn, socialize and develop healthy life habits best when attending school in person. We appreciate everything you have done over the past year and a half to assist your child in remote and hybrid learning. We will do everything in our power to see to it that their transition back to school is productive and enjoyable.

Sincerely,



William A. Kresse, Ph.D.
Principal