



City Honors School

AT FOSDICK-MASTEN PARK



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March 17, 2025

CHS Grade 12 Families:

This afternoon we held our annual senior class spring meeting to provide students with critical information and documents to successfully complete their CHS career and transition to college. Joining me for the meeting were our school counselors, senior class advisor Mrs. Brandquist, and Senior Class Service Learning Initiative (SLI) coordinator Mrs. Casseri. The information provided and questions answered should ensure that your child meets all of the important deadlines for our school and for their post-secondary institutions. We want every senior to be aware of all the necessary steps to arrive at a seamless graduation event on June 26 at Kleinhans Music Hall.

Based on recent fundraising by the senior class, and final quotes from vendors, **senior dues have been set at \$135 and are due by April 22.** Senior dues cover a wide range of expenses associated with senior year. **By using a dues system, our senior class leadership seeks to avoid families having to make multiple payments throughout the year, and reduces costs to families by ordering items in bulk.** The cost of senior dues includes, but is not limited to:

- Professionally printed graduation announcements for each senior, to share with family and friends
- Keepsake graduation programs that are professionally formatted and printed
- Cap, gown, and stole to wear at the graduation ceremony
- One (1) ticket to the Senior Dinner at Riverworks on May 27 at 6:00 pm (families may purchase additional tickets depending on which family members they would like present)
- Rental of Kleinhans Music Hall and stage flowers. Rental costs include Kleinhans staff and security. The City Honors Foundation funds the majority of the cost for Kleinhans. The use of this beautiful venue allows families to bring unlimited guests to graduation and to enjoy the ceremony in a spacious, air-conditioned environment with excellent acoustics.
- Special CHS diploma cover
- Professionally printed diplomas
- CHS Class of 2025 hoodie
- Class of 2025 gift to the school community

At the request of the senior class, yearbooks are not included in dues.

Senior dues are paid using the SchoolCash application [at this link](#). You will see the senior dues option once you open your account. If your family has not registered for SchoolCash yet, please use the instructions [at this link](#).

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Our senior class, senior class advisor, our clerical staff and school leadership have all worked tirelessly to keep dues low despite the inflation of the past few years. To give you an understanding of how successful we have been, in 2007 senior dues were \$210. They now stand at \$135. Some common questions about senior dues:

-What happens if there is surplus? The district requires that any surplus be held for one year to be sure that all outstanding debts are resolved. After this, a class gift can be made based on a signed letter left by senior class officers. We calculate dues so that any surplus is modest.

-Why didn't we notify you of this earlier in the school year? If we notified families early in the year, we would have to list a much higher amount, as it takes time to finalize vendor pricing, and seniors are still fundraising throughout the school year. We do not want to alarm families in this fashion. Just recently, we arrived at an agreement with a vendor that provided a \$15 reduction for each senior. We do not want families to pay a dollar more than is needed.

-Why doesn't the school district pay for these things? Our district subsidizes many expenses for students that other districts do not, including free breakfasts and lunches, paying for the expenses of PSAT, SAT, AP and IB exams, Say Yes Scholarships, Metro passes and more. These special touches at the conclusion of our seniors' CHS voyage funded by dues are something worth investing in for the indelible memories they create.

-What should a student do if they have a financial hardship? Meet with your school counselor. School counselors review our most recent documentation to verify a student is coming from an economically disadvantaged background in order to confirm family need. For decades, the City Honors Foundation has quietly supported many students with documented financial need.

At the start of the school year, all seniors were provided with a list of important dates related to senior year. For your convenience, these dates are included on page 3 of this document.

Questions? Please contact senior class advisor, Mrs. Brandquist at mcbrandquist@buffaloschools.org.

Sincerely,



William A. Kresse, Ph.D.
Principal

City Honors School
Class of 2025
Dates to Save

Tuesday, April 8 - I See IB Night

Tuesday, April 22 – Senior Dues Deadline

Monday, April 28 - First day of IB/AP exams. See schedule [here](#).

Monday, May 5 – RSVP and Payment for family members attending senior dinner due (ALL SENIORS who wish to attend MUST RSVP!)

Friday, May 9 - Senior Exit Survey due (online form – link to be provided)

Friday, May 9 - Graduation duties application due (online form – link to be provided)

Monday, May 12 - First day of SLI (seniors must still report for all IB/AP exams AND classes in which an exam has not yet taken place or from which they are not excused)

Wednesday, May 14 - Early Release Day

Thurs., May 15 - Superintendent’s Conference Day

Friday, May 16 - Superintendent’s Conference Day

Check the [AP-IB exam schedule](#) carefully, as there are exams scheduled all 3 of these dates!

Tuesday, May 27 – 6 PM Senior Dinner at Riverworks

Friday, May 30 - Prom

Monday, May 26 - No SLI due to Memorial Day (inform your sites of this – do not assume they know)

Wednesday, June 4 - No SLI due to Regents Exams

Thursday, June 5 - Talent Show

Tuesday, June 10 - No SLI due to Regents Exams

Friday, June 13 - Last day of SLI

Monday, June 16 or sooner - Signed SLI time sheets and reflection documents due

Thursday, June 26 - 10:30 am - MANDATORY graduation rehearsal at Kleinhans

- 6:00 pm - graduates report to Kleinhans

- 7:00 pm - ceremony begins

*All school debts (SLI forms not turned in, uniforms not turned in, textbooks lost or damaged, etc.) must be cleared by **Tuesday, June 24th**.

* SLI Paperwork was distributed to all students on 3.17.25. Students approved for the SLI Program (Service Learning Initiative) are expected to participate for a minimum of four hours every school day from May 12 – June 13. If you miss a day due to exams, etc. – let your site know ahead of time AND work with the site to make up those hours/days. Contact Mrs. Casseri (dcasseri@buffaloschools.org) for any questions about SLI.