



Hilltop Notes for the CHS Community 12.19.21



4 days to go until the holiday break!

Please send us your child to school each and every day that they are asymptomatic!

Centaurs on Ice!

We are excited to announce that the BPS Office of Parent and Family Engagement has provided Canalside Ice Skating vouchers for all students, teachers and staff. The vouchers were donated by Rich Products. Homeroom teachers will distribute vouchers to students on Tuesday, December 21. We hope all Centaurs have an opportunity to enjoy this fun activity during our winter months!

Student Council Food Drive Update

Our CHS families and faculty donated **3,395** food items over the past month to benefit the Buffalo City Mission!

-5th grade took first place with an average of 7.4 items per student.

-8th grade captured second place with 6.2 per student

-7th grade won third place with 5.0 items per student.

This ranks as one of the most generous in Cardinal Craze food drive history. Although we did not arrive at some of the more ambitious target levels set by student council, we did arrive at two of them and many staff members at the higher target levels have decided to dress up to celebrate the good work of our students. The faculty dress up day has been moved to Tuesday (12/21). Get ready to see some very special outfits on our staff and Dr. Kresse!

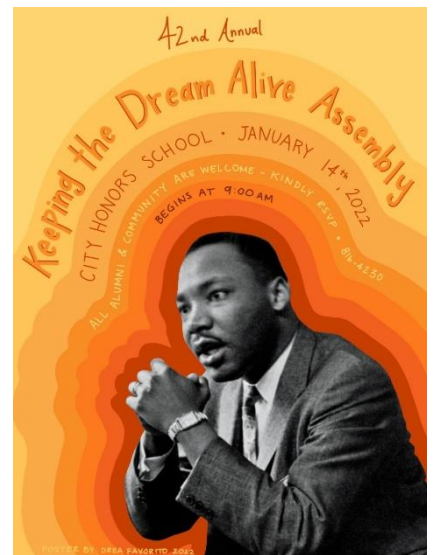
42nd Annual Keeping the Dream Alive Assembly

Thanks to the insightful research of Makayla Walker CHS'23 and Arie Dorsey CHS'23, and the generous support of the CHS/FMP Foundation, we are excited to announce that the 42nd Annual Keeping the Dream Alive Assembly will be streamed live for our entire community in HD on Vimeo. Live music performances are now an option for us. S

Please see Mr. Sharratt for more details if your KDA proposal involves singing, playing instruments, visual arts or film. All KDA proposals are due Monday (12/20) to Mr. Belge in room 316.

Lorna C. Hill Speaking Contest

Attention Students in grade 9-12! Do you have a desire or passion for poetry public speaking? Are you interested in learning more about the canon of Black Poetic Literature? Would you like to compete for a trip to NYC and a paid internship at the historic Ujima Theater? Then sign up for the Lorna C. Hill Speaking Contest!



The deadline for registration is January 5th! Please see Mrs. Saxon in Room 114 for details or email kesaxon@buffaloschools.org. Our Centaurs' preliminary contest takes place March 21-15, 2022. The BPS District Contest will be hosted at the Ujima Theater April 8, 2022.

Winter Bazaar a Success!

Thank you to PTSCO and all of our school organizations that put together the CHS Winter Bazaar this past Friday. There was lots of festive spirit, loads of fun and our students enjoyed a few special treats. Our student organizations were also able to raise some much needed funds for special activities.

New COVID Testing Program

BPS is launching a new COVID testing program. This program uses an oral (mouth) PCR test swab that will be gentle, minimally invasive, and can be self-collected by the person being tested. We encourage CHS families to participate. Please see the bottom of this email for more information and links to register students and staff. Thank you for helping to keep our building safe and open for instruction!

CHS Multicultural Cookbook

Did you know that there are 34 different languages spoken in the households of CHS students? To say that there are many different cultures at CHS would be an understatement. With these cultures, there are tons of different multicultural and traditional meals. In order to encourage the spread and interconnection of diversity at our school, we are planning to create a multicultural cookbook! Anyone from any ethnicity/culture/nationality within the CHS community can [submit a recipe using this link](#). The deadline for submissions will be Thursday, December 23rd. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Amaya Sonubi '22 (amayasonubi195@gmail.com, HR 215) or Julia Russom '22 (russomjulia@gmail.com, HR 219) with any questions. Thank you so much!

Shop Chiron's Corner Bookstore This Holiday Season

'Chiron's Corner' is our school bookstore. Named for our beloved school mascot, Chiron the Centaur, the bookstore offers a wide array of City Honors clothing, spirit items and school supplies. New styles are arriving each season. You can view many of our items [at our webpage](#) and [submit orders at this link](#). Once your order is received and filled, you will be contacted to coordinate a curbside pickup. Questions? Contact Mrs. Frischholz, CHS Business Teacher at efrischholz@buffaloschools.org (716) 816-4230 x1005. All proceeds from Chiron's Corner benefit special programming for the STARS Program at CHS. Thank you!

Laptop Charging

This is a gentle reminder for all students to charge their laptops at home each night before coming to school. In some first period classrooms, we do not have enough outlets to accommodate charging needs and instruction is delayed for students waiting to charge. Thank you!

Keep Our CHS Students and Staff in School- Keep Our Families Safe!

CHS Families and Staff: We strongly encourage you to consult with your family doctor about having everyone five and older in your household vaccinated for COVID/receive a COVID booster where

applicable. Need more reasons to get vaccinated? [Read more from the CDC](#). This is a critical matter for our school to function and to keep our community safe!

Reporting COVID Cases in Your Household

Please email news of any COVID cases in your household to Ms. McDow, assistant principal, and Nurse Cammarata. These staff members are managing our COVID safety initiatives and response. They can outline next steps for your family as it pertains to school. It is important that you email Ms. McDow (cmcdow@buffaloschools.org) and Nurse Cammarata (dcammarata@shccares.com) as this will allow them to receive your communication outside of school hours and provide the quickest possible response. **Please do not leave voicemails or messages in the main office.**

As we move indoors more and more due to the cold weather, the COVID virus has a greater opportunity to jump from person to person. We are emphasizing good safety practices with our students including distancing, proper mask wearing and hygiene. Please stress these practices with your child at home and with family members. We strongly encourage anyone in your household approved by your family doctor and eligible to receive the flu and COVID vaccines to receive them as soon as possible, if they have not already. These steps will help to keep our students and staff in school where they need to be!

COVID Testing

COVID-19 testing is a great way to monitor and contain the spread of the virus. The Buffalo Public Schools in partnership with the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH), Buffalo Homecare, Inc., and Quadrant Biosciences, Inc. Laboratory is pleased to offer high quality on school site optional COVID-19 random surveillance testing. COVID-19 testing is for any staff or student who consents to participate, regardless of their vaccination status.

Testing occurs weekly and consists of a random selection of 10% of the consenting school population. This program uses an oral (mouth) PCR test swab that will be gentle, minimally invasive, and can be self-collected by the person being tested.

Anyone vaccinated or unvaccinated who consents can be tested in the surveillance testing program. Prior to this tentative start date, if you choose to participate in the optional testing program, please follow the steps outlined below by ECDOH, in order to ensure that you are correctly enrolled in this program.

Step 1: Watch the ECDOH Program Overview Presentation [at this link](#).

Step 2: Register with and complete the Quadrant Program Consent Form [at this link](#).

It is important to note that our testing program will not fulfill the New York State Department of Health's requirement for unvaccinated staff to be tested weekly.

Thank you for working with us to help fulfill our goal of keeping our buildings safe and open for instruction.

Daily COVID-19 Health Screener

Families should complete the daily health screener once again each day BEFORE their child leaves for school. [This link will take you to this year's screener](#). Families are encouraged to paste the link into the 'reminder' app on their smart phone to alert you each morning.

When You Need A Helping Hand

BPS Staff and Family Helpline: The Buffalo Public Schools have established a 'Staff and Family Helpline' at 716-816-7100 to provide answers within 24 hours to our most frequently asked questions in the areas of Technology, Mental/Physical Wellness, Instruction and Professional Development, Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Initiatives (CLRI), Multilingual, Elementary and High School needs, Food Services, Child Care, and Volunteerism. If you need assistance in any of these areas, please contact the hotline number.

The CHS Student Support Team (SST): If you are seeking additional support or assistance, please do not hesitate to make a referral to the CHS SST. The Request for Assistance Form can be found [at this link](#). Once your form is submitted, a member of the SST will be in contact with you.

Mental Health Supports: Here is a [quick reference guide](#) which provides contact information for mental health support from the Buffalo Public Schools and our partner organizations.

Connect with CHS!

Click on the following links to better connect with the CHS Community

[CHS Website](#)

[CHS on Facebook](#)

[CHS on Twitter](#)

[CHS on Instagram](#)

[Pelion Outdoor Classroom at City Honors](#)

[Easy/No Cost Ways to Support City Honors](#)

[Fosdick Field Restoration Project](#)

[City Honors/Fosdick-Masten Park Foundation](#)

[CHS PTSCO \(Parent, Teacher, Student, Community Organization\)](#)

[New York State Dignity Act \(DASA\) Information](#)

Children are endangered by underage house parties and underage drinking. Concerned adults, teachers, students and friends can call 24 hours a day in Erie County to report planned underage drinking parties; underage drinking parties in progress or other activities that may be harmful to the health, safety and welfare of young people. The tip line (1-800-851-1932) is ANONYMOUS, CONFIDENTIAL and free. Erie County now has a "Social Host Law" that holds adults accountable for allowing minors to drink. [LEARN MORE](#)