



Hilltop Notes
for the CHS Community
12.23.21



*Have a wonderful holiday break Centaurs, you deserve it!
So proud of what our staff, students and families have accomplished in 2021.
Can't wait for the good things to come in 2022!*

School resumes, Monday January 3

CHS Annual Fund

The CHS Annual Fund is off to a great start! Thank you to all families and staff who have already sent in their donations or have given through the United Way or SEFA. You can make your family's donation and learn more about the CHS Annual Fund [at this link](#). There may be tax advantages for your family by giving prior to the end of 2021. When EVERY CHS family contributes to the Annual Fund, EVERY student at CHS benefits!



Help Us to Stay Open and Healthy

Please be smart about holiday gatherings to reduce the chance of COVID transmission over the break. If anyone in your household is due for COVID vaccination or booster, the holiday break is a great time to check with your family doctor and get your shots completed. Don't forget your annual flu shot if you have not had it already. **A vaccinated school community helps us to keep our doors open!**

CHS Orchestra Winter Concert

The CHS Orchestra is back and ready to add some cheer to your holiday break! Please [follow this link](#) to the CHS Vimeo Channel to enjoy our strings students, from beginner to advanced, sharing the gift of music. Thank you to our new strings teacher, Ms. Czyz, for beginning the work to rebuild the strings programs at CHS and School #45 this fall and engaging our students with the joy of music once again!

We continue to search for a temporary band teacher. If you know anyone with background in wind and percussion instruments who might like to teach our students, please encourage them to contact BPS Music Director, James Schwanz, at jschwanz@buffaloschools.org as soon as possible.

Stay Connected Centaurs!

CHS Students are encouraged to check their 'Recent Activity Feed' in Schoology during the holiday recess for updates and news from the school.

Student Docents Needed for Anne Frank Exhibit and Performance Coming to CHS

The BPS CLRI Office is providing an exciting learning opportunity for nine CHS students in grades 9-

11! In January, CHS will host a traveling exhibit from the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. The exhibit will stay in our school for two weeks allowing for all students to receive a tour. The exhibit is combined with a peer education program. Three students will be selected from ninth, tenth and eleventh grade to receive specialized training as docents from experts travelling to Buffalo from the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. Students will receive two full days of training on January 13 and 14.

Once students are trained, they will be able to provide guided tours for the other students during the two weeks that the exhibit spends at our school. Our students will be trained alongside students from other public and private schools in our city. Students will also help to prepare our school for a special theatrical performance about the writings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Anne Frank that will be presented by an acting troupe travelling to Buffalo from the University of North Carolina. Please follow [this link](#) to a short video that gives a sense of the program.

If you are interested in being trained as a docent for the Anne Frank: Let Me Be Myself Exhibit, please [fill out the form at this link](#) completely. **THE CLRI Office requires that students MUST be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and able to provide documentation to be considered for this opportunity.**

Attention Class of '22 Families and Business Owners

This is your last CHANCE to create and purchase an Ad for your graduating senior or business to be printed in the 2022 Yearbook. The deadline of 1/31 is fast approaching and space is extremely limited. Go to www.jostensadservice.com today and create your Senior Yearbook Ad. Don't wait!

Attention All Students: Vote for the 'Keeping the Dream Alive' Staff Award

All CHS students are asked to complete a quick survey [at this link](#) to indicate the CHS staff member that you think should receive the Keeping the Dream Alive staff award this year. This award will be presented at the 42nd Annual 'Keeping the Dream Alive Assembly' on January 14. Your choice should represent an adult who stands for the same ideas that Martin Luther King Jr. fought so hard for; someone who embraces unity and demonstrates acceptance and inclusion of the diversity for all our City Honors students! This can be any adult who works on the Hilltop.

BPS Calendar Changes

CHS families are asked to mark their calendars with the following changes to the school calendar that have been announced by the superintendent of schools:

Grade 9-12 Students: Due to the cancellation of January Regents exams, the Buffalo Public Schools have changed January 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th to regular school days for high school students. Students are expected to attend all days of the school. These school days and work completed during this time are a part of the 2nd quarter.

Grade 5-8 Students: Jan 20 and March 1 will be early release days for grade 5-8 students only. Students at these grades levels will end their school day at 11:30. High school students will have a full day of school on these days.

Congrats Syvonne Forgette '22

The Girl Scouts of the United States of America awarded Girl Scout Syvonne Forgette of City Honors,

its inaugural Girl Scout Gold Award Scholarship in the amount of \$2,060. Syvonne was selected because her Gold Award project demonstrated extraordinary leadership to drive lasting change in her community and beyond. Syvonne is from Troop 30360 and has been a member of Girl Scouts for 10 years. The Gold Award project is the culmination of all the work a girl puts into "going for the Gold." The Girl Scout Gold Award, the most prestigious award in the world for girls, acknowledges the power behind each recipient's dedication to not only empowering and bettering herself, but also to making the world a better place for others.

Reminders for Our Families During This Time of COVID

Keep Our CHS Students and Staff in School- Keep Our Families Safe! 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](#)