

# Hilltop Notes

for the CHS Community  
1.27.25



**Congratulations to our Buffalo Bills on an exciting and successful season. CHS is proud of our city and team!**

## Upcoming Calendar Reminders

1/27	Remote Day of Instruction for students in grades 9-12
1/29	Lunar New Year Holiday- NO SCHOOL
2/4	Grade 10 Family IB Diploma Program Informational Meeting (see details below)
2/5 3:30pm	Faculty Meeting (some activities may be cancelled or postponed)
2/5 5:30pm	PTSCO Meeting (CHS LGI Room)
2/6 3:30pm	Section VI Class C Boys Swim Championships (CHS Natatorium)
2/12 5:30pm	Grade 11 Family College Planning Kick-Off Night
2/17-2/21	Midwinter break: NO SCHOOL
2/27 3:35pm	Site Based Management Team Meeting (Hilltop Museum at CHS)

*Don't miss a moment of exciting Centaur Athletics action! All CHS sports team schedules can be found at [ArbiterSports](#). You can also load the ArbiterSports app to your phone!*

## Attn: Grade 10 Families

Mrs. Banas, our IB Diploma Program Coordinator, visited sophomores in their AP Language classes on Tuesday, January 28th (Ms. Ziolkowski's class) and Friday, January 31st (Mr. Belge's classes) to share information about the IB Diploma Program and help students understand their Diploma Program pathway choices for junior and senior year.

All current grade 10 students must decide this February whether they want to be full IB DP candidates or IB DP course candidates for their last two years of high school.

**Mrs. Banas will be holding an informational meeting for grade 10 parents about the IB Diploma Program in the Large Group Instruction room (room 117) on Tuesday, February 4th at 5:30 pm.**

IB DP applications must be submitted in the IB office by Friday, February 14th.

We encourage you to explore additional information about our IB Diploma Program [on our website](#). Please do not hesitate to email Mrs. Banas at [ebanas@buffaloschools.org](mailto:ebanas@buffaloschools.org), if you have any questions.



**Attention Grade 5-8 Swimmers!**



## JOIN THE CITY HONORS MODIFIED SWIM TEAM

FOR ALL 5TH, 6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH GRADE  
STUDENTS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN  
COMPETITIVE SWIMMING

**START DAY:** MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH, 2025

**PRACTICES WILL BE HELD MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND  
THURSDAYS FROM 3:30-4:45PM AT CITY HONORS POOL.**

A BRIEF INFORMATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON ZOOM AT  
6PM ON FEB. 3. PLEASE SCAN RIGHT QR CODE FOR ZOOM LINK.

**SIGN UP PROCESS:** TO REGISTER FOR THE  
TEAM PLEASE SCAN AND COMPLETE THE LEFT  
QR CODE TO BE DIRECTED TO THE **\*\*FINAL  
FORMS\*\*** REQUIRED REGISTRATION

**UP-TO-DATE PHYSICALS ARE REQUIRED FOR GRADES 7-8.**



**FINAL FORMS QR CODE**



**ZOOM LINK QR CODE**

MEETING ID: 815 6235 5762  
PASSCODE: QPUHP9

CONTACT COACH PHINNEY  
ESPINNEY@BUFFALOSCHOOLS.ORG WITH  
ANY QUESTIONS!



## School Counseling Office Update

-Please welcome Mr. Myers who will be filling in for Mrs. Wright as a substitute counselor until she returns from maternity leave (congratulations to Mrs. Wright and her husband!). Mr. Myers is working with students last names A-G and can be reached at aemyers@buffaloschools.org.

- Quarter two grades closed on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be uploading mid-year grades to Seniors' college applications after February 6<sup>th</sup>.

-The school counselors will be pushing into Social Studies classes for students in grades 8 through 11 to complete scheduling for next school year soon. Final schedule forms will need to be signed by both the student and a parent/guardian, and will be due by Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

-Senior Parents: Scholarship applications are rolling in! We ask that you remind your child to check updates in their Schoology feed from the School Counselors. Scholarships are also posted as we receive them to the Scholarships folder in the Schoology group and to the City Honors website. Students can see their counselor if they have questions.

-All financial aid applications (FAFSA, TAP, and Say Yes) are now open! Please be sure to complete these applications as soon as you can. We will have a volunteer through Say Yes coming in the school to help students and families with completing these forms starting next month. Both the FAFSA and TAP **must** be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> to receive money from Say Yes toward tuition.

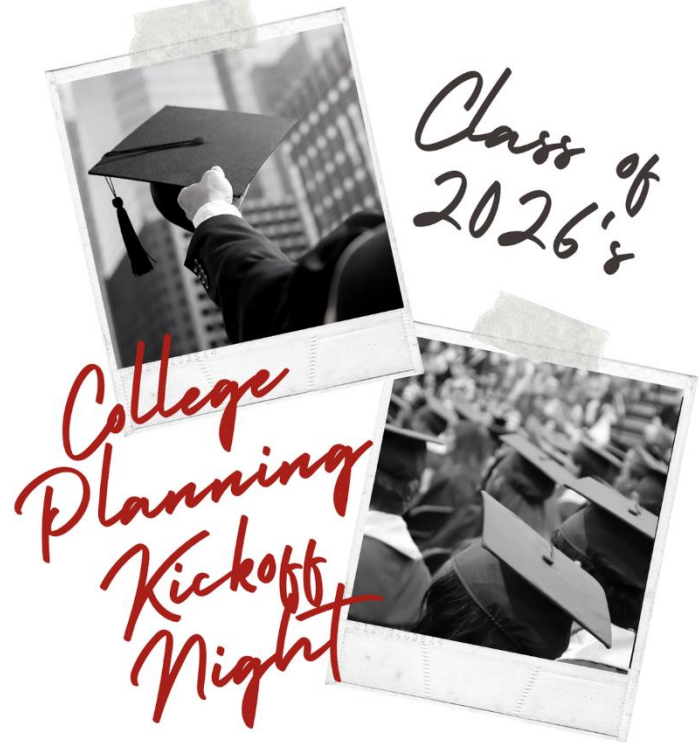
-Junior Parents: You are invited to our College Planning Kickoff Night for the Class of 2026! It will take place on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7pm. Scan the QR code on the flyer above to RSVP.

-The annual NACAC National College Fair will be held on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. It is FREE and open to the public. This is a great opportunity for Junior students and parents to meet with different college representatives! Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

-Juniors will take the SAT School Day on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The format will be the same as the Digital PSAT that students took in October. Reach out to the School Counselors for more if you have



The School  
Counseling  
Office cordially  
invites you to:



2/12/2025  
5:30-7 PM  
CHS Auditorium

Scan the QR  
code to RSVP.



questions. Courier College Prep will be offering a FREE SAT Prep session over the weeks to come at CHS. Please see the flyer below for more information!

-Attention 11th and 12th grade parents: If your child is currently taking one of these courses at CHS, they are eligible for FREE Hilbert College course credits:

- \*Anatomy and Physiology
- \*AP Computer Science Principles
- \*AP US History

All they need to do is to complete their course registration with Hilbert and return the parent permission form to the City Honors Guidance Office. The deadline to register with Hilbert College is Saturday, February 8th, 2025.

All students enrolled in these courses were provided a copy of a parent letter, a Hilbert College Dual Enrollment Program Student/Parent Guide, directions for online registration, and a parent permission form. Please direct any questions you may have to your child's teacher or school counselor.

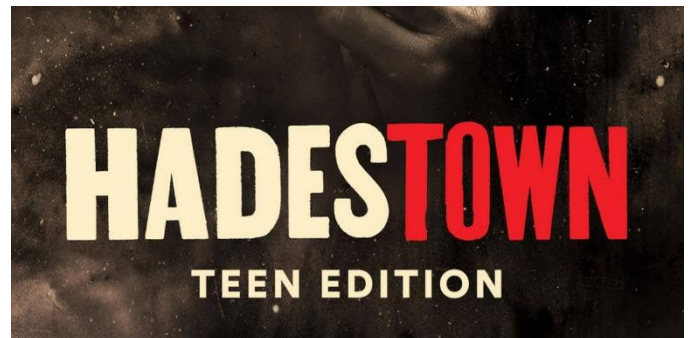
These credits can bolster your child's application to colleges during their senior year AND may prove useful to your child no matter the college they eventually attend after CHS.

Thank you for checking to be sure your child has completed their Hilbert registration!

### **Advertise with the CHS Spring Musical!**

Mark your calendars, because after 5 years, our annual spring musical is coming BACK and better than ever! Mr. Moses, Mrs. Saxon and our incredibly talented cast are currently in rehearsals for *Hadestown the Musical*. *Hadestown the Musical* was the winner of 8 Tony Awards, including Best Musical in 2019 and is a modern retelling of the Greek tragedy of Orpheus and Eurydice set amidst the backdrop of the Great Depression in New Orleans.

As a fundraiser for our spring show, all students in the cast are currently selling patron ads for businesses to be featured in the program. If you would like to advertise your business in our musical program, and support a really good cause in the progress, please see the [form at this link](#), which can be mailed or brought back to the school at the attention of Mr. Moses.



If you're also interested in purchasing one of our limited ad spaces (back cover, inside covers), please email Mr. Moses at [jamoses@buffaloschools.org](mailto:jamoses@buffaloschools.org) to check availability or if you have any questions in general.

**Mark your calendars!** Hadestown runs from April 3-5 in the CHS auditorium at 7PM each night.

We can't wait to see you there!

### **New BPS Lost Laptop Procedures**

The new policy for lost BPS laptops requires families to notify CITT (1515 South Park) of the lost laptop via phone call or email within 7 days of the laptop going missing. Phone: 716-816-7128 Monday-Friday between 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Email: [BPSInventory@buffaloschools.org](mailto:BPSInventory@buffaloschools.org). The email should include the student's 9-digit ID number and state that the student has checked with all of their teachers and done a thorough search for the device at home.

From BPS IT: "Per the agreement that students, parents and guardians enter into when receiving a District device, the recipient of the District device may be held financially responsible if there is damage or loss to the computing device. There is now a financial obligation that must be met when a device is damaged."

Fees must be paid (in CASH) prior to a student being issued a replacement laptop at CITT between 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM at 1515 South Park Ave.

Damaged laptop fees for the first incident is 15% of the device, amounting to **\$105.00**. For second and subsequent damage incidents the fee is 20% of the laptop cost totaling **\$140.00**.

For more information, families should consult the current directions for lost, stolen or damaged devices from CITT [at this link](#).

### Upcoming BPTO Meeting



**BUFFALO PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION**

PRESENTS

## Sticks & Stones: Understanding Implicit Bias & Stereotypes



MANY  
THREADS.  
ONE  
FABRIC

 **February 1, 2025**  
9.00 am - noon on ZOOM!

The free, three-hour workshop strengthens team unity by teaching participants to look at the world from a unique perspective, one that takes into consideration how someone's ethnicity, race, ability and socio-economic background can impact how they experience our society.

**Register At:**  
[bit.ly/BPTOimplicitbias](https://bit.ly/BPTOimplicitbias)



**SCAN  
ME**

**Courier College Prep's  
Winter enrichment opportunities:**

**Tuesdays during lunch periods-  
CLEP, Coursera, EdX discussions  
SAT & ACT Prep**

**Student Sign-up sheets in Counseling Office**

**After school on Thursdays  
in the Museum Room for SAT / ACT Prep.  
1/30 & 2/6 - ACT Review for 2/8 exam  
Digital SAT prep classes start after winter break  
and will run until the 4/2 School Day test.**

**Students should sign-up in the  
Counseling Office if they plan to attend these  
workshops.**

**Water Testing Results**

The most recent water testing results for our school building can be found [at this link](#) on our school website. Please direct any questions about these results to:

Yvette Gordon, Director of Safety and Health Buffalo Public Schools  
[ygordon@buffaloschools.org](mailto:ygordon@buffaloschools.org)

### **UB Emerging Technologies Summer Camp\***

Attention Grade 8-11 Students: The University at Buffalo is starting a new summer program that aims to tap into diverse student populations in the WNY region and develop their skills in emerging technologies of AI, cybersecurity, drone technology, and the Internet of Things. This will be a 5-week program that will run 5 days a week during July-August of every year starting from 2025. **Selected students will receive a stipend, meals, and travel support.** Students will closely work with expert UB faculties and Industry experts to develop their projects. To further support interested students, the team of expert mentors from academia and industries will provide career guidance post-high school as well as assist them in presenting their work at national/international science fairs and top technical conferences.



More information about the program and application information can be found [at this link](#). Questions?

Sreyasee das Bhattacharjee, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Research & Teaching  
Department of Computer Science & Eng.  
Ph # (716)-645-4769  
[sreyasee@buffalo.edu](mailto:sreyasee@buffalo.edu)

### **NFJC Youth Retreat Applications Now Open!\***

The annual NFJC of WNY *Critical Thinkers, Readers, and Leaders High School Youth Retreat* is coming up this April 4th-6th, 2025. This year's theme is "Public Speakers, Innovators, and Influencers." The retreat will focus on empowering high school students with essential public speaking skills while fostering an environment of critical thinking, leadership, and teamwork. This **FREE**, all-inclusive event will take place at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, NY (meals, lodging and transportation are included).

#### **Retreat Highlights:**

##### **- Critical Thinking**

**Exploration:** Participants will be introduced to critical thinking as a skill that can be learned, developed, and taught. Students will be exposed to various critical thinking models and tools to enhance their analytical abilities.

**- Literary Art Project:** The conference will culminate in a literary art project, where students will demonstrate their critical thinking skills through poems, performances, art pieces, and more.

**- Education and Implementation:** Students have the ability during the retreat to become educated on many important and valuable topics and have exciting opportunities to implement what they have learned in real life.



At NFJC of WNY, we believe that events like these play a crucial role in shaping the minds of our youth and preparing them for the challenges ahead. You can use this link: <https://forms.gle/EhKspP4JYvz1Mt5u9> to nominate a student, more than one from a school will be considered. An informational flyer can also be found at the bottom of this email so please share within your students and colleagues. (Only 50 students will be accepted).

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (716) 853-9596 or [programs@nfjcwny.org](mailto:programs@nfjcwny.org). We look forward to your support in making the *Critical Thinkers, Readers, and Leaders High School Retreat* a memorable and transformative experience for the students of Western New York.

### **Save the Date for Party on the Wharf!**

The City Honors Foundation will host our annual signature school fundraiser at the Tewksbury Lodge the evening of **Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>**. This adults-only fundraiser includes food and beverage, auction items, entertainment, and an opportunity to mingle with parents, alumni and community members. All proceeds support City Honors students! More details to come. Questions? Want to join the planning committee? Contact Nicole Shepherd at [nms23buffalo@gmail.com](mailto:nms23buffalo@gmail.com)



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*\* Please Note: Announcements in this newsletter marked with \* mean the activity is not organized by City Honors School or the Buffalo Public Schools. The school and school district neither endorse nor sponsor the organization or activity represented in this material. The distribution of this material is provided as a community service.*

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### **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!

**Free COVID Testing:** The ECDOH offers free, walk in rapid ID Now and PCR testing at 608 William St Buffalo, NY from 9AM-3PM and at 3359 Broadway Cheektowaga, NY at 8AM-PM M-F. [Click on this link](#) for more information on these sites.

### **When You Need A Helping Hand**

**Tutoring and Test Prep Help:** The CHS School Counselors have compiled a detailed listing of both free and for-hire academic and test prep tutoring services [at this link](#). Do you know of another valuable tutoring resource in our community? Email Mrs. Wright at [acwilliams@buffaloschools.org](mailto:acwilliams@buffaloschools.org) and we'll add it to our list.

**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.

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## ***Connect with CHS!***

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

[CHS Website](#)

[CHS on Facebook](#)

[CHS on Threads](#)

[CHS on Instagram](#)

[CHS Sports Schedules](#)

[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](#)*