



Hilltop Notes

for the CHS Community

1.28.24

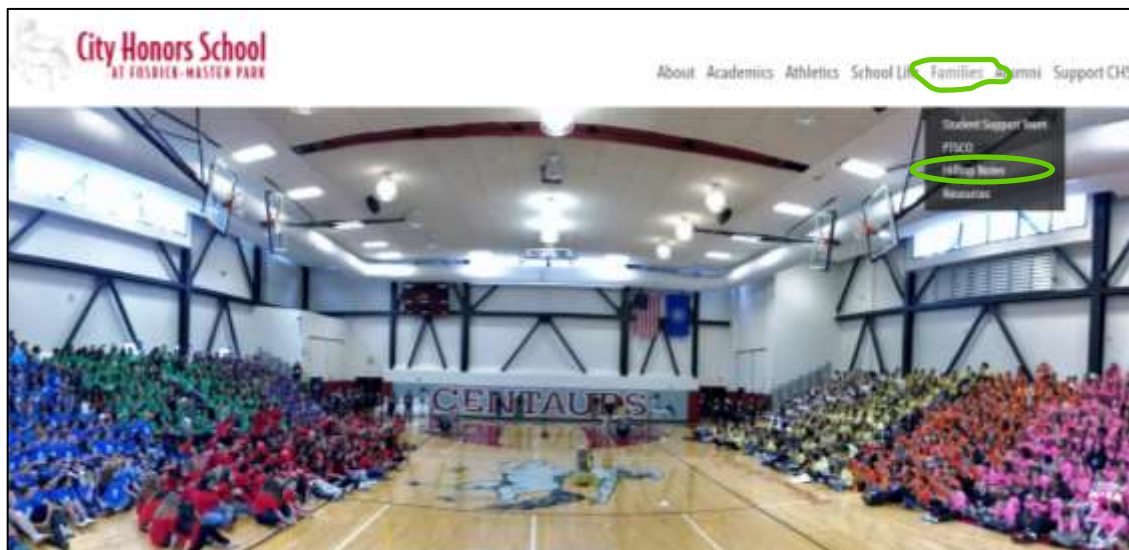


CHS Calendar Reminders

1/29	Quarter 3 Begins for all students
2/6 5:30pm	Grade 10 Family Meeting Regarding IB Diploma Program
2/6 3:30pm	CHS Wellness Team Meeting
2/12 5:30pm	Grade 11 Family College Planning Kick-Off
2/7 5:30pm	PTSCO General Meeting (Remote) More information at www.chsptsco.org
2/16	Course registration forms due to School Counseling Office for grade 8-11 students
2/19-2/23	Mid-Winter Recess- No School
3/26 8:30am	"On School-Time" SAT for all Grade 11 students

Hilltop Notes Now Even Easier to Find

Miss an issue of *The Hilltop Notes*? We've made the archive even easier to find at cityhonors.org by giving the newsletter its own page! Just visit the "Family" drop-down menu and you'll see *The Hilltop Notes* page as the third option down.



High School Musical Auditions Rescheduled

Attention all students interested in auditioning for the CHS high school musical: Auditions have been moved to Wednesday, January 31 and call-backs will be held Thursday, February 1. Please sign-up outside Mrs. Saxon's room (114) if you have not already. Students should see Mrs. Saxon or Mr.

Moses for any questions. This year's musical will be *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*.

Curtis "Fitz" Williams '80 to Visit the Hilltop on Monday!

On Monday, January 29th, selected students will have the opportunity to perform for and learn from CHS Alum, Mr. Curtis "Fitz" Williams, CHS Class of 1980. Mr. Williams is a member of the iconic R & B band, "Kool And The Gang" as well as a writer and producer of music. In recognition of his lifelong commitment to musical excellence, "Fitz" was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame this weekend at the sold-out performance of Kool And The Gang at the Seneca Niagara Casino Events Center.

Students in Ms. Czyz and Mr. Talford's 5th grade classes will report to the auditorium period 7, along with the following groups: CHS Soul Voices, CHS High School Orchestra, and the CHS Jazz Band. They will perform for Mr. Williams and receive real-time feedback from a professional touring musician!

Starting period 8, the session will relocate to Mrs. Saxon's room where interested students will engage in a Q & A session. All student performers should see Mrs. Saxon to receive a pass.

Thank You to Our Bills 50/50 volunteers!

Thank you to the following Grade 8 parents and their friends who volunteered to sell 50/50 tickets at the Bills game last weekend in order to fundraise for our 8th grade class. This hearty and spirited crew raised **\$1566 in one day** for our 8th Grade Class! These funds will be used toward class activities and our 8th grade trip to Pathfinder Island. Taylor Swift was so impressed when she saw them in action that she invited the group to her vacation mansion overlooking the ocean in Rhode Island this summer. The lesson here?... volunteering for CHS brings good karma! Thank you to: Jill Hohl, Rayna Panek, Gina Lazar, Brian Nicpon, Liz Kent and Rosaliand Mikolajek!

Next PTSCO Meeting

Dear CHS Families and Staff,

PTSCO will meet on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 5:30 pm virtually at this link: <https://meet.google.com/usa-urwd-xnn>. PTSCO will be discussing plans for upcoming social events and other issues at City Honors School. To add items to the agenda, please send them Elizabeth Masarik emasarik@brockport.edu by Feb. 4th. For more information about PTSCO, upcoming events, and meeting agendas please go to chsptsco.org.

Thank you!

PTSCO

Buffalo Summer Healthcare Exploration Program Deadline Approaching*

All CHS students in grades 9-12 were recently provided a brochure for the BHE Summer Program at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Institute. The Buffalo Healthcare Exploration (BHE) program at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center through the ATLAS Program offers an exceptional opportunity for high school students to delve into the exciting world of healthcare. Through hands-on experiences and mentorship, BHE equips young minds with valuable insights into various medical disciplines, fostering their passion and interest in the healthcare field. The BHE summer program will be held **July 8-19** this year.

Participating in BHE opens the doors to a unique and immersive learning experience, allowing students to engage in activities related to:

- medical research
- robotic surgery
- cutting-edge healthcare technologies.

Aspiring healthcare professionals can benefit greatly from the program's comprehensive curriculum and guidance from skilled mentors.

Students in grades 9-11 can apply for the exploration program and students currently in grade 12 can apply to be teaching assistants. Questions? Email: nancy.preskop@roswellpark.org

CHS Varsity Jackets

CHS Varsity jackets are super warm and super good looking! Families interested in CHS Varsity Jackets should complete the order form [at this link](#) and return it to Stuart Sports. You can see what the jackets look like at this link as well. Stuart Sports carries a limited stock of sizes in store. Turnaround time 4-6 weeks if the item is in stock. Students can receive a varsity letter from Chiron's Corner bookstore for their jacket if they have not already been presented an actual letter by their coach or activity director. Do we believe in varsity letters for things like Speech & Debate, Music ensembles, Model UN etc at CHS? You bet we do!

Students are responsible for getting their varsity letter to Stuart Sports and picking up the jacket from Stuart Sports. Families will deal directly with Stuart Sports in ordering jackets but Stuart has all of the specifications for how our jackets and embroidery should look.

From the CHS School Counseling Office

Families at all Grades: Please be advised that Quarter 2 grades closed on Friday, January 26th. Quarter 3 begins January 29.

Grade 8-11 Families: The school counselors will be pushing into Social Studies classes for students in grades 8 through 11 to complete scheduling for next school year starting this week. Final schedule forms should be signed by the student and a parent, and will be due by Friday, February 16th.

Grade 10-12 Families: The National Association for College Admission Counseling will be holding a College Fair on Wednesday, March 20th, that is free and open to the public at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center from 6:00pm to 8:30 pm. This is a great opportunity for students and parents in grades 10-12 to meet with different college representatives! Families and students interested to attend should [click here](#) for more information.

The CHS school counselors will be taking about 30 juniors to a special morning session of this College Fair. As space is limited, any interested juniors should sign up starting on Monday (1/29) in the School Counseling Office and return a completed permission slip.

Grade 11 Families:

-Our "On school-time" SAT testing date for all Grade 11 students has been announced by the district as Tuesday, March 26th. All grade 11 families should mark their calendars. The format will be the same as the Digital PSAT that students took in October. More information about registration and

testing day procedures will be sent to grade 11 families by our school counseling department as the date approaches. Reach out to the School Counselors for more if you have questions.

-A reminder that Courier College Prep is holding a FREE SAT prep course every Thursday after school in the LGI Room. All grade 11 students are welcome to join as soon as their schedule allows. This course will meet every Thursday until the "on school time" SAT at CHS on March 26. Questions? Contact Brian Eldridge at couriercollegeprep@gmail.com

-Grade 11 Families are invited to our College Planning Kickoff Night for the Class of 2025! It will take place on Monday, February 12th from 5:30-7pm. Please refer to the flyer below and RSVP by Sunday, February 11th.



The School Counseling Office cordially invites you to:

Class of 2025's

College Planning Kickoff Night

2/12/2024
5:30-7 PM
CHS Auditorium

Scan the QR code to RSVP by 2/11/2024.



Grade 12 Families:

-We will be uploading mid-year grades for Senior college applications during the week of February 5th.

-Scholarship applications are rolling in! We ask that you remind your student(s) to check updates in their Schoology feed from the School Counselors! The School Counselors are continuing to update the Senior Schoology Group with many great scholarship opportunities every week. Scholarships are

also posted to the City Honors website, and we keep card copies in our scholarship drawer. Students should 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 from UB to help with completing these forms in the coming weeks. Both the FAFSA and TAP must be completed by June 30th to receive money from Say Yes toward tuition.

CHS Speech and Debate Team Update

Upstate New York's Speech and Debate powerhouse continued to reach new heights in November and December. Here is a sampling of the accomplishments of our students. Thank you to Mr. Belge and all of our parent volunteers for dedicating their time to this important experience for our students! Updates for January coming in the next issue of *The Hilltop Notes*.



11.18.23: CHS Tournament

City Honors competed against 5 other schools in their only home tournament of the season, placing 1st overall in Team Sweepstakes. 23 Centaurs earned medals!

Earning a 3rd place medal was Patrick DeCarolis in Original Oratory, Tim Tidd in Oral Interpretation, Tasnuva Jahan in Novice Lincoln Douglas Debate, Mia Rogalski & Cate Mehaffy in Novice Public Forum Debate, Genevieve Harris in Intermediate Lincoln Douglas, Simon Fisher & Tristan Tortora in Intermediate Public Forum, Naila Rahman in Varsity Lincoln Douglas, and Nathan Lloyd & Aidan Becker in Varsity Public Forum.

Taking home silver medals were Damian Lanich in Declamation, Joey Bensch in Dramatic Interpretation, Ruby Wilson in NLD, Garret Overhoff & Jackson Jordan in NPF, Zaima Islam in ILD, Ahmed Nazir & Hasan Jamil in IPF, Salimata Sylla in VLD and Charlotte Colder & Amber Fleahman in VPF.

Gold medals were awarded to 1st place finishers Evelyn Patrone in Dec, Dani Peffer in Oral Interpretation, Parbon Kundu in NLD, Nolan Clough & Hayley Shenk in NPF, Rayhona Nasimjonova in ILD, Oscar Calipari & Sasha Westermann in IPF, and Modoka Aldstadt & Tiahnee Porter in VPF.

Qualification points to gain entry into the New York State Speech and Debate tournament were earned by Evelyn Patrone, Dani Peffer, Joey Bensch, Damian Lanich, Parbon Kundu, Rayhona Nasimjonova, Madoka Aldstadt, Tiahnee Porter, Oscar Calipari, Sascha Westermann, Garret Overhoff, Jackson Jordan, Nolan Clough and Hayley Shenk!

Congrats on a truly dominating performance!

12.9.23: Virtual Tournament hosted by Albany region

City Honors competed against 21 schools and over a 150 students, but still earned a 1st place victory in Teams Sweepstakes!

Bronze medals were won by Jack Redwine in NLD, Christian Bagby & Luke Biniszkiwicz in NPF, Zaima Islam in ILD, Naila Rahman in VLD, and Trinity Barnes & Tydeja Barnes in VPF.

Silver medals were earned by Evelyn Patrone in Dec, Annika Wilewicz in Dramatic Interpretation, Rayhona Nasimjonova in ILD, Ahmed Nazir & Hasan Jamil in IPF, Michael DeLePlante in NLD, Audrey Zorechak & Zoey Hlubin in NPF, Mia Rogalski & Cate Mehaffy in NPF, Patrick DeCarolis in Original Oratory, and Madoka Aldstadt & Tiahnee Porter in VPF.

Finally, 1st place finishers included Ylva-li Slowe in Dec, Simon Fisher & Tristan Tortora in IPF, Maimuna Mim & Sanjida Kalam in NPF, and Salimata Sylla in VLD.

Earning qualification points for the State tournament were Evelyn Patrone, Ylva-li Slowe, Annika Wilewicz, Simon Fisher, Tristan Tortora, Ahmed Nazir, Hasan Jamil, Michael DeLePlante, Audrey Zorechak, Zoey Hlubin, Maimuna Mim, Sanjida Kalam, Patrick DeCarolis, and Salimata Sylla.

12/16: Webster-Thomas Tournament

Competing against 6 schools from New York and Pennsylvania, City Honors placed 1st in Teams Sweepstakes in a field where more than 60 students competed!

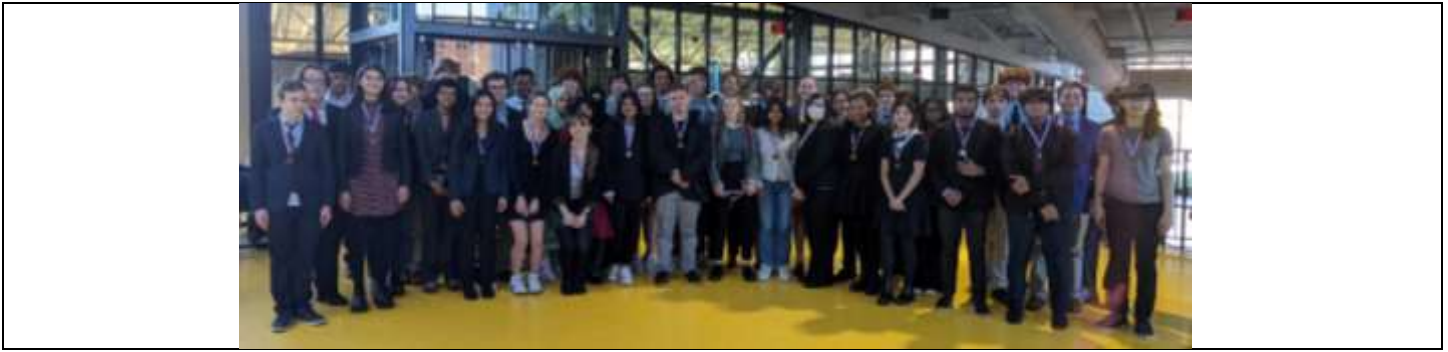
Bronze medals were won by Ylva-li Slowe in Dec, Jack Redwine in NLD, Nora Fuller & Mia Yacobucci in NPF, and Genevieve Harris in ILD.

Placing 2nd in their divisions were Damien Lanich in Dec, Simon Fisher & Tristan Tortora in IPF, Ruby Wilson in NLD, Mahjabin Zahra & Evelyn Pritchard in NPF, and Rayhona Nasimjonova in ILD.

Finally, earning a gold medal, were students Ahmed Nazir & Hasan Jamil in IPF, Eireann Kennedy in NLD, Mia Rogalski & Cate Mehaffy in NPF and Charlotte Colder & Amber Fleahman in VPF.

The team now has several students already qualified for the New York State Forensic League Championship in April at Hofstra University, including Joey Bensch, Dani Peffer, Evelyn Patrone, Charlotte Colder, Amber Fleahman, Oscar Cailpari, Sascha Westermann, Ahmed Nazir, Hasan Jamil, Mia Rogalski, Cate Mehaffy, Garrett Overhoff, Jackson Jordan, Nolan Clough, and Hayley Shenk!





Attn: Current Grade 11 Students*

Mercy University Business Honors Program is excited to share details about our upcoming week-long Summer Leadership Academy program tailored for Rising Seniors (currently Juniors).

Key Highlights of the Program:

- Live on-campus (Manhattan and Dobbs Ferry Campuses) gaining first-hand experience of College life
- Explore potential careers in business
- Visit Fortune 500 Companies
- Engage with esteemed faculty in Entrepreneurship, Finance, Marketing, Accounting and more

Participants have the flexibility to choose from three one-week sessions:

June 23 - June 29

July 7 - July 13

July 21 - July 27

The all-inclusive fee for the entire week, covering tuition, room and board, and activities, has been subsidized to a nominal \$595.

For more detailed information about the program, including registration, please visit our website [at this link](#).

Now is the Time to Purchase an Ad in the CHS Yearbook

Want to honor your graduating senior? Interested in getting some additional visibility for your business? Please consider purchasing an advertisement in this year's CHS Yearbook. Adverts and yearbooks can be purchased [at this link](#). Contact Mr. Hecker at ETHecker@buffaloschools.org for any questions.

** 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.*

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 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.

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](#)

[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](#)