



Hilltop Notes
for the CHS Community
1.2.23



Welcome Back Students!

On Tuesday, January 3 classes will resume for all students at CHS. While we are excited to have our students back, we are saddened by the additional loss of precious life and trauma our city has endured during the recent blizzard. Hopefully this newsletter finds your family well and in good spirits. We will start the day on Tuesday with a moment of reflection on the lives that have been lost during the storm and a reminder to all students how to connect with help at CHS if they ever find themselves in crisis. Despite an incredibly difficult 2022 for our city, the energy and dedication of our students keeps us optimistic for the future.

Special thanks to CHS Chief Engineer, Mr. Cruz-Rodriguez, and custodian, Mr. Chesson, who slept in our school building for two nights during the storm to keep the building heated and all systems running properly. Despite the fact that the building did suffer some damage to our roof, soffits, parapets, gym floor and some other miscellaneous damages, the damage would have been far worse if it were not for the efforts of these gentleman and the rest of our facility care team at CHS. We are indebted to them for the commitment they have to this campus. The district's Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Hills, has been in communication with Dr. Kresse and provided assurances that the district is moving quickly to make short and long repairs to our building utilizing State emergency funds.

Families should remember that traffic around the city is always delayed as we restart after a school holiday. Please plan to get an early start to the day in order to reduce the stress of rushing to the bus or school.

CHS Annual Fund- Every Gift Matters!*

Since 1996, the CHS Annual Fund Drive has helped to reduce the need for our students and teachers to fundraise so they can focus on what is most important: the joy of teaching, learning and enrichment! The Annual Fund also helps to ensure that EVERY student has what they need to enjoy the best possible CHS experience.

The City Honors/Fosdick-Masten Park Foundation asks all members of our school community to consider a contribution to the Annual Fund. When we all participate, we make a real difference for our students.

Please use [this link](#) to:

- Make a quick and easy online donation.
- Print out a donation form if you prefer to mail a check.
- Read the 2022-23 Annual Fund letter.
- Learn more about how the CHS Annual Fund and CHS Fosdick-Masten Park Foundation help our students.

Thank you for supporting the CHS Annual Fund Drive and our students!

BPTO Schedule Survey*

The Buffalo Parent Teacher Organization (BPTO) would love to get your opinion on the current "bell time" discussion being held by the school district as our school is among the schools that would be affected. Please take a moment to respond to their short survey [at this link](#). Thank you!

Grade 7/8 Snowflake Semi-Formal*

A poster for a Snowflake Semi-Formal Dance event. The background is a light blue and white winter scene with snow-covered evergreen trees and a misty landscape. The text is in various shades of blue and red. At the top, it says "CITY HONORS PTSCO & THE CLASS OF 2027 PRESENT". The main title is "Snowflake SEMI-FORMAL Dance". Below that, it lists "DATE CHANGE" to "FRIDAY JANUARY 27, 2023 6 PM TO 9PM" and "VENUE CHANGE" to "BUFFALO IRISH CENTER 245 ABBOTT RD, BUFFALO, NY 14220". It also states "7th & 8th GRADE ONLY PERMISSION SLIPS REQUIRED", "Tickets available at the door \$13/person", "PHOTOBOOTH- PIZZA & SODA INCLUDED", and "CHAPERONES NEEDED". At the bottom, it provides contact information: "Contact: Cristina Glover at (716) 253-8693 or cgarcia4268@gmail.com".

CITY HONORS PTSCO & THE CLASS OF 2027
PRESENT

Snowflake SEMI-FORMAL Dance

DATE CHANGE
FRIDAY
JANUARY 27, 2023
6 PM TO 9PM

VENUE CHANGE
BUFFALO IRISH CENTER
245 ABBOTT RD, BUFFALO, NY 14220

7th & 8th GRADE ONLY
PERMISSION SLIPS REQUIRED

Tickets available at the door \$13/person
PHOTOBOOTH- PIZZA & SODA INCLUDED

CHAPERONES NEEDED

Contact: Cristina Glover at (716) 253-8693
or cgarcia4268@gmail.com

The permission slip for this event can be found [at this link](#).

Great Work CHS Student Volunteers!

On Saturday afternoon, December 10th, City Honors Student Council officers Kathleen Mahoney, Maddie Harris, Rayhona Nasimjonova, Darnell Fields, Lily Roberts, Carleena Williams, Sadie Dubick, Phoebe Lawton, Eireann Kennedy, Luca Steiner and Jasmi Ruponti volunteered to support the FruitBelt Neighborhood Coalition's "Christmas in the City 2022" event at the Rev. Dr. Bennett W. Sr. Family Life Center. Our students helped with event set up and breakdown, passed out cookies and toys, assisted at the craft table, assisted at the petting zoo area that included an alpaca and a pony, and helped cue the long line for Santa Clause.

The CHS Student Council has an ongoing liaison committee with the FruitBelt Coalition, so if you are a student in grades 8-12 and would like to find out about future volunteer opportunities, stop by room 116 to inquire.

Wellness Days on the Hilltop

The City Honors Student Support Team launched a new cycle of Wellness Days for our students again in December. Back by popular demand, monthly Wellness Days provide students with the opportunity to practice self-care by engaging in independent social emotional learning by taking time out of their normal class schedule. Based on student feedback, each month will include reflective exercises centered around a theme. Wellness Days in December centered on our theme of Gratitude. Learn more about the CHS Support Team [at this link](#).

CHS Speech and Debate Team Update

Your City Honors Speech and Debate team hosted a virtual tournament during on 11.19.22, despite the wintry conditions in the area, and earned a PERFECT score for the first time ever; easily placing 1st in team awards while competing against 6 other schools.

In JV Lincoln Douglas Debate, Amber Fleahman placed 2nd, while Christian Bagby earned 3rd place. In JV Public Forum Debate, the team of Ahmed Nazir & Sahil Ahmed won the silver medal, while Sascha Westermann and Oscar Calipari took 3rd place.

In the category of Varsity Lincoln Douglas, it was a clean sweep for CHS with senior captain Ciah Courtney, Salimata Sylla and Max Riley Pasciak placed 1, 2, 3! With the 2nd place finish, Salimata also became fully qualified for the State Tournament in April. In Varsity Public Forum Debate, CHS swept the podium again with the teams of Amelia and Charlotte Colder, Julia Eagan and Zach Biniszkiewicz, and Liam Cobb and Jake Baldwin earning gold, silver and bronze, respectively.

In the speech categories, senior captain Liam Rio, Faith Floyd, and Sophia Bensch placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in Dramatic Interpretation. In the category of Varsity Oral Interpretation, senior captain Phoebe Lawton placed 1st overall and qualified for the State Tournament, while Lauren Foster placed 2nd and Dani Pepper took 3rd. Finally, in Original Oratory, Annika Wilewicz placed 1st overall and earned an important half qual point!

Congratulations on a tremendous team victory!

On December 10, 2022 the City Honors Speech and Debate team participated in its largest local tournament this year, competing against 10 schools with over 50 student competitors, and placed 1st in Team Sweepstakes! 16 of our 20 students who competed walked away with a medal!

In the Speech category of Dramatic Interpretation, Sophia Bensch placed 1st, while Tim Tidd took home the silver medal in his first tournament of the year. Annika Wilewicz continued her hot streak, placing 1st in Original Oratory and qualifying for April's State Tournament.

In Novice Lincoln Douglas, Amber Fleahman finished 1st, and thus qualifying for the State Tournament, while Genevieve Harris took home the silver medal. In the category of Intermediate Lincoln Douglas Debate, Akoul Yak placed 2nd and Zaima Islam finished in 3rd place. Finally, in Varsity LD, senior captain qualified for the State Tournament taking 1st place, while Max Riley Pasciak took home the bronze medal.

It was another clean sweep for CHS in Novice Public Forum Debate as Fahim Rahman and Hasan Jamil earned 1st place, Sahil Ahmed and Ahmed Nazir finished 2nd, while Oscar Calipari and Sascha Westermann brought home the bronze medal. In IPFD, Tiahnee Porter and Madoka Aldstadt finished in 2nd place and Nathan Lloyd and Aidan Becker placed 3rd. Finally, in VPF, Zach Biniszkiewicz and Julia Eagan took home the silver medal, while Liam Cobb and Jake Baldwin finished 3rd in the category.

The team now has 5 students completely qualified for the state tournament, with another 11 only needing one more top place finish to qualify! Congrats to another dominating team win!

Anyang Yak '22 Featured in Special Story on Channel 2

Congratulations to Anyang Yak '22 who was recently featured in this Channel 2 Story by Claudine Ewing. Anyang is an IB Diploma Program graduate, CHS Science Research Program graduate, environmental activist, all around great person and oh yes, a budding international super model! After spending the past year focused on her modeling career, Anyang will begin studies in the Barnard College Honors program this fall. Enjoy the full story [at this link](#).

UB STEP Program*

UB STEP has returned to South's Campus and is accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year. STEP has served students in the City of Buffalo, and the surrounding area for 35 years. Our program is dedicated to increasing the number of historically underrepresented or economically disadvantaged middle and high school students prepared to enter college and improve their participation rate in mathematics, science, technology, health-related fields and the licensed professions. This year, our 7th – 12th grade STEP students who actively participate will:

- Enjoy a S.T.R.E.A.M. Program (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art/Architecture, Mathematics)
- Engage in hands-on mathematics, science, engineering, and robotics projects
- Participate in Career Awareness Workshops, College Tours and Field Trips
- Earn credit hours for local Community Service Projects
- Compete for stipends and scholarships
- Receive Free Metro Passes with unlimited service on evenings and weekends

The UB STEP Flyer and application for the 2022-2023 school year that further describes our program can be found [at this link](#). Our spring session begins on Monday, February 6, 2023, from the hours of 3:00 PM – 5:30PM, Monday through Friday, and Saturday, March 10, April 14, and May 19, 2023, from 9:00AM – 1:00PM in Hayes Hall, Annex A.

BPS is Hiring Clerical Employees- Please Spread the Word!



**WE WANT YOU
ON OUR SCHOOL CLERICAL TEAM
TO HELP MOVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL!!**

**WE'RE
HIRING!!**

- School Clerk
- School Typist
- Provisional and Temporary positions



**Room for
Advancement
Opportunities**

Typist Qualifications :

Starting Pay : \$37,632

- High School Diploma or GED/HS Equivalent
- **Course in Keyboarding (see contact for more information regarding course)**

Clerk Qualifications :

Starting Pay : \$42,011

- **High School Diploma or GED/HS Equivalent**
- **Course in Keyboarding (see contact for more information regarding course)**
- **Three years of full-time clerical experience**

For a List of Job Openings:

<http://buffaloschools.applicantstack.com/x/openings>

Contact :

Sydney Neasman, Supervising School Clerk

716-816-3791 or 716-698-5065

sneasman@buffaloschools.org

Nancy Oakley, Supervising School Clerk

716-816-4017

noakley@buffaloschools.org

New Neighbors*

Cedarland Development is completing construction of new apartments across from CHS at the northeast corner of Michigan and Best and will be opening them March of 2023. These are brand new apartments with luxury amenities and some fully furnished units. Cedarland is offering CHS families and staff wishing to reduce their commute to a walk across the street a special appreciation move-in

special. Call (716) 936-8181 or email leasing@michiganplaceapt.com to learn more or visit www.MichiganPlaceApt.com.

** 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

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](#)