



**Hilltop Notes**  
for the CHS Community  
2.13.22



**Monday (2/14): 'Show Your Love for McKinley High' Day on the Hilltop**



At the request of the CHS student body, we are putting a different twist on Valentine's Day this year in order to show our support for the students and staff of McKinley High School that have had a very traumatic week. **All CHS students and staff are asked to wear orange to school on Monday** to let the students and staff of McKinley know that we are supporting them. We'll be taking group photos in the auditorium at the end of the day to send over to McKinley. We know this is a different way to celebrate Valentine's, but it may be even more in keeping with the spirit of the day as our students want to demonstrate sincere love for fellow BPS school in need of a lift.

**Home COVID Testing Kits**

CHS is sending home another set of home testing kits with our students tomorrow. Important information about these kits has been emailed home to all families and a hardcopy will be sent home with students. **Very important update:** If you receive one kit in an orange box and one kit in a purple box, please use the kit in the purple box first as these kits expire before the orange kits.

**Congrats Mr. WOW!**

Congratulations to CHS ELA teacher Mr. William O'Neil-White and his wife, who celebrated the arrival of their first baby on Saturday! Mr. O'Neil-White is expected to be away for about two months. His classes will be taught by the following CHS teachers until his return:

HR/Period 1: Mrs. Shea

Period 3: Ms. Amenta-Weaver

Period 4: Ms. Ziolkowski

**Dr. Francene Battaglia '86 to Speak to CHS Girls About Careers in Engineering**

On March 22, during 2<sup>nd</sup> period, Dr. Francine Battaglia, CHS Class of 1986, will hold a special presentation for CHS girls in grades 9-11 entitled, "Why I Became a Mechanical Engineer... Is it the Right Career for You?" Dr. Battaglia is a professor and chair of the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department at the University at Buffalo. Due to spacing restrictions, we can only seat 145 students in the auditorium. Tickets will be available starting Wednesday of this week and distributed on a first come, first serve basis in the CHS IB Office in room 104 (next to the Hilltop Museum). If not all tickets are claimed in the first two weeks, we will open up tickets to girls in lower grades. Students must receive a signature on the ticket from their 2<sup>nd</sup> period teacher granting them leave from class to attend the session.

Here is a description of the presentation: *Once in high school, students spend the next three years considering which subjects and classes they enjoy that would lead to a future career. Choosing a university to earn a baccalaureate degree is also connected to the choice of career and program of study. If you are not familiar with engineering, there are six fields that might appeal to you: aerospace engineering, chemical engineering, civil (and environmental) engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, and mechanical engineering. In addition to introducing girls to the different engineering fields, Dr. Battaglia will share more about her field of mechanical engineering and why she made her choices and how she created a rewarding career path.*

Full bio of Dr. Battaglia: After graduating from CHS in 1986, Dr. Battaglia attended the University at Buffalo (UB) and studied mechanical engineering, earning a B.S. in 1991 and M.S. in 1992. She then studied at Pennsylvania State University and graduated with a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering in 1997. Her career path led to academic positions, where she worked at Iowa State University for 8 years and Virginia Tech for 10 years. She accepted a faculty position at the University at Buffalo in 2017, bringing her career path full-circle twenty-five years later. Dr. Battaglia is delighted to return to Buffalo and give back to the community and university, and loves opportunities to mentor and inspire young minds to pursue their dreams. She appreciates the education, values, skills and confidence she received at CHS and UB that created the foundation upon which she has built her career.



### **Safety Alert**

Parents, please do not stop in the middle of Fosdick Street at dismissal to wait for children or when you go into the school to sign out your grade 5/6 student as this creates a traffic jam. Please carefully pull to the side if you are waiting for a child or must leave your car. The city is currently conducting a traffic study specific to Fosdick Street and traffic surrounding our campus. In the meantime, we ask for patience and consideration if you are driving your vehicle anywhere around our school campus. Thank you!

### **Attention Grade 11 Families**

Courier College Prep will be returning to CHS to conduct an on-campus SAT prep workshop leading up to the May 7 SAT (we anticipate that SAT fees on this date will be fully funded by BPS for grade 11 students, but we are awaiting confirmation). Workshop sessions will be held on April 4th, 19th, 26th and May 3rd. The class will run from 3:15-4:45pm on these dates and will be held in the LGI Room. The cost of \$150 includes all materials. A limited number of fee waivers for students with documented financial need will be available thanks to funding from the [CH/FMP Foundation](#). Waivers will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis so please register as soon as possible. Registration and more information can be found at <https://www.couriercollegeprep.com/workshops>

### **IB Graduate School of Education Offering Free Tutoring**

The UB Graduate School of Education will resume their free virtual tutoring services from Monday, February 14th through May 5th, M-Thursday from 3-6p.m. This is open to all students in grades 9-12 and will provide help in ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies. Students will need to sign up on the

website and sessions will be held via zoom. For more information [please visit this link](#). If you have any questions, please email Elizabeth Campion- [ecampion@buffalschools.org](mailto:ecampion@buffalschools.org).

### **Metro Safety**

A reminder to students that if you encounter or see any threats to safety on a metro bus, you have the option to report the matter to the driver as drivers have quick access to the NFTA police. As always, if the matter is an emergency, please call 911.

### **Hertel-North Park Baseball**

Hertel North Park Baseball and Softball is currently conducting early registration for all age levels for both travel and house leagues. There is a \$10 discount for early bird registration until March 1<sup>st</sup>. Learn more about HNP Baseball/Softball and register [at this link](#).

### **CHS Mock Trial Team Starts Off Where it Left Off**

Congratulations to the City Honors Mock Trial Team which won its first round match against Depew High School last weekend! The winning attorneys for our prosecution side were Manuneethy Anpalagan, Annika Wilewicz, and Aaron Weinmann, and the witnesses were played by Sumaia Alam, Liam Cobb and Liam Rio.



This weekend, our defense side went against East Aurora in the second round and came up victorious again providing the team with a strong seeding heading into the elimination phase of the Erie County tournament. We'll share more details about the East Aurora match and keep you posted on our progress in the next *Hilltop Notes*.

This year's case is about a conspiracy to commit securities fraud.

### **WNY Chinese Culture and Event Listserv**

Confucius Institutes in the United States have been eliminated as a result of legislative action by the United States government, including the University at Buffalo Confucius Institute (UBCI). However, the Chinese Club of WNY, and UB staff committed to sharing Chinese culture and creating dialogue, have banded to launch an email list to share events to help local students and families understand and appreciate Chinese culture. If your child is currently enrolled in the CHS Mandarin Language program, or if you just have an interest in these activities, please email Bruce Acker at UB to be added to this email list: [backer@buffalo.edu](mailto:backer@buffalo.edu). If you were previously a part of the UBCI email listserv, you must contact Bruce to be included in this new list.

### **Temporary Band Teacher Needed**

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](mailto:jschwanz@buffaloschools.org) as soon as possible.

### **CHS Annual Fund**

The 2021-22 CHS Annual Fund continues to receive donations from CHS families, alumni and friends

of the school. 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](#). When EVERY CHS family contributes to the Annual Fund, EVERY student at CHS benefits!

### **BPS Calendar Changes**

Grade 5-8 Students: A reminder that March 1 will be an early release day 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 this day.

### **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. Hamilton, one of our three assistant principals, as well as Nurse Cammarata. These staff members are managing our COVID safety initiatives and response. It is important that you email Ms. Hamilton ([thamilton@buffaloschools.org](mailto:thamilton@buffaloschools.org)) and Nurse Cammarata ([dcammarata@shccares.com](mailto:dcammarata@shccares.com)) as this will allow them to receive your communication outside of school hours and provide the quickest possible response. They will need to know your child's name, grade, if they are vaccinated, and both when the student started having symptoms and when they tested positive (if this has occurred.) They will outline next steps for your family as it pertains to school. **Please do not leave voicemails or messages in the main office.**

As we stay 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 Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) has ended its partnership with Buffalo Homecare, Inc., and Quadrant Biosciences, Inc. Laboratory for in-school COVID testing. Buffalo Schools is awaiting information on who the new provider of this surveillance screening will be. In the interim, we are sharing that the Erie County Department of Health now offers walk-in sites for COVID testing at the following locations: 608 William Street, Buffalo (Erie County Health Clinics) and 3359 Broadway, Cheektowaga (Erie County Emergency Training and Operations Center).

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 and staff should complete the daily health screener once again each day BEFORE they leave 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.

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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 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](#)*