



Hilltop Notes
for the CHS Community
2.27.22



Welcome Back Centaurs!

Attention Grade 5-8 Families

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.

****For Tomorrow****

Students and staff who have not had COVID in the past three months and still have home COVID tests available, should test before coming to school tomorrow. Please follow the reporting directions at the bottom of this newsletter if you encounter a positive test result. COVID rates are dropping in our region but we know COVID is still out there and we want to keep it out of our school building and keep it from making a come-back. Thank you!

NYS Mask Mandate

New York State (NYS) Governor, Kathy Holchul shared today that "Effective Wednesday March 2, 2022 NYS will lift the statewide requirement to wear masks in schools."

HOWEVER, local governmental municipalities will be empowered to make more restrictive decisions on masking requirements for schools within their designated areas. Thus, the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) will be empowered to either continue with our current masking requirement or to lift the mandate that BPS has in schools.

BPS representatives will be meeting tomorrow with the ECDOH and the BPS medical advisory team to:

- a. review the COVID data (7 day average rate of transmission cases)
- b. discuss vaccination progress
- c. specifically review pediatric hospitalization rates.

After this meeting, the district plans to share an update with all stakeholders to provide an update. All staff and students should plan to continue to wear a masks at school until directed otherwise.

Join Us for the Next PTSCO Meeting

Dear CHS Community- Please join us at the next PTSCO meeting, March 9th at 5:30 via Google Meet. Items on the agenda will include developing new Spring social events, alternative 8th grade activities, and updates from DPCC, SBMT, Pelion Garden and the updates from our school leadership. New ideas and concerns are always welcome. To join the meeting on Google Meet, [click this link](#) or open Meet and enter this code: psb-hxie-yvj.

We look forward to seeing you, Your PTSCO Leadership Team.

<https://www.chsptsco.org/>

Join CHS Spring Sports Teams Now!

Don't let that snow fool you, Spring is upon us and CHS sports teams will begin practices on March 14. Now is the time to contact our coaches to join these sports.

How to Join CHS Spring Sports Teams!



CITY HONORS SCHOOL
**CENTAUR
ATHLETICS**

Step #1: Email the coach to let them know you are interested in participating!

Boys Varsity Baseball	Mr. McMahon	jcmahon@buffaloschools.org
Boys JV Baseball	Mr. Gardner	ggardner@clarenceschools.org
Girls Varsity Softball	Ms. Matos	dmatos@buffaloschools.org
Boys Varsity Track	Mr. Mueckl	kmueckl@buffaloschools.org
Girls Varsity Track	Dr. Van Remmen	mcvanremmen@buffaloschools.com
Boys Varsity Tennis	Mr. Kudla	jkudla@buffaloschools.org
Unified Basketball	Mr. Krause	ajkrause@buffaloschools.org
BPS Varsity Boys Lacrosse	Mr. Truilizio	atruilizio@buffaloschools.org
BPS JV Boys Lacrosse	Mr. Catalano	jcatalano@buffaloschool.org
BPS Girls JV Lacrosse	Mr. Weatherston	jlweatherston@buffaloschools.org

Step #2: Be sure you have a physical completed.

If you have a current physical from your doctor on-file in the CHS nurse's office in the past 12 months that states 'full activity without restrictions' then you do not need a physical at this time.

If you do not have a physical on-file, you can register to have a BPS nurse practitioner complete a physical for you [at this link](#). You will need to complete the parent consent portion of [this form](#) and bring it to your BPS physical.

Finally, **All Families Must Complete** the [Health History Interval form](#) within in 30 days of the start of a sport. Whether a child is waiting for their sports physical to be completed or they already have one on file, this form still needs to be completed and returned to the health office.

If you have any questions, concerns or need to check on what is currently on file in the health office, please feel free to call CHS Nurse, Denae Cammarata, at 716-816-4239 or email dlcammarata@buffaloschools.org.

Step #3: Get to Practice!

Coach-led practices begin in New York State on March 14! Your coach can tell you the time and location of your first practice on March 14 when you email them.

Are you a grade 7 or 8 student interested in JV or Varsity athletics?

Grade 7 and 8 students in New York State who would like to join a JV or Varsity team MUST pass the NYS Athletic Placement Process (APP) Test once during grade 7 or 8. Ms. Juergens will be holding APP testing for students in grades 7 & 8 who have not passed this test yet in the CHS gym at 2:45 on March 7 and 8. Students should be done with testing at about 3:30pm. Students wishing to participate should contact Ms. Juergens at kjuergens@buffaloschools.org to let her know which session you will attend and with any questions.

Please note: The Buffalo Schools will not resume modified athletics (middle school specific) this school year. Students in grades 7 and 8 interested in spring athletics are encouraged to participate in APP testing to determine if they are eligible for JV and Varsity athletics this season. We hope that BPS will resume modified athletics on the fall.

Information about club sports team not organized by the school district can be found at the CHS Parent, Teacher, Student Community Organization (PTSCO) website [at this link](#).

Interested in a Career in a STEM Field or Healthcare?

The UB Jacobs Institute invites all students to join our STEM and Healthcare Careers Webinar on February 24, 2022 from 6-7pm hosted by our virtual panel of leading experts answering your questions about careers in:

- Emergency Medical Services
- Nursing
- Engineering
- Medical Research

Learn more and register [at this link!](#)

CHS Afterschool Enrichment and Support Program

The CHS after school enrichment and support program is available Monday-Thursday from 3:15 PM-4:15 PM to all students in grades 9-12. The program will be available through June 9, 2022 for academic enrichment and support. Yellow buses will **not** be available for this program. High school students who receive yellow bus transportation will be provided a Metro day pass if they choose to stay for in-person ELT. An afternoon snack will be provided to all participants. The sign-up form to register for program offerings is listed here. <https://forms.office.com/r/Ym9UtrSfdr>

These are the current offerings:

Social Studies: Mrs. Collesano, AP World History Teacher (Monday-Thursday)

Math: Mrs. Stephens, Algebra 2 and IB Math Teacher (Thursday)

Mandarin Chinese: Mrs. Zheng, Mandarin Chinese Teacher (Monday-Thursday)

College and Career Readiness: Ms. Williams, School Counselor (Monday)

A reminder that all CHS teachers have office hours in their classroom four days a week from 2:50-3:10pm. Students and parents should consult with teachers for the schedule of the four days they are in their classroom (each teacher's schedule varies as they serve on an extended supervision post once-a-week to ensure our students are fully supervised during dismissal).

Cardinal Craze Week is Coming! March 14-18

How it Works: Throughout the week, each grade level competes to see who can secure the most spirit points to become the guardians of the 'Rock of Mount Pelion' until next year's Cardinal Craze Week. The 'Rock' as it is known brings good luck to its guardians and is highly coveted.

EVERY student in the school can help their class win spirit points. We'll have a full update to you shortly, but for now, here are this year's theme days that students can dress up for to earn their class points:

-Monday, March 14th ~ CHS SPIRIT DAY

Show your City Honors Spirit by wearing your CHS gear!

-Tuesday, March 15th ~ CHARACTER DAY

Dress up as a celebrity or favorite movie, TV show, or book character!

-Wednesday, March 16th ~ BLACKOUT DAY

Wear all black!

(SENIORS decorate your black shirts to celebrate senior year!)

-Thursday, March 17th ~ THROWBACK THURSDAY

Dress up like you are from the decade of your choice!

-Friday, March 18th ~ CLASS COLOR DAY

Class Color Shirts will be sold for \$5

CHS Bowling Wrap-Up

City Honors Boys Bowling:

Final Record 4-2-2

5th Place in BPS League out of 18 teams.

Team was led by senior captain Tobias Truehart who averaged 146 this season with a total of 2904 pins on the season. Key contributors include 9th grader Miles Eagan 1898 total pins and 10th grader James Halt, 1564 pins. With only one senior the team hopes to improve and build the program next season!

City Honors Girls Bowling:

Final Record 6-2

6th Place in BPS League out of 18 teams.

Team was led by seniors Felicia Toomey 2603 pins, Tess Morrison 2122 pins, and Sofia Heferle 1665 pins. The team had great leadership from seniors Avery White, Gia Krause, and Mallory McMahon. The team hopes to rebuild next season with Keara Cotter, Abby Paolini, Eleanor Kwacz and Natalia Kwacz all returning!

Environmental Justice (EJ) Stewards Program at Reinstein Woods

The Environmental Justice Stewards program is designed to engage high-school students in career-focused discussions with environmental professionals while providing the space and resources for students to plan and implement stewardship action projects in their community. We plan to bring students from urban, suburban, and rural districts together to facilitate a comprehensive conversation about water quality issues in our communities.

Participating students will meet with local environmental professionals during weekly virtual sessions from late March through mid-June and participate in multiple field trips to explore our relationship with water, including a kayaking trip, fishing or fish stocking outing, and tour of local restoration sites.

Interested students can learn more and apply by March 11 by visiting <https://reinsteinwoods.org/environmental-justice-stewards/>.

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!

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) 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. 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.

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](#)