



**Hilltop Notes**  
for the CHS Community  
2.2.22



**Remote Instruction Day: February 3**

The Buffalo Public Schools will be teaching remotely on Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> due to winter storm warnings.

Students should join their homeroom via Teams using their district laptop device at **8:12am** for morning attendance. [This link will take you to our daily bell schedule](#) for the remainder of the day. Students should follow their daily schedule for "E" day.

All teachers, including homeroom teachers, have posted links to their Teams classes in their Schoology class folders. If your child does not remember how to join Teams, please [have them use this guide](#) provided by the school district.

Thank you for supporting your child in attending remote classes. Our daily staff and student attendance has been steadily improving as COVID rates have been dropping. Our last remote instruction day had very strong attendance. **We are aiming for 100% remote attendance tomorrow so that our child can continue their learning!**

**COVID Updates**

A reminder that all staff or students who have tested positive for COVID should email Ms. Hamilton at ([thamilton@buffaloschools.org](mailto:thamilton@buffaloschools.org)) AND and Nurse Cammarata ([dcammarata@shccares.com](mailto:dcammarata@shccares.com)).

Our COVID numbers are dropping but we want to reduce COVID among our families even more so that restrictions can be reduced. How you can help:

1. Consult with your family doctor about having everyone five and older in your household vaccinated for COVID/receive a COVID booster where applicable.
2. Emphasize good safety practices when your family is home and in the community such as wearing a mask, washing hands regularly and distancing.
3. Register your child to be a part of our in-school COVID testing program [at this link](#).

**Cardinal Craze Week**

Student Council and Senior Senate leadership have announced that Cardinal Craze week is being moved to the week of March 14 in order to allow for additional preparation time needed as a result of school closures. Our subcommittee leaders and their teams are hard at work. While we are limited when it comes to group gatherings, our student organizers have added some new activities and twists that should make this a fun week as our classes compete to win the [Rock of Mount Pelion!](#)

**Attention Grade 12 Families**

Graduation for the CHS Class of 2022 has **tentatively** been set for Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> and the senior dinner Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Riverworks. VERY IMPORTANT: the dates and venues for these events are **subject to change pending school district review and approval**. Based on

the past two years, we do not anticipate the district will be prepared to provide approval until later in the spring in order to take into account the most current county and state guidelines for such events. If there is a choice to be made regarding the graduation format, we will include a system of family feedback in decision-making as we have done the past two years.

We are currently awaiting word from the district on whether our seniors will be able to resume the traditional CHS Service Learning Program (SLI) in the community once AP and IB exams conclude in May.

A signing ceremony will be held the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup> for seniors who have committed to play Division I, II, or III athletics in college. An exact date will be set shortly and more details will be provided once seniors have submitted their exit surveys.

Mid-Year Reports will be sent out to colleges by CHS counselors the week of February 7. Seniors are reminded that the school is also required to send a final grade report to their college destination in July. Colleges are increasingly revoking offers of admission and merit-based scholarships, or requiring students to begin their collegiate career on academic probation, for those who do not maintain their grades and school attendance through the conclusion of their senior year. **All seniors are asked to attend school each and every day they are asymptomatic, make smart decisions and stay in good academic standing. No one works harder than City Honors Centaurs. We want every senior to enjoy the college education they have earned!**

Please encourage your child to check their Guidance Schoology page as scholarships are being updated weekly. These scholarships can also be found on the City Honors webpage under 'School Counseling Office' [at this link](#).

### **Special Exhibit at CHS This Week**

The *Anne Frank: Let Me Be Myself* Exhibit has been on display all this week in the third floor skybridge and microgallery. CHS Social Classes are being led through the exhibit by 15 CHS student docents in grades 9-12 who received two days of training from representatives from the Anne Frank Center in New York City and the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. Thank you to our student docents as well as CHS Instructional Coach, Ms. Cammarata-Gonlag, who has coordinated this large undertaking!

### **Spectator Policy**

The Buffalo Public Schools have adjusted their indoor sporting event spectator policy to allow for two adult family members of a student athlete and any number of immediate family member siblings accompanied by an adult.

### **Attention Grade 10 Parents**

Mrs. Banas, our IB Diploma Program Coordinator, has been visiting sophomores in their AP Language classes yesterday and today (February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>) to share information about the IB Diploma Program and help students understand their choices for junior and senior year.

Our school counselors will visit Grade 10 students in AP World History on Friday, February 11th to discuss course selections for next year.

All current grade 10 students must decide this winter 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 **IB Diploma Program parent information online event on Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00 pm [at this link](#)** to help parents learn more about the program and to answer any questions.

On Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, both the IB DP application (submitted to the IB office) and course selection sheet (submitted to the school counseling office), will be due.

We encourage you to explore additional information about our IB Diploma Program on our website [at this link](#).

Please do not hesitate to email Mrs. Banas at [ebanas@buffaloschools.org](mailto:ebanas@buffaloschools.org), if you have any questions.

### **Share Your Photos of CHS Life**

Do you have pictures that you would like to share with the CHS Yearbook? Amazing feats of educational prowess? That perfect shot at a sports event? Oh! and don't forget that funny thing that happened in the hall way! Classic! Please share those pictures with us, the Yearbook staff by [uploading your pictures to this link](#).

Don't worry if you lose the link! We have flyers and slips all over the school. And of course, if you have any questions please reach out to CHS Technology Teacher, Mr. Hecker ([ethecker@buffaloschools.org](mailto:ethecker@buffaloschools.org)).

### **Mental Health Awareness Series**

The BPS Parent Center is excited to announce a collaboration with Horizon Health Services for our new Mental Health Awareness Series. This multi-part speaker series is designed to meet the needs of the BPS Community. Each session, a trained mental health professional will share tips, tools, and strategies for addressing real life issues we all face.

All presentations will stream LIVE on the BPS Parent Centers Facebook Page.

Thursday, 2/10 @ 5pm: Mental Health First Aid Overview

Tuesday, 2/22 @ 5pm: Stress Management

Tuesday, 3/08 @ 5pm: Grief & Loss

### **CHS/Olmsted Placement Testing**

The Buffalo Public Schools are offering two final Saturday testing dates (**Feb 5<sup>th</sup> and Feb 12<sup>th</sup>**) for students interested in being placed at City Honors or Olmsted Middle/High School for the fall of 2022. Please consult this link for testing times for each grade level. All testing will be held at the Olmsted at Kensington building located at 319 Suffolk St, Buffalo. Please spread the word to any child who lives in the city of Buffalo who might benefit from a City Honors or Olmsted education!

### **Caleb Chapman Hits 1000 Points!**

Congratulations to CHS varsity basketball player Caleb Chapman '22 who recently passed the 1000 point mark for his career as a City Honors Centaur. Caleb is obviously a talented basketball player but he is also a great student and treats everyone on campus with respect and kindness. Good luck to

Caleb and our boys basketball team as they try to wrap up a BPS League 2 title and head into sectionals!

### **CHS Speech and Debate Team Thunders Toward Regionals**

The City Honors Speech and Debate team turned in its most dominant performance of the year on Saturday, January 23rd, easily placing first in team standings with its highest score of the season! 20 of our 25 competing students earned a medal with several first-place finishes!

In the Speech categories, Madoka Aldstadt and Ayeza Modasser placed 3rd and 2nd respectively in Declamation. In Oral Interpretation, Shoshana Hertz placed 3rd, while Phoebe Lawton took 2nd. Liam Cobb earned a 3rd place medal in Extemporaneous Speaking, while John Lonke took home 2nd place in Original Oratory. Annika Wilewicz placed 1st in Dramatic Interpretation and the team of Jeronimo Silva and Aaron Weinmann earned a 1st place victory in Duo Interpretation.

On the Debate side of the tournament, it was a clean sweep in Lincoln Douglass debate for both our Novice and Varsity divisions. In Novice LD, Salimata Sylla, Zach Lofaro-O'Neil and Max Riley Pasciak took the gold, silver and bronze medals, respectively, while in Varsity LD, Julia Chiriboga, Ciah Courtney and Emma Huq placed 1st-3rd! In Public Forum, Amelia and Charlotte Colder placed 1st, Jacob Rivera and Brennan Overhoff placed 2nd and Zach Biniszkiwicz and Jake Baldwin took home 3rd place.

Simply an amazing performance all around. The team now looks ahead to the Regional Qualifying Tournament on 2/12 with a chance to earn a spot at the State Tournament in late April!

### **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 early release days 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. McDow, assistant principal, and Nurse Cammarata. These staff members are managing our COVID safety initiatives and response. They can outline next steps for your family as it pertains to school. It is important that you email Ms. McDow ([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. **Please do not leave voicemails or messages in the main office.**

As we move 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 Buffalo Public Schools in partnership with the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH), Buffalo Homecare, Inc., and Quadrant Biosciences, Inc. Laboratory is pleased to offer high quality on school site optional COVID-19 random surveillance testing. COVID-19 testing is for any staff or student who consents to participate, regardless of their vaccination status.

Testing occurs weekly and consists of a random selection of 10% of the consenting school population. This program uses an oral (mouth) PCR test swab that will be gentle, minimally invasive, and can be self-collected by the person being tested.

Anyone vaccinated or unvaccinated who consents can be tested in the surveillance testing program. Prior to this tentative start date, if you choose to participate in the optional testing program, please follow the steps outlined below by ECDOH, in order to ensure that you are correctly enrolled in this program.

Step 1: Watch the ECDOH Program Overview Presentation [at this link](#).

Step 2: Register with and complete the Quadrant Program Consent Form [at this link](#).

It is important to note that our testing program will not fulfill the New York State Department of Health's requirement for unvaccinated staff to be tested weekly.

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 should complete the daily health screener once again each day BEFORE their child leaves 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](#)*