



Hilltop Notes

for the CHS Community

4.14.24



CHS Calendar Reminders

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| 4/17 5:30pm-7:30pm | I See IB Night |
| 4/18 3:30-4:30 | CHS SBMT Meeting |
| 4/19 11:00am | CHS Wellness Team Meeting |
| 4/23 All lunch periods | Spring Bazaar |
| 4/24 | Early Release Day- All grades dismiss at 11:30am |
| 4/25 | Superintendent's Conference Day- No School |
| 4/26 7:00pm | PTSCO Comedy Night Fundraiser (for adults) |
| 5/1 5:30pm-6:30pm | PTSCO Monthly Meeting, LGI Room at CHS |
| 5/2 6:00pm-8:30pm | CHS Grade 5-8 Spring Dance, CHS Atrium (more info coming this week) |

AP and IB Exam Schedule

CHS Students in grades 10-12 will be completing their AP and IB exams in April and May. Parents and students are asked to carefully review the exam schedule [at this link](#) for dates, times and special instructions. This schedule is also posted throughout the school for students.

Questions about AP Exams? Contact Mrs. Allman at cmallman@buffaloschools.org

Questions about IB Exams? Contact Mrs. Banas at ebanas@buffaloschools.org

Remember- the idea of these exams is not for our students to be perfect! Even if our students do not attain college credits through these exams, research has demonstrated they will be better able to navigate college through exposure to these courses and exams. In addition, colleges are impressed when they take risks like enrolling in IB and AP courses. All exams are paid for by the Buffalo Public Schools. Students do not need to pay for them as they do in most American schools. Students are asked to simply give their best effort to prepare and on exam day. The rest will take care of itself!

Give Your Eclipse Glasses a Second Chance to Shine!

CHS is teaming up with 'UB Sustainability' and 'Astronomers Without Borders' to provide solar eclipse glasses recycling.

Instead of throwing your glasses away, have your child bring them to CHS and drop them off in the collection box outside the main office. Collection continues through April 30.

Since 2008, Astronomers Without Borders has been collecting solar glasses used for viewing annular and total solar eclipse across the globe and sending them to communities across Africa, Asia, and North and South America that do not have access to these glasses that would allow individuals to safely watch an eclipse.

Thank you to Mrs. Russell for organizing this recycling effort at CHS!

Save the Date!*

The City Honors Foundation's annual "can't miss" event, '**Party on the Wharf**', will be held Tuesday, **June 18th from 6:00pm - 9:30pm** at the Tewksbury Lodge. All CHS parents, alumni, staff and friends of CHS are invited. Please spread the word!



A long-time tradition at CHS, this signature fundraiser for the students of our school includes food and beverage, live music, basket raffle, lawn games and more. This event is for guests age 21+.

Hold the date and stay tuned for more information!

Grade 5-8 NYS Assessments

NYS Assessments are being administered throughout the month of April to students in grades 5-8. A lot has changed about these assessments again this year. They are shorter than they used to be and grade levels take them on scattered dates throughout the month rather than all on the same day. Also new this year, our students are taking about half of their assessments online (this is why BPS IT department collected devices from middle school students right before break so they could be sure they were ready to go).

These assessments have not been linked to teacher or administrator evaluations for many years now. They are a diagnostic to determine where we can do a better job as a school teaching our students and where individual students need support. Teachers have been directed by Dr. Kresse not to assign homework the night before assessments. Students are asked to simply give their best effort to demonstrate the skills they have learned from their teachers.

City Honors PTSCO Presents the Spring Bazaar*

The CHS Spring Bazaar, a *New* CHS tradition!

 Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2024

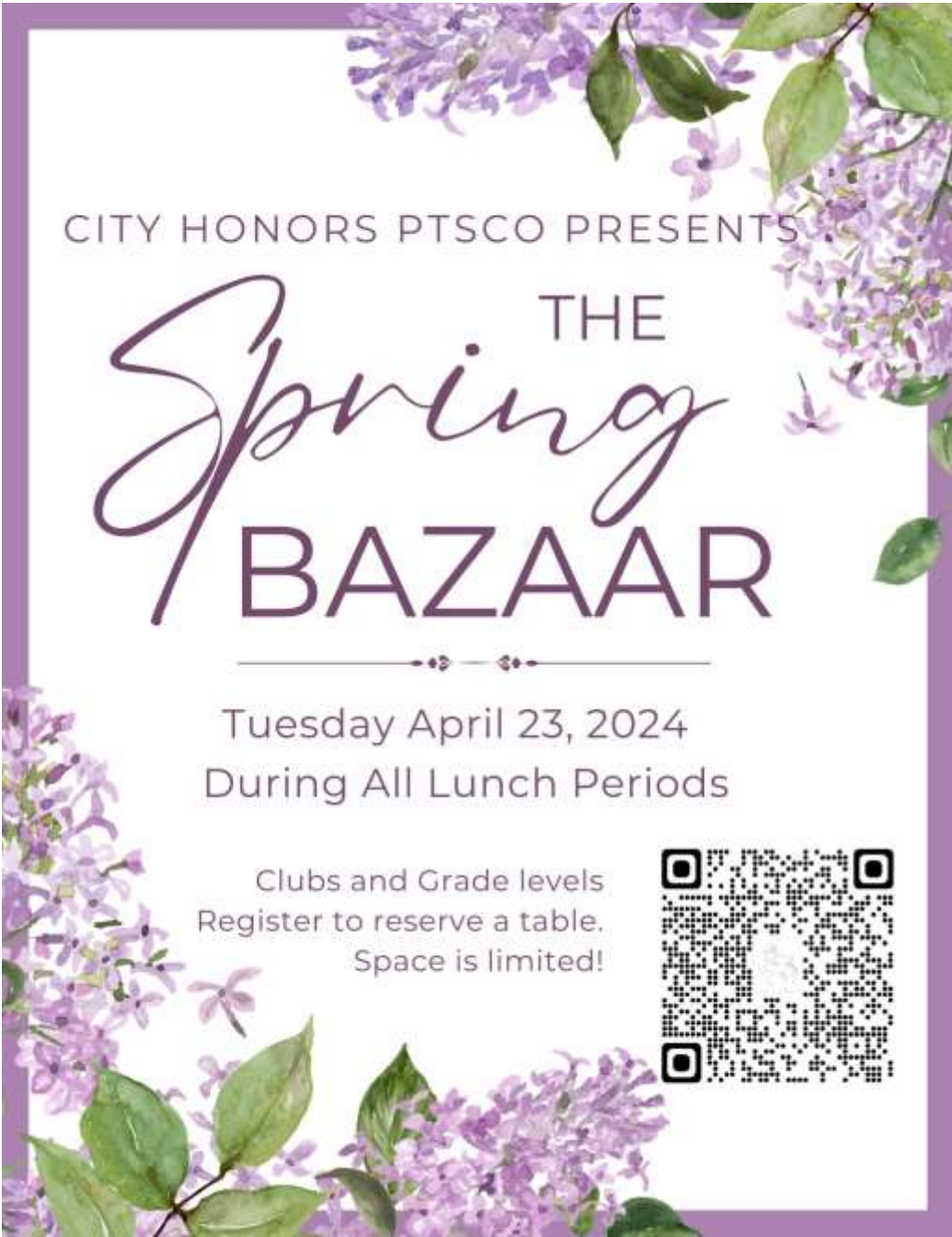
 Time: During All lunch Periods

 Location: The Atrium

Students will experience a Spring marketplace with shopping tables, seasonal activities, and fun from City Honors clubs, sports, and grade levels.

 Fundraising Opportunity for Clubs! 

Clubs can showcase and sell items at the Spring Bazaar, boosting their fundraising efforts for exciting activities and initiatives. Online Registration for those interested in a table is [at this link](#). Need more info? Contact: Jennifer Cox at cox.jennifer@gmail.com Contact your [PTSCO Grade Parent Representative\(s\)](#) to volunteer or donate items.



Music in Our Schools Month Wrap-up

To close out Music in Our School Month, the CHS Music Department would like to recognize everything student musicians have accomplished this month. We had a successful Music Extravaganza event that raised \$900, put on a middle school musical and spent weekends in All-County ensemble rehearsals. This year, CHS set a new school record of 17 musicians being accepted into all-county ensembles. Eight students also represented CHS by playing aside Buffalo Philharmonic musicians on the stage of Kleinhans Music Hall last week. Thank you for keeping the music playing strong and beautifully Centaurs!

The IB Minute

I See IB Night is from 5:30-7:30 pm on Wednesday, April 17th at City Honors School.

Come see the Personal Projects of our Grade 10 IB Middle Years Program students, the Theory of Knowledge Exhibitions of our Grade 11 full IB Diploma Program students, and displays featuring the Creativity, Activity, Service Projects or Extended Essays of our Grade 12 full IB Diploma Program Candidates.

Additionally, we are excited to announce that performances will begin at 6:00 pm in the auditorium for our second annual Diversity Event. Members of our African Dance and Drumming Troupe will be one of the featured performances.



I See IB NIGHT

Pelion Outdoor Classroom at CHS

We're hosting 'Earth Month Chores' every SATURDAY in April from 10:00am-noon to get the garden cleaned up and safe again for classes/clubs to resume. Please join us any Saturday in April to Tend, Love, and do Chores in our patch of Earth. Tasks will vary as the soil thaws; but may include: clearing apiary zone, digging out invasive trees and vines, starting seeds, organizing shed and storage, potting up tree saplings, possibly clearing out material in preparation of bulk trash date and others TBD. No skills necessary. Dress for the wacky weather. If you are not sure if the weather is too extreme; please txt Ms.Caesandra to confirm at 716.803.5566

See our Facebook Event page [at this link](#).

Courier College Prep at CHS

Courier College Prep special topics for upcoming Thursday afternoon sessions:
4/18 (Admissions Trends & Lessons from 2023-2024)
4/25 (Harder Math Review for the SAT)
5/2 (Art, Craft and Importance of the College Essay)

Algebra 2 tutoring continues during all lunch periods EVERY Tuesday. Sign-up by dropping by the school counseling office!

Remember: All Courier College Prep sessions are completely free of charge and open to all students. Funding is provided through the BPS Community Schools Program (CSP)

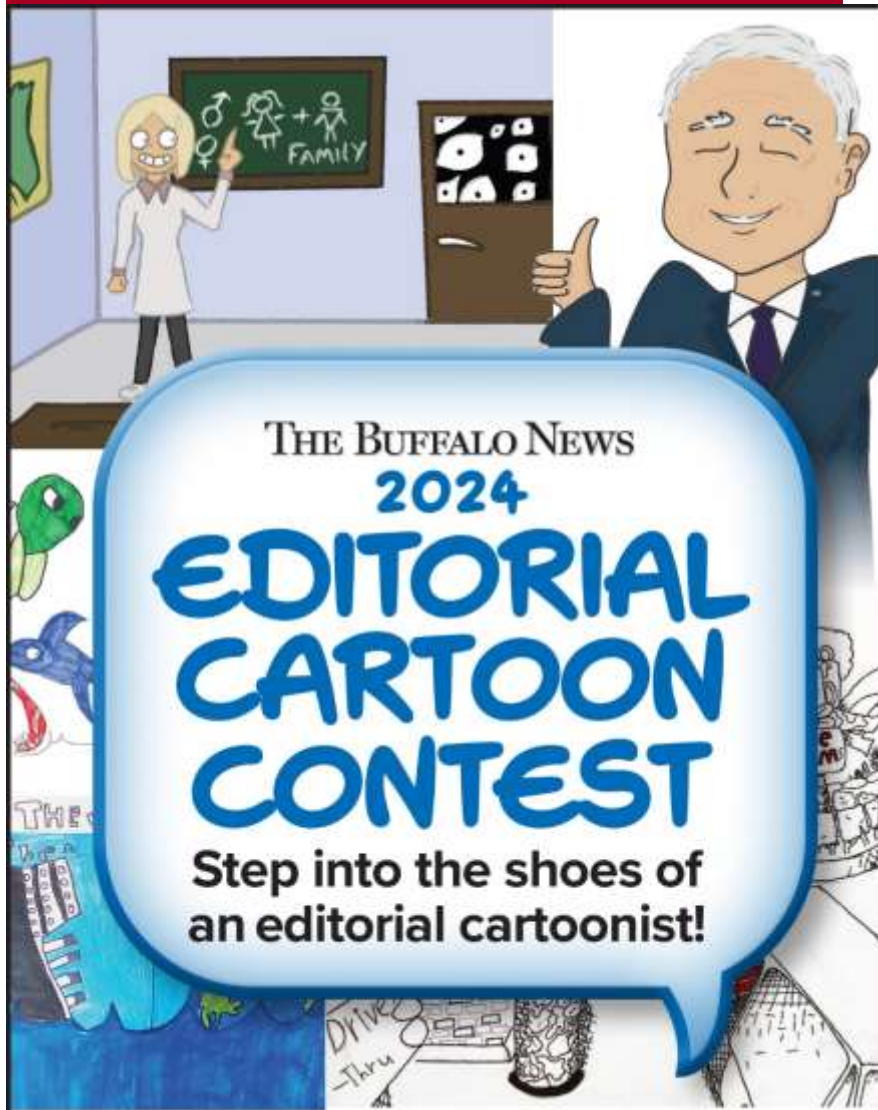
Courier College Prep will continue to offer after school enrichment opportunities through the remainder of the school year.

In addition to SAT /ACT prep for students planning to take spring administrations, Brian will be available on Thursdays after school in the Museum Room to discuss and assist with college essays, offer insights and guidance on navigating the application and admissions process, and what helps applications to stand out in an increasingly unpredictable landscape.

Learn more about Courier College Prep:
www.couriercollegeprep.com



Buffalo News Editorial Cartoon Contest for Students*



The Buffalo News invites local students to challenge their creativity and wit by expressing an original idea or opinion about an issue that matters to them through illustration.

ENTER YOUR CREATION BY
April 25!

Find contest rules, cash prize details and submission instructions

go.BuffaloNews.com/cartoon

THE BUFFALO NEWS



*No purchase necessary

PTSCO Comedy Night is Almost Here- Be Sure to Get Your Tickets!*

The poster features a man in a blue Buffalo Bills hoodie against a brick wall background. A large red rounded rectangle at the top contains the text 'City Honors PTSCO COMEDY NIGHT FUNDRAISER'. Below this, 'HEADLINING ACT Dan Mahoney' is written in white. '50/50' and 'Basket Raffles' are also written in white. At the bottom, a red banner contains event details: 'FRIDAY APRIL 26, 2024', 'DOORS @ 7PM SHOW @ 8PM', 'AGES 21+ | \$25/TICKET', and 'INCLUDES ONE BEER/WINE/SELTZER'. The 'Rob's PLAYHOUSE THEATER' logo and address '3200 ELMWOOD AVE TONAWANDA NY 14217' are in the bottom left.

Don't forget! [PTSCO](#) is hosting an adult only fundraiser at Rob's Comedy Playhouse, Friday, April 26, 2024 at 7PM. This is a great opportunity for parents and teachers to connect in a fun environment! It is only \$25 per ticket! In addition to the show, we will have a basket raffle, 50/50 and more! Tickets can be ordered [at this link](#).

Proceeds from this event will be divided equally amongst all grade levels. Please help us optimize the fundraising potential by donating an item(s) or gift certificate for the basket raffle and/or live auction. Nothing is too big or too small! If you would like to donate an item(s) to help us create baskets (i.e. theater candy, board games, body care, baking supplies...), please drop them off in the marked collection bin in the City Honors main office by April 19th. For large value or alcoholic donations (gift cards, premade baskets, wine, etc.), please contact Danielle Grzymala (716) 228-1195 (dgrzymala@buffaloschools.org) or Pam Fitzgibbon (716) 867-7393 (shasta1928@yahoo.com) to arrange collection as these items should not be sent to school with students.

Keep in mind- this is also a great opportunity for a business owner (possibly yourself!) who would like to donate goods or services. It is great advertising AND a tax write-off!

Thank you for supporting our fundraiser. We look forward to seeing you there!

Autism Awareness Factoids

Each day during 'Autism Awareness Spirit Week' at CHS right before the break, our students listened to special morning PA announcements brought to them by students in the CHS STARS program to help their classmates understand more about Autism. Please take a moment to read these announcements to increase adult understanding in our community:

3/25 Announcement

World Autism Awareness Day is observed every year on April 2. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007 as a day to recognize and spread awareness for the rights of people with autism. Autism spectrum disorder, or ASD, is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. People with ASD may have different ways of learning, moving, communicating, or paying attention. The STARS program here at CHS is comprised of students with autism in grade 5-12 and makes up about 12% of our student body. We believe these students contribute to the diversity of our school and make CHS a better place every day!

3/26 Announcement

The term "neurodivergent" describes people whose brain differences affect how they function. It was first coined by sociologist Judy Singer, an autistic person herself, in 1997. Autistic or allistic people may identify as neurodivergent depending on their preferences. Like a person's fingerprints, no two brains are exactly the same. The concept of neurodiversity recognizes and celebrates the wide range of how humans interact with the world.

3/27 Announcement

While a lot of research has been done on autism over the years, there remain many misconceptions. Here are the most common myths and the actual facts.

MYTH: Vaccines cause autism. FACT: The safety of vaccines has been tested across many groups of people. Research has shown that vaccinations do not cause autism.

MYTH: Only boys have autism. FACT: Girls are more likely to 'mask' their autism, learning the skills to interact with the world better than boys. This can mean that many autistic girls get a diagnosis much later in life.

MYTH: Autistic people are anti-social. FACT: People with autism may interact with the world around them differently, but they still enjoy having relationships and getting to know people.

3/28 Announcement

Thanks to all who supported the STARS program during this year's Autism Acceptance Week. To wrap up, here is some information about how to help neurodiverse and autistic people.

Get to know us. Autism is not a "one size fits all" diagnosis. Don't be afraid to ask your friends what you can do to help them.

Steer clear of assumptions. Just because someone's brain works a bit differently doesn't mean they should be judged. Remember: every neurodivergent person is different, and you don't know what it's like to be in their shoes.

Above all else, strive to be encouraging and compassionate. Being aware is the first step towards acceptance of all people to build a more inclusive society!

2024-25 CHS School-Based Budget

Each spring, BPS allocates staffing and supply funds to each school for the upcoming school year.

Schools must budget within that allocation. Over the past month, Dr. Kresse has presented the proposed budget at meetings of the Site Based Management Team, Building Committee, PTSCO, the CHS Foundation and to the CHS Faculty. Due to reduced allocations experienced by all buildings in the district, as well as some staffing costs unique to our building, there are required reductions for the upcoming school year. Although the school principal must submit a proposed budget to the school district this week, there is a possibility for the budget to change later this spring depending on the final New York State budget and other variables. All School Based Budget documents and information have been posted at the bottom of the [Family Resources](#) section of our school website.

** 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](#)