



Hilltop Notes
for the CHS Community
8.20.23



Calendar Reminders

- 8/21-8/25 BPS Music Enrichment Camp at CHS
- 8/21 First day of fall sports team practices
- 9/8 First Day of Classes for the '23-'24 School Year
- 9/13 Parent Get Acquainted Night (6:00-8:00pm)
- 9/22 Family Welcome Back Night (5:00-8:00pm)

Fall Sports Practices Begin Tomorrow (8/21) for Students in Grades 7-12!

Are you ready for Fall sports Centaurs? Staying active and trying new challenges supports your wellbeing in many ways! Even if you are not yet cleared to participate, we encourage students to attend first sports practices on Monday to make the connection with their coach and receive important information about the season. Here are the times, locations and coach contacts for first fall sports practices on 8/21:

Girls Tennis	10am-12pm	Nottingham Courts	mlewis@buffaloschools.org
Boys JV and Varsity Soccer	8am-10am	JB Wiley Stadium	jcatalano@buffaloschools.org
Girls Varsity Swim	8am-9:30am	CHS Natatorium	jmyager@buffaloschools.org
Co-Ed Varsity Golf	12pm-2:00pm	Delaware Park Golf Course	ajkrause@buffaloschools.org
Boys JV and Varsity Volleyball	12pm-2pm	CHS Gymnasium	jawilkinson@buffaloschools.org
Girls JV and Varsity Soccer	10am-12pm	JB Wiley Stadium	jasonmilne76@gmail.com
Co-Ed JV and Varsity Cross Country	2pm-3:15pm	Rose Garden, Delaware Park	mcvanremmen@buffaloschools.org
Girls JV and Varsity Volleyball	9am-12pm	CHS Gymnasium	dmatos@buffaloschools.org

Contact information for all coaches and the steps needed to get students enrolled for sports can be found [at this link](#). Please note that some coach assignments have changed since earlier this summer. All students in grades 7/8 must pass an athletic readiness test once in order to play JV or Varsity sports while in grade 7/8. More information is included [at this link](#).

Donations Still Needed for Staff Appreciation Breakfast

To thank the CHS faculty and staff for their work on behalf of our children, please consider helping with the Appreciation Breakfast to be held the morning of September 7.

To donate for the breakfast, any of the following would be greatly appreciated:

- Food: quiche, breakfast pizzas, muffins, scones, fruit salad, yogurt, or other breakfast food
- Drinks: coffee, tea, juice, water bottles
- Additional Items: creamers, sweeteners

To help on the day of the event in the CHS atrium:

- Set up at 7:00am
- Clean up at 9:00am

If you are able to donate or volunteer on September 7, please contact Matt Low, CHS parent volunteer, at matt.low@crowleywebb.com. Thank you very much for your support!

Parent Coaches Needed for Middle School Soccer!*

Middle School soccer is a Club Sport at CHS, run entirely by parent volunteers. This activity is not affiliated with or managed by the school or school district. All are welcome regardless of experience. This is a fun, non-competitive program, with a concentration on skills, scrimmaging, team building and sportsmanship. It's a great way to get fresh air and exercise and to make new friends (or become reacquainted with old friends).

We are looking for coaches at the Grade 7-8 and 5-6 level. If you can help in any capacity, please contact Eric Woods at buffaloapts@aol.com or Becky Gandour at beckyheider@gmail.com. This program is truly a team effort, both for the players and the parents! Please consider volunteering.

Girls Basketball Open Gym

Any girls in grades 7-12, interested in playing Girls basketball for City Honors, please consider attending our open gyms on Sundays at Gloria Parks 11-12:30, please email Coach Gardner at ggardner@clarenceschools.org for more information.

Attention Baseball Players in Grades 7-10

Any boys in grades 7-10 interested in Playing JV baseball this Spring, please consider attending our Fall Ball sessions in September throughout the month of October. Please email Coach Gardner at ggardner@clarenceschools.org for more specific information.

Boys Volleyball 'Remind' Group

Any students or families who are planning to participate in JV or Varsity Boys Volleyball are encouraged to join the Boys Volleyball Remind Group at: <https://www.remind.com/join/h677e6>, Code: h677e6

Important reminders for all families as we approach the start of the new school year!

CHS Summer Reading and Supply Lists

Has your child started their CHS Summer Reading yet? The CHS Grade 5-12 Summer Reading Lists were released in May and distributed to all students in their ELA classes. Parents are asked to access the summer reading lists [at this link](#) in order to support your child's reading, to understand

what your child should do while they are reading and how the texts will be used when we resume school in the fall.

Supply lists for grade 5-8 can be found at the Fall 2023 Back-to-School tab of the [CHS Parent Resources Page](#).

Be Sure Your BPS Laptop is Ready for the New School Year

Students should be fully charging and starting up their BPS laptops at least once a week so they can load updates. If you notice your laptop is not working properly, do not wait until school starts to resolve the issue. BPS Information Technology Helpdesk information can be found [at this link](#) or information about in-person assistance for your device at the BPS CIT Center can be found [at this link](#). **Beat the rush and get your BPS device up and running now!**



If your child is new to BPS or has a BPS Ipad, they will be issued their new BPS device when they arrive at the start of the school year.

Save the Date!

The CHS 'Family Welcome Back Night' will be held Friday, September 22, 2023, on the Hilltop, 5:00-8:00 pm. This annual start-of-school bonding event for CHS Families is organized by PTSCO. All CHS families are invited!

- Learn more about various clubs, activities, and parent committees
- Join a tour of [Pelion Outdoor Classroom](#), Take Part in Pelion's Garden Chokeberry Challenge, or snap a Sunflower Selfie
- Shop Chiron's Corner Bookstore
- Enjoy some of the Best food from Local food trucks in Buffalo.

Learn more about CHS PTSCO and volunteer [at this link](#).

Attention all CHS Clubs, Sports Teams and Activities

It's time to showcase, recruit, and highlight all the great CHS clubs, sports, and committees for the 2023-2024 School Year. Would you like to have an informational table at the Family Welcome Back Night on Friday, September 22? Be sure to decorate your table, have all relevant

A colorful poster for 'CHS PTSCO PRESENTS Family Welcome Back Night'. The background is dark blue. At the top, it says 'CHS PTSCO PRESENTS' in white. Below that, 'Family Welcome Back Night' is written in large, stylized letters: 'Family' in pink, 'Welcome Back' in yellow, and 'Night' in pink. In the center is a cartoon illustration of a yellow food truck with a red and white striped awning. Below the truck, on a light blue hill, are the event details: 'ENJOY DINNER ON THE HILLTOP', 'SIGN-UP FOR CLUBS & ACTIVITIES', 'SHOP CHIRON'S CORNER', and 'SUNFLOWER SELFIES @PELION GARDEN'. To the left, 'FRIDAY SEPT. 22' is written in large pink letters. To the right, 'CITY HONORS' is written in pink, followed by '186 E North Street' and 'Buffalo, NY 14204'. At the bottom, '5:00 - 8:00 PM' is written in white, and 'We need volunteers' is written in white with the email 'cityhonorspicnic@gmail.com' below it. In the bottom right corner is a circular logo for 'CITY HONORS SCHOOL' with a picture of a dog and 'BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS' around it.

information displayed, and be staffed with students/advisors available to answer questions. Interested parties should contact cityhonorspicnic@gmail.com to reserve a table in the atrium.

New CHS Bell Schedule

In May of this year, the BPS Board of Education voted to place City Honors in "Tier 2" of the new BPS bell schedule system. This has resulted in the start and end to our school day being pushed back a bit. All parents and students should become familiar with the new bell schedule [at this link](#). Here are some answers to frequently asked questions about our new bell schedule:

Q: *Will shelter and supervision still continue to be provided before and after the start of the school day for families who want to avoid AM and PM congestion?*

A: Yes! We know this is important to families. We will add the exact times to the schedule this summer as soon as we confirm them with affected labor partners.

Q: *Will high school music ensembles continue to meet prior to the start of the school day?*

A: Yes, high school ensembles will need to continue to meet prior to the school day. Moving the ensembles into the school day would require that our bell schedule add "folding lunch periods" into the school day and an extra period added. In order to achieve this, we would need approval from the Buffalo Teacher Federation and would need to complete an extensive process to be sure that our staffing can support an extra period in the school day. Our administrative team plans to explore this with the teacher members of the Building Committee this year, but it cannot be ready for the fall of '23.

Q: *Why was a minute added to passing time for students?*

A: Our school building is a very large complex. Some students must make their way from one end of the building to the other or up several floors between classes in just four minutes. Our hope is that adding a minute to passing time will reduce the number of students who are tardy to class and provide time for students to use the restroom so they do not need to leave class to do so. We will carefully monitor tardy rates in our student information system next school year to see if this adjustment has had a positive impact.

Start the School Year Out in Some Great New CHS Gear

Whether your child plays volleyball or tennis for CHS or whether you just want to support our Centaurs, please be sure to check out the links below to two temporary online stores. You can find team-specific CHS volleyball and tennis gear at these stores or sharp looking CHS gear that is not sport specific. All proceeds will benefit our teams!

[CHS Volleyball Gear Store](#)

[CHS Tennis Gear Store](#)

Is Your Child Leaving Us 😞?

If your child will not be attending City Honors next school year, it is critical at this point that you contact your child's CHS school counselor as soon as your plans are confirmed. Your child's transfer to another school is not complete in eyes of the New York State Education Department until you have notified our school in writing that you are withdrawing your child and provided confirmation of enrollment in their new school. Emails for our school counselors can be found [at this link](#).

** 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](#)