



**Hilltop Notes**  
for the CHS Community  
9.5.20



**Start of School: Tuesday, September 8!**

-Tuesday, September 8 will be a full day of classes for all CHS students. Instruction will be 100% remote for at least the first 4-6 weeks of school. The Board of Education will reassess things at that time.

-All classes will be 'synchronous' the first time a student has them in their schedule, even if they are noted to be asynchronous on the synch/asynch charts that apply to your child's grade level.

-There will be no homeroom period for students in grade 7-12 until further notice. Students will begin their first period class at 8:21am. For grade 5/6 students, the asynch period window at the start of the school day will not be used during the first day of school. Grade 5/6 students should report to their first period block at 8:40am.

-Students are expected to attend all classes remotely and follow the CHS daily bell schedule which is printed on the schedule mailed home to them and available in the Infinite Campus student/parent portal. Students must be engaged in assigned practice or small group work with their teachers during asynchronous periods. Teachers will monitor student participation and will be available via their Teams class links during asynch periods.

-Teachers will take attendance in all periods whether synch or asynch.

-CHS Consumable and textbook distribution days will be the Week of September 14 in order to account in delays in vendor shipping. Please stay tuned for an upcoming email with the exact day and time for your family to pick-up materials.

**-All families are asked to be sure to watch the video trainings and read the documents at the 2020 CHS Back-to-School Information Menu in the Parent Resources section of the CHS website: <https://cityhonors.org/families/resources/> Your child will not be able to participate in their classes and understand their schedule without this critical information.**

**Special Mini-Curriculum**

The Board of Education is implementing ten day mini-curriculum to begin the school year. These curricula address topics critical to our students at this moment. Your child should expect the following curricula in these subject areas to start the school year:

<b>District Topic</b>	<b>Content Area Implementing</b>
Social Emotional Learning	English
Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Learning	Social Studies
Personal Physical Education and Care	Physical Education

COVID-19/Health Education	Science
My Name, My Identity* (awareness of valuing students' cultures and languages)	World Languages
Instructional Technology	Mathematics

\*5 day course

**Laptop Computers and Schoology**

-If your child has not been using their BPS laptop over the summer, please be sure they charge it this weekend and start it up to be sure it is functioning properly. They should also login to Schoology this weekend to be sure their sign-on works and to view messages from Dr. Kresse in their "recent activity feed". **They will need to login in to Schoology to access all of their remote classes.**

-Is your child new to Schoology? Encourage them to watch BPS Schoology training videos at: <https://www.buffaloschools.org/page/88626> so they will know how to login and navigate within Schoology. If they are new to the district and have not been issued a Schoology password, they should email [schoologyadmin@buffaloschools.org](mailto:schoologyadmin@buffaloschools.org) as soon as possible or call the BPS technology helpline at 816.7100.

-Any remaining families still needing a BPS laptop device should come on September 8-11th, 10 am-4 pm to 1515 South Park Avenue, 14220. All laptop distribution is centralized. The school does not have any laptops or hotspots at the school.

-Does your child have a BPS laptop and is getting 'license expiring' messages? Here is a neat little 'hack': you can go to any BPS school, get close enough to the building to pick up the WiFi, and then restart the machine and let it finish starting up and downloading any updates.

-Your child does not need the Microsoft Teams App on their laptop to access their classes. They can just click on the Teams link in each of the Schoology courses and it will open up Teams and their remote class. The district is working on a system to remotely add the Teams App to district laptops.

**Attention All Grade 10 Parents and Students**

On Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00pm-7:00pm, IB Middle Years Program coordinator, Mr. Moses, will be holding a very important meeting for all parents and students in grade 10 regarding the IB MYP Personal Project. Mr. Moses will be discussing the Personal project timeline, as well as how to select an attainable goal, context, and finished product. It is so important that both parent and student attend this meeting. To join the TEAMS meeting, please use the following link [https://teams.microsoft.com/\\_#/school//?ctx=teamsGrid](https://teams.microsoft.com/_#/school//?ctx=teamsGrid)  
 We look forward to seeing you virtually on the 22nd! Questions? Email [jamoses@buffaloschools.org](mailto:jamoses@buffaloschools.org).

**Attention All Families with a Students Enrolled in the IB Diploma Program**

88% percent of the members of the CHS Class of 2020 enrolled in the IB Diploma Program earned their IB Diploma. We want to keep this momentum going! Parents of IB Diploma Program students are asked to attend an online meeting with our IB DP coordinator, Mrs. Elissa Banas. She will be holding two separate meetings as the needs of full IB DP juniors are different than seniors.

-The parents of full IB DP juniors will meet with Mrs. Banas on Thursday, September 10th from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm.

-The parents of full IB DP seniors will meet with her on Thursday, September 10th from 6:45 pm to 7:45 pm.

There will be time set aside during each meeting for questions and answers. MS Teams meeting links will be emailed to the parents of full IB DP juniors and seniors a few days before the meetings are to take place.

### **The CHS Yearbook Wants Your First Day Pics!**

The CHS yearbook is going strong but we are going to need your help this year. A good place to start is the first day of school. Please snap a photo of the first day of your child's remote learning and submit it to the yearbook. We know this is a little different than the usual first days of school, but this is life for our Centaurs at this moment in time and we want to memorialize it in our yearbook for our students to look back upon some day and for future generations to see. You may email it directly to Mrs. D. In the email subject area please include: First day, Name and grade of the student. Our yearbook staff is excited to get to work and your photos are going to be crucial this year. With all this new technology at our fingertips, we are working on the best ways to meet the needs of our CHS community. Look for yearbook updates in the next few weeks. Thank you for supporting our Centaurs!

Mrs. Dylewski  
jdylewski@buffaloschool.com  
Yearbook Adviser

### **CHS Instrumental Music**

The Instrumental Music Teachers will be spending the first couple of weeks identifying and disinfecting our instrument inventory and finding instruments that are unaccounted for. They will also be contacting all returning students via Schoology to assess needs of instrument repair, supplies, etc. Mrs. Butler (Orchestra) and Mrs. Steiner (Band) will be developing lesson schedules with students by the end of September and hope to have remote lessons for returning students begin the 1st week of October. Additionally, a "pick-up day" will be set-up for instrument pick-up, instrument drop-off (if it needs repair or a student is no longer using their BPS instrument) and to pick up other supplies. Details will be finalized in the next 2 weeks. Thank you for your patience with this matter. Questions? Email [ASteiner@buffaloschools.org](mailto:ASteiner@buffaloschools.org) or [HMButler@buffaloschools.org](mailto:HMButler@buffaloschools.org).

### **Congratulations Sam and Liam!**

Sam Farrell '21 and Liam Dell '21 have been named Semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Out approximately 1.5 million seniors in the United States, US territories and US military installations, 16,000 students have been named semifinalists in this competition based on their performance on the PSAT taken during their junior year of high school. Good luck to both these Centaurs as they move on to be reviewed for spots as finalists in the competition.

The Buffalo Public Schools traditionally fund all students in the district to take the PSAT during grade 10 and grade 11. The grade 11 PSAT serves as the National Merit Qualifying Test. The CHS School Counselors will send an update explaining how and when the PSAT will be administered this year to all grade 10 and 11 families as soon as we receive news.

## **Information From the CHS School Counseling Department**

-Our school counselors have set up special groups in Schoology for the CHS Classes of 2021, 2022, and 2023. Please encourage your child to keep an eye out for important information from the counselors including college admissions tips every Tuesday and Thursday.

-The school counseling office is working with college and university admissions representatives to set up virtual visits with groups of our juniors and seniors. Information about how to access these visits and a schedule of schools conducting the visits will be shared shortly.

-Each year CHS school counselors consider the schedule adjustment requests of students who believe

- they have a gap in their schedule, OR
- they may have been incorrectly placed in a course, OR
- they are missing a requested and required course, based upon those courses the student requested last year.

Class change requests based upon teacher or time preference cannot be considered due to the need to preserve class size limits and balancing. If a schedule change request is honored, students will see those changes in the Infinite Campus Student and/or Parent Portal when they have been made. Please complete this online form linked [HERE](#) and submit it no later than Friday, September 11.

Please email your counselor if you have additional questions about this process.

-Grades 5-9 Students with last name A-G: Ms. [Williams-acwilliams@buffaloschools.org](mailto:Williams-acwilliams@buffaloschools.org)

-Students with last name H-O: Mrs. [Allman-cmallman@buffaloschools.org](mailto:Allman-cmallman@buffaloschools.org)

-Students with last name P-Z: Ms. [DiMare-cdimare@buffaloschools.org](mailto:DiMare-cdimare@buffaloschools.org)

-Grades 10-12 Students with last name A-F: Ms. [Williams-acwilliams@buffaloschools.org](mailto:Williams-acwilliams@buffaloschools.org)

-Students with last name G-M: Mrs. [Allman-cmallman@buffaloschools.org](mailto:Allman-cmallman@buffaloschools.org)

-Students with last name N-Z: Ms. [DiMare-cdimare@buffaloschools.org](mailto:DiMare-cdimare@buffaloschools.org)

## **Change of Family Information**

Have you moved to a new address? Have you changed your cell/phone number? Do you want to update who can and cannot pick up your child in the event of an emergency? Then you must update your child's contact information. Please visit <https://www.buffaloschools.org/contact> to complete the form.

If your child takes the bus, you will want to update this information as soon as possible because the transportation department will need updated information to pick up and drop off your child at the correct location.

If you are changing your home address, you will need to provide proof of residence. You can take a picture and upload your driver's license, utility bill, voter registration card, mortgage statement, decision letter from Dept. of Social Services, rental receipt, OR signed lease.

## **General Reminders for All CHS Families During This Time of COVID-19**

-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. Here is a quick reference guide which provides contact information for mental health support from the Buffalo Public Schools and our partner organizations:  
[https://cityhonors.org/files/mental\\_health\\_supports.pdf](https://cityhonors.org/files/mental_health_supports.pdf)

-From the NYS Education Department: As we work through these challenging times together, NY State of Health is committed to ensuring access to affordable, quality health insurance for all New Yorkers so they can get the care they need during this state of emergency. With the recent closure of businesses across the state, many New Yorkers are at risk of losing their health insurance coverage as a result of COVID-19. Many are likely to be eligible for health coverage with financial assistance through NY State of Health due to their loss of coverage and income. NY State of Health opened a Special Enrollment Period last month for people who are uninsured, and the Marketplace has started an awareness campaign to let people know that NY State of Health is there as a safety net in difficult times like these. New Yorkers who are without health insurance should apply now through NY State of Health. If you lost employer coverage, you must apply within 60 days of losing that coverage. Because of a loss of income, New Yorkers may also be eligible for Medicaid, the Essential Plan, Child Health Plus, or subsidized Qualified Health Plan coverage. Thousands of assistors are ready throughout the state to help consumers enroll by phone. NY State of Health is committed to helping New Yorkers get the coverage they need so they can get the care they need. Visit us at: [www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov) and let us help you find a health care plan that works for you. If you have additional questions you can contact the Marketplace directly at 518-486-9102 or [NYSOH@health.ny.gov](mailto:NYSOH@health.ny.gov).

-Help our schools, city and state by participating in the 2020 United States Census! Funding and representation for our state and region is improved by accurate family information. Your participation is critical! If you received a mailing with your household login code in the US Post, please make use of this. If not, please visit <https://2020census.gov/> to complete the survey. Thank you for helping to be sure our region receives its fair share of resources and representation!

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## ***Connect with CHS!***

CHS Website: <http://www.cityhonors.org>

CHS on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cityhonors>

CHS on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/cityhonors>

CHS on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cityhonorsschool/>

CHS View (online school community newsletter): <http://www.chsview.org>

CHS Sports Schedules: <http://www.arbiterlive.com/Teams?entityId=4358>

Pelion Garden at City Honors: <https://peliongarden.org/>

7 Easy/No Cost Ways to Support City Honors: <http://www.cityhonors.org/page/resources-for-parents>

Fosdick Field Restoration Project: <http://www.RestoreOurField.org>

City Honors/Fosdick-Masten Park Foundation: <https://cityhonors.org/supportchs/chfmpfoundation/>

PTSCO Minutes and Information: <https://cityhonors.org/families/get-involved/>

***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 at <http://www.eccpasa.org>***