



# City Honors School

AT FOSDICK-MASTEN PARK

William A. Kresse, Ph.D. PRINCIPAL   Tandy J. Hamilton ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL   Angela R. Hannah ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL   Carla L. McDow ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

November 3, 2022

Dear Parents of CHS 8th Graders,

We are pleased to announce that we are planning for the return of the traditional City Honors 8th Grade Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder this year!

The Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder is a four-day wilderness retreat for City Honors 8th-grade students. It was established in 2013 by CHS PTSCO, with support from the Buffalo Public Schools, City Honors/FMP Foundation, Algonquin Campership Fund, and CHS parents and faculty. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions, the trip has been on hiatus for the past three years.

During the Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder, City Honors 8th-grade students develop camaraderie and teamwork. The natural environment of Algonquin Provincial Park allows students to strengthen bonds within their grade level. Under the supervision of the Camp Director, Mike Sladden, licensed staff lead all outdoor activities. City Honors faculty (including Dr. Kresse and myself) and parent volunteers will chaperone the trip. Over the years, we have seen the trip as an essential component of implementing the International Baccalaureate curriculum. Past attendees cite the trip as an influential experience for themselves and their class.

We highly recommend that you consider sending your child on this trip. All accommodations for individual needs and preferences are supported, including dietary, medical, counseling support, and religious observances. No student has ever been left behind from this trip due to family budget constraints; financial aid is available. Typical attendance on this trip is between 108 and 116 students.

Our safety and security procedures for children on this trip are incredibly robust. We have a 6:1 student: chaperone ratio. If you include camp staff, the balance is 3:1. This is a safe, well-supervised trip. All camp staff are certified in wilderness medical care. The Camp Pathfinder Medical Officer (MD) is on call 24 hours a day during our stay. Did we mention it's an island? Students can't wander off and get lost in the woods. See water? Wrong way-turn around and go back!

In the next few days, your child will bring printed materials home to review.

On November 15th at 6:30 PM, Camp Pathfinder director Mike Sladden will join us in the CHS auditorium. This meeting will allow you and your child to learn more about the program, ask questions and see visuals of the island. City Honors Students who attended Camp Pathfinder in 8th grade will also be on hand to share their experiences. Established in 1914, Camp Pathfinder serves as a summer wilderness retreat for children. We hope to see you on November 15th at 6:30 PM!

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www.cityhonors.org

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This trip is subject to Buffalo Board of Education approval which is pending. Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime with questions.

Sincerely,

*James Sharratt*

City Honors School Faculty

Vocal Music Teacher, 8th Grade Class Advisor

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