



# City Honors School Start-of-School: Survival Guide for Families

2017-2018 School Year



## Athletics:

Most Fall athletic practices have begun, although middle school and club sport start dates vary. Contact information for all coaches, where known, is listed below if you would like to inquire about participation:

|                                     |                 |                                |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Girls JV and Varsity Field Hockey   | Ms. Mroz        | lmroz66@gmail.com              |
| Girls Varsity Diving                | Ms. Cranston    | ccranston@buffaloschools.org   |
| Girls Varsity Swimming              | Mrs. Yager      | jmyager@buffaloschools.org     |
| Girls JV Volleyball                 | TBA             |                                |
| Girls Cross Country                 | Mr. DiLeo       | fdileo@buffaloschools.org      |
| Boys Cross Country                  | Mrs. Holden     | mholden@buffaloschools.org     |
| Boys & Girls Modified Cross Country | Mrs. Van Remmen | mcvanRemmen@buffaloschools.org |
| Boys Varsity Golf                   | Mr. Krause      | ajkrause@buffaloschools.org    |
| Girls Varsity Golf                  | Mr. Kudla       | jkudla@buffaloschools.org      |
| Girls Varsity Volleyball            | Ms. Matos       | dmatos@buffaloschools.org      |
| Boys Soccer                         | Mr. Moretta     | mmoretta@buffaloschools.org    |
| Boys JV Soccer                      | Mr. Bement      | mbement@buffaloschools.org     |
| Girls Soccer                        | Ms. Sommer      | rsommer@buffaloschools.org     |
| Girls JV Soccer                     | Mrs. Johnson    | khollenbeck@buffaloschools.org |
| Boys & Girls Grades 8-12 Crew**     | Mr. Sullivan    | djsullivanrow.ds@gmail.com     |
| Boys Modified Baseball**            | Mr. Langdon     | fdlangdon@gmail.com            |
| Football***                         | Mr. Gelsomino   | cgelsomino@buffaloschools.org  |

## Middle School Soccer\*\*:

|                             |           |                         |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Parent Administrator        | Mr. Nowak | hjnnowak@roadrunner.com |
| 5th-6th Grade Girls Coaches | TBA       |                         |
| 5th-6th Grade Boys Coach    | TBA       |                         |
| 7th-8th Grade Girls Coaches | TBA       |                         |
| 7th-8th Grade Boys Coaches  | TBA       |                         |

\*\*Denotes a team run through the generosity of parents, alumni and other volunteers.

\*\*\*CHS students play on a unified football team under Hutch-Tech name as part of BPS joining state play-offs.

## Entrances:

- **For the safety of our students, they should not arrive prior to 7:55 AM unless they are attending a specific, pre-approved scheduled practice with adult supervision.** We realize that students using the NFTA may have variable arrival times. Plan accordingly.
- **Students must be in homeroom by 8:08 and will be considered late if they arrive after the bell.**
- Students who are dropped off by parents may use the main entrance on Fosdick Street and enter the building no earlier than 7:55 AM. We strongly encourage parents dropping off students to enter Fosdick Street from North Street so that students may exit your vehicle onto the school sidewalk and will not need to cross the street.
- Students in grades 5-8 on yellow buses are released at 7:55 AM to the Atrium doorway on Masten Avenue to enter the building.

**Please do not use Masten Ave. or North St. as a student drop-off, as this creates dangerous interactions with buses.** *Students with mobility or injury issues should see an administrator for special accommodations.* The service lot and loading dock door on Masten Avenue should never be used as a student entrance/drop-off.

- Grab and go breakfasts are available for all students. Students in grades 10-12 may eat breakfast in the McVay Cafe.

**Dismissal:**

**Parents who plan to pick up students after school are required to pick children up at dismissal time, which is at 2:45 PM.** Again, your child's safety is our first priority. Parents who are unable to pick up students at dismissal time are asked to plan for alternate arrangements, such as after-school care. Families who are not respectful of this requirement may receive written notification from the school to remediate the situation, as unsupervised students cannot be left in the building. Our transportation coordinator can assist middle school parents with PM bussing destination changes if they are required. Students who are staying after school as members of athletic teams, extracurricular clubs or musical productions must be with the supervising adult until they are picked up.

**Household Income Forms (formerly known as "Free and Reduced Lunch Applications"):**

These forms will be sent home with students as soon as they are made available. Families need to complete only one form regardless of the number of children attending BPS. Although you may not have submitted a form in the past, ALL families are asked to submit these applications. **We cannot tell you how many times we have had families fill out these forms and find, to their surprise, that they do indeed qualify.** Schools that include secondary grade levels, such as City Honors, historically have fewer families applying for this program than actually qualify. This lack of participation hurts the school district when it comes to state and federal funding, which in turn hurts our school. **In addition, many families fail to realize that the State, College Board, and the International Baccalaureate Program assist with the cost of expensive AP and IB examinations if you qualify for these programs. There are also other programs, grants, and scholarships your child may have access to if they qualify.** So, regardless of whether you think you qualify, we ask all families to submit this form for the possible multiple benefits to the school and your child.

Our breakfast program will be offered daily free of charge to students in all grades starting the first day of school.

**Lockers:**

Returning students in grades 8-11 will have the same locker assignments as they did in 16-17. New students, and students in grades 7 and 12 have been assigned new lockers. Locker assignments should be available in homerooms on the first day of school, and our security officers will have the master lists.

**Parent Portal:**

All BPS guardians have access to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. The parent portal provides online access to your child's grades, attendance and assessment data in real-time. If you are new to the Buffalo Public Schools, email our main office clerk, Ms. Maracle at [jmaracle@buffaloschools.org](mailto:jmaracle@buffaloschools.org). Please use "Parent Portal Access" as the subject line and include your name, your child's name and grade in the email. If you do not have email, please call the main office at 816-4230.

### **Swimming at City Honors:**

We are fortunate to have a competitive-level natatorium at our school. We believe that swimming is a life skill, and all City Honors Centaurs should be, at least, proficient swimmers by the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. To achieve this goal, students in grades 6 and 8 swim for part of the year, and students in grade 9 swim all year for their physical education requirement. Please plan to have your child ready to swim in each of those grades. Sixth and eighth graders will learn their specific swim schedules at the start of school.

### **Student Schedules:**

At the time of this mailing we are continuing to develop the master schedule. Your child will report to a schedule distribution location on the first day of school to pick-up their schedule. The schedules that can be seen in Infinite Campus during the scheduling process are not final, so please do not become attached to them. A Scheduling Change Form has been enclosed with this mailing. Return this form after the first day of school if there are issues after the first day. Students should follow their current schedule until called down by their school counselor to discuss change requests. High school students are reminded that course requests cannot always be honored, as we have a limited number of seats in our classes, and sometimes demand exceeds supply.

### **Middle School Students:**

- Grade 5 students should report to the auditorium.
- Grade 6 students should report to the auditorium to pick up their schedules and then report to HR.

**Distribution locations will be prominently displayed around the school for grades 7-12 on the first day of school.**

Once students receive their schedule, they should report to their homeroom.

### **Important Upcoming School September Events:**

- **Opening Day, Tuesday, September 5 (This is a full day of school):** Please remind your child that attendance on the first day (and every day) of school is critical to their success!
- **CHS Welcome Back Picnic, Friday, September 15 at CHS, 5:00-8:00 p.m.:** *PTSCO's annual cook-out and bonding event for CHS families. Come learn more about various clubs, activities and parent committees while enjoying a great chicken BBQ or vegetarian dinner catered by Chiavetta's. Forms to purchase tickets and more information can be found in this back-to-school packet and at [cityhonors.org](http://cityhonors.org). Information requests and opportunities to volunteer should be directed to parent volunteer organizers Polly Perez at [polly.perez@gmail.com](mailto:polly.perez@gmail.com) and/or Annette Jones at [asemanchinjones@gmail.com](mailto:asemanchinjones@gmail.com).*
- **Parent "Get Acquainted" Night, Thursday, September 19, 6-8 p.m.:** *This annual tradition allows parents to follow their child's schedule, meet teachers, receive course syllabi and hear teacher presentations about their courses.*

### **Student Dress:**

As you shop with your child for clothing for the school year, please keep in mind that we have the expectation that students will dress in a conservative fashion, appropriate to a school setting. Although our dress code allows many freedoms, we do ask students to dress in a manner that does not detract from the learning environment. The lessons we teach our children now about dressing appropriately in certain settings will serve them well later in life. Please **avoid** all of the following:

- Shirts and tee shirts with slogans or advertisements that support unhealthy lifestyles or denigrate any particular person and/or group
- Clogs, flip-flops, or backless shoes of any kind
- Hats or headgear (including earbuds or other electronic devices except as required by a physician, etc.)

- Excessively short skirts and shorts
- Tank tops that are plunging or low-cut, cropped above the waistline, or have thin spaghetti straps (less than three-finger width)
- Low rise pants or skirts that expose the abdomen in any way
- Oversized shirts that hang well below the beltline
- Excessively loose or baggy pants that hang or drag over shoes or do not stay on the hips

### **Supplies:**

Supply lists where available were distributed by teachers at the end of the school year and at new student orientations. These lists have also been posted to the school website on the Parent Resources page. Teachers of students in grades 9-12 will inform students of needed supplies for their classes as a part of their annual course syllabi which are distributed on the first day of school.

### **Student Planners/Handbooks:**

Planners will again be distributed to all students at the start of school. Organizational skills can have a powerful effect upon student learning and performance. These planners are one of the best tools for fostering your child's organizational skills. The City Honors/Fosdick-Masten Park Foundation fully funds these planners. Please consider donating to the Foundation's annual fund each fall to help continue the tradition of providing these items to our students at no charge. Parents are asked to carefully review the CHS student handbook, which is inserted at the front of the planner, with their child.

### **Summer Reading:**

If your child has not completed their summer reading yet, please work with them to see that they do so. There will be assessments on summer reading in all ELA classes that will be included as a part of first quarter grades for students. Summer reading lists are posted on the Parent Resources page of [cityhonors.org](http://cityhonors.org).

### **Transportation:**

Our traffic, parking, and entry patterns are designed with student safety in mind. Please note the following details:

- Parent drop-off/pick-up of students is on Fosdick Street.
- Visitor parking is on Fosdick Street. Abide by all street signs. Again, we ask parents dropping off students to enter Fosdick Street from North Street so that students can exit right onto the school sidewalk and will not need to cross the street.
- Yellow bus drop-off/pick-up is on Masten Avenue, through the Atrium doors. Parents: please do not attempt to use Masten Avenue or the Masten Avenue service lot/delivery door as a student drop-off from your car. It creates a number of dangerous issues for our yellow busses and student safety.
- NFTA end-of-school-day 'Specials' line up on North Street.
- The parking lot on North Street has one entrance/exit and one direction through the lot. The entrance to the lot is on North Street. This lot is not for student drop-off or pick-up. For the safety of our students, there is no entry, except for handicapped, faculty, and staff parking from 6:00 AM to 3:15 PM on school days.
- Handicapped visitor parking and an access ramp are located in the main parking lot.
- Visitors should enter the building through the main entrance on Fosdick Street where our office staff will screen and provide remote entry to visitors. Please do not invite people inside the building by opening other entrances as this activity compromises the safety of our students and staff.
- Grade 5-8 students being picked up by parents at the end of the school day should be signed out in front of the school auditorium.
- Students in grades 9-12 being picked up at dismissal should wait in the main entrance vestibule until their parents arrive on Fosdick Street to pick them up.
- Please continue to drive cautiously and carefully around our school building.

- Parents dropping off by car are asked to avoid the bus zones on North Street and Masten Avenue.
- For the health of our students, please do not idle your car or truck near the school. This is a city ordinance and signs are posted along the perimeter of the campus.

**Additional Grades 5-8 Transportation Details:** Parents with questions about transportation issues prior to the start of school should contact the BPS transportation hotline at 816-4895. Once school begins, middle school parents should contact the school's designated transportation coordinator, Mrs. Arnold, by calling the main office at 816-4230. Be aware that this is a part-time responsibility and someone may not be available to address your concern immediately.

**Additional Grades 9-12 Transportation Details:** BPS students may access the NFTA system without a bus pass during the first week of school. NFTA-Metro passes will be distributed at the start of school. New NFTA riders will have their photos taken by security for permanent passes during the first month of school. Students should follow the route designated on the back of their bus pass in order to receive service. Families can request a change to the route issued to their child and find out more about the appropriate NFTA-Metro routes from the BPS Transportation Office website or on the NFTA website, which offers a route planning tool. Our school security officers are also a valuable resource to students regarding NFTA bus passes and routes. NFTA special buses line up on North Street at the end of the school day. Students are asked to use the front sidewalk to make their way to the NFTA busses, as crossing the parking lot and driveway is not safe.

**What else should you find in your packet?**

- A letter from Dr. Kresse
- A Scheduling Change Form
- The Buffalo Public Schools 'Calendar at a Glance' with Color Coding
- Student Census Verification Form & Letter of Explanation
- 5 Easy, No Cost Ways to Support CHS flyer
- United Way / SEFA Flyer from CH/FMP Foundation
- CHS Back-to-School Picnic flyer
- Types of Advanced Regents Diplomas and Requirements Summary
- Communications / Family Directory / Media / Military Recruiter Opt-Out Form
- Flyer listing all the communication outlets that CHS offers to keep you up-to-date on all the latest happenings on 'The Hilltop'

**Our faculty, staff and administration  
welcome all Centaurs back to the Hilltop for another  
exciting year of learning and growth!**