As part of the Buffalo Public Schools, City Honors School will begin the school year with fully remote instruction. The BPS plan for 100% remote instruction calls for significant improvement and structural changes to the emergency remote learning format our students experienced last spring.

What has changed with BPS Remote Learning?
-Students and teachers follow our standard 8 period bell schedule and six day letter cycle including preps, lunches and common planning periods for teachers (students in grade 5/6 have a slightly different schedule included in their mailing).
-A number of communication platforms have been eliminated. All teachers and students will use **Microsoft Teams** for videoconferencing and remote lessons. **Schoology** will be used for student/teacher communication and will house all materials and videos related to student learning.
-Parents will now have Schoology sign-ins so that they can access their children's accounts and support their learning (BPS will distribute to parents during the first week of school).
-A system for balancing student workload is being developed and will be provided separately.
-Following District guidelines, for Grades 7-12 there will be approximately a 65% and 35% balance between synchronous and asynchronous learning at CHS during 100% remote learning. For grades 5 and 6 the balance is close to 50/50.

What are synchronous and asynchronous learning?
Synchronous learning means that teachers deliver instruction in real time, whether in-person or in a virtual environment. Asynchronous learning refers to students' ability to access information, demonstrate what they have learned, and communicate with classmates and instructors at different times and at their own pace. **The First Day of Instruction for all classes will be SYNCHRONOUS, even if that letter day will normally be asynchronous.**

Examples of Synchronous Instruction with Substantive Interaction:
-Live, in-person instruction
-Live, virtual (remote) instruction

Examples of Asynchronous Instruction with Substantive Interaction:
(Asynchronous instruction will be supported by consultation and communication via email/phone/virtual platform/other technology)
-Virtual office hours during scheduled asynchronous class times
-Writing or other assignments posted in Schoology
-Group, partner, or individual work in Office 365 or other platform
-Self-paced Nearpod or Grad Point lessons
-Readings, videos, video-taped lessons accompanied by a means to verify participation, including responding to questions, completing assignments or exit tickets, or student participation in online discussion boards
-Completion of activities to complement core instruction using District-approved online programs

including but not limited to Zearn, Moby Max, Lexia Core5 or PowerUp, myON, Think Central, Pearson, Realize, NextLesson and Quill
-If necessary, hard copy learning packets aligned to grade level state standards

Why not have every period, every class be synchronous?

In schools where this has been mandated, the common downside reported by teachers and students is that there is "screen exhaustion" among both groups from watching nothing but video conferencing every class period. In addition, the synchronous sessions can lean toward teacher-centered instruction and are not always the most efficient way for students to apply skills and content knowledge.

What will this look like at CHS?

The following schedule based on content areas will provide direction to teachers and students as to when they should be synchronous and asynchronous. Teachers will provide specific direction to their students regarding what they will be doing during asynchronous sessions. Remember, asynchronous does not mean a teacher will not be working. They may be interacting with smaller groups of students or at very least will be on Microsoft teams ready to assist any student who needs support during virtual office hours. **Again, the First Day of Instruction for all classes will be SYNCHRONOUS, even if that letter day will normally be asynchronous.**

Grades 5-6 ONLY

Please refer to the Remote Instruction Model Grades 5-6 Chart for important changes to class times throughout the day during 100% Remote Instruction. We are enclosing the student schedule as it appears in Infinite Campus so that you can easily see your child's A-F classes. This is the schedule we will use if our students return to school. But the color chart enclosed tells you which two letter days per cycle are Asynchronous for our morning core class blocks. Encore (afternoon) classes will be offered every day but for only ½ the normal time (25 minutes.)

CHS Grade 7-12 Asynchronous Learning Schedule by Content Area*

A & D Days
Math
Social Studies (including *IB Economics*)
Art
Music
B & E Days
ELA (including *Theory of Knowledge*)
World Languages
CTE (Technology, Home and Careers, Business, Computer Science)
C & F Days
Science & Science Labs
Health
Physical Education

*Any letter days not specifically identified asynchronous for a content area will be synchronous.
*Frequency of resource, speech and consultant services determined per IEP.