



# 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

August 2019

Dear CHS Families:

On August 9, the University at Buffalo Medical School presented white coats to its newest class of medical students. Six of those coats went to City Honors graduates. In July, I had the privilege of attending an opening reception for the annual CHS Alumni Reunion Weekend. I caught up with alumni engaged in a wide range of professions including engineers, teachers, social workers, medical professionals, college professors, community activists, scientists, bank economists and much more. The common thread that I see over and over with City Honors alumni is that they are out in the world providing leadership and working to improve the lot of others. As we close another gorgeous Buffalo summer and launch the new school year, please know that the high expectations in the classroom and our commitment to developing our students in accordance with the International Baccalaureate Learner Profile are all in place to arrive at the outcomes we are seeing with our graduates. Preparing our students to be productive members of society is not enough. They come to us with a strong skillset and we have an obligation to challenge them to one day “give rise to progress in the great city of Buffalo and around the world” as the iconic tablet at the base of our front steps implores.

To this end, our administrative team has been hard at work this summer planning for the start of another school year. Last year brought some notable progress in student performance and many new enrichment opportunities for our students. We want to build on this. Here are some important and exciting things you should know about this school year:

- The **first day of school for students** will be **Friday, September 6. This is a full day of school.**
- **Parent/Teacher Get-Acquainted Night** will be held on **Thursday, September 12, from 6-8pm.** A separate letter will be sent home to all families during the first week of school explaining Parent/Teacher Get-Acquainted Night.
- Our annual **Back-to-School Event for families** will be held on **Friday, September 20 from 5-8pm.** A flyer about the picnic can be found in this packet. PTSCO has reinvented this as a “Food Truck Party” and school activity fair.
- A reminder that **homeroom begins at 8:12 AM and the final bell of the day for dismissal is at 2:45 PM.** I have enclosed our annual *Back-to-School Survival Guide* and other documents to be sure your family begins the school year successfully.
- All students will continue to be assigned laptop computers during the school day. Students must pick up their laptops each morning during homeroom, and return their laptops in 8<sup>th</sup> period, or before they leave school if picked up early. Students will be assigned their computer during the first week of school, as well as a handbook and parent/student agreement on usage and care of the laptop which is found in the enclosed packet. Students should carry this laptop in their backpack or a laptop carrying bag to protect their child’s machine and make it convenient to carry. The dimensions of the laptops are 12”L x 8.5”W. Again, the same laptop will stay with each child for their duration at the school or until the inventory is refreshed so each child is encouraged to treat their computer with great care.

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- Although most schedules in Infinite Campus are now complete, as always students should not become attached to anything they see in the portal as we continue to enhance the master schedule. Official student schedules will be handed out at distribution locations on the first day of school. Signs with schedule pick-up information will be clearly posted for students as they enter the building and staff will be stationed around the building to support students with questions. Grade five and six students will report to the school auditorium at the start of the school on September 6.
- The BPS Athletic Department makes all sport team schedules available in a live, online format through the “Arbiter Live” scheduling system. Parents and students can also subscribe to their favorite team(s) to receive scheduling alerts. Please use the following link to access the schedules for all CHS sports teams: <http://www.arbiterlive.com/School/4358>
- Please welcome the following teachers who will be joining our faculty at City Honors:
  - Mr. Justin Barbleben            STARS Mathematics (grade 9-12)
  - Mr. Izeal Bullock            Technology Education+
  - Ms. Sara Ceraso            STARS ELA (grade 9-12)+
  - Ms. Ellen Connell            Spanish\*
  - Ms. Kristin Juergens            Physical Education/Health/Swim
  - Mr. Timothy Lyon            Band\*
  - Mr. Wally Odden            Vocal Music+
  - Mr. William O’Neil-White            Grade 11 IB English Language Arts\*
  - Mrs. Tara Vukelic            Mathematics
  - Mrs. Patricia Wojtowicz            STARS Business and AP Principles of Computer Science\*
  - Ms. Williams            School Counselor

\*Denotes part-time teacher

+Denotes temporary teacher

Mr. Paterson, who served as a temporary teacher last school year for Mrs. Luongo, has been selected as a permanent replacement to Mrs. Luongo following her retirement in June. At the time of this printing, these are all of the confirmed staffing changes. We will notify parents individually if their child will be affected by the placement of a new or temporary teacher not listed here. Thank you to all of the parent and teacher representatives who volunteered their time this summer to serve on the hiring teams to select full-time teachers.

- The Global Scholars Program will begin its second year at CHS. This program will again take place in grade six. We found that this program nicely reinforces the goals of the IB Middle Years Program in important ways. The 2019-20 curricula is entitled *Nature and Our Cities*. Over the course of the school year, students will investigate the impacts of urbanization and develop solutions that improve the lives of people in cities while protecting the natural environment and biodiversity worldwide. Students will use global digital exchange to learn and solve problems with peers around the globe. You learn more about this year’s Global Scholars curricula at this link: <https://www.globalcities.org/curricula>
- As I have notified parents over the past few years, English Language Arts is an area we are seeking to continue to innovate in order to improve student learning and engagement. We began six years ago revamping our curricula and have been working our way toward the higher grades. Last year, we made the switch in grade 10 to the Advanced Placement Language and Composition course after several years of careful study and endorsement from the district’s Curriculum and Instruction office. We previously offered the AP Literature course at this grade level. Not only did we immediately receive anecdotal feedback from our students that the course was interesting and useful, in July we received notice from the College Board that our students had received the highest results of any grade 10 students in the history of our school. 66% of our grade 10 students scored a three or above (the typical threshold for receiving college credit) on their AP Language and Composition exam! Literary commentary will remain the focus of grade 11 and 12 ELA studies through the two-year IB Literature course, but we will continue to carefully examine our work at these last two grade levels over the course of this school year. The BPS Director of ELA, Dr. Julie Romain, continues to have

a satellite desk at CHS to provide our ELA teachers with heightened support alongside our instructional coach and to help us examine the remaining curricular decisions.

Please take a moment to review all of the enclosures in this mailing and don't forget to review your child's progress on their CHS summer reading to be sure it is completed. These lists were distributed to students at the end of the school year and are posted on our website at [www.cityhonors.org](http://www.cityhonors.org) under the Family Resources tab. Teachers in ELA classes will be engaging students in assignments and discussions related to summer reading assignments as the school year starts.

We have an exciting year of learning planned for our students. Our faculty, staff, and administrative team look forward to welcoming your child back on September 6!

Sincerely,



William A. Kresse, Ph.D.  
Principal