



# 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

June 12, 2024

Dear Parent/Caregiver of a CHS Senior:

I am writing to address a number of important issues related to the completion of your child's education at City Honors:

- Over 97% of our seniors participated in the Senior Service Learning Initiative (SLI). SLI began on Monday, May 13th and will end on Thursday, June 13th. Seniors must submit their time log and reflection sheet via email to [dcasseri@buffaloschools.org](mailto:dcasseri@buffaloschools.org) as a photo or pdf by 4:00pm on Monday, June 17th. Directions for submitting the time log and reflection via email were posted on the Senior Schoology page at the start of May. These documents were handed out at our final senior meeting and have been scanned and can be found in the Family Resources section of [cityhonors.org](http://cityhonors.org) and on the Senior Schoology Page.
- The Senior Exit Survey was due back in mid-May. Any senior who did not fill it out will not have school transcripts sent to the school they are planning to attend next year, will not have the free IB transcript sent to their school, and will have "Undecided" as their destination in the printed graduation program. The survey is still open, and seniors who did not fill it out should do so immediately. We cannot guarantee the information will make the printed graduation program, but if it is filled out before June 21st, CHS transcripts will be sent to the college destination listed by the student.
- In February, seniors were provided IB PIN sheets by Mrs. Vircillo-Franke so that they could upload their Literature HL essays. They were told at the time that they needed to keep that information so that they could access their IB scores. Using any browser but Safari, grades can be checked starting in the late morning of Saturday, July 6th. Seniors will not know their scores without this information sheet. If this sheet was misplaced, they must email Mrs. Banas before June 21st.
- Seniors who have not paid their senior dues, owe money for IB examinations they did not take, owe library books, debts, team uniforms, SLI forms, etc. need to resolve these issues prior to graduation.

**Please note the following important dates and times:**

**June 17 Senior NCAA Signing Ceremony and Cline Scholarship Presentation**  
9:00am, Hilltop Museum (all classmates and family invited)  
-Lydia Lane, Division III Soccer, Keuka College  
-Will Krause, Division III Lacrosse, SUNY Purchase  
-Annaleis Milne, Division III Soccer, Houghton University  
-Dean Tripp, Division III Baseball, Hilbert College  
-Grace Wheeler, Cline Memorial Scholarship, Softball  
-Eamon Langdon, Cline Memorial Scholarship, Baseball

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[www.cityhonors.org](http://www.cityhonors.org)

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**June 17**      **Senior SLI Time Logs/Reflections due by 4:00pm**

**June 27**      **Graduation Day**

-10:30 am: Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal at Kleinhans Music Hall

***Seniors must attend in order to participate in graduation***

-6:00 pm: Seniors arrive and are arranged in formation for procession

-7:00 pm: Graduation procession begins

**A few reminders about graduation:**

- If your child will not be attending the graduation ceremony for some reason, please email Mrs. Banas at ebanas@buffaloschools.org as soon as possible.
- Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Jennifer Hanley '02, Astronomer at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. Dr. Hanley was of the co-authors of the September 2015 scientific paper that helped NASA confirm the presence of water on Mars.
- Please remember that you do not need a ticket to attend the CHS graduation ceremony at Kleinhans Music Hall. The City Honors Foundation and our senior families invest in use of the hall so that families can bring as many people as they want to share this special day with their child.
- Please plan to arrive early as free parking is limited to side streets. If you want to park in the actual parking lot at Kleinhans, there is a charge of \$10 (the school does NOT receive these proceeds).
- Families may not bring any noisemaking devices to graduation.
- Graduation costumes will be distributed at the end of graduation rehearsal.
- **City Honors requires students to wear the graduation costume issued by the school without any alterations or additions to their cap, gown or stole. Students who violate this requirement will be removed from the procession into Kleinhans and will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony.**

*For those of you who wonder why we do this:*

I have discussed the reasons for this with our seniors. Uniformity in this setting does create an elegant look, but this has more to do with avoiding putting our staff in a position to make subjective judgments on a moment's notice about what is "appropriate" decoration or messaging and what is not. I tell students, "think of the cause that is closest to your heart. And now think of the exact opposite. Chances are I would have to allow that opposite cause if we allowed your cause to be displayed. Is seeing that on your graduation day something that you would want?" In addition, questions of "what is art?", "what is appropriate messaging at a ceremony?", "what is crude versus what is personal expression?" are very subjective from person to person. Some may think of this approach as very traditional. We believe it is forward thinking. We do not have school uniforms. Our seniors have benefited over the years from one of the most progressive dress codes in the region. We simply do not want our staff members who assemble candidates for graduation to face any last-minute decisions or confrontations with our seniors on what should be a special occasion for them and their families.

- Student dress beneath the gown: All students should dress appropriately for this formal ceremony. We strongly encourage students to wear dress shoes, a dress shirt and slacks or knee-length dress under their graduation robes. Students should not wear shorts or any footwear that would endanger them or their classmates while walking up and down stairs, narrow risers, and a Kleinhans stage that shifts as you walk on it.
- All gowns must be "zipped" for the processional, during the ceremony, and recessional.
- Families are asked to please remain at their seats out of consideration for other guests. We have secured a professional photographer to take photos of each graduate as they receive their diploma. Information on how to access those photos will be listed in the graduation program. To keep pricing as low as possible for families, the school does not receive a commission from these sales.
- Students should take their gown out of the packaging and hang it immediately after getting home from rehearsal - the gown will be wrinkled when it is removed. Tip: hanging it in your bathroom works well as the steam from shower takes most wrinkles out. Do not iron the cap or gown.

- Be careful not lose your tassel when taking the gown and cap out of the bag (we do not have extras).
- A white (Diploma course candidates) or silver (Diploma candidates) stole will be given to each student at rehearsal to wear as a part of the graduation costume. (Seniors may want to “steam” that as well.)
- **All personal belongings of the graduates should be given to family members before entering the staging area for graduates downstairs at Kleinhans. Graduates will not be permitted to have bags, purses, cell phones, cameras, water bottles, etc. with them during the ceremony. City Honors and Kleinhans are not responsible for any items that go missing.**
- Please note that only diploma covers are handed out to the graduates during the ceremony. All students should report to the Mary Seaton room following the ceremony to pick up their actual diploma and an envelope containing other important documents from our school counselors.
- All policies relating to student conduct during the regular school year remain in force during graduation. Misconduct, distractions, defiance of procedures and/or lack of compliance with dress code requirements may result in a graduate’s diploma being retained by the school until resolution of disciplinary issues and family conference in the days after graduation.
- Colleges will be mailed school transcripts by mid-July when official transcripts become available from the school district. All colleges and universities understand that New York State public schools send them later in the summer due to school ending at the end of June.

After careful consideration, the following students have been selected to participate in stage duties:

<b>Superintendent’s Message:</b>	Madoka Aldstadt
<b>Class Address:</b>	Kevin Ndayishimiye
<b>Class Gift:</b>	Tanzim Adnan, Sumaia Alam, Nevaeh Foster
<b>Introduction of Keynote Speaker:</b>	Hamna Khalid

Students listed above should contact [Mrs. Banas](#) as soon as possible to prepare for their duties. As is our tradition at City Honors, the roles above have been assigned to represent a cross-section of the personalities and interests of the Class of 2024. These students are not receiving individual distinction, but will be representing their classmates in the duties they are completing. The unique nature of CHS graduation since the school’s inception has been celebrating the journey, accomplishments and learning of the entire class.

If you would like the world to know about your soon-to-be CHS graduate, celebratory lawn signs are now available at Zoom Copy [using this link](#). To keep pricing as low as possible, the school is not deriving any profit from the sale of these signs.

I have enjoyed working with your child over the years. My most sincere hope is to see them off to a successful completion of their time at City Honors. Thank you for your ongoing support of your child during these final months. Congratulations to all on the successful completion of your CHS voyage!

Sincerely,



William A. Kresse, Ph.D.  
Principal

