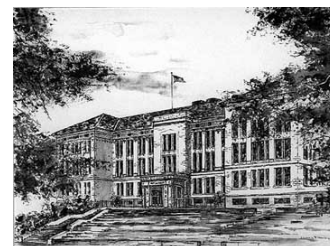


View From The Hill



City Honors School 186 E. North Street Buffalo, NY 14209-1091 Phone 716.816-4230 Fax 716.888.7145
 Visit CHS Online @ www.cityhonors.org

Principal's Page

Dr. William A. Kresse



An Introduction to the CHS Community

William A. Kresse, Ph.D.

The stunning thing about West Virginia is the sunsets. People will tell you it's the mountains. It's true that they constantly demand your attention, but the orangish-pink streaked sunsets are what mesmerize you. Mr. Cline and I sat staring out the window of my office at another one of these sunsets that backlit the rusty water tower of the applesauce factory across the street. He subtly asked, "So ya planning to make a life of it here Beel?" Thrown off a bit by his tone, I snapped to attention. Mr. Cline was not subtle about anything. I knew this question was important to him.

He was an enormous man, although not obese, whose voice frequently boomed down school hallways or gymnasiums. His heavy drawl and stories of life growing up chasing goats camouflaged his sharp intellect, fluid debating skills, and understanding of human relations. An athletic director and attendance administrator for thirty-two years, Mr. Cline was weathered and protective but surprisingly open about matters of the heart. He was also receptive to an outsider that had dropped into Inwood out of nowhere. We had developed a strong friendship that was illogical given the decades difference in age and geographic origins. Even stranger, my passion for instructional issues did not collide with his obsession for Applemen athletics.

Mr. Cline had been one of my strongest supporters when some questioned the appointment of an assistant principal from outside the area. He had publicly endorsed the implementation of my academic reforms even though I don't think he cared to learn the details of them. There was no way I could avoid telling him the truth. "How could I leave this unlimited supply of free apple butter and venison jerky that you folks keep putting on my desk?" He gave out his signature deep bellow laugh. I continued once it was safe to speak, "As much as I love this school and the people here, I eventually I need to go back to Buffalo to contribute there." There was no indication of shock or anger in Mr. Cline's face. He just kept staring at the red and orange streaked sky. "Beel, if you can return to your hometown and be of service, you have to do it."

My time in West Virginia offered me the opportunity to develop my skills as an educator and build friendships that are still strong today. However, there was a draw to return to Buffalo that could not be overcome. After three years back in Buffalo, primarily working to bring South Park High School from crisis to a state of renaissance, I am ecstatic to find yet another way to serve the families here by joining the City Honors community. As you may be aware, Dr. Battaglia has taken on the challenge of moving district-wide reform forward by leaving CHS to become a community superintendent. Dr. Battaglia's work at CHS is well known throughout the Western New York educational community. I feel very fortunate to follow her tenure as principal. The fact that her expertise will now be shared with multiple schools is undoubtedly a very positive development for our district.

My arrival at CHS also humbles me. To become a part of a school community that has such an outstanding reputation for dynamic instruction, parent participation, and sense of community could not be more thrilling for a principal. In the short time since my appointment, I've also been very impressed by the professionalism and warmth of the faculty. Aunt Claudia, Aunt Freda, and Uncle Casey all graduated from Fosdick-Masten, and you can be assured that the importance of taking care of such a gem has been impressed upon me. The faculty, students, and Dr. Battaglia have shared the importance of a number of traditions and programs that are unique to CHS and that will continue.

Despite the impressive accomplishments of the CHS faculty, students, and parents, there are more goals that we can set our sights on.

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Big Boost for CHS

City Honors has received a \$70,000 grant from the Wendt Foundation. It will be used to update the computer technology in the school, including providing some wireless capability. The grant will also fund an Artists-in-Residence program, which will enable teachers to enhance their classroom instruction through workshops with professional artists and writers.

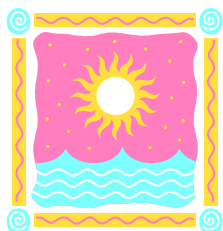


This is the largest grant we have ever received. Thank you to Les Hoffman, Ellen Warner, Judy Balzer, Melisa Holden, Teresa Fundalinski, and Cathy Battaglia for their teamwork in writing and presenting the grant proposal to the Wendt Foundation.

--Mary V. Kiefer, IB Coordinator

IB CORNER

What I Did On My Summer Vacation



It is just great to be back to school, and equally great to be able to report that the opening weeks were wonderful...what a gracious school community we have at CHS. Remember how teachers used to ask kids to write an essay about "What I Did on My Summer Vacation"? This is mine, for you.

The Buffalo School District offered some funds to teachers for the development of school curriculum. This doesn't happen very often, and even less so for City Honors. We took full advantage of the offer. After struggling to find a place where we would be able to meet, Makowski School was offered to us. Location problems solved, we got down to work.

Mary Luongo, Kim Switalski, Karen Dolce, Marjorie Janowsky, Lisa Wolff, Elke Gannon, Kurt Holme, Andrea Norton, Mary Kiefer, Eileen Crane, and I spent one full week developing lesson plans integrating the International Baccalaureate curriculum into into grades 5-10. The program requires teachers and students to look at learning through the lens of how everything learned is connected to areas in their lives, such as environment, community, social education, and health. This is then applied to the facts and skills required by New York State to guide their curriculum studies.

It was enlightening for us to share the specifics of our curricula and to see how well each subject may be linked to areas of interaction named before. By the end of the week, syllabi were developed, and interdisciplinary units were discussed and planned. It felt as if everyone had a clearer understanding on how to deliver the courses to the children.

Parents might be interested to know that we all agreed to write our materials with parents in mind. We realize most parents really want to know how they can help their child succeed--right? We also felt it was key to write the curriculum as if it was being done for our own child. We wanted things to be clear and interesting for the children too. In the end we were very pleased with the results, and we hope you all will be too.

--Judith Balzer, IB MYP Coordinator



KUDOS

Congratulations to Seniors Emily Lodick, who is a National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist, and Ebele Ifedigbo, who is a National Achievement Scholarship Semi-Finalist. The following are Commended students for National Merit Scholarship 2006 Program: Jane Bullard, James Cart, Maxwell Criden, Maria Forti, Virginia Graham, Ebele Ifedigbo, Allan Izzo, Caitlin Kelsey, Amy Keresztes, Steven Leonard, Nathan Minkoff, Tess Morrissey, John Morrow, and Richard Rondon.

--Jo Ann T. Meyer, School Counselor

CLUBS AND COMPETITIONS

This year the Amnesty International Club is working hard to try to inform the rest of the school community about serious human rights violations in some parts of the world. The students meet Wednesday mornings at 7:45 in Room 318. A bagel sale will take place on Thursday mornings for a month to raise money for stamps and envelopes for a letter writing campaign.

Science students have two big events to participate in this year. The Physics Olympics will take place at Buffalo State College on Saturday, November 19, 2005, from 9 A.M. to Noon. All participants had fun in previous years. The Science Olympiad will take place at the beginning of science high school students are encouraged to participate. A team of fifteen students is selected to compete. Interested students should talk to their science teacher or Mrs. Ettinger, in Room 318.

--Mrs. Ettinger, Physics teacher

Earn Money for CHS

Keep CHS in mind when you shop



Schoolpop is an online shopping mall. Go to Schoolpop.com and register for City Honors School. You will then have access to the sites of hundreds of companies who have agreed to return a percentage of what you spend to City Honors. So if you shop online anyway, please make it count for our school! The funds benefit the IB program.

Sign up for the **Target Card or Target Visa Card** and designate City Honors to receive 1% of your total expenditures. One-half percent will go to CHS of the purchases you make with your Target Visa at all other places. To sign up, visit Target.com or your local Target store. Last year, CHS received about \$7,000 through Target's Take Charge of Education Program.



Also, clip and save **Boxtops for Education from General Mills** products. They can be turned in at the CHS library, which is the beneficiary from this program.



A Very, Very Easy Way to Earn Money for CHS...

Verizon long distance is offering to provide special funds to schools through their "Extra Credit" program. If you currently have Verizon long distance or are thinking of switching to it, they will donate 5% of your monthly long distance bill to City Honors. This program will not cost you anything; Verizon is simply donating a part of the phone bill that you normally pay them.

5% of one long distance bill will not do a whole lot, but with many people participating we should be able to raise some funds for extra equipment and supplies for teachers and students. Anyone who has Verizon long distance can designate City Honors as the school they want their 5% donated to, so please pass this information on to friends and family (even those out of the area or out of state).

Call **1-877-X-CREDIT** to designate City Honors as your Extra Credit school. You can also go to the Extra Credit site at www.verizon.com/extracredit to register. Plus, this website will allow you to send e-postcards to anyone else you think might want to designate City Honors as their extra-credit school.

To All the Members of Our City Honors School Community

It isn't how much time you spend somewhere that makes it memorable; it's how you spend the time.

-- David Brenner

By the time you read this newsletter, I will be settled into my new position in room 730 at City Hall as Community Superintendent in the Office of School Performance, and your new Principal, Dr. William Kresse, will have started his term at City Honors School. As you know, this change and move were not anticipated. I truly planned to be at City Honors long enough to guarantee the successful implementation and authorization of our IB-Middle Years Programme and also graduate my first group of fifth graders in June of 2008. Because I understand that it is not optimum to make this kind of a move during the course of the school year, in the weeks following my appointment, I was overcome with concern about maintaining the equilibrium of our program and school community during the transitional period.

All that changed when I learned that Dr. Kresse would be heading up this wonderful school. Since his appointment, he and I have spent many hours talking about where we've been, where we are, and where we need to go in the years ahead. He's asked questions, and I've shared pertinent information regarding the school emphasizing, in particular, the differentiated needs of our 5 – 12 student population. I continue to be impressed by his fresh insights and understanding of our unique community, and I believe his personal background, coupled with his leadership experience, will combine to form a solid base from which he can navigate and steer this school on its continued journey towards world-class performance and distinction. While it is understood that Dr. Kresse is well credentialed and eminently qualified to take charge of City Honors, more important, I believe that his personal qualities make him a "good fit" for the inimitable characteristic of this school.

Leading a school like City Honors is an enormous challenge, and the role of the principal is pivotal and demanding in all areas. I trust you will do what you can to encourage and support Dr. Kresse and work with him to champion the legacy of excellence so strongly established at City Honors School. I leave knowing that the school is in very capable hands, not only because of Dr. Kresse's skills but also because of Superintendent Williams' strong endorsement and clear commitment to the future of our honors program. I am confident that, together, they will work to help us *do more* and *be more* in the years ahead.

I thank you for the many cards and letters of congratulations I've received from students, parents, and staff, both past and present. Your good wishes and acknowledgements have truly warmed my heart. As David Brenner said in the quote above, it's the quality of the time we spend with people, more than the amount. Given that, I truly hope that I have served you well during our time together.

--In friendship, Cathy Battaglia, Aka "Dr. B"

CITY HONORS DIRECTORY

Please check with your children and remind them to give you the City Honors Directory form that needs to be filled out and returned at your earliest convenience. The Directory is a wonderful tool that lists all the students and their addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

If you like to receive communication via email be sure to fill out the email addresses of both you and your spouse and PTSCO will add you to our mail list. Whenever there are school updates and happenings, we will send out the information via email and you will not be behind on what is going on in school.

Dear Parents and Staff.....

We are getting several funding requests from the sports, clubs and other organizations of City Honors. But PTSCO memberships are very slow in coming in this year. Please help us help your children by filling out the application on the next page and return it to PTSCO. Every penny donated goes right back to our children for activities and supplies that the Board of Education can not fund. Thank you

PTSCO

Parent – Teacher – Student – Community – Organization

Membership Form

By joining the PTSCO, you will help to fill many needs at City Honors School that might otherwise go unmet. All the money raised by PTSCO in memberships goes right back to the students and teachers in the form of grants, and supports educational enrichment, extracurricular activities and competitions.

CHS Parent, Guardian or Staff Name(s)

Last First

Mailing Address

Number and Street

City State Zip Code

Telephone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Name of Student(s). Please include surname if different from above.

Grade Homeroom

Grade Homeroom

Grade Homeroom

Total \$ _____ Check/Money Order _____ Cash _____

Member \$10 - \$24/ Sustaining Member \$25 - \$39 / Booster \$40 - \$74 / Patron \$75 - \$99 / Gold Patron \$100 - \$499 / Lifetime (as long as children remain at CHS) \$500 or more

Please make checks and money orders payable to "PTSCO". Please send this form and payment to PTSCO, City Honors School, 186 E. North Street, Buffalo, New York 14204-1091. Thank you!

November

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1 | District Parent Coordinating Council | 6:30 P.M. Emerson Commons |
| 2 | Board of Education Meeting | 5:30 P.M. Room 801 City Hall |
| 4 | 12/10 Act Registration Deadline | |
| 5 | City Honors Admissions Test (Grades 5, 7 & 9) | 8:30-11:30 A.M. |
| | SAT Test | |
| 8 | No School/Election Day Observed | |
| 9 | 12/3 SAT & Subject Tests Late Registration Deadline | |
| 11 | No School/Veteran's Day Observed | |
| 16 | NYS Social Studies Part I (Grade 5) | |
| | Board of Education Meeting | 5:30 P.M. Room 801 City Hall |
| 17 | NYS Social Studies Part II (Grade 5) | |
| | SBMT Meeting | 3:45 P.M. |
| | P.T.S.C.O. Meeting | 5:30 P.M. (7 th Grade Parents) 6:30 P.M. (regular meeting) |
| 24 | No School/Thanksgiving Day | |
| 25 | No School/Board Day | |
| 30 | Early Release Day | |



December

| | | |
|----|--|------------------------------|
| 1 | Parent-Teacher Conferences | 6-8 P.M.. |
| 3 | SAT & Subject Tests | |
| 6 | District Parent Coordinating Council | 6:30 P.M. Emerson Commons |
| 7 | Board of Education Meeting | 5:30 P.M. Room 801 City Hall |
| 10 | ACT Test | |
| 14 | Early Release Day | |
| 21 | Board of Education Meeting | 5:30 P.M. Room 801 City Hall |
| 22 | Winter Recess Begins | |
| | 1/28 SAT & Subject Tests Registration Deadline | |



January

| | | |
|-------|---|---|
| 3 | Classes Resume | |
| | District Parent Coordinating Council | 6:30 P.M. Emerson Commons |
| 4 | 1/28 SAT & Subject Tests Late Registration Deadline | |
| 6 | 2/11 ACT Registration Deadline | |
| 11 | Board of Education Meeting | 5:30 P.M. Room 801 City Hall |
| 9-13 | NYS ELA (Grade 5) | |
| 16 | No School/Martin Luther King Jr. Day | |
| 17-20 | NYS ELA (Grades 6-8) | |
| 18 | Winter Concert at CHS | |
| 19 | SBMT Meeting. | 3:45 P.M |
| | P.T.S.C.O. Meeting | 5:30 P.M. (8 th Grade Parents) |
| 20 | 2/11 ACT Late Registration Deadline | 6:30 P.M. Regular Meeting |
| 24 | Regents Week Begins | |
| 25 | Board of Education Meeting | 5:30 P.M. Room 801 City Hall |
| 28 | SAT & Subject Tests | |



“Much has been given to you, therefore we have the right to expect much from you.” These words, originally from the gospel of Luke and then borrowed by both Teddy Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy, speak volumes to CHS. There is a heightened expectation placed on all members of the CHS community to

continually assess and challenge ourselves. For teachers and administrators provided with the opportunity to work with such talented students, this means providing an exceptional and progressive instruction. For students who have been blessed with advanced abilities, supportive families, or teachers who helped them arrive at CHS, this means an obligation to approach their studies with vigor and to step into leadership roles to better the Buffalo community. Administrators at CHS, fortunate enough to work with a renowned faculty, student body, and parent organization must endeavor to provide the highest level of service to these groups.

There are a few initiatives that are in motion at CHS that we will continue to pursue including completing the implementation of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program, regular reflection upon our practices in the classroom, improving the quality of our technology, and attracting and retaining talented minority students to insure the continued diversity of our student body. Other goals are to come. Together as a school community we will identify these priorities and set strategies for arriving at them. As I stated when first introduced to the faculty of CHS, if we are willing to continually challenge ourselves, I truly believe that City Honors is poised to move beyond local recognition to become a national model for excellence in gifted education.

I would like to thank all of the students, parents, alumni, and friends of the school who have already welcomed me to CHS. It has made me feel at home already. I would ask for your patience as I get to know the names, faces, and routines of the school. In addition, Mrs. Angela Hannah, our assistant principal, will be going on maternity leave beginning October 31. I am very grateful for her dedicated service as acting principal during this transition. The entire CHS community congratulates Angela and her husband Craig on the anticipated arrival of the newest edition to their family. Until Mrs. Hannah returns, your additional support is greatly appreciated. If you see me around CHS, please feel free to stop me to introduce yourself. If you need to contact me via email or would like to learn more about my background please visit my Web page at www.cityhonors.org.

PTSCO News

Fall has been busy at CHS. That's good—it hasn't left me much time to dwell on the change in our household as we said goodbye to our son Chris, who went off for his freshman year at college. It wasn't only him – his older brother returned to college after spending the summer at home and working in my office. All their friends left for school also. I felt like the Pied Piper came along and took all the 18- and 20-year-olds away. But now it's already November, and we can look forward to Thanksgiving and a crowded house (and an empty refrigerator).

In addition to carrying on some traditions, both new and old, such as the Welcome Back Picnic, the Senior Breakfast, and the 5th & 6th Grade Ice Cream Social and Haunted Lockers, PTSCO has had some new projects. It is hosting one parent meeting per grade level this year. The 6th grade meeting was held before the PTSCO meeting on October 20 and the 5th grade meeting on Saturday, October 22. Parents had the opportunity to socialize, share information and concerns, and hear from CHS administrators and teachers. We look forward to the 7th grade parent meeting on November 17 and the 8th grade parent meeting on January 19, both at 5:30.

Last but not least, we also welcomed Dr. William Kresse as principal of City Honors. When Dr. Battaglia resigned, City Honors was invited to be part of the selection process for her successor. Administrators, teachers, parents, and students were part of an interview team, which was charged with recommending two candidates from a field of five applicants. Superintendent Dr. James Williams made the final choice.

Dr. Kresse began on October 24. Before that, he introduced himself to the CHS community at the October 20 meeting, and he attended the Senior breakfast and the 5th grade parent meeting. We thank him for jumping in so enthusiastically.

Finally, please consider donating to PTSCO if you have not already done so. Many families have already made generous contributions, but they are a small fraction of the total number of families at CHS. The money we collect is spent on school projects, sports, academic competitions, and extracurricular activities. Use the membership form in this newsletter. Thanks!

--Andrea Szalanski, PTSCO Copresident

Clarification: In the Summer 2005 [View From The Hill](#), the Girls' Rugby article was written by Caroline Billet, Boys' Rugby by Matt Hughes, and JV Masterminds by Virginia Graham.

View From The Hill

City Honors PTSCO and Foundation
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Next P.T.S.C.O. meeting is scheduled for
Thursday, November 17, 2005 in the City Honors Library.
5:30 p.m. 7th grade parent meeting,
6:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting.



City Honors School
A co-educational school for
academically gifted students
In grades 5-12

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