

William A. Kresse, Ph.D. PRINCIPAL

Tandy J. Hamilton ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Angela R. Hannah ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Carla L. McDow ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

October 13, 2023

Dear Parents of CHS 8th Graders,

We are pleased to announce that we are planning for the return of the traditional City Honors 8th Grade Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder this year!

The Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder is a four-day wilderness retreat for City Honors 8th-grade students. It was established in 2013 by CHS PTSCO, with support from the Buffalo Public Schools, City Honors/FMP Foundation, Algonquin Campership Fund, and CHS parents and faculty. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions, the trip was on hiatus for the three years. Last year, we successfully restarted the trip. Last years' City Honors 8th grade class had a wonderful experience!

During the Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder, City Honors 8th-grade students develop camaraderie and teamwork. The natural environment of Algonquin Provincial Park allows students to strengthen bonds within their grade level. Under the supervision of the Camp Director, Mike Sladden, licensed professional staff lead all outdoor activities. City Honors faculty (including Dr. Kresse and myself) and parent volunteers will chaperone the trip. Over the years, we have seen the trip as an essential component of implementing the International Baccalaureate curriculum. Past attendees cite the trip as an influential experience for themselves and their class.

We highly recommend that you consider sending your child on this trip. All accommodations for individual needs and preferences are supported, including dietary, medical, counseling support, and religious observances. No student has ever been left behind from this trip due to family budget constraints; financial aid is available. Typical attendance on this trip is between 108 and 116 students.

Our safety and security procedures for children on this trip are incredibly robust. We have a 6:1 student: chaperone ratio. If you include camp staff, the balance is 3:1. This is a safe, well-supervised trip. All camp staff are certified in wilderness medical care. The Camp Pathfinder Medical Officer (MD) is on call 24 hours a day during our stay. Did we mention it's an island? Students can't wander off and get lost in the woods. See water? Wrong way-turn around and go back!

In the next few days, your child will bring printed materials home to review.

We plan to have an evening meeting at school about the trip in December so parents can learn more about the trip and ask questions. We hope to share this date shortly.

Last year, Camp Pathfinder director Mike Sladden joined us in the CHS auditorium to "reintroduce" the trip at a family assembly presentation https://vimeo.com/cityhonors/camppathfinder

(Page 1 of 2)



This trip is subject to Buffalo Board of Education approval which is pending. Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime with questions.

Sincerely,

James Sharratt
City Honors School Faculty
Vocal Music Teacher, 8th Grade Class Advisor
716.440.5122
jsharratt@buffaloschools.org

City Honors School

8[™] Grade Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder – Placeholder Form

Please hold a spot for my child to attend the CHS 8th Grade Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder, June 6 to June 9, 2024, Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario.

Please have your child return this form to Mr. Sharratt as soon as possible. Keep all other pages of the newsletter for your information.

Also available at http://www.cityhonors.org/page/resources-for-parents/

Dear Parents,

The 8th Grade Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder in Algonquin Park, Canada has become a CHS tradition, but just as importantly it is another way in which we develop students in alignment with the goals of the IB Middle Years Program. This year the trip is scheduled for June 6 to June 9, 2024, pending Board of Education approval.

Planning a trip of this size, approximately 120 students, takes a significant amount of planning and preparation; we begin before the start of the school year. Please complete the placeholder form attached. This form should be turned in to Mr. Sharratt, 8th Grade Class Advisor. All other forms may be retained for your reference and turned in later in the year, if you wish.

The cost of the trip will be \$400, which includes transportation, food, lodging and all camping activities led by the experienced Camp Pathfinder Staff. We are actively fundraising to ensure **all** 8th grade students have the opportunity to participate in a very meaningful experience and make memories that will last a lifetime. The trip is chaperoned by Dr. Kresse and by parent and faculty volunteers.

Schedule of payments:

January 16, $2024 - 1^{st}$ deposit payment of \$100/student March 4, $2024 - 2^{nd}$ payment of \$300/student

We emphasize that we welcome your requests to change these scheduled payment due dates according your individual family's budgetary needs.

Each year, we benefit from the support of CHS/FMP Foundation, CHS PTSCO, the Algonquin Campership Fund, contributions from individual families, and a class fundraiser to ensure that all families can send their child on this trip regardless of family budget. Contact Mr Sharratt by email or phone, financial assistance is readily available – jsharratt@buffaloschools.org 716.440.5122.

Please refer to the following letter that was kindly submitted by parent chaperones from a previous year regarding the experience of the Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder.

Observations of parent chaperones – Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder

Dear Dr. Kresse and Mr. Sharratt,

I wanted to share with you the observations Greg and I made over the course of the long weekend with the CHS 8th-grade Class Trip to Camp Pathfinder in Algonquin Park. While each group rotated through the same or very similar activities, the special skills and knowledge of each counselor made each day group's focus slightly different. We understand that Warren focused a little more on the wildflowers, while our counselor, Aidan, may have emphasized history to a somewhat greater degree. Regardless, I am sure that you and your fellow teachers and administrators will find many echoes of the [IB and BPS curriculum] and other significant education and life-long learning outcomes in these experiences.

In terms of history, the students learned the history of logging and land use in the Park as well as the history of the First Nations peoples of the area. They learned this history in the midst of other lessons about cooking on a fire and environmental impacts. The connection with Buffalo's late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century history was made explicit, as many of Buffalo's civic elites and industrialists were involved in the founding of the Park and its early mixed use history of logging, "roughing it," hunting, and fishing. Many of the groups explored the Glen Donald Hotel ruins after canoeing there and using a compass to find some of the old cabin foundations. This hotel was a rustic destination accessible only by train and frequented by wealthy Americans, many of whom were from the Western New York area. This social and transportation history is significant and should have some fruitful comparisons with the history of the railroads and Erie and other canals that students learn.

No history of the occupation and use of the Park can help but lead to a discussion of sustainability and environmental issues. (Even the living environment at the camp – an elaborate human waste management system, composting/garbage/recycling bins at every meal for sorting waste – was a daily reminder of the human impact on the environment.) The Glen Donald site includes a garbage dump with exposed cans, old piping, pot lids, and other remainders and allowed the students to compare and contrast the new and old forms of waste management. The Park itself shows the remnants of the logging industry and the students observed these: a sunken boat left behind when a logging camp closed, the few white pines left behind by loggers sticking up above a deciduous forest, the misshapen white pine that survived the logging on Pathfinder Island. Fireside discussion included the links between logging and vulnerability to fire in the area.

Flora and fauna surrounded the students all day and night. Rare wildflowers like the lady's slipper and the red trillium grew on the island and could be seen on the excursions. Even from the bus on Highway 60 students saw a moose; they later walked through moose scat on the island and a lucky few groups saw a moose and her two calves. Many students for the first time heard the eerie call of the loon and perhaps a few heard the howl of a wolf if they had woken during the night like Greg did. One student caught her first fish — and told the tale around the fire in articulate fashion. Warblers and song birds, ducks, hawks, woodpeckers and their holes were observed and heard.

Students also learned about the geological and climatic factors that make the region unique, including the Canadian Shield, influence of glaciers, and the intersection of the deciduous and boreal forests.

Perhaps one of the loveliest moments came on the last night at camp, when students lay down on the docks to see the stars. Shooting stars, satellites, constellations, the Milky Way – there were students who had never seen the sky without ambient light. What happened after this quiet observation? Parents walked quietly past groups of assembled students and heard them pondering their smallness in the vastness of the universe, asking each other questions about worldly significance and the meaning of human life, discussing whether it's possible that there is no other planet capable of sustaining life. This was not prompted or moderated by adults; this was the spontaneous outpouring of feeling and wonderment in response to the natural world and their intimacy and trust with one another. Is that a specific learning outcome? Hard for me to say – but as a college professor I am quite certain that those students who can let themselves be moved to reflection and even shaken by the world around them make far better college learners than those who do not open their eyes and minds to these sorts of big questions.

The weekend was all about experience – experiential learning, physical activity, fun, problem solving and teamwork, embracing physical and mental challenges, being with friends and making new friends among people they've seen for years. When students were split into teams of two to make fires they were not given a lesson or instructions, just guidance with questions about what wood is good for starting a fire and what wood is good for stoking one to boil water or cook. Aidan referred to an old logger's saying that "only a fool tries to boil water on a cedar fire" and let the students figure out why. They were led through using a compass and topographical map not by a lecture, but by a guided demonstration with lots of questions about degrees and the meaning of the distance between lines on the map. They went out in teams to see if they used the compass correctly. They were given a problem to solve at the ropes course: how to get each member of the team safely across the "molten lava" using only what they were

wearing. Our team came up with using a sweatshirt to snag the hanging rope and then helping each other get on and use it. As the counselor said, "no discounting," meaning accept as sincere the help, encouragement, and praise of the rest of the team — and give that support to one another for a successful outcome. The teaching style of the counselors was effective in that they made their guiding of students appear effortless, even while many steps were taken to lead the students to a conclusion and an attempt at a new task. The ropes course was a physical and psychological challenge. Many of the students had never been in a canoe yet learned how to paddle and experience the challenge of steering a canoe in a headwind. For the student canoeists to reach their destination, they must work together and communicate or the boat will veer all over the place. In a supportive and safe environment, students could challenge themselves physically and mentally by walking across a log 30 feet in the air, jumping off the top of a 20-foot pole, or scaling a climbing wall. There were abundant opportunities for learning or practicing skills — reading a map, shooting an arrow, using a compass, carrying a canoe. The ball games were fun — and turned the world upside down with campers against staff and parents, girls against boys. Lots of team strategy and support, lots of hand-eye coordination, lots of fun.

Ultimately, on the last morning the students divided tasks among themselves for a fun and raucous race. Again, they had to work together and support one another – the challenge emphasized what was part of life all weekend, like social, racial, ethnic, and gender mixing. Individuals bore responsibilities, but ultimately the team was the focus. Even dining played to this, with each table responsible for clearing and cleaning. While students did spend time with familiar friends, we saw tables, tether ball matches, spontaneous ball games of all kinds that brought the students together by interest, mixing the groups without being required to do so. The students sang and listened to others sing and play. The old-fashioned camp songs pairing campers, with rapid hand movements and much laughter, survived onto the bus ride home. From the back I could hear something about your long-legged life and the long-legged sailor and his long-legged wife.

Getting ready to leave many students said how much they were looking forward to a shower and flush toilet, but qualified those wishes by saying how badly they wanted to stay on the island. The shower was the consolation prize for leaving.

I'm sure that other parents shared some of these impressions, and may also have seen variations based on the groups to which they were assigned. It was a pleasure to work, play, learn, dine, and live with these youth for the weekend.

Yours, Claire Schen and Greg Cherr

Camper Gear List

Pack all items into one large duffle to stow in bus cargo and one small day pack (drawstring gym bag or equivalent) to take on board bus.

Packing List

- 1 sleeping bag and pillow
 - campers sleep in wood frame, wood floored, double fly canvas roof tents, on clean, durable plastic wrapped mattress. But they need their own sleeping bag and pillow.
- 1 flashlight with new batteries
- 1 rain jacket, 1 pair lightweight long underwear or base layer, 4 pair socks, 1 medium weight wicking/insulating layer, 2 pair shorts, 1 pair long slacks (avoid denim), 3 t-shirts, 2 long-sleeved shirts
- 1 cap or brimmed shade hat, 1 warm hat
- 1 pair light hiking shoes/boots or sturdy sneakers and a 2nd pair of sneakers
- 1 bathing suit
- 1 towel
- personal hygiene kit (the camp provides bio-neutral soaps)
 - include sunscreen
- day pack/gym bag
 - o a book to read on the bus
 - o a lunch to eat on the bus
 - 1 sanitary reusable drinking water bottle or canteen
- sunglasses

Optional

- camera (not capable of wireless communication)
- binoculars
- natural insect repellent
- playing cards or similar game items
- rugged water shoes with a closed-toe design and secure fastening

Prohibited

- insect repellent with over 50% DEET
- · open toed shoes of any kind
- ponchos
- aerosols
- lighters, matches, or fire starting tools or materials
- · edged tools or knives
- tobacco, drugs, alcohols, weapons, or inappropriate items that are prohibited by the Buffalo Public Schools.
- electronic communication or electronic gaming devices

Students should not bring watches or timepieces. The camp staff has prompts built into the program that make it unnecessary for students to refer to clock time.

Parents, please contact James Sharratt if you have any difficulty acquiring these items. We can often provide new or gently used items for families who prefer not to purchase items for expected one time use. For any questions pertaining to the list, or for more detail, please contact Mr. Sharratt.

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM – LONG TERM TRAVEL

This section is to be completed by the Teacher in Charge:
SCHOOL: City Honors School
TRAVEL DESTINATION: Camp Pathfinder, Algonquin Provincial Park ON
DATES OF TRAVEL: June 6 2024 to June 9 2024
TRANSPORTATION: Charter Bus
TEACHER IN CHARGE: Dr Kresse
This section is to be completed by the parent/guardian:
STUDENT NAME:
STUDENT ADDRESS WITH ZIP:
DATE OF BIRTH: PLACE OF BIRTH:
PARENT/GUARDIAN(S) NAME:
HOME TELEPHONE:
PARENT(S) WORK TELEPHONE:
PARENT(S) CELLPHONE: EMERGENCY CONTACT/RELATIONSHIP:
EMERGENCY CONTACT/RELATIONSHIP: EMERGENCY CONTACT TELEPHONE:
EMERGENCI CONTACT TELETHONE.
PARENTAL AGREEMENT/RELEASE
I hereby consent to participation by my child, , in the event
described above. I understand that this event will take place away from school grounds and that my child
will be under the supervision of the designated school District employee on the above stated date(s).
Consenting to my child's participation, I acknowledge my understanding that the school cannot be held
responsible in the absence of its own negligence for events over which it has no control, such as, natural
disasters, war, including terrorist activity, or the acts or omissions of persons or agencies including
companies which it does not control directly. Should this trip involve travel under the sponsorship of a
professional travel agency, I further acknowledge that most travel agencies also absolve the tour group
from liability as a result of acts over which it has no control, and it is my responsibility to be aware of the
terms of my child's and my contract with the travel agency.
Furthermore, the program organizers and/or group chaperones may make reasonable changes in the dates,
destinations, or itinerary for the mutual benefit and safety of group participants. In such event, they shall
not be liable for any delay, loss, or damage resulting therein. In the event of any illness, accident, or
incapacity incurred, the group chaperone may consider my child's best interests in securing medical
treatment, hospitalization, medication, and/or return transportation at my own expense.
I certify that I have read and I understand this release and agree to abide by its provisions.
1 certify that I have fedd diff I differential this feledge diff agree to delide by its provisions.
Name of Parent/Guardian
Signature Date

Updated November 12, 2009

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM – LONG TERM TRAVEL

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AGREEMENT- Student Name	
I agree to follow the rules and regulations as established in the <i>Buffalo Public School's Code of Co</i> I also realize that this trip represents a regular school day, and therefore, is subject to the Buffalo Bo Education rules and responsibilities. I understand that the safety and welfare of the group is the important consideration. I understand that I am expected to participate in all group activities a complete all related assignments.	ard of e most
In the event of any infraction of the rules, the chaperones reserve the right of the final decision, and if deemed necessary, place a collect telephone call to my parents, and may further send me home own expense (or my parent/guardians) as a result of any action deemed to be detrimental to the and/or well being of the program and it's participants.	at my
As a representative of the Buffalo Public Schools, I agree to act in a responsible, ethical, and pomanner so as to derive the greatest benefit from this excursion and make a valuable contribution District. I also understand that the teacher/administrator in charge is the final authority in all numerical pertaining to this excursion.	to the
I, therefore, certify that I have read and understand this behavior agreement and that I agree to abide provisions.	by its
Student Signature Date	
I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the student named above and that I have reconstudent behavior agreement. I agree to every part of this release and hereby relinquish any claim may have against the program organizers, chaperones, and the Buffalo Public School District, both behalf and in my capacity as a legal representative, while my child is a participant in this produring both supervised and unsupervised activities.	that I on my
Parent/Guardian Signature Date	

STUDENT HEALTH/MEDICAL INFORMATION: Student Name_____

Updated November 12, 2009

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM – LONG TERM TRAVEL

Are there any medical limitations to your child's phys	sical activities? If so, explain:
Are there any medications that your child must take please list the medication name, dosage, and time it teacher in charge prior to departure in its original, labeled the second	must be taken. All medication must be given to the
Please list any additional medical concerns/issues here	2:
This health information is accurate and correct insogall activities except as noted above. In the event that school and/or it's agents to obtain the proper treatm This authorization shall also extend to and include ho	I cannot be reached in an emergency, I authorize the ent to assure the health and well-being of my child.
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date

Updated November 12, 2009

Camper Health Form

Camper Name				
Parent/Guardian Name(s)				
Parent Guardian Phone Number(s)				
Parent Guardian eMail(s)				
Emergency Contact (other than parent)				
Camper's Primary Care Physician or other doctor:				
Insurance/OHIP provider policy #				
Does the camper wear prescription glasses or contacts, dental appliances, hearing aid:	Yes	No		
Please specify:				_
Door the common hour exthuse?	Yes	No		
Does the camper have asthma? Please specify severity and treatment:		INO		_
Does the camper have dietary, environmental, or medical allergies?	Yes	No		
Please specify allergy, treatment, and precautions:				_
Does the camper have any dietary needs or restrictions?	Yes	No		_
(meatless, vegan, lactose free, nut free, egg free, Halal, restrictions in observance of Ra	amadan, o	or common for	ods that are experienced	as highly distasteful)
				_
Can the camper swim or tread water?	Yes	No		
Does the camper have any activity restrictions for recreation or problems with sleep Please specify:	Yes	No		_
If the camper will have any activity or dietary restrictions in observance of Ramadan, p	please con	tact Mr. Shar	ratt for consultation and	more information.
Does the camper require medications to be administered at camp	Yes	No		
All medications will be kept secure by a chaperone and administered by the Camp Nur Please specify:		_	parental instructions.	
				_

Will the camper need assistance with mobility during travel or assistance with mobility over rough terrain at camp? If so, please contact Mr. Sharratt.

Camper Health Form

Camper Name	
To be filled out by Parent:	
Health history: any hospital admissions, surgeries, serio	ous injuries or illnesses, hot weather injuries, chronic or current injury, illness or condition:
Pepto-Bismol, Calamine, Benadryl)	nool group to administer over-the-counter medications to your child as needed? (e.g. Tylenol,
	Yes No
caring for your child to provide necessary care?	mount of time, do you give permission to the Director of Camp Pathfinder to permit a physician Yes No
writing. In consideration of the acceptance of my child claims arising from my child's participation in camp ac reason my child requires medical attention beyond that camp activities and any medical treatment will be perfo over any claims, legal dispute, or cause of action arisin	m and all activities including canoe tripping, unless I advise the camp as to any restriction in I into the camp program, I hereby release Camp Pathfinder, its officers and employees, from all ctivities. I authorize the camp to secure medical treatment for my child when appropriate. If for any t furnished by the camp, I agree to be responsible for any expenses incurred. I acknowledge that the formed in the Province of Ontario, and that the Courts of Ontario shall have exclusive jurisdiction agout of my child's stay at Camp Pathfinder. I hereby agree that if I commence any legal Ontario, and I hereby irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of Ontario.
Parent signature	Date
If possible, please ask your child's Pediatrician to share	any pertinent health information below.
To be filled out by Physician:	
Please share any health information or concerns for the (e.g. headache, ear infection, food or substance intolera	e camper's health and safety ance, bloody nose, dizziness, bed wetting, anxiety, situational phobia)
	s health history. To the best of my knowledge, the camper is in good health and can participate in ng vigorous activities such as swimming, athletics, canoeing, and hiking, except where noted:
Physician signature	Date
Phone number	
Phone number	

Travel Documents

Camper Name
Parents, if your child is a US citizen, please return a photocopy of birth certificate with this packet We will secure all student birth certificate identification for border crossing.
If you child does not have a photocopy of a birth certificate issued by a US state or territory, then a valid US passport, US passport card or permanent resident card may be required. Please contact Mr. Sharratt to discuss your child's identification needs for border crossing.
Please check below:
copy of birth certificate enclosed
no copy of birth certificate enclosed, please contact Mr. Sharratt.

Travel document needs are based on current US Customs and Border Protection Identification Requirements US/Canada Border Crossing for travelers 19 years of age and younger, traveling with school groups.

Class Trip to Ca	mp Pathfinder – Payment Receipt Form
Student Name:	
Enclosed with payment ((check one): \$100 first deposit requested by January 16, 2024
	\$100 liist deposit requested by suitary 10, 2021
	\$300 balance requested by March 4, 2024
	\$400 full payment
	other amount \$
Make checks payable to	"CHS Class of 2028" Submit to Mr. Sharratt during school or mail to: City Honors School - 8 th Grade Class Advisor 186 E. North St. Buffalo, NY 14204
Class Trip to Ca	mp Pathfinder – Payment Receipt Form
Student Name:	
Enclosed with payment ((check one):
	\$100 first deposit requested by January 16, 2024
	\$300 balance requested by March 4, 2024
	\$400 full payment
	other amount \$
Make checks payable to	"CHS Class of 2028" Submit to Mr. Sharratt during school or mail to: City Honors School - 8 th Grade Class Advisor 186 E. North St. Buffalo, NY 14204
Class Trip to Ca	mp Pathfinder – Payment Receipt Form
Student Name:	
Enclosed with payment ((check one):\$100 first deposit requested by January 16, 2024
	\$300 balance requested by March 4, 2024
	\$400 full payment
	other amount \$
Maka ahaaka	
Make checks payable to	"CHS Class of 2028" Submit to Mr. Sharratt during school or mail to: City Honors School - 8 th Grade Class Advisor 186 E. North St. Buffalo, NY 14204