



City Honors School

AT FOSDICK-MASTEN PARK

William A. Kresse, Ph.D. PRINCIPAL

Tandy J. Hamilton ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Angela R. Hannah ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

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Dear CHS Parent:

Some of our high school students may be pressured to participate in a “skip day” during the warm weather. **Although this type of event might be an accepted part of the culture in other schools, I would not like to see it come to City Honors.**

I have always marveled at the original thinking of our students and unique nature of our traditions at City Honors. Students at our school show a strong resilience to the “group think” mentality. We’d like to think we have more than our share of fun and enriching activities at CHS. However, we cannot condone activities that disregard potential consequences or place our students at risk. Here are a few reasons for not supporting this type of activity as parents:

- Parents who provide consent for student skip-days expose themselves to a host of liability issues. Serious financial and legal conflicts can quickly develop between families when harm comes to a child as a result of skipping school.
- Late arrivals and absences are all listed on final transcripts sent to colleges in July of senior year. Colleges can, and increasingly do, deny or revoke offers of admission and financial packages when they see signs of moral and academic lapses.
- I am aware of the argument that students occasionally need a “break” from school. However, district regulation does not support multiple students organizing to take the same day off.¹
- CHS students enjoy a week off in January, February and April as well as multiple early release days, weekends and holidays. CHS seniors are released to the Service Learning Initiative following AP & IB exams providing opportunities to learn away from traditional school. Another day off for our students without a compelling reason would appear to be unnecessary.
- Absences without a substantive reason have a negative impact upon our faculty. Lessons intended to advance learning and prepare students for upcoming assessments need to be postponed or re-taught as result of skip days.
- Skip days result in the destruction of prepared school lunches at a cost to taxpayers.

Our faculty kindly asks that parents work with us by speaking with your child and reaffirming your family expectation that they attend school each and every day until the conclusion of their examinations. We greatly appreciate your support on this issue and ongoing involvement in your child's education.

Sincerely,

William A. Kresse, Ph.D.
Principal

¹ BPS Regulation 7110R. “occasionally students get together and organize a day or part of a day off from school. The Buffalo City School District does not condone these activities. Students participating in such activities will be subject to sanctions for truancy as outlined in the Code of Conduct.”

