



City Honors School Start-of-School: Survival Guide for Families

2015-2016 School Year



Athletics:

Most Fall athletic practices have begun, although middle school and club sport start dates vary. Contact information for all coaches is listed below if you would like to inquire about participation:

Girls Varsity Volleyball	Ms. Matos	dmatos@buffaloschools.org
Girls JV Volleyball	Mr. Moretta	mmoretta@buffaloschools.org
Girls Cross Country	Mr. DiLeo	fdileo@buffaloschools.org
Boys Cross Country	Mrs. Holden	mholden@buffaloschools.org
Boys & Girls Modified Cross Country	Mrs. Van Remmen	mcvanRemmen@buffaloschools.org
Boys Soccer	Mr. Krause	ajkrause@buffaloschools.org
Girls Soccer	Mr. McDermott	amcdermott@buffaloschools.org
Boys & Girls Grades 6-8 Soccer*	Mr. Stephens	hstephens@stephensstephens.com
Assistant Coach (new volunteer)	TBA	Contact Danielle Woodrich at
Boys Grade 5-6 Soccer*	TBA	dwoodrich@aol.com if you can coach
Girls Grade 5-6 Soccer*	TBA	any of these soccer positions!
Boys & Girls Grades 8-12 Crew*	Mr. Sanders	coachjfrederick@gmail.com
Football**	Mr. Gelsomino	cgelsomino@buffaloschools.org

Notes:

*Denotes a team run through the generosity of parents, alumni and other volunteers

**CHS students play on a unified football team under the Hutch-Tech name as part of BPS joining state play-offs.

Entrances:

Middle School (Grades 5-8)

- **For the safety of our students, middle students should not arrive prior to 7:55 AM unless they are attending a specific, pre-approved scheduled practice with adult supervision.**
- Students in grades 5-8 dropped off by parents may use the main entrance on Fosdick Street and ascend the stairs no earlier than 7:55 AM. Please do not use Masten Ave. or North St. as a student drop-off, as this creates dangerous interactions with bus drop-off. *Students with mobility or injury issues should see an administrator for special accommodations.*
- Students in Grades 5-8 exiting the yellow buses at 7:58 will use the Atrium entrance near the Masten drop-off area to enter the building.
- The service lot and loading dock door on Masten Avenue should never be used as a student entrance/drop-off.
- We strongly encourage parents dropping off students to turn onto Fosdick Street from North Street so that students can exit your vehicle onto the school sidewalk and will not need to cross the street.

High School (Grades 9-12)

- **For the safety of our students, high school should not arrive until approximately 7:45 AM (we understand metro transportation arrival times vary) but in no event prior to 7:30 AM.** The Atrium entrance will open at 7:30 AM. The main entrance on Fosdick Street will open at 7:55 AM.

Students in grades 10-12 may eat breakfast. Grade 9 students eat breakfast in the classroom when they arrive at homeroom.

Dismissal:

Parents who plan to pick up students afterschool are required to pick children up at dismissal time, which is at 2:21 PM. Again, your child’s safety is our first priority. Parents who are unable to pick up students at dismissal time are asked to plan for alternate arrangements such as after-school care. Families who are not respectful of this requirement may receive written notification from the school to remediate the situation as unsupervised students cannot be left in the building. Our transportation coordinator can assist middle school parents with PM bussing destination changes if they are required. Students who are staying after school as members of athletic teams, extracurricular clubs or musical productions must be with the supervising adult until they are picked up.

Free and Reduced Lunch Applications:

Free and reduced lunch applications will be sent home with students during the first week of school for all families that are not preregistered. Families need to complete only one form regardless of the number of children attending BPS. Although you may not have submitted a form in the past, **ALL** families are asked to submit these applications. **We cannot tell you how many times we have had families fill out these forms and find to their surprise that they do indeed qualify.** Schools that include secondary grade levels, such as City Honors, historically have less families applying for this program than actually qualify. This lack of participation hurts the school district when it comes to state and federal funding, which in turn hurts our school. **In addition, many families fail to realize that the State, College Board and the International Baccalaureate Program assist with the cost of expensive AP and IB examinations if you qualify for these programs. There are also other programs, grants, and scholarships your child may have access to if they qualify.** So regardless of whether you think you qualify or whether you want your child to actually take advantage of the meal program each day, we ask all families to submit this form for the possible multiple benefits to the school and your child.

Our breakfast program will be offered daily free of charge to students in all grades starting the first day of school including our highly successful breakfast in the classroom program in grades 5-9.

New Faculty and Staff:

Due to retirements and teacher movement, we have hired a few new faculty and staff this summer. Identifying faculty whose qualifications and work ethic fit the needs of our program is a crucial responsibility. A great deal of time is put into this process at City Honors, but it is well worth it. Thank you to the parents and faculty who served on stakeholder hiring committees with our administrative team at CHS this summer. We think you will find that these new staff members bring a high level of content knowledge, professionalism and passion to their work. These are the new faculty and staff that were hired at the time of this printing. We will communicate any additional hiring in the CHS View. Please be sure to provide them with a warm welcome to our school community!

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| Mrs. Jennings: | Spanish/French Teacher |
| Ms. Frischholt: | Business and STARS Career Credentials Teacher |
| Ms. Pryzbala: | Math and Theory of Knowledge Teacher |
| Mr. Belge: | English Language Arts Teacher |

Parent Portal:

All BPS guardians have access to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. The parent portal provides you online access to your child’s grades, attendance and assessment data in real-time. If you are new to Buffalo Public Schools or have never accessed the Parent Portal before, please email our main office typist Mrs. Godwin at dgodwin@buffaloschools.org. Please use “New Parent Portal Access” as the subject line and include your

name, your child's name and grade in the email and she will email you back access instructions with a specific one-time use access code.

Swimming at City Honors:

We are fortunate to have had an Olympic sized swimming pool included in our remodeled school. We believe that swimming is a life skill, and all City Honors Centaurs should be at least proficient swimmers by the end of the 9th grade. To achieve this goal, students in grades 6 and 8 swim for part of the year, and students in grade 9 swim all year for their physical education requirement. Please plan to have your child ready to swim in each of those grades. Sixth and eighth graders will learn their specific swim schedules at the start of school.

Student Lockers:

Please see attached map of the locker room for more information.

Student Schedules:

Your child's tentative student schedule is included. Take a moment to review it with your child. For students in grades 8-12, if you have any questions or concerns, please complete the scheduling change form enclosed with this mailing. Return this form to the school or have your child present it to their homeroom teacher on the first day of school. Students should follow their current schedule until called down by their school counselor to discuss change requests. As our scheduling team is always working to balance classes, schedules may be adjusted prior to the start of school. If you have access to Parent Portal, you will see these changes in real time. **All students should report to the following distribution rooms to pick-up the most up-to-date version of their schedule on the first day of school.**

Middle School Students:

- Grade 5 students should report to the auditorium.
- Grade 6 students should report to the homerooms listed on your schedules in back-to-school mailing.
- Grade 7 students: A-L report to room 109 (Ms. Moda); M-Z report to room 323 (Mr. Bittinger)
- Grade 8 students: A-L report to room 213 (Mr. Serotte); M-Z report to room 305 (Ms. Elliott)

High School Students:

- Grade 9 students: A-L report to the Library (Mrs. Holden); M-Z report to room 114 (Mrs. Newton)
- Grade 10 students: A-L report to room 302 (Mr. DiLeo); M-Z report to room 313 (Mrs. Davis)
- Grade 11 students: A-L report to room 202 (Mr. Hoffman); M-Z report to room 219 (Mr. Howson)
- Grade 12 students: A-L report to room Gym (Mr. Krause); M-Z report to room Gym (Mr. Kudla)

Once students receive their schedule, they should report to their homeroom. Students in grades 5-9 will have breakfast in the classroom available.

Important Upcoming School September Events:

- **Opening Day, Thursday, September 3 (This is a full day of school):** Please remind your child that attendance on the first day (and every day) of school is crucial.
- **Parent "Get Acquainted" Night, Thursday, September 10, 6-8 p.m.:** *This annual tradition allows parents to follow their child's schedule, meet teachers, receive course syllabi and hear teacher presentations about their courses.*
- **CHS Welcome Back Picnic, Friday, September 25 at CHS, 5:00-8:00 p.m.:** *PTSCO's annual cook-out and bonding event for CHS families. Come learn more about various clubs, activities and parent committees while enjoying a great chicken BBQ. Forms to purchase tickets and more information can be found in this*

back-to-school packet and at cityhonors.org. Information requests and opportunities to volunteer should be directed to Elena Blatto at contielena@ymail.com.

Student Dress:

As you shop with your child for clothing for the school year, please keep in mind that we have the expectation that students will dress in a conservative fashion appropriate to a school setting. Although our dress code allows many freedoms, we do ask students to dress in a manner that does not detract from the learning environment. The lessons we teach our children now about dressing appropriately in certain settings will serve them well later in life. Please **avoid** all of the following:

- Shirts and tee shirts with slogans or advertisements that support unhealthy lifestyles or denigrate any particular person and/or group
- Clogs, flip-flops, or backless shoes of any kind
- Hats or headgear (including earbuds or other electronic devices except as required by a physician, etc.)
- Excessively short skirts and shorts
- Tank tops that are plunging or low-cut, cropped above the waistline, or have thin spaghetti straps (less than three-finger width)
- Low rise pants or skirts that expose the abdomen in any way
- Oversized shirts that hang well below the beltline
- Excessively loose or baggy pants that hang or drag over shoes or do not stay on the hips

Supplies:

Supply lists for grades 5-8 were distributed by teachers at the end of the school year and at new student orientations. These lists have also been posted to the school website on the Parent Resources page. Teachers of students in grades 9-12 will inform students of needed supplies for their classes as a part of their annual course syllabi which are distributed on the first day of school.

Student Planners/Handbooks:

Planners will again be distributed in homeroom at the start of school. Organizational skills can have a powerful effect upon student learning and performance. These planners are one of the best tools for fostering your child's organizational skills. The City Honors/Fosdick-Masten Park Foundation and donations from the **Target Card Program** will again share the cost of funding these planners. Please donate to the Foundation's annual fund each fall, and use your City Honors Target Card to help continue the tradition of providing these items to our students at no charge. Parents are asked to carefully review the CHS student handbook, which is inserted at the front of the planner, with their child.

Summer Reading:

If your child has not completed their summer reading yet, please work with them to see that they do so. There will be assessments on summer reading in all ELA classes that will be included as a part of first quarter grades for students. Summer reading lists are posted on the Parent Resources page of cityhonors.org.

Transportation:

Our traffic, parking, and entry patterns are designed with student safety in mind. Please note the following details:

- Parent drop-off/pick-up of students is on Fosdick Street.
- Visitor parking is on Fosdick Street. Abide by all street signs. Again, we ask parents dropping off students to enter Fosdick Street from North Street so that students can exit right onto the school sidewalk and will not need to cross the street.
- Yellow bus drop-off/pick-up is on Masten Avenue through the Atrium doors. Parents: do not attempt to use Masten Avenue or the Masten Avenue service lot/delivery door as a student drop-off from your car. It creates a number of dangerous issues for our yellow busses and student safety.

- NFTA end-of-school-day ‘Specials’ line up on North Street.
- The parking lot on North Street has one entrance/exit and one direction through the lot. The entrance to the lot is on North Street. This lot is not for student drop-off or pick-up. For the safety of our students, there is no entry, except for handicapped, faculty, and staff parking from 6:00 AM to 3:00 PM on school days.
- Handicapped visitor parking and an access ramp are in the main parking lot.
- Visitors should enter through the main entrance on Fosdick Street where our office staff will screen and provide remote entry to visitors. Please do not invite people inside the building by opening other entrances. This activity compromises the safety of our students and staff.
- Grade 5-8 students being picked up by parents at the end of the school day should be signed out in front of the school auditorium.
- Students in Grades 9-12 being picked up at dismissal should wait in the main entrance vestibule until their parents arrive on Fosdick Street to pick them up.
- Please continue to drive cautiously and carefully around our school building.
- Parents dropping off by car are asked to avoid bus zones on North Street and Masten Avenue.
- For the health of our students, please do not idle your car or truck near the school. This is a city ordinance and signs are posted along the perimeter of the campus.

Additional Grade 5-8 Transportation Details: Parents with questions about transportation issues prior to the start of school should contact the BPS transportation hotline at 816-4895. Once school begins, middle school parents should contact the school’s designated transportation coordinator, Mrs. Arnold, by calling the main office at 816-4230. Be aware that this is a part-time responsibility and someone may not be available to address your concern immediately.

Additional Grade 9-12 Transportation Details: BPS students may access the NFTA system without a bus pass during the first week of school. NFTA-Metro passes will be distributed by homeroom teachers. Students should follow the route designated on the back of their bus pass in order to receive service. Families can request a change to the route issued to their child and find out more about the appropriate NFTA-Metro routes from the BPS Transportation Office website or on the NFTA website, which offers a route planning tool. Our school security officers, Mr. Gunsaulley and Mr. Molenda, are also a valuable resource to students regarding NFTA bus passes and routes. NFTA special buses line up on North Street at the end of the school day. Students are asked to use the front sidewalk to make their way to the NFTA busses as crossing the parking lot and driveway is not safe.

What else should you find in your packet?

- A letter from Dr. Kresse
- A Fosdick Field sticker (please help us by placing on car bumper or window where it will not obstruct your view)
- Your child’s tentative schedule (students must pick up a new schedule on the first day of school following directions in the Start of School Survival Guide)
- A missing course form for grade 8-12 students
- The Buffalo Public Schools ‘Calendar at a Glance’ with Color Coding
- Student Census Verification Form & Letter of Explanation
- CHS Back-to-School Picnic flyer
- Communications / Family Directory / Media / Military Recruiter Opt-Out Form
- Flyer listing all the communication outlets that CHS offers to keep you up-to-date on all the latest happenings on ‘The Hilltop.’

**Welcome back to the Hilltop for another great year of
friendship and learning!**

Map of City Honors Locker Room with End of Row Numbers Marked

All students in grades 7-12 will receive new locker assignments this fall. HOMEROOM TEACHERS will have the list of lockers and combinations for students in their homerooms. Please see our security officers, Mr. Gunsaulley or Mr. Molenda, if you have difficulties with your locker. Their office is located below the front entrance stairwell, directly across from the locker room.

