



05-15-2020

Dear Croton-Harmon High School Families,

As we wrap up this beautiful day and a busy week for all of our students including the first week of AP exams, I want to take a moment to say thank you for your support of CHHS and all of our students. I have the opportunity to talk, email and have Google meets with students throughout the week as well as to see some of the incredible work that they are producing in their classes. As we continue in our eLearning journey, I want to remind you to encourage your children to take part in the opportunities that teachers are providing for office hours and other live opportunities and check-ins. These are opportunities to connect with teachers and peers, ask questions, and process information. We know how important connections are right now and how much it can lift our spirits to make those connections.

Congratulations to our students who completed their first week of at-home AP testing and good luck to everyone continuing with exams next week.

Supporting Our Seniors - there are many ways!

- Tomorrow, May 16 is our community pep rally/cheer for our seniors! At **5:00pm**, throw open a window, go out onto your front porch, or stand in your front yard, and make some noise! Bang pots and pans, break out the drums, and make noise for our Tigers. Let them hear your support echoing from one side of town to the other - they are looking forward to hearing their community support them!
- CHHS PTSA wishes to applaud the strength and resilience of our senior students as they approach the end of a year that is very different from what they ever could have imagined. Senior lawn signs across our town provided by PTSA were a first step in congratulating them. We would like to partner with you to recognize them with an additional graduation gift before the school year ends. Your donations to the PTSA Senior Fund will enable them to be surprised with a gift to commemorate their high school graduation. All donations received will be used for this gift and the total funds received will determine the gift options. Please join us now in supporting our seniors, we will

not be able to do this without your help. Donate by May 18th: <https://chhs.memberhub.store/>

- CHHS is partnering with the Croton Caring Committee on a Seniors Cheering Seniors initiative. If you are a senior citizen or have a friend or family member who is, please ask them to participate! We are asking senior citizens to write messages of wisdom, hope, and advice that will be collected and shared with our graduates. Participants can access a [form](#) to submit an electronic message to our students or they can mail a hard copy to the Croton Caring Committee. The information is also available on the [Croton Caring Committee website](#). We are looking forward to sharing words of wisdom and support with our seniors as they get ready to take their next steps after graduation.
- Check out our daily updates on Twitter with pictures of our seniors with their lawn signs [@CrotonHS](#) or take a look at our electronic sign in front of the high school scrolling the names of the Class of 2020.
- Finally, one of our seniors, Grace Reyer, is working on a project to photograph and commemorate our senior class: [Project Page](#). Students can reach out to her at greyer.20@chufsd.org to get their picture taken so that we can commemorate all seniors this way.

End of Year Updates for Seniors

I met with many of our seniors this week to share and get their feedback on some ideas and plans for graduation based on our previous conversations with them and many of you. You may have heard from your children already, but right now, we have some tentative plans that we are awaiting approval on. Please keep the date of **June 25** saved! The basics of the plan include having a drive-in graduation event at a venue in Croton where students can experience graduation with their families and peers as well as hopefully enjoy the experience of crossing the stage and receiving their diploma while their families watch. Much more to come on the details once we get approval, but I know our students are excited at the prospect of having an event together on our originally scheduled date and we are looking forward to coming together to make this a truly special event for our seniors. I would like to invite families once again to take part in a conversation about plans for this and feedback. Please fill out this [google form](#) to indicate if you would like to participate this **Wednesday, May 20 at 8:30 am** or **Thursday, May 21 at 8:30 am**. I look forward to us all coming together to make this a memorable moment for our whole community and will communicate formal plans after having conversations with you next week and once we have approval.

In addition, we are working on plans for a drive-up yearbook and cap and gown pick up event during the **week of June 15** (specific dates/times to come once we have shipping

information on the items) but this is another special event for our seniors. We are planning to decorate our parking lot/front loop and make it special for our seniors to drive up and get their caps, gowns, yearbooks, and other mementos. Stay tuned for details as it gets closer!

You received a separate K-12 alert yesterday with updated information about CHOOSE. Here is a link to that communication again: [Senior CHOOSE Update May 14, 2020](#)

How Can You Help?

Many of you have reached out with ideas and offers of support in planning for events (thank you!). Once we have our approval in place and continue planning, we know we will need some strong committees to support each event and I will be working with the PTSA to coordinate committees (parents of students in any grade are welcome!). I will send out more information about this and what we need in the near future and I thank you for your continued support as we work on making the end of the year special for our amazing, resilient, dedicated Class of 2020.

Lockers for all students

I will be sending out information next week about signing up for dates/times for picking up materials from lockers.

Yearbooks for all students

I outlined a plan for yearbook distribution for seniors above and will communicate on plans for 9-11 graders during the **week of June 15** as well. Stay tuned for more information.

School Budget 2020-2021

The annual school budget vote is **Tuesday June 9th, 2020** via absentee ballot.

The Croton-Harmon School Budget was designed to preserve educational programs, be fiscally responsible and support the goals of the District. The budget was carefully created to support our students' needs and to maintain a vibrant and responsive learning environment in our schools. Please find information about the [school budget](#), [the Bus Bond Proposition](#) and [voter registration here](#).

Croton Caring Committee -- Breakfast Food Drive

The Croton Caring Committee continues to assist our community. Please consider donating breakfast items to assist the Croton Caring Committee in their efforts to

provide food support to families of the Croton-Harmon School District. [Here is how you can help and support this effort.](#)

MySchoolBucks Update

The District Business Office sent emails out to those who have a positive MySchoolBucks balance. The email includes a link to a [google form](#) that will tell the business office how they should handle the MySchoolBucks accounts with positive balances (keep, refund or transfer). If you received the email, please fill it out by **June 5, 2020**.

Below you will find some reminders and resources from previous weekly updates to review.

Thank you for your continued support of CHHS, all of our students, and one another. Have a wonderful weekend,

Laura Dubak

Principal, CHHS

ELearning Video

Please enjoy this [video](#) that highlights the wonderful work being done in our schools by all of our students and teachers.

Virtual Spring Financial Aid Night

This event through our guidance department is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, beginning at 7pm. Our spring presentation focuses on financial strategy (how to best position yourself to maximize student financial aid) and is most appropriate for parents of students grades 9-11. All are welcome. We will include information in future communications about how to sign up as we get closer to the date.

Springtime Celebrations of Learning

This time of year our district calendar is always filled with many celebrations of learning. These moments showcase how well our students embody the skills within our Profile of the Graduate - abilities we so dearly value and that are the focus of our Strategic Coherence Plan.

The spirit of these events will not be lost just because we are not together in our school buildings. Croton-Harmon's [Springtime Celebrations of Learning](#) is an opportunity for every student, K-12, to highlight their prowess in a fun and creative way.

Although being part of the celebration is voluntary, we think that every student will find one of the five challenges compelling. I will send this to students as well.

All entries are due by Tuesday, May 26th, and don't hesitate to be in touch if you have any questions.

Ways to Get Involved

Our counselors shared some information with students today about ways students can get involved in serving the community now with the Croton Face Mask Makers and the Croton Caring Committee. We are updating our [guidance site](#) with opportunities as they come up, so please feel free to check there for new opportunities we come across. We will send them to students via weekly emails as well. If you have any service opportunities that you become aware of, please share them with us so that we can post them and share with our students as well.

SAT Update

The Collegeboard recently announced that they are cancelling the June SAT administration and announced a plan for testing next year. They have announced an additional test date on September 26, due to the backlog of students taking the SAT. CHHS plans to offer the test on both September 26 and October 3 this fall, to help students who have not yet tested get a seat. It will be a good idea to sign up early as we expect demand for seats to be high. Please visit their website to review updates and we will keep you informed of any additional ones as they come: [Collegeboard Updates](#).

ACT Update

The ACT has recently updated their website with information about the June 13 test and when to expect more information on that: [ACT Updates](#).

More Family Resources

Here is a message and resources from Challenge Success, the organization that we have been working with to survey our students and families thanks to a generous grant from CHEF this year: [A Message to our Challenge Success Family during COVID-19](#)

And here are resources for Families from Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES including resources about setting routines/schedules. This link includes the archived issues of activities so you can see previous ideas:

[PNW BOCES Family Activities Resources](#)

Reporting Absences

As a reminder, if for any reason, your child is unable to attend to eLearning on any given day, they must be reported absent by a parent or guardian. An absence can be reported by sending an email from a parent or guardian's email account to Phyllis Cobb:

phyllis.cobb@chufsd.org

Child Nutrition Program

Those students that qualify for free and reduced meals can continue to pick-up meals at the main entrance of PVC Middle School between 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Monday (3 meals) and Thursday (2 meals).