



05-8-2020

Dear Croton-Harmon High School Families,

I hope this communication finds you and your families well. As we get closer to the celebrations that all of our students, especially our seniors look forward to, I want to begin by asking for all of our families' help in supporting our seniors. Here are 2 ways you can do this (stay tuned for another opportunity in next week's update as well):

- 1) Mark your calendars: **On Saturday, May 16th**, please take part in a community "pep rally" for our senior class. 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, or scream and holler for our Tigers. Let them hear your support echoing from one side of town to the other. We will send reminders to students and families again as it gets closer.
- 2) On **May 16th at 8:00**, all major networks will be airing a one-hour special, *Graduate Together: America Honors the Class of 2020*. As part of this program, they are collecting stories and photos from seniors, educators and families across the nation. They will share selected stories on social media, in the show and on multiple platforms. If you would like to submit in one of four categories, visit this link: <https://graduatetogether2020.com/families> Tell America how great Croton-Harmon High School, its students and teachers are!

Parents of Seniors

Thank you to all of our senior families who joined me for conversation around planning for the end of the year events and for emailing me with ideas. I will reach out soon to continue the conversation with you and our students. Thank you to our CHHS PTSA for providing lawn signs as a gift for our seniors and thank you to our transportation department for helping us with the delivery process. I have received many photos already, but please email photos of your senior by their sign to me if you/they have not already by the end of the day on **Monday, May 11** (families welcome in pictures too!) We are working on putting a video together featuring all of our seniors and highlighting them on social media and need your help to make this happen! Also, as you drive by the

high school, you will see the names of our soon-to-be graduates scrolling on our electronic sign. We are so proud of them!

Senior CHOOSE Update

We are excited to share that we will be providing a CHOOSE experience that will begin on June 1. Although it will look differently, it is important for our students to have the option of a senior capstone experience. Seniors will be receiving communication shortly from CHOOSE advisors outlining options for students as well as next steps in order to participate in CHOOSE. As always, students may only participate if they are passing all of their classes. You will receive a separate K-12 alert to senior families from the CHOOSE advisors in the near future containing details and timelines. We hope that our students will take advantage of this opportunity to pursue passions, service, legacy, and virtual internships (where possible) as a culminating experience representing their embodiment of our profile of a graduate. You can email the advisors at CHOOSE@chufsd.org with any questions.

Update on Final Exams and Continued eLearning

As you already know, Regents exams have been cancelled. In addition, given the circumstances, CHHS will not give our usual final exams this year for those classes slated to have a final exam (final exams are usually weighted as a percentage towards a students' yearlong grade). Instead, each teacher and department is working collaboratively to design how best to end their course knowing that this will be just one checkpoint as we prepare students for their next course and make adjustments to those courses based on student progress. How courses end this year will take on a range of formats including project-based learning, reflection, some tests, series of discrete learning experiences, research papers, reflection on work, and other writing pieces. Grades for any culminating assignments will be part of the 4th quarter and culminating assignments may take place throughout the remaining weeks of school, not necessarily during what would have been Regents week.

As we continue in our eLearning journey, we thank you for continuing to support our students in their work. We remain committed to providing quality experiences for our students and want to remind students that they should continue to follow their usual schedule including beginning the day with morning video messages, checking their class websites/Google classroom and making a plan for the day. Please continue to encourage them to take advantage of any real-time office hours or other opportunities their teachers provide, even if they do not have specific questions. It is important for students to keep up with their work and to reach out when they need any assistance from

teachers, counselors, or administrators. We are here for them and are committed to their success.

AP Exams

Good luck to our students who are beginning their AP exams on Tuesday, May 12 at home! Please reach out to Erica Fiorini, our AP exam coordinator if you have any questions regarding the exams or visit the [AP website](#).

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.

From the CHHS Guidance Department

Our counselors are sending weekly updates to each grade level. These updates contain important information about college searches and decisions, study strategies, and wellness strategies. If you missed one, they are all available on the [guidance website](#).

SAVE THE DATE! We have a virtual Spring Financial Aid Night 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.

Locker Contents

Student locker contents are being packed up by custodial staff into sealed bags, labeled with the locker number. When this is complete, we will send information to families and

students about when belongings can be picked up. Thank you for your patience as we coordinate this effort.

Finally, it is teacher appreciation week, so please join me in thanking our CHHS teachers for their hard work and dedication to our students during this time and always. They have worked tirelessly from the onset of this crisis to provide for our students. Please enjoy this [video](#) that highlights the wonderful work being done in our schools by all of our students and teachers.

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. I hope you and your families are well,

Laura Dubak

Principal, CHHS

FAQs

Our district has created two resources for you that address various questions you might have. The first is our [Interactive Frequently Asked Questions](#) where you can watch and listen to responses and a [Text-Based Frequently Asked Questions](#) version. We also have our [eLearning guide](#) that is updated periodically as an additional resource. I hope that you will find these resources helpful as we continue on our journey.

August Regents Update

In addition to the June Regents being cancelled by New York State, we received notification that the August Regents will also be cancelled. More information can be accessed from this memo sent by Interim Commissioner Tahoe: [August Regents Update](#).

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 not updated their website besides the cancellation of the April date so far: [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](#)

ELearning Updates and Reminders

It is very important to the safety of students and staff that we all do our part in creating a safe and productive online learning experience. As students and teachers continue to use real-time and online instructional tools and platforms, please be reminded that students are not to engage in the use of technology with the purpose to cause others personal humiliation or embarrassment. The Code of Conduct applies to all online interactions that students engage in utilizing their school account and/or involving their participation in eLearning.

As everyone continues to transition to remote learning, please remember that it is important to protect the privacy of our children, and we need everyone's cooperation to do this. We ask that you not take screenshots or record any online session, especially with identifying student information visible on the device. We appreciate your cooperation with the above, so that we can maintain the safety and privacy of our students.

Finally, please remind your children that during live sessions like google meets for classes or for office hours, they should remember it is still a school setting (i.e. try to avoid meeting from their bedroom and they should not be meeting from their bed). Thank you for help with this!

Here is a [link to our board policy regarding internet safety](#).

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).