

February 28, 2020

Dear Croton-Harmon High School Families,

Highlights at CHHS

I am very excited to share, due to the generous support of the Croton-Harmon Education Foundation (CHEF), I have the opportunity to give the Challenge Success survey to all students and families. The purpose of both surveys is to understand what we are doing well and what can be doing better to ensure our students' well-being and engagement with learning as well as the overall student experience. The detailed results of the survey from both parents and students will help to guide our future planning and as we continue to work toward our profile of a graduate. You can read more about the organization at their website ChallengeSuccess.org, but I do want to share their mission and vision here (below) because I believe it speaks for itself as to why we are using their survey to better understand our students' experiences and how to partner to make it better and support everyone's path to success. After taking the survey, we will get detailed results and comparisons to other schools in addition to our own data to inform our thinking and planning.

Here is the mission and vision of the organization:

Challenge Success Mission

Challenge Success partners with schools, families, and communities to embrace a broad definition of success and to implement research-based strategies that promote student well-being and engagement with learning.

Challenge Success Vision

We know that every child has his or her own story and path to success. We believe that kids come with a wide variety of interests, skills, capacities, and talents. They need love, support, limits, and a safe environment to develop their full potential. This process of growing up is slow, deliberate, and often unpredictable, and therefore requires that kids have the time and energy needed to mature into resilient, caring, and purposeful adults. Challenge Success recognizes that our current fast-paced, high-pressure culture works against much of what we know about healthy child development and effective education. The overemphasis on grades, test scores, and rote answers has stressed out some kids and marginalized many more. We all want our kids to do well in school and to master certain skills and concepts, but our largely singular focus on academic achievement has resulted in a lack of attention to other

components of a successful life—the ability to be independent, adaptable, ethical, and engaged critical thinkers. Our work helps to foster learners who are healthy, motivated, and prepared for the wide variety of tasks they will face as adults.

Early next week, all high school parents will be receiving a link to the Challenge Success Survey. **The survey is confidential and participants are not asked to provide any identifying information other than their children's grade level and age, and can opt out of answering any questions.** The same is true for the student survey.

My hope is that we will get a **100% return rate** on the surveys for students and parents. **Parents will receive a K-12 alert with a link to the survey on Monday, March 9.**

Your children will be taking the survey in their English classes on March 6 or March 9. Please review the information for the survey from the organization: [Challenge Success Parent Information Sheet](#). My goal is for everyone to participate so that I can hear the voices of every student and every parent. However, if you do not want your child to participate, please print and return the form to the main office before March 6, 2020.

Thank you in advance for your support and taking the time to complete the survey.

Events and Reminders:

We would like to invite you to an event in our community on March 19, 2020. (rain date 3/26)

In collaboration with the Croton-on-Hudson Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the Croton-Harmon High School Students Together Against Racism Club (STAR), PRIDE Club for LGBTQ Students and their Allies, Activism Club, and Women's Connect Club are organizing a candlelight vigil in solidarity against hate. The event will take place in Vassallo Park in Croton on Hudson from 6-7pm.

The purpose of this vigil is to acknowledge the increase in hate crimes in New York and nationwide. We also want to communicate to members of the community who are feeling unsafe because of the current climate of increased ant-Semitic, racist,

anti-LGBTQ, anti-Muslim, and anti-immigrant rhetoric and violence that we care about and stand with them.

Local faith leaders, our town mayor, and CHHS students will be making speeches, sharing readings/poetry and performing songs. We would love for you to join us and if you would like to hang a flyer in your classroom/space we have attached a link.

[Candlelight Vigil in Solidarity Against Hate](#)

Please see the information about the Booster Club's March 8, 2020 event and Booster Club Scholarship fundraiser: [Scramble at Back Nine](#). Thank you for your support of our student athletes!

Please see the information about the [BOCES Tech Center Open House](#) on March 12 (this was also mailed to all families of 9-11 graders).

TLC is having a Paint Night, sponsored by the Croton Community Coalition. It is **March 27th from 7pm - 9pm**. It is \$5 per person and if 4 people sign up as a group, there will be a discount rate of \$16. Please RSVP by March 13th to reserve your spot. You can email Ms. Millen at allison.millen@chufsd.org to register. There will be various types of snacks and drinks available for sale. All art supplies will be provided. We hope to see you there!

Reminder: Our **May and June exam calendars** are now posted on our website.

For your convenience there is also a link here:

[CHHS Parent Letter & May/June 2020 Schedule](#)

Please review with your children to make sure you are aware of dates for all end of year/end of course exams including AP exams and Regents exams.

Reminder: Friday, March 13 is now a regular day of school for students (it was previously slated to be a superintendent's conference day, but the conference day was moved to December 11 in lieu of using a snow day).

Upcoming Events

- Here is a link to the [athletic calendar](#) to see our upcoming events.
- **March 6 and 9** - Challenge Success Survey
- Stress Less week **March 9-13**, guest speaker March 11
- Save the date - **Wednesday, March 11** 7:30 pm - the CHHS PTSA is hosting a budget discussion with Dr. O'Connell and Mr. Griffiths

- **March 16-20** - Spirit Week (Color Wars) Please click on the [link](#) for more info.
- **March 19 at 8:30 am** - PTSA Meeting
- **March 19** - Candlelight Vigil in Solidarity Against Hate
- **March 24** - Senior Awards/Scholarship Info. Meeting (for students during CHAP)
- **March 25 at 9:00 am** - Principal's Coffee
- **March 25** - PSAT-10
- **March 28** - Junior Prom
- **March 30** - End of 3rd Qtr
- **March 30 - April 3** - AP Art Show

Other Information/Announcements

- If you are a parent with a medical or mental health background who would be interested in serving as a judge for the WESEF science competition (Westchester Science and Engineering Fair) please see this link for information: [Judges](#)
- Support the CHHS PTSA while you shop by designating them as your **Amazon Smile Charity**. [Follow this link](#) to begin shopping. You can also access the link through the PTSA website: <http://www.chufsd.org/chhsptsa>.

Laura Dubak
Principal, CHHS