

Dear Croton-Harmon High School Families,

Highlights at CHHS

As I mentioned last week, 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 we 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 as we continue to work toward our profile of a graduate. Students took the survey today in their English classes or will be taking it on Monday. Any student who is absent will have the opportunity to take the survey as well and I will be reaching out to those students next week.

On Monday, all high school parents will be receiving a link to the Challenge Success 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. Thank you in advance for your support and taking the time to complete the survey.**

Earlier today, you received an alert from me regarding hand washing/hygiene and what we are doing at CHHS to reinforce that. You also received a K-12 this morning from Dr. O'Connell with updates and more information about what we have been doing as a district and what our plans are. I would also like to bring your attention to 2 links/resources regarding talking to your children about the Coronavirus should they be helpful for you:

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

I am also pleased to remind you that next week (March 9-13) is Stress Less Week at CHHS. Here is the schedule of events for the week:

- **Monday 3/9:** therapy dogs in the community room from 11:30-1:30 and lunchtime “would you rather?” Take some time to have fun, put your phones down, and have a conversation with one another!
- **Tuesday 3/10:** Tree of Hope activity during lunch
- **Wednesday 3/11:** guest speaker**
- **Thursday 3/12:** lunch games and activities, no homework day!
- **Friday 3/13:** Comfy Friday -NO ASSESSMENTS, *no portal during the school day!*
- **Every day** (until they are complete): we will have large mandalas in the main hallway so please stop by and color a piece to contribute. When they're done, we'll hang them up as a reminder of unity and wellness.
- **Spirit wear orders can be picked up on Monday 3/9 during lunch and after school**

On March 11, John Tessitore will be speaking to all of our students about the “Building Blocks of Mental Wellness” in the morning. In the afternoon, for **juniors and seniors only, there will be an additional session around mental health, supporting one another, and thinking ahead to college and postsecondary plans for juniors and seniors by John Tessitore. You can read more about him and his organization here: <https://jckfoundation.org/> Although it is not the only focus of the talk, I want to bring to your attention that the foundation was started in memory of a friend of John's who took his own life after struggling with mental health. I know this is a topic that is important to all of us and that we want to always continue to grow as a community that supports one another and does not stigmatize mental health. But, I did want to share that background with you in case you have any questions or concerns and so that you were not taken off guard. I sent this same information to students as well so that they are aware and can reach out with any questions or concerns.

Attention parents of juniors: You already received an alert regarding junior prom: [Junior Prom Information](#). Please review and make sure to note the times for the pre-prom event. I look forward to seeing you there for our first annual pre-prom/red carpet junior prom event!

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 anti-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!

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!

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

- **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.
- 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