

February 14, 2020

Dear Croton-Harmon High School Families,

Please take a moment to review the letter below before reading through the rest of the weekly update.

Over the past few weeks, it has come to our attention that some of our students have been exhibiting behaviors that are concerning to us from both a school culture and safety standpoint. These behaviors include using inappropriate language and harassing behaviors during athletic practices, sporting events, and during the school day. This issue was mentioned at a recent Board of Education Work Session and is a topic of continued conversation as we focus on the well-being of all students.

All types of harassment are unacceptable, harm relationships and diminish the sense of community we value at Croton-Harmon. In the athletic arena, they have a detrimental impact on team chemistry and hinder success. An individual student's experience can be deeply enriched through athletics, but negativity during extracurriculars can spill over into the school day in a very unfavorable way. All of our students and athletes have a right to feel socially and emotionally safe within our schools as it is fundamental to success.

Over the past week, the athletic department and coaching staff engaged members of our programs with an activity requiring self-reflection that we hope sheds light on the impact these behaviors and actions have on their peers. More learning and conversation with students on this issue will continue in and out of athletic programs. Our District also has a Culture of Respect Task Force whose work encourages our students to think about how our words and actions positively or negatively contribute to our culture.

We are reaching out at this time to bring this to the attention of the larger community. We ask for your partnership in emphasizing that each one of our students deserves a kind, positive, and supportive culture every day - before, during and after school. Please join us in having conversations with your children about this. Have them consider the perspective of victims, bystanders, and even perpetrators. Discuss ways they can be a dignified and respectful individual who embodies our profile of a graduate and is a steward of a healthy school environment.

We thank you for your continued support of our students and programs and your assistance with reinforcing the positive tone and supportive culture we want for all of

our students. As always, please reach out to us with any thoughts, questions, or concerns.

Sincerely,

John Buonamano
Athletic Director

Laura Dubak
Principal, CHHS

Mark Maxam
Assistant Principal, CHHS

Highlights and Reminders at CHHS

Best wishes to our students heading to Disney on Sunday! This trip has taken a great deal of planning and preparation by Ms. Zantay who will be joined by Ms. Horton and Ms. O'Brien as chaperones. We hope our students have a wonderful experience!

The online spirit wear store is closing on **Sunday**. Don't forget to order your spirit wear through the CHHS PTSA [Spiritwear Site!](#)

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).

Attention Parent of Juniors:

If your child is eligible to apply to the National Honor Society, they will receive an email to their chufsd email address this afternoon. Parents will also receive a follow-up letter informing you of eligibility as well. The email will contain information about next steps and application information. If your child has any questions about the application, they should reach out to Ms. Confalone or Ms. Zappa, NHS advisors.

Attention Parents of Seniors:

Class of 2020 Wear, designed by Senior Wyatt Robinson, is now available for purchase. Funds raised will help pay for Senior End-of-Year activities. Please visit [CHHS Class of 2020](#) to purchase a long sleeve tee, a short sleeve tee and/or a hoodie. The sale ends 2/26/20 and items will ship around 3/12/20.

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

- **February 17-21** - Winter Recess - Schools Closed
- **Tuesday, February 25** - Principal's Coffee at 9am (discussion topics will include restorative approaches/code of conduct)
- Qtr. 3 Interims Published - **Friday, February 28**
- Here is a link to the [athletic calendar](#) to see our upcoming events.
- 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

Other Information/Announcements

- **During the Winter Break week of February 20-24, BOCES tech will remain open because they have a different schedule. Tech buses from CHHS will run, leaving and dropping from/to their usual locations. Attendance is optional because our district is officially on winter break.**
- **All NYSSMA audition registration will be completed online this year. Up-County solo registration closes on Monday, February 24th. Piano registration will close Friday, March 27th.**

To register with Ms. Dwyer for a PVC band instrument solo, please visit

<https://www.locallevevents.com/events/details/9216>

To register with Ms. O'Brien for a level 5, 6 or All-State string solo, please visit:

<https://www.locallevevents.com/events/details/9426>

To register with Ms. Zantay for a CET or HS band instrument solo, please visit:

<https://www.locallevevents.com/events/details/9425>

To register with Mr. Katzman for a vocal solo, please visit:

<https://www.locallevevents.com/events/details/9422>

To register for a piano NYSSMA audition, please visit:

<https://www.locallevevents.com/events/details/9424>

- 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