



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, Issue 3
Winter 2018-19

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL Mr. Michael Harkin

Dear Parents / Guardians:

We have completed our first semester of classes at Columbia High School.

As you can see in this Newsletter, over the last few months, our students and staff were busy working on holiday projects that have included food drives, care packages, raising awareness and monies for community needs, and caroling for various causes.

We look forward to starting Semester Two at Columbia. Our teaching

staff is well-prepared to lead your children in their educational endeavors. We look forward with anticipation to the great things in which students at Columbia excel, not only in academics, but as well in the Arts, Music, Sports, Clubs, and various

other activities and performances.

We wish you best wishes for a wonderful and productive 2019!

Your Partner in Education,
Michael Harkin



Inside this issue:

Guidance News	2&3
Athletic Dept.	4
Other School News	5
Music Dept. News	6&7
Art Department News	8
Clubs Info / Poetry Slam / ID Reminder	9
OpGrad / Education Foundation	10
FBLA News	11
Holiday Projects	12
Other News	13
Science Research	14
Ice Hockey Team / Music Performance	15
Cafeteria News	16
Dates of Interest	17

Program of Studies 2019-2020 for Next Year's Classes

Columbia High School has published its [2019-2020 Program of Studies](#) to assist students and families with course selections for next year. Counselors began meeting with students the week of January 14, beginning with juniors, and will continue through February 8, to do course selection for next year.

The Program of Studies includes important information including:

- Course Descriptions for Required Courses and Electives
- College Credit Options
- Transcript Worksheet
- Career Paths

- Graduation Requirements

If your child is in grades 9-11, contact your son/daughter's [high school counselor](#). If your child is in 8th grade, please contact their [8th grade school counselor](#).

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

TRANSCRIPT FEE REMINDER

Please be advised, per the Board of Education, a \$5.00 fee is charged for transcript requests. Note that this fee does not apply to students who are currently enrolled in the East Greenbush Central School District.

Transcript request forms can be found on our website www.egcsd.org, under Forms. Please complete the transcript request form and mail to CHS along with a check made payable to the East Greenbush Central Schools.

If you have any questions regarding a transcript, please call the Columbia High School Guidance Department at 518-207-2020.



National Honor Society's Induction for Seniors

Advisors to the "Les Savants" Chapter of the National Honor Society have been reviewing academically eligible seniors for membership. Information packets and faculty input took place in December with an induction date in January. Potential candidates were reviewed based on the four pillars: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Successful candidates will have their membership status forwarded to the colleges they are seeking admission.



Annual Alumni Day

Columbia High School students learned all about college from some familiar faces on January 3 as 20 graduates from the Class of 2018 returned to share advice as part of Alumni Day.

The alumni, who attend colleges such as Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Purdue University and the University of Pennsylvania, discussed the college selection process, academic programs, residence halls and adjusting to a new schedule and lifestyle.

"Alumni Day was a great experience and opportunity for both students and teachers alike who attended," said Nick Gabriel '20. "The returning graduates talked of their endeavors and their own time on campus, while giving their own individual college experiences, through stories, wisdom and advice. The information these alumni provided was useful and fun, and sits as a useful tool for all students on their journey to college and beyond." This annual event is sponsored by the Guidance Department.

"Having scheduled the Columbia High Alumni Day event for the last twenty years, I can never underestimate its importance," said Columbia School Counselor John Evertsen. "Students hearing firsthand from peers about their collegiate experiences and sharing their insights is both informative and educational. Never underestimate the 'power of the personal narrative.' That sense of connection with the audience and the relationship they have with their friends is impressive. Our graduates enjoy returning and our current students and teachers appreciate this tremendous opportunity to see their former students."



SCHOOL COUNSELING NEWS

As we look forward to 2019, the Guidance Department would like to take a moment to point out some of the opportunities we have had to work with students so far this year.

Freshmen: We conducted an orientation session in English classes in October to help students acclimate to CHS and to learn about valuable resources available in the Guidance Office. In December, we took students from their Global classes and used Naviance to have students learn about their personality, their strengths, and their weaknesses.

Sophomores: In November, we used Naviance to have students conduct a Career Interest Inventory and research careers that align with their interests. Counselors administered the PreACT to sophomores who previously signed up.

Juniors: Students who took the PSAT in October met counselors in December and reviewed how to interpret their scores. The first portion of the post-high school planning session was presented in December to students. Counselors will be conducting the second portion of the post-high school planning and college admission process in February.

Seniors: We did a review with seniors about the college application process in early September. Since then, seniors have been busy submitting applications and over 80% have applied to college.

We also have many opportunities to work with students and their families in 2019.

- **Scholarships for Seniors:** Remember to check Naviance regularly for local scholarships opportunities. National scholarships can be found through various websites. Check the guidance website or Naviance for a list of websites.
- **Junior Conferences:** Starting next month, counselors will be starting to meet with Juniors and their families to discuss post high school options. Please contact your student's counselor to set up a meeting.
- **Course Selection:** This month, counselors began course selection with Juniors. Counselors began meeting with Sophomores on January 28th and they will meet with Freshmen beginning February 4th.
- **College Admissions Panel:** On March 7th at 6:00pm, we will host a College Admission Panel Discussion for all parents and students with representatives from local colleges to answer many of your college application questions.
- **Hudson Valley Free Instant Admission Day:** On February 26th, from 8am-2pm, an admissions counselor from HVCC will be in the Guidance office for the last Free Instant Admissions day. If your senior is interested, please have them sign up for an appointment time in the Guidance Office.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Guidance Office at 518-207-2020.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

NYSPHSAA Scholar/Athlete Team Awards for Fall 2018

CONGRATULATIONS:

CHS is pleased to announce that the New York State Public High School Athletic Association has recognized all of our Varsity Fall athletic teams as recipients of the Scholar/Athlete Team Award. In order for a team to receive this prestigious award, **75% of the team's athletes must have at least a 90 average.**

FALL TEAMS:

Boys' Cross Country

Girls' Cross Country

Field Hockey

Golf

Boys' Soccer

Girls' Soccer

Girls' Tennis

Girls' Volleyball



FOR ALL THINGS SPORTS,

Please be sure to check out the sports page on the District Webpage at:

<http://egcsd.org/athletics/>

ANTIBULLYING

Columbia Athletic Department along with the East Greenbush School District is dedicated to teaching tolerance and educating students and parents on the issues of bullying. Bullying is a violation of our District's core values and will not be tolerated. The actions of any one person or group of individuals which threaten the health and safety of students and or staff must be addressed promptly. Early intervention, reinforcement of a consistent message and follow through from students, parents, staff, and administration can ensure that everyone's right to

learn, play and work in a safe environment is respected.

If you feel that you are a victim of bullying or harassment in school, on the athletic playing field, or even outside of school please contact Athletic Director, Mike Leonard at (518) 207-2080 Ext. 3 or email leonarmi@egcsd.org.

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

Service Dog Begins Working with Columbia Student

On January 7, 2019, a Service Dog in Columbia High School began assisting a student with a specific task related to his/her learning. This certified Service Dog is trained and recognized by an accredited training program under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and allowed access to public spaces.



Molly DeMarco Wins 2018 Columbia Idol

Congratulations to Molly DeMarco '19 who won Columbia Idol on Friday, 12/7/18. She received the most votes in the final round of the singing competition that began with 10 student contestants.

The event raised \$1,300 for the Columbia Chamber Singers which will be used for a trip in the spring.



2018 Columbia Idol contestants (top row, left to right): Brandon Smith, Jayden Rodriguez, Ethan Ploss, Noah Millan, Eli Wein and LayVon Scott. (bottom row, left to right) Molly DeMarco, Bella Condo, Praaghya Meyyan and Brianna Bujak.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

STUDENT PERFORMANCES 1

Seven Columbia High School students were selected to participate in the Area All-State Music Festival on November 17 in Saratoga Springs. These students were selected based on the outstanding scores they earned at the New York State School Music Association Solo Festival. Each received an A rating on a solo.

- Tyler Davis – Alto Saxophone
- Molly DeMarco – Soprano 2
- Michael Digman – Trumpet
- Leif Haley – Timpani
- Laura Haney – Soprano 1
- Allison Headley – Viola
- Brandon Smith – Bass 1



Congratulations to these young musicians who were chosen as among the finest from 55 area high schools!

Columbia Students at the Area All-State Music Festival in Saratoga Springs (L to R): Michael Digman, Leif Haley, Tyler Davis, Allison Headley, Molly DeMarco, Brandon Smith and Laura Haney.

STUDENT PERFORMANCES 2

Five Columbia Chamber Singers performed on the CBS6 production of “Melodies of Christmas” on December 24 and 25 as members of the Empire State Youth Chorale. Briana Figgs, Laura Haney, Noah Millan,

Brandon Smith and Jayden Rodriguez were selected following auditions.

The production was filmed at live performances at Proctors Theatre and aired multiple times on

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The event benefitted the Melodies Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders at the Bernard & Millie Duker Children’s Hospital at Albany Medical Center.



Columbia students performing at the “Melodies of Christmas” at Proctors Theatre (L to R): Briana Figgs, Jayden Rodriguez, Noah Millan, Brandon Smith, Laura Haney.

STUDENT PERFORMANCES 3

Columbia High School senior Leif Haley '19 participated in the 23rd annual Electronic Music Composition Showcase at this year's New York State School of Music Association convention in Rochester, N.Y. Mr. Haley, a percussionist who also plays piano, had two of his entries selected for the showcase out of the eight from across the state.

As part of the showcase, Mr. Haley had an opportunity to work with composition and music theory professors from SUNY Fredonia and the University of Vermont. During those workshops, the professors and other showcase participants listened to, analyzed and critiqued the students' compositions.

"It was really great," Mr. Haley said. "It was exciting to hear the other compositions and I found it really helpful to have that feedback."

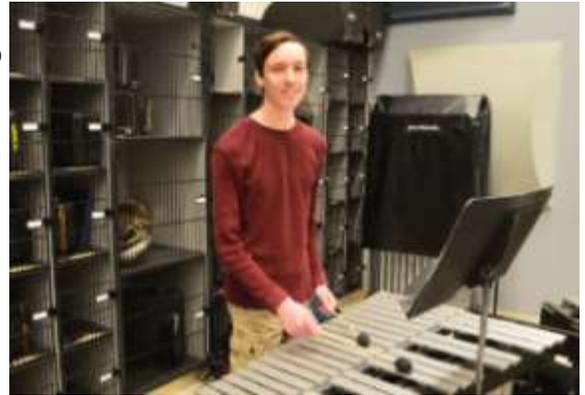
The highlight of the conference was the electronic composition recital in the ballroom of the Rochester Convention Center. Each student composer had an opportunity to explain their piece to the audience which was followed by a playing of the composer's music.

"It is my opinion that music should be interpreted personally, and a particular piece of music should mean something personal

to each particular listener," Mr. Haley told the audience.

"Whatever you hear in this piece, I hope it is enjoyed by you and all its subsequent listeners."

Congratulations to Leif on a job-well done!



STUDENT PERFORMANCES 4



Christmas carols and holiday music filled the concourse of the bustling Empire State Plaza in Albany on Friday, December 7 as Columbia High School musicians performed a free holiday concert for state workers and visitors. The school's Chamber Singers, Orchestra, Concert Band and Symphonic Band attracted a large audience as passersby stopped to enjoy the music.

MUSIC AND THE ARTS EVENTS

The following exciting events are just some that are upcoming at CHS:

- 1/31/19 Choral Festival
- 2/5&6 DW Instrumental Fest.
- 3/1&2 CHS Spring Musical: "Big Fish"
- 3/26/19 Pops Concert #1
- 3/28/19 Pops Concert #2
- 5/2/19 DW String Festival
- 5/15/19 DW Band Fest. @ CHS
- 5/16/19 DW Arts Fest. @ CHS
- 6/11/19 Spring Concert #1
- 6/13/19 Spring Concert #2

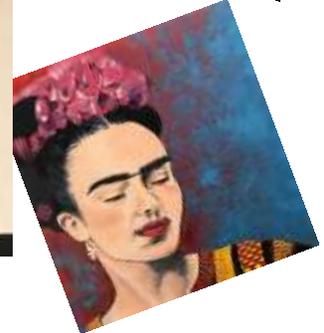
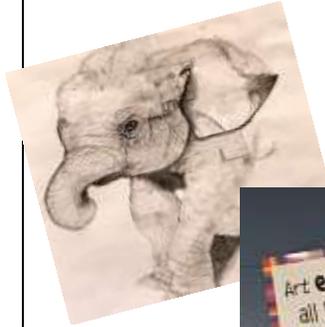


ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

This year's District Students' Art Show will be taking place at Columbia High on Thursday, May 16th, 2019.

This year's theme is "The Art of Compassion".

STUDENT
ARTWORK!



Students from Columbia High School and Howard L. Goff Middle School attended the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Art and Writing Invitational reception at Siena College on January 11. Each year, the art invitational has a theme based upon a quote that relates to Dr. King's vision. This year's quote came from poet Maya Angelou: "I sustain myself with the love of family."

The students were inspired by the cut, black paper silhouettes of artist, Kara Walker. Students researched a human rights, animal rights or environmental problem of their choice and then illustrated the solution to that problem in an effort to raise awareness in the community. Student work selected for the exhibit portrayed themes of peace, justice, compassion, diversity and freedom.

Congratulations to our students who participated in this event!

Columbia Students:

- Leila Bates
- Mackenzie Clute
- Lauren Ernst
- Morgan Hahn
- Julia Hannum
- Amani Hinton
- Michaela Needham
- Alexis Smith-Joy



REMINDERS

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/CLUBS

We encourage all of you to take an active part in your Columbia High School community. Joining a club can enrich your high school experience. Many opportunities are available. See web page (EGCSD.ORG) for complete details and listings. Listen during morning announcements for meeting time and date information.

ID REMINDER

Please remember that all students need their Student Identification Badges on them at all times during the school day.

Furthermore, they will need to use these IDs to gain entrance to examinations during the school year.

Finally, students will need their IDs to buy tickets/bids and enter any school dance this year (Sno-Ball, Proms, etc.)

If a student has lost his/her ID badge, they need to go to their Assistant Principal's office to replace it.



POETRY SLAM

Last year's Poetry Slam was a huge success. This year's 4th Annual Slam

will be even better! Come be a part of this amazing event in the CHS Library on Friday, April 5, 2019.



Operation Graduation News

O.G. HELPS

The Operation Graduation students participated in a number of volunteer excursions at CoNSERNS-U.

They unloaded four thousand pounds of food for the Thanksgiving holiday and helped prepare 200 bags for needy families.

They also helped with the Christmas present presenta-

tion, helping to unload trucks and arrange gifts according to age.

It was an enjoyable and very worthy endeavor.



EDUCATION FOUNDATION 2019 GALA

The EGCS D community is invited to the Annual Education Foundation Spring Gala and Hall of Fame Induction on Friday, April 12, 2019 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy. The evening will celebrate the achievements of district alumni and raise funds for enrichment grants.

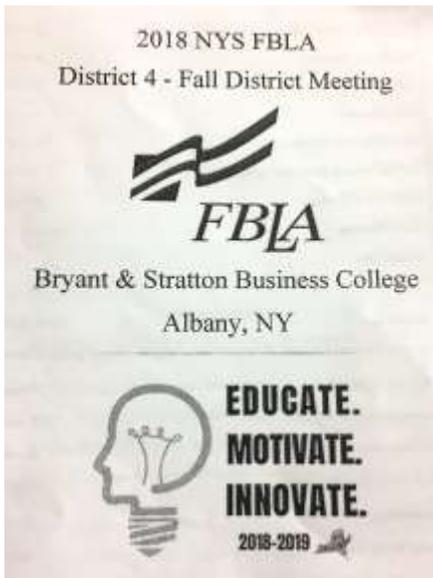
Tickets for the annual Gala includes dinner and a donation for student scholarships. The event will also include an auction, a raffle, and musical performances by district students.

Further information can be found at :

<http://www.egedfoundation.org/joomla/annual-gala/galainfo>

FBLA VOLUNTEERS

FBLA Volunteers at CoNSERNS-U and Veterans Miracle Network - Community Service for Florida Hurricanes victims. Students sorted products to be shipped to assist those in need.



FBLA students Adopt-A-Family for the holidays.

HOLIDAY PROJECTS FOR WONDERFUL CAUSES!

Once again our students and staff have put together wonderful projects for the holiday season. Please see below:

Peer Leadership/Jump Start/CAP - Participated in the CoNSERNS-U Store - set-up buy gifts and assist with shopping.

CHS FBLA Team - Worked at CoNSERNS-U and **Veteran's Miracle Center**

Student Council - CoNSERNS-U Store; Columbia Apparel Store; Decorating the School, Blood Drive

Cheerleaders and Leaders of Tomorrow Leading Today - **St. Anne's Holiday Cheer; Caroling & Gifts.**

(Below: Columbia High School's Cheer Team and Leaders of Tomorrow Leading Today visited 26 pre-school children at Saint Anne Institute on Monday. The Columbia students brought the children gifts and spent time with them to help brighten their holiday.

Music Students - Instrumental and Caroling performances at various sites:

Chamber Singers - at Town Hall **singing carols at the town's Tree Lighting.**

Singers and Orchestra, Instrumental and Jazz Bands performed throughout the school district. (below)



Columbia Athletic Director Michael Leonard and School Social Worker Audra Di Bacco would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's **Adopt-a-Family** program. With your help Columbia was able to adopt 52 families and provide much needed gifts and clothing to 155 people in this community.

As the families were picking up gifts and getting deliveries, the expressions on their faces showed just how appreciative they were to have such supportive community members. Thank you to the community folks who made this possible!



OTHER NEWS

Columbia High School senior Sam Koblensky was named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist after scoring in the top 1 percent of the 2018 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Only 16,000 students were named semifinalists out of more than 1.6 million who took the test nationwide.

Mr. Koblensky is now eligible for National Merit Scholarships which will be awarded in the spring.

“I was pretty happy about it. Not many people get to that point,” Mr. Koblensky said.

Mr. Koblensky is one of the top students at Columbia with a 4.0 GPA. He competes on the Columbia Science Olympiad and Math League teams, and plays in the school Jazz Band.



“Sam is a dedicated student who has continually challenged himself academically here at Columbia,” said Principal Michael Harkin. “When Sam is not working hard in the classroom he shines as the lead saxophone in the jazz band and a member of the nationally recognized Science Olympiad team.”



A huge congratulations to Brianna Miller and Carina Ciccone who have had their papers selected to present at The Eastern JSJS Subregional competition at Burnt Hills Ballston Lake High School on Saturday January 26th. There were well over 100 papers submitted and these ladies should be very proud of their work and for being selected at this level. If you see them....tell them Great Job!!



Molly DeMarco '19 has brightened the Columbia High School hallways for students and staff by painting three different murals. She created the murals as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project, the highest award for Girl Scouts.

After receiving permission from the school and the Board of Education, she began working on the murals after Columbia High School's graduation in June and finished the third mural in December.



Finding Passion in Science Research Project

Columbia High School's Science Research program provides outstanding learning experiences to students while giving them a glimpse into possible careers. The competitive three-year program, which is led by Science Teacher Heidi Gleason, gives highly self-motivated students 'real world' science experience. Students select an area of interest, learn literature research skills, present articles and work with a professional mentor in their field of interest. Just look at Michaela Davis-Pedlar '19 and Grace Davis '20, two of the 28 students in Columbia's Science Research Program.

Ms. Davis-Pedlar is working with Dr. Javier Sanchez, the Director of Pediatric ICU at Albany Medical Center, researching pediatric congenital heart surgery. In the spring, she will present her project titled "Outcomes of Congenital Heart Surgery Performed in a Low Volume Center."

"This is an experience people don't usually get to have," she said. "It's not what normal high school students are doing. I think the Science Research program and the success of it has led to these opportunities because the people before us have gotten us into those institutions. People recognize that we're hardworking and mature."

As part of the program, Ms. Davis-Pedlar shadowed Emergency Room staff at Samaritan Hospital in Troy this past summer. During one of her visits, she saw a patient flatline, and then moments later, come back to life.

"This has just strengthened my want to go into cardiology," she said.



Grace Davis looks at a slide under a microscope.

Ms. Davis is also conducting research at Albany Medical Center. She is studying the differences between normal cells and damaged cells caused by neurological diseases, such as multiple sclerosis, with neurologist Dr. Yannick Poitelon.

Ms. Davis visited the lab at Albany Med for the first time in July with Mrs. Gleason. She went on a tour and watched doctors work in the lab. She visits the lab regularly now, taking slices of brain and optic nerve cells, staining them and looking at them under a microscope.

The experience has confirmed her desire to work in the medical field after high school.

"I think I want to be a medical practitioner because I like working with people and patients," Ms. Davis said.

Columbia's Science Research program accepts applications from freshmen every spring. The application includes an essay, two teacher recommendations (at least one from a science teacher) and a 1-on-1 interview with Mrs. Gleason.

New Ice Hockey Team Takes Flight

For the first time in their lives, Columbia High School students Collin Dougherty, Johnny Ely and Carson Kehmna played in a high school ice hockey game on November 23. They weren't wearing Blue Devils jerseys, but that didn't matter. They were playing for the Capital District Jets, a new team with players from five local school districts – North Colonie, South Colonie, Averill Park, Brunswick and East Greenbush.

This past spring, the Shaker Colonie hockey team, comprised of North Colonie and South Colonie students, began a search for more players from other local school districts. The athletic directors reached out to their counterparts to see if other high schools without a current team had player interest.

"It's an exciting opportunity for our students to get involved in another athletic program," said Columbia Athletic Director Michael Leonard. "And it's a great example of all our schools working together to create a positive impact." The new team came together over the spring and summer, requiring approval from Mr. Leonard, Columbia Principal Michael Harkin, Superintendent Jeff Simons, the East Greenbush Board of Education, the Capital District High School Hockey League and Section II Athletics.

The Jets play in a competitive league with teams such as Saratoga, Shenendehowa and Albany Academy, so they want to come together quickly. *Let's Go Jets!*



Columbia students (L to R) Johnny Ely, Collin Dougherty, Carson Kehmna and Joshua McKinney in uniform for the Capital District Jets, a new ice hockey team with players from North Colonie, South Colonie, Averill Park, Brunswick and East Greenbush.

Music Performance

A String Ensemble from Columbia performed at the beautiful State Education Building in Albany on Wednesday, January 16th for State Ed's Service Award Ceremony.



CAFETERIA INFORMATION



Each school in the East Greenbush Central School District serves breakfast and lunch daily. Our goal is to provide nutritious and delicious meals that satisfy our students so they can focus on learning. A complete meal must include three of the five choices: Meat / meat alternative (ie: cheese, soy, etc.) ; Fluid milk ; Grain ; Fruit ; Vegetable.

At East Greenbush CSD, all seven schools offer breakfast to its students. With the convenience of online prepayment through MySchoolBucks.com, great value and a friendly atmosphere, kids can start their school day right.



Mornings can be crazy! So having children take advantage of the School Breakfast Program is one way to make it easier on families when kids are running late or parents have early commitments. Whatever the reason, if breakfast at home is not convenient, please take advantage of breakfast at school. **Breakfast Prices:** Grades 9-12: \$2.25



Columbia High School



CHS
962 Luther Rd
East Greenbush, NY 12061

Phone: 518-207-2000
Fax: 518-207-2009
E-mail: www.egcsd.org

Price Chopper Tools for Schools

Please help CHS earn free Educational Equipment.

Sign up with your AdvantageEdge Card at www.pricechopper.com.

If you do not have internet access, please send your name and AdvantageEdge Card Number to school or sign up at Price Chopper.

Columbia High School's code is 15753

Thank you for your support!



SCHOOL DANCES :

Sno-Ball	Saturday, February 2, 2019
Junior Prom	Saturday, May 18, 2019
Senior Prom	Friday, May 31, 2019

EMERGENCY CLOSING

MAKE-UP DAYS for SPRING 2019

- #1 No need to make up
- #2 April 18, Thursday
- #3 April 29, Monday
- #4 May 28, Tuesday
- #5 May 24, Friday

Principal's Honor Roll:

Upcoming:

Monday, February 25, 2019

Monday, May 6, 2019



Upcoming CHS Dates of Interest

Please refer to the CHS web site (egcsd.org) for further details:

- 1/28/19 Start 2nd Semester
- 2/8/19 Prof. Dev. half day
- 2/9 - 2/10 Cheer Invitational
- 2/18 - 2/22 Winter Recess
- 3/7/19 College Admissions Panel
- 3/14/19 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 3/15/18 Prof. Dev. full day
- 3/19/19 Class Ring Gr.10 parent mtg
- 3/20/19 GR.10 Class Rings ordering
- 3/29 Last day for yearbook orders
- 4/4/19 Multicultural Fair
- 4/19 - 4/26 Spring Recess
- 4/12/19 Ed. Foundation Gala
- 5/6 - 5/17 AP Testing
- 5/10/19 Talent Show
- 5/21/19 District Vote
- 5/23/19 Class Ring Delivery (*date subject to change*)
- 5/29/19 PIG Assembly
- 5/30/19 Awards Ceremonies
- 6/3/19 Regents - Global History
- 6/6/19 NHS Induction
- 6/18 - 25 June Regents & Exams
- 6/20/19 O.G. June Graduation (*TBA*)
- 6/29/19 CHS Graduation

