

Columbia High School

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PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME BACK NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME BACK MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back!

This year, classes at EGCSD school begin on **Thursday, September 9, 2021.**

Due to continued Safety Protocol regulations set in place due to the ongoing various strains of COVID-19, masks are still mandatory in school buildings. Please refer to the District webpage (EGCSD.org) for complete details for school opening.

Each student has an email address issued to them. Schedules will be emailed to students

shortly before school resumes.

Upon arrival, students should report directly to their **FIRST** period class in the morning after the first bell at 7:10 AM.

If there is a problem with your schedule, you may sign up in the Guidance Office for an appointment.

We have been working hard this summer to improve our academic and enrichment programs to provide you with an outstanding educational experience. I have been meeting with your

student council leaders and have been impressed with their dedication, work ethic and ambitious plans for the 2021-22 school year.

I am hopeful that your remaining days of summer are relaxing, enjoyable and safe for you and your family. I look forward to working with you.

Michael J. Harkin
Principal, CHS

Your Partner in
Education

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Safety Protocols



The East Greenbush Central School District has a list of health and safety procedures for reopening schools with full enrollment that meets or exceeds all state

regulations.

Face coverings will be worn by all students and staff while on school buses and inside schools. Students will be spaced out on buses and in classrooms. Temperature checks will be performed. Schools and buses will be

regularly cleaned and disinfected. A full list of health and safety procedures can be found on the EGCSD.org website.



CALCULATORS INFORMATION

New York State has mandated the use of graphing calculators for all high school mathematics Regents examinations. In addition to the students using the graphing calculator on the Regents exam, the mathematics teachers will be integrating the use of a graphing calculator into classroom activities, homework, and assessments throughout the year.

The teachers at Columbia High School will be using Texas Instruments calculators. Once the school year starts, teachers will provide students with instructions about how to access the calculator for students who have the app on their Chromebooks.

While it is not required for families to purchase a calculator this year, we realize

that some students may prefer to have their own calculator, rather than rely on the app for Chromebook. Calculators may be purchased at various stores (Walmart, Target, Staples) and may be included in Back-to-School sales.

The models that are appropriate for all mathematics courses include:

**TI-83 Plus,
TI-84 Plus,
TI-84 Plus Silver Edition,
TI-84 Plus C Silver Edition,
TI-84 Plus CE**

The use of the graphing calculator at home allows the student to further practice concepts and skills and to gain familiarity with the calculator functions. These graphing calculators will be used throughout your child's high school mathematics program, as well as in many college courses.



If you decide to purchase a calculator and are unsure of the model, please do not open the plastic packaging until a mathematics teacher checks the model. Returning merchandise is often difficult if the calculators have been opened.

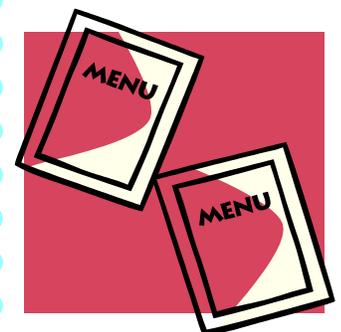
Midterm and Regents Exams

This January all of our teachers will be giving Course midterm and Regents exams.

These exams will be given between January 25-28, 2022. It is important that students be in attendance as scheduled during this time frame period. In order to make up any non-Regents exam you **must**

present a legal excuse. The next Regents exam dates will be in June. Please check your child's schedule before planning your vacation.

PLEASE NOTE: Per State Ed, cell phones are not allowed in exam rooms. Any phones not left home will be collected prior to entry to the exam room.



Please check website for menus for the 2021-2022 school year.

FRESHMAN and NEW STUDENT WELCOME

WELCOME

Columbia High School welcomes incoming Freshmen and new incoming students. Students arrived on Thursday, August 26th for our annual Freshman Orientation program.

Students were familiarized with the world of Columbia High School, laying the foundation for a successful first year at Columbia.

The beginning of Freshman year is an important, exciting, and sometimes anxious time for students and parents. Over the past

20 years, the Freshman Orientation program has become an important part of reducing this anxiety and making the transition to high school both smooth and successful for our students.

On hand to greet students were CHS Principal, Michael Harkin and 9th grade Principal, Patricia Farnan, as well as S.R.P. Officer Mike Condo, Grade 11/12 Assistant Principal Ed

Kilmartin, Grade 10/11 Assistant Principal Tim Malloy, and Student Council Advisor Chelsea Dyer.

We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2025 and all new students to CHS as they arrive for their first day of classes on 9/9/21, making your school year a great one. We'll be seeing you soon!



STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Respect Yourself and Others: Review the dress code in your student handbook. If you are not following it, you will be asked to change or be sent home. Keep your hands to yourself and respect others' personal space.

Eating in the Cafeteria is a Privilege: Any food throwing, vandalism or not following directions of our staff will result in your removal from the cafeteria or possible suspension from school.

Safe and Drug Free Environment: Do not bring drugs into our school. It will result in your removal from our learning environment. East Greenbush Central School District has a no-smoking policy.

Safety Drills: Follow directions during drills and limit all conversations so that people can hear instructions in case of an emergency. Assemble where you are told to go so that emergency personnel can gain access to the building if needed.

Positive Behavior: Be patient as you travel to classes, stay to the right in the halls and don't run, for everyone's safety. You must have a hall pass to travel in the building. If you do not have a hall pass, you will be sent back to your original location.

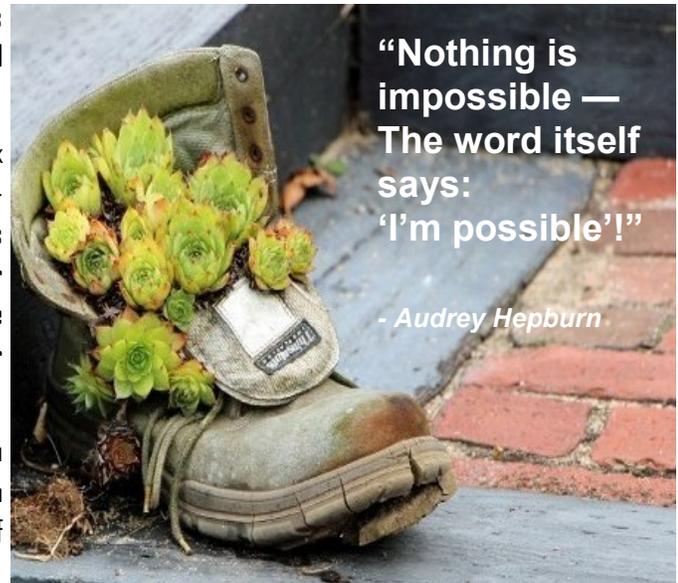
Every Day Attendance: Your daily class attendance is critical to your academic success and it is tied directly to your class credit. You need to understand our policy. Chronic tardiness will result in after-school detention.

Cooperation: If staff members ask for your reasonable cooperation, give it to them. There is no excuse not to give your full cooperation. You will be held accountable for your actions.

Take Care of Each Other: If you hear things that are of a concern to you, let a staff

member know right away (We can keep your name anonymous).

Respect: Be sensitive to others! We are a school made up of different people and personalities. That's what makes your time at Columbia High School such a great experience. You need to understand that inappropriate words and names can hurt and will not be tolerated and can result in your being removed from our learning community.



CELL PHONES & OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones should be turned off and not in view during all instructional periods, including study halls. Teachers have the right to confiscate items from offenders as necessary.

Students are not to use or display any communication devices, including cell phones, during testing: quizzes, tests, Regents exams, etc. **Students observed using any prohibited communication device**

during testing will receive a "Zero".

Students who refuse to relinquish prohibited electronic devices will not be permitted to take the exam.

Students are not allowed to take unauthorized pictures of fellow students or staff members. Students found in violation of this policy will face suspension.



STUDENT IDENTIFICATION BADGES



Columbia High has a Student Identification Badge procedure in place. Students are issued an identification (ID) badge with a picture and a lanyard/clip indicating they are a student at Columbia. All students are required to have their lanyard and school ID badge whenever they are on school grounds. This procedure ensures that Columbia High School is in the forefront of safety and helps create a positive and respectful learning environment.

During the first week of school new badges will be issued to all students during First Period.

Students use their student identification badges to gain access to the high school, enter the library and courtyard, and must be worn to gain entrance to dances and proms. They are also mandatory to attend Regents, SAT and ACT exams. If you lose your badge, please contact your Assistant Principal's office immediately.



EGCSD is a Smoke/Tobacco/E-Cigarette Free District



Columbia is a smoke-free campus as declared by the Board of Education. The policy incorporates federal and state laws which prohibit smoking on school grounds by anyone. Any student who

is in possession of, or uses tobacco or smokeless products such as E-cigarettes or chewing tobacco, etc. on school property will be subject to discipline consequences.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

MEDICATION MAY BE ADMINISTERED ONLY IF IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY:

- The written order of your physician specifying diagnosis, medication, (possible side effects), dosage, frequency and the time element for administering this medication,

AND

- The written request of the parent, requesting that school personnel administer the medication as ordered,

AND

- The family must provide the medication in the original bottle, tube or container that

clearly indicates date, name of child and physician, dosage and frequency.



SUGGESTED BASIC SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

Because class dynamics may vary significantly, please note that students at the High School level will receive a separate supply list from each classroom teacher on the first day of classes.

Below is a basic list of supplies for those who wish to purchase items in advance:

SUGGESTED:

Spiral bound notebooks

Pencil case

Pocket folders (pockets in the bottom)

Student Planner/Agenda

Composition notebooks

Graphing Calculator (*please see Math Department notification on calculators - page 2*)



Pens / Pencils / Colored pencils

Highlighter pens

Loose-leaf paper

Flash drives

Backpack

Graphing paper

MANDATORY:

Face Masks

Personal hand sanitizer / disinfectant wipes

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER (September through December 2021)

- School starts Thursday, September 9
- Class pictures dates (during gym class) 9/17 or 9/20
- Half-Day Professional Development: Friday, Oct. 1
- Emergency Go-Home Early Drill: Wednesday, Nov. 10
- Board of Ed. Meetings: (see school calendar for location):
Sep. 15, 29 / Oct. 6, 20 / Nov. 3, 17 / Dec. 1, 15
- School Recesses: Sep. 16, Oct. 11 / Nov. 11, 24, 25, 26 /
Dec 24 to Jan 2
- PTSO—Varies each month — see District Calendar for dates

Be sure to check the CHS web page (EGCSD.org) under your student's "Class of" section for specific additional important dates pertaining to your child's grade.

FLU SEASON INFORMATION

With the opening of school, families and community members should take steps to minimize the spread of the flu virus.

Anyone with influenza-like illness should stay home and not attend school or go into the community, except to seek medical care for at least 7 days, and not before they have been symptom- and fever-free for 24 hours.

All persons should practice basic flu prevention measures such as covering the mouth when coughing or sneezing, washing hands, and so on. Students should keep their own tissues on hand.

MUSIC AND THE ARTS / ATHLETICS

Be sure to check out the EGCSD.org district web page for various school activities.

Throughout the year various school concerts, sporting events/games, the annual Art Show, and other wonderful activities take place.

We are proud to boast that our students are amazingly and incredibly talented. Come watch them perform. You'll be glad you did!



STUDENT DRESS CODE REMINDER

It is important to remember that it is our students' responsibility to dress appropriately for school and school functions.

Students must recognize that extremely brief garments are not appropriate. No clothing can be worn that is considered vulgar, obscene or endorses alcohol, tobacco or illegal

drugs.

If a student is dressed inappropriately, he or she is sent to the Principal's office and asked to change.

We thank you for your continued support.



ABSENCE CALL-IN



Thank you to Parents/Guardians for submitting your child's absence notes on a timely basis. Please note that processing the absence excuses may take **at least a week or more** before the results appear on the Parent Portal. Thank you for your understanding.

Columbia High School has a direct Absence Call-In phone line that is available 24 hours a day, although it is best to call in the early morning when possible, and is checked daily prior to absentee phone calls made home to Parents/Guardians.

Absence Phone #:
(518) 207-2002



WORKING PAPERS AND TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

Please note that requests for Working Papers and High School Transcripts are available on-line. To access the forms, please go to the main page of the East Greenbush Central School's district web site at EGCSD.org / About Us / Forms / Other

~ Students can print the forms out at home and have their parent/guardian sign them. They should then bring the completed forms to the Main office. **IMPORTANT:** Working paper requests must be accompanied with a copy of the student's physical within the last year.

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**

WELCOME BACK

**IF YOU BELIEVE
IN YOURSELF
ANYTHING
IS POSSIBLE.**