

Central HSA General Meeting Minutes

Nov. 13, 2019; 6:30

Pres. McKenna report

- Thank you to the HSA Board for their support with the environmental clean-up; campus looks great because of this event.

Academic Updates:

- 2152 CHS students took the SAT and PSAT on October 16th and 30th
- **ESSA Report** – (based on last year’s data); available online for all schools to look up data; ESSA stands for every student succeeds act

Career Day is Nov. 25 – over 90 members of the CHS Alumni will share with our students

Performing Arts Update:

- Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (musical), Thurs, Dec. 5 - 3:30 pm, Fri, Dec. 6 - 7pm, Sat, Dec. 7- 7pm
- Winter Concert - Thurs, Dec. 19 - 7pm

Athletics Update:

- Field Hockey: The girls made it to finals of the Public league playoffs. They lost a tough game to NEHS under new coach Alina Whittle.
- Football: Homecoming game is on November 28 at Northeast Supersite – 10:30 am.
- Boys Varsity Soccer finished 11-1; they lost to Northeast in the Public League semi-finals.
- Girls Soccer had another successful season; we lost in the Public League Championship to Franklin Towne Charter HS.
- Girls’ Varsity Volleyball went 12-3 and finished as runners-up in the Public League.
- Girls Cross Country Team won the Public League and District 12 Championships.
- Girls tennis won the Public League Championship.
- Golf team won the Public League Championship

Admissions - Shadowing Program led by Chuck Steinberg (221) ended on Nov 1. Over 900 students visited Central for a full day. Chuck’s effort was incredible effort. The admissions process started for the 283rd class; we received over 3,600 applications.

Safety:

- We completed all monthly fire drills. Our annual lockdown drill was held on Tuesday.
- Doctors from Temple University Medical Center shared the dangers of vaping and resources to our students during 4 days of assemblies.

College Admission Presentation

- College application process – what colleges look for: rigor of curriculum (e.g., AP, IB, honors as appropriate), grades (GPA – 4.2 weighted, from grades 9-11), SAT or ACT scores (if applicable), personal essay, letters of recommendation, extracurricular activities, interview (as required)
- Planning by grade
 - 9-10: Naviance planning, expectation setting, course selection, college fair, PSAT, google classroom posting; create SMART goals, complete Strengths explorer; game plan survey (10th), resume survey, career awareness and preparation
 - 11: overview of college process assembly; college visits to CHS, PSAT/NMSQT, college fit assembly; Naviance college fit tool, course selection, college planning in spring, google classroom
 - 12: rep visits/college fair, advisory visits, application workshops, financial aid night, school day SAT, financial literacy presentation (mid-December), google classroom
- Naviance tasks are assigned by year; Counselors also assign academic and mental health tasks in Naviance

- Making a list – 1-2 reach schools, 2-4 target schools, 1-2 likely to admit schools
- Admission plans – regular admission (Jan 1-March 15), rolling admission (4-8 weeks upon receipt; apply early when possible), early decision (binding agreement) and early action (apply by Nov 1 decision by mid-Dec)
- Common Application – can start in Junior year
- College Essay – 1 for common app; some schools have their own
- Standardized tests – SAT/ACT; students are responsible for sending scores; recommendation – take as many practices as possible (khan academy offers a free SAT prep), CHS also offers a prep class for Juniors through JEVS (courtesy of CHS alumni); fairtest.org lists test optional schools
- Letter of recommendation – identify teachers in Junior year; ask early in senior year so they have time to write
- Financial aid – FAFSA opens Oct 1 for current Juniors attending college in 2021; for scholarships – fastweb.com

Treasurer's report/Fundraising

- Financial – ongoing fundraising going well; did well with spirit wear
- Counselors who take computers to your students are enabled because of what the HSA funds raised
- Caring for Central – raised \$9,000, aiming for \$20,000
- Gala/Auction – May 16; Penn's landing caterers; committee meetings start in January

Volunteering - Spring – international day; Freshman tea went great

Environmental update - Indoor clean-up on Friday for 3 hours; look for sign-up genius

Class rep updates

- 279 – cardigans for sale; powder puff football game; homecoming dance is 11/22 at the Loews
- 280 – powder puff and homecoming
- 281 – please pay dues; powder puff and homecoming, Central at Flyers
- 282 – report card conferences are next week (21st and 22nd)

Comments/questions from parents:

- Can parents access google classroom? No, just see a summary
- How do you do the counselor recommendation? Students need to fill out a survey for the counselor – it's more a Central community focus
- Registering for programs, students register, not parents
- Naviance access is through the infinite campus portal; parents need to look at Naviance via student's access
- When do this year's PSAT scores come in? Next month
- What does Naviance (the company) do with the data? It's secure and protected as long as students log out of their accounts
- When you meet with the students (10th) is it in classroom; starting in mid-Feb they meet with 10th
- How do the SAT scores come? students get them in their college board account
- Should a 10th grader take SAT? We advise that they wait until Junior year to be prepared
- How many times can you take the SAT? As many as they want, but it is advised to only take it 3 times; average is twice
- What is difference between ACT and SAT? different subjects, different timing, different scoring; our students prefer the SAT; colleges weight both equally
- Do all schools accept both SAT and ACT? Yes all accept both
- Is CHS giving ASAB? (armed services test) No, but we do present it as an option
- Does CHS offer student group tours to colleges? No but seniors get 2 excused visits and juniors get 1

- Are teacher recommendations supposed to be junior-year teachers? That's best as the relationship is fresh, but they can ask any teacher or coach that they connect with. If not connected with school, there is a process through the common app; but most schools require a teacher from the school
- Is *Raise Me Up* new? It's new for Naviance tasks this year
- When would you recommend when to do campus visits? It's never too soon.
- Are Naviance tasks required or optional? We like them to do them.

HSA meeting calendar of topics/speakers

- IB – Dec
- Class selection process – Jan
- Title 1 / parent involvement – Feb
- Mental health workshop – March
- Title 1 / feedback – April
- Final meeting – May