

Central HSA Meeting
September 9, 2020 - 6:30 pm

Attendance: taken via Zoom chat

Welcome from HSA President

- Heidi Siegel welcomed parents and caregivers, and provided housekeeping notes: meeting is recorded, use the chat for sign-in and for questions.

President McKenna Report

Student Achievements

- CHS has 2,439 students enrolled, though they received funding for only 2,397. All classes have approximately 600 students, with the freshman class being the smallest.
- Given the higher than expected number of students, CHS has requested additional teachers for History and Maths.
- Book distribution has gone well so far this week, with distribution points located throughout the school based on subject, and students moving in a loop from front to back of the building. All students completed COVID pre-screening forms.
- Freshmen will have ID pictures taken on Friday (9/11), during book pickup. IDs will be ready at a later date.
- Student achievements on AP and IB testing:
 - **AP Scores/ Data:** 977 AP assessments given to students. 595 students took at least 1 AP assessment. 73% of the scores were 3 or greater.
 - **AP Scholar Summary**
 - AP Scholar - 47 Students -- Average Score 3.21
 - AP Scholar with Honor - 36 Students -- Average Score 3.80
 - AP Scholar with Distinction - 38 Students -- Average Score 4.12
 - National AP Scholar - 7 Students -- Average Score 4.44
 - **IB:** 36 students earned IB Diplomas (successfully passed 6 IB assessments). 92.3% of eligible students earned a diploma. The international average for schools was 80%. A total of 162 students took at least 1 IB assessment.
- Counselors and Nursing teams are working
- Teachers have been instructed to respond quickly to parent/caregiver emails
- Class sponsors are set for all classes, and parent volunteers needed for each:
 - 280 Faculty Sponsor: Amanda Kincade
 - 281 Faculty Sponsor: Michael Horwits
 - 282 Faculty Sponsor: Ashley Zeserman
 - 283 Faculty Sponsor: Christine Soda

Athletics

- All sports postponed until January 1, 2021

- Under consideration is either a shortened season to enable combined Fall and Spring sports or bypassing Fall sports altogether

Virtual Clubs

- Plan being developed to accommodate clubs in a virtual format
- If a club has a sponsor, they are permitted to meet
- A virtual Freshman Tea will be planned in a way that maximizes student engagement

Counseling

- Counseling will be available Monday-Thursday at 2:30 pm beginning today, September 9
- Seniors to receive the info from counselors on college visits, and there will be a banner ad on the CHS homepage to advertise
- Financial Aid session scheduled for Sept 30, 2020, the day before FAFSA opens
- Healing Together (Resources: <https://www.philasd.org/schoolclimate/healing-together/>) is the program offered during Advisory and will have four areas of focus. These morning meetings, during Advisory, will help to develop a culture of caring.
 - Social-Emotional Learning: Mindfulness resources/SEL Lessons/Family Guide to Social Emotional Learning
 - Mental Health and Trauma: Parent and School Resources/ Trainings for supporting students during the pandemic
 - Relationships and Community: Check-in meetings during advisory
 - Adult Wellness: Resources for faculty and staff to deal with stress of pandemic
- Juniors will also receive Mindfulness training

Anti-Racism Training

- CHS Admin, faculty and staff have been participating in anti-racism training sessions. These sessions will continue throughout the school year.
- CHS has partnered with Author Dr. Ali Michael <https://www.alimichael.org/> to run a series of 6 workshops focused on developing a positive multicultural school community. You can find information about her work at alimichael.org
- All admin, faculty and staff participated in implicit bias training in August. The session was led by Mr. Randy Duque, deputy director of the Phila. Human relations Commission.
- Teachers and all school staff are working to understand racial identity and biases
- President McKenna has requested funding for a new position to work on school climate

Add/Drop

- Students have the opportunity to submit roster change requests until Sept 18, 2020.
- Students should contact their class sponsors if they have questions regarding the process and/or access to the form. Each request is reviewed and evaluated, therefore the process will take some time to complete.

Faculty Retirements and New Hires

- New CHS Faculty Members:
 - Patricia Piascik – English
 - Zachary Meinhart - Chemistry

- Jesse Braxton - Chemistry
- Michael Edwards – Physical Education
- Alonzo Johnson – Climate Manager
- Summer Retirements:
 - Deborah Holston – English
 - Richard Weiss – Physical Education

Questions & Answers for President McKenna

- Where to drop vaccination and New Student forms? drop off during book distribution
- Will homework be posted by 3pm daily? President McKenna answered that he would confirm this but noted that he thought it had been 4pm in the past
- Where can students find club information? TBD
- How to access Senior's transcripts? Contact counselors
- Can a Google group be set up for lunch time to give students an opportunity to socialize? McKenna responded that Google groups must have adult supervision, but he thinks this is a good idea worth looking in to

Climate Manager Introduction

- Alonzo Johnson is the new Climate and Culture Office. He is formerly of Saul High School has had a chance to witness CHS in action and has been impressed by the way the school has responded to virtual learning
- Mr. Johnson has not met many students, but is looking forward to working with them and seeing the hallways filled with students
- Mr. Johnson is planning to recruit 80-100 student leaders for a working group.
- The idea of a lunchtime Google session may serve as a good opportunity for Mr. Johnson to meet with students

HSA Report and Update by Heidi Siegel

- Heidi Siegel presented an overview of the HSA and its activities
- Over spring/summer, a group of parents raised money to support Central families in need - called Central Families Helping Families. Effort began in April and is just wrapping up. Raised over \$14,000 for 92 families and delivered weekly Target gift cards
- The new HSA team began meeting and prepared an orientation video for new parent orientation: <https://youtu.be/cMwYRa8GenY>
- An HSA Board Vote to approve the new Board slate (<https://centralhsa.org/1700-2/>) was conducted via a Zoom poll. Board members were unanimously approved
- A Vote on the HSA Bylaws (<https://centralhsa.org/hsa-bylaws-please-review-ahead-of-sept-9-general-meeting/>) was conducted via a Zoom poll, and bylaws were unanimously approved

Budget and Fundraising

- Robin Dominick, Fundraising Committee Chair, reviewed the HSA budget
- Primary fundraising efforts for laptop upgrade for Teachers.
- Computers for Teachers: Need - \$140,000; Raised - \$14,000; laptops cost \$1,400 each

- If every Central family donated \$50 we would raise \$120,000, so families are encouraged to donate if possible
- Donation button for the CARING FOR CENTRAL FUND is located at:
https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=42GBTLDZJ8VJG
- The Venmo handle for donations is @Central-Treasurer and checks are also accepted
- Spirit wear will be sold through an online store, with more information to follow soon
- Annual Auction would be held in April 2021, and may be held as an online event if in-person is not possible

Volunteer with Central HSA for a Central HSA Committees

- Fundraising - Chair: Robin Dominick
- Campus Beautification - Chair: Alex Doty
- Hospitality - Chair: Maria Holahan
- Communication & Technology - Chair: Deb Cunningham and Tony Dominick
 - Tony has migrated the Parents email list to a Google group. Instructions on how to join are the same as before. Instructions are here:
<https://centralhsa.org/list-serve-signup-email-discussion-group/>
 - Both Deb and Tony will do website update

Questions

- Was there a 280 Town Hall? Town Halls were held for each class before the start of school.
- Will there be parent-teacher conferences? TBD
- How long does book pickup take? Not longer than 15-20 minutes. For Freshmen, it will take a bit longer since they will need to also take photos for ID.
- What should be done with student physical forms? Medical forms should be dropped off with the secretary in the Nurse's Office.
- How can parents see minutes from tonight's meeting? Minutes, along with recording, will be posted to the [HSA website](#).