



WELCOME BACK FALL 2011

GREETINGS FROM PRINCIPAL BILL BARNES

Hello! Welcome back to school for the 2011-2012 school year. School will begin on Tuesday, September 6th, at 7:35. Our daily schedule, which is posted on the website, will stay the same this year, and we look forward to the excitement and challenges that a new school year brings.

New Staff

To begin, I would like to introduce myself as the new principal of Charlotte High School. Many of you already know me from one of the many roles that I have played here at CHS in the previous six years, from English and math teacher, to guidance support, to intervention coordinator, to JV football coach, to forensics advisor. I am excited about the challenges that this new role will bring, and I am eager begin working with everyone this year. Also new to the school this year are Kara DeLille (choir), Ryan Triece (business), and Josh Greve (Spanish and French), as well as some of our middle school colleagues that have joined our staff, including Becky Carter (English), Mark Hansen (English and History), Tom Thelen (Phys Ed and Health), Tina Barnard (Chemistry), and Robyn Porter (math). Most of these new folks are here as the result of our many retirements last year, and we are excited to have them with us.

New Ideas

Beginning last year, our teachers began to really examine their practice and the ways in which they teach, assess, and grade their students. Utilizing the work of Dr. Robert Marzano, the staff at CHS will be continuing that work this year, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn and grow, maximizing their potential for success. You will notice many of these new practices in your students' classes, including re-takes, an emphasis on learning and objectives, and students tracking their progress toward meeting the class goals. All of this work is based in sound educational research, and is already yielding great results for all of our students.

New Ways For Parents to Get Engaged

Current educational research clearly shows that the more engaged a parent is, the better the chances are for success for the student. Notice that I used the word engaged, and not involved; engaged means that the parent takes part in a two way dialogue with the school, in which ideas are shared, whereas involved means simply receiving information. In an effort to help parents become engaged, two new systems will be implemented this year. The

first is a biweekly e-mail, in which announcements, dates, and ideas will be sent to anyone signed up to receive them, with the idea that that they will create an e-mail dialogue regarding school issues. The other system will be a brand new parent school improvement team, which will allow voluntary members to meet with the principal and key staff members to discuss school issues and provide input on the school improvement process. Both systems provide parents a way to engage with the school in a meaningful and productive way, thereby creating limitless potential for our school and students.

See the Changes in Person

Because of all of the new faces, the new ideas about teaching and learning, and the new parent engagement systems that will be coming to CHS this year, there will be a **Changes at CHS Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, August 31st from 5-6 pm in the high school lobby**. We hope you can join us. A flyer about the event will be sent to your home with your student's schedule. Please RSVP to Becky Frazier, administrative assistant, at 541-5602 or fra-zieb@charlottenet.org, on or before August 30th if you are planning on attending. Thank you, and GO ORIOLES!

Important Dates*

- ✓ Aug. 24-Sept. 1 Schedule Change Requests Accepted
- ✓ Aug. 30 Freshman Orientation
- ✓ August 31 Changes at CHS Ice Cream Social 5:00-6:00
- ✓ Sept. 6, 1st Day of School
- ✓ Sept. 9 School Pictures and ID Cards for All Students
- ✓ Sept. 23 Dance After Football Game
- ✓ Oct. 7 Homecoming Dance After Football Game
- ✓ Oct 3 & 5 *Parent Teacher Conferences 5:30-8:30
- ✓ Oct. 20 Picture Retakes
- ✓ Nov. 3 End of 1st Term
- ✓ Nov. 10,11,12 7:30, 2:00 Matinee on Nov 12 HS Musical "Beauty and the Beast"

*Purposed Subject to Change

NEWS FROM CHS:

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS - THE NEW STANDARD

Every spring, juniors around the state take the MME test, which is given by the state and used to determine the success of all of Michigan's school districts. The test, made up of the ACT (college prep), Work Keys (career prep), and state subject area tests, asks students to show their abilities based on the instruction that they have received. The ACT plays a huge role in this test, and aside from helping determine proficiency in the subject areas of math, language arts, science, reading, and writing, (social studies is tested on the state portion of the test, not the ACT), the test reveals which students are college and career ready, according to ACT's standards. Students scoring above ACT's cut off scores in each area are deemed college and career ready, while students scoring below the cut off scores are not. The cut off scores for the ACT are as follows:

Reading—21, Science—24, Math—22, ELA—18.

The good news is that here at Charlotte High School, our sophomores take the PLAN test, which predicts success rates on the ACT. This year's juniors took the PLAN test last November, and received their scores in early February, giving them plenty of

time to see how they performed and prepare for success on this year's MME. This year, they have been assigned to Oriole Times based on those PLAN test scores, and once a week, they will receive direct instruction during Test Prep Tuesdays to help them work on all areas of the test, but in particular, the areas in which they struggle the most. This year's sophomores will take the PLAN test in November as well, and will therefore be ready to take the MME next year as juniors. For more information on college and career readiness, or on the PLAN or ACT, visit ACT's website at www.act.org. The MME is a great way for us to show what a tremendous school we have and all of the wonderful work that our students do here, so we want to make sure that we all do our part to help them succeed.

AWARD WINNING STUDENT SUPPORTS IN PLACE & READY TO GO

In an effort to ensure that all students have the chance to succeed in their classes, we are entering in to our fifth year of providing academic interventions. Karen Anderson will be taking over as the intervention coordinator this year, and although this is her first year in this role, she has played an integral part in the development and implementation of the program over the years. With sup-

port from guidance counselors Kris Dykstra and Sara Jobson, Karen will help place students in appropriate interventions, track their progress, and communicate with them on a regular basis. The entire CHS staff has worked hard to create these opportunities for our students, and the intervention program as a whole has been recognized for its success in the area and statewide. Last year, multiple schools visited Charlotte

to see how we run our program, taking pieces back to their own school to implement. Furthermore, the school was chosen as a Michigan School Board Association Education Excellence Award winner because of these services that we provide. As we enter into this new school year, we look forward to meeting the needs of all of our students, and building on our tradition of excellence.

SEASON PASSES AND PARTICIPATION FEES FOR ATHLETICS

Athletic Season Passes are available in the Athletic Office. Cost for passes are – Family (2 adults/2 students) \$150.00. Additional students on the family pass are \$25.00 each. Individual adult passes are \$50.00 and student passes are \$35.00. Season passes provide entry for all home events excluding MHSAA and Charlotte High School Individual Tournaments.

Students participating in sports at Charlotte High School are required to pay a participation fee of \$150.00 for the 2011-2012 school year. This participation fee should be paid in the Athletic Office or mailed to Charlotte High School, Athletic Department, 378 State Street, Charlotte, MI 48813.

The Athletic Office is open from 7:15 a.m. until 3:45 p.m.

SCHOOL DRESS

We would like to take this opportunity to remind students that Charlotte High School does have a dress code. Most students do a good job of dressing appropriately for school. Even though the weather may be warm, students must still dress to comply with the dress code. Our code states:

The school has a responsibility to establish dress standards that promote a positive and proper learning environment. Therefore, students are not permitted to wear clothes that are distracting or cause classroom disruptions, display profanity, are sexually suggestive, promote the use of controlled substances (such as alcohol, tobacco), or promote gang activity. The wearing of chains must not pose a threat of physical harm to the wearer or

other students and must NOT be of a length or size considered a weapon.

Students are allowed to wear shorts, but they must be of appropriate length. A guideline is that the bottom of the shorts/skirts must be of index finger length with arms extended at the side. Shirt and pants/skirts must meet or overlap at all times.

Shirts or blouses must cover the stomach area. Halter-tops, spaghetti straps, or muscle shirts for both boys and girls are inappropriate dress for school. Tank tops or sleeveless blouses may be worn, provided the straps are the width of four fingers or at least 3 inches. Excessively baggy or intentionally torn pants are not considered ap-

propriate dress for school.

A first offense will result in a request to change or cover the objectionable clothing. Further offenses will result in loss of school privileges for up to 5 weeks, depending on the number of offenses that have occurred.

Hats, hoods, coats, and head coverings (bandanas, dew rags) are not to be worn in the school building during the school day. All hats and coats must be in student lockers and **NOT** in classrooms. **NOTE:** The principal and Student Council are permitted to designate special dress days at which time hats may be worn. Hats and/or bandanas worn will be confiscated by staff and returned at a later time. Repeated violations of the hat Policy will result

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance has always had a strong correlation with school success. In the block schedule it is even more important; therefore, Charlotte High School has an attendance policy encouraging student's attendance. In summation the policy sets a five (5) day limit per 9-weeks (one term) on absenteeism. In a block schedule one day of absence is like being absent two days in the hourly setting. When absences do occur, it is vital that students contact their teachers so they can get caught up and we ask that parents notify the Attendance Office within 48 hours of the absence. The Attendance Office phone number is 517-541-5640.

MILITARY RECRUITMENT AND NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

The federal education legislation "No Child Left Behind" mandates school districts to provide student directory information to U.S. Armed Forces military recruiters. The law also allows parents to request, in writing, from their local district that their child's name NOT be provided to the Armed Forces.

Parents wishing to have their child's name withheld should send a signed letter to the Charlotte High School Guidance Department, 378 State Street, Charlotte, MI 48813. Parents should also understand that the school is not the sole source of student directory information that is used by the Armed Forces.



FAMILY ACCESS BUTTON

**SEE YOUR STUDENT'S
GRADES
DAILY ATTENDANCE
LUNCH ACCOUNT
INFORMATION
EMERGENCY CONTACT
INFORMATION**

www.charlottenet.org

This information is available on our web site through the Home Family Access button

Please contact

Sue Braden @ 541-5750 for your user name and password



RIGHT TO OBJECT TO RELEASE OF DIRECTORY

Generally, school officials must have written permission from the parent of a student or eligible student before releasing any information from a student's record. However, Federal law allows school districts to disclose, without consent, "directory" type information. The school has designated the following personally identifiable information contained in a student's educational record as "directory information":

Student name, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, height and weight of members of athletic teams, honor rolls, and scholarships.

Unless you advise the school district within 2 weeks of receiving this notice that you do not want any or all of this information released, school officials may release information that has been designated as directory information. Upon such objections, this information will not be released without the prior consent of the parent or eligible student. Your objections should be addressed to: Charlotte Public Schools, Superintendent, 378 State Street, Charlotte, MI 48813. Email communications may be directed to: bakers@charlottenet.org.



SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Students in grades 9-12 are required to have their picture taken for ID purposes this school year. School pictures will be taken on **Friday, September 9**. Students will also receive an ID card at that time. If a student is not purchasing a picture packet, he or she should still plan on having his or her instant ID picture taken. Picture packets are enclosed with this mailing. Students will not need a picture packet unless they are buying pictures. Look the picture packet over and have your student bring it to school on **Friday, September 9**, for the photographers.

SENIORS ENCOURAGED TO MAKE POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANS EARLY

Members of the Class of 2012 are encouraged to begin finalizing post high school plans with their counselor starting in early September. Admission to some universities is becoming very competitive and it may be to a student's advantage to apply early. Students are encouraged to apply on line and then print off the counselor verification form. Counselors will complete

appropriate forms and send them to the university. Don't wait; the end of the year will be here before you know it!

