

CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL

UPDATE FALL 2005

WELCOME BACK TO CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL - THE NEW 3R'S

School starts on Monday, August 29 and CHS is ready! For the first time in a number of years all our facilities are ready to go at the start of the year. Staff is on board with a number of new teachers eager to greet students and start their Charlotte Public School careers. Of course, the athletic and band programs are already ongoing and preparations have started for the musical "Footloose". Yes, the school year is underway!

IMPORTANT DATES

(TENTATIVE - APPROVAL PENDING)

- August 24, Freshman Orientation
- August 29, First Day of School
- August 31, School Pictures and ID Cards
- September 2-5, Labor Day Break, No School
- September 6, Open House 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- September 9, Dance after football game. Dance ends at 11:00 p.m.
- September 23, End of 1st Mid-Term
- October 3 & 5, Parent Teacher Conferences, Grades 9-12, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- October 6, Picture Retakes 7:40-11:00 a.m.
- October 7, Homecoming Dance. Dance ends at 11:00 p.m.
- October 28, End of 1st Term
- October 31, K-12 No School
- November 4, K-12 Classes in A.M. Only
- November 11, K-12, No School
- November 11-13, School Musical, Footloose
- November 22, End of 2nd Mid Term
- November 23, K-12, No School
- November 24 & 25, No School, Thanksgiving Break
- December 5, Grades 9-12 Conferences, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

While the anticipation of a new school year excites just about everyone associated with the school, be they student or adult, there is one ritual that is not exciting nor for the most part is it positive; I am speaking of the student rush to change class schedules. "Drops and adds" occur at every school and Charlotte High School is no different. While some of these are necessary, many are not. After being a principal for 28 years I think I have heard every reason imaginable for changing one's schedule.

All too often the "unstated" reason is the most important. When students sign up for classes they are generally looking ahead to future education and/or vocational plans and trying to make decisions (often with the encouragement of parents, teachers and counselors) that are in their best long range interests. Unfortunately these interests seem to shrink over the summer and many students decide to drop challenging courses. Most often these "decisions" are not based on the goal of making the most of the fantastic educational opportunity provided by Charlotte High School, but they are made on the premise of "I don't want to work that hard" or "If I take that advanced class and get a "B", my GPA and class rank will suffer.

Let me say that *occasionally* students have over-extended themselves and cutting back or delaying a challenging class is in their best interest. One of the many benefits of the 4X4 block schedule is that with good planning a student can get what they want in courses over a four year career. We want students to have the time to participate in school activities and enjoy their formative high school years. Of course, everyone makes choices and decisions about how they spend their time and "life" for most of us is a constant balancing act of personal, family, and work related responsibilities. But, too many students sell themselves and their future short by not sticking with their original course requests.

Last spring a number of our staff including Mr. Backlund and myself attended the Governor's Conference on High School Standards Reform. The message, based on data about Michigan high school students and work force needs, was clear.

We need more students prepared to extend their education beyond high school. The jobs that have real earning and benefit potential will NOT be plentiful in Michigan without our young people having more advanced educational backgrounds. The message to over 600 principals and counselors was high school *must* concentrate on **Rigor, Relevance and Relationships** - the three new R's!

Charlotte High School has heard this message and we "get it". Long before attending this meeting your high school has taken steps to increase graduation requirements, offer more advanced courses and encourage students to use tools like "Career Preparation" to guide high school post-secondary decisions. However, we need our parents to be on the same page with us. We must have your support in making the tough decisions about academics.

As a school we will be closely scrutinizing student drop and add requests by reviewing four year plans and IEP's students have on file before dropping an academic elective. We will do our best to contact parents to get their approval before changes are made. And, we will deliver the message that electing to "stay the course" in regards to a challenging schedule will pay dividends now and in the future.

We ask that parents make the counselors toughest time of year a bit better by standing up for academic rigor. Often students and parents are concerned with grade point averages and class

rank and let that decide the fate of an ambitious subject. Do not fall into that trap - attempting a challenging class where hard work is demanded and learning is really extended always pays off for a student regardless of the grade earned.

Again, welcome to the 2005-2006 school year. Working together as school and parents we can make this the year that all students at Charlotte High School maximize their potential by challenging themselves and working hard. The old adage remains true - "You only get out of something what you put in."

Leland Wheaton, Principal

CHS OPEN HOUSE AND WALK THROUGH - SEPTEMBER 6

This year the high school will be hosting an Open House from 5:30-7:30 p.m. allowing parents to meet teachers and visit classrooms. The Lady Oriole's Basketball team will be playing Marshall that evening in the Charlotte High School Dome for those that wish to attend afterwards. Come and meet your student's teachers and support the Orioles

SCHOOL PICTURES

School pictures will be taken on Wednesday, August 31. Students will also receive an ID card at that time. If a student is not purchasing a picture packet, they should still plan on having their instant ID picture taken. Picture packets will be handed out to students on the first day of school, Monday, August 29.

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 should be of thumb length with arms extended at the side.

Shirts or blouses must cover the stomach area. Tank tops, halter-tops, spaghetti straps, or muscle shirts for both boys and girls are inappropriate dress for school. Excessively baggy or intentionally torn pants are not considered appropriate dress for school. Skin-tight leggings (bike pants) are inappropriate dress unless accompanied by an over-garment of approved length.

A first offense will result in a request to change or cover the objectionable clothing. Further offenses will result in detention, Saturday School, or suspension. We also have a coat and hat policy, which state:

Hats and 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.

We appreciate parents and students working with us to provide a positive and appropriate school environment. Thank You.

POSITIVE FOOD SERVICE CHANGES AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

This year the Food Service Department at the high school will be making some changes in snack choices for our students. We will be following the guideline of MI CHI GAN ACTION FOR HEALTHY KIDS. Briefly what this means is that the beverage choices will be water, milk (in many forms), and 100% fruit juice. Also, this means all snacks sold will follow three criteria:

- 1) Contain 300 or fewer calories
- 2) One or more grams of fiber, or
- 3) At least 10% of calcium, iron, Vitamin A or C.

We appreciate everyone's support as we move to a healthier and fit student body.

COMMUNITY SERVICE UPDATE

Students received information regarding the community service requirement in the spring. In summary, the letter stated that new legislation now requires students to complete 40 hours of community service along with qualifying test scores in order to receive the \$2,500 Merit Scholarship.

Initially, members of the Class of 2006 were required to document completion of 40 hours of service. Over the summer the service requirement for the Class of 2006 was rescinded. Members of the Class of 2006 will NOT be required to document any community service hours.

Members of the Class of 2007 and thereafter will need to continue to document service hours. Each student will have a personalized community service log in the Guidance Office which they can update at their convenience. Any questions about the community service requirement should be directed to Wayne Backlund, Guidance Director at Charlotte High School. His telephone number is 541-5620.

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.

SENIORS ENCOURAGED TO MAKE POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANS EARLY

Members of the Class of 2006 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

MEAP RE-TESTING DATE ANNOUNCED

Seniors who did not earn MEAP level scores of 1 or 2 on the Mathematics, Science, Reading, and Writing MEAP test are required by Charlotte School Board policy to retake those portions of the test in order to qualify for a diploma. The retake date for this year's seniors has been set for Monday, October 31. More information about the retake test date will be sent to students in early October.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR BUILDING ASSETS IN YOUR CHILD BY SEARCH INSTITUTE - HEALTHY COMMUNITIES/HEALTHY YOUTH

Think back to your childhood. Was there one adult you really enjoyed talking with? Maybe it was a grandparent, a scout leader, an aunt, a coach, a neighbor, an older cousin, someone in your congregation, your piano teacher. This person helped you sort through growing-up issues. Even if you can't recall any specific conversations you had, you will remember the warm feelings thinking about the person.

Young people need parents to talk to, but they also need other adults to bounce ideas off, to ask questions of, to laugh with, to help sort through sticky situations. Researchers have discovered that young people who have other caring adults to talk with are:

Less likely to do risky things, such as use alcohol or other drugs or be sexually active.

More likely to grow up successfully. Even children in abusive, low-income, chaotic or other wise difficult situations have better futures if they find at least one caring adult outside the home.

Likely to think they can make a difference and that they matter.

Better able to succeed in school.

Time Together

Three ways to encourage your child to build relationships with other adults:

Help your child find an adult you both trust who shares a similar hobby or interest with your child.

Play games with other families where teams consist of adults of one family paired with children from another family.

Encourage your child to find an adult-led program that he or she would enjoy.

Talk Together

Questions to discuss with your child:

Which adult outside of our family would you like to get to know better? Why?

If you had a tough question that you didn't want to discuss with me (us), who would you go to?

How can we show our appreciation to significant adults in your life?

In Search of Other Adults

Children can link up with other adults through programs and opportunities such as these:

Neighborhood get-togethers

Religious programs

Music lessons

Sports leagues

Community recreation

Internships

Family reunions and gatherings

Kinship programs

Tutoring

Theater projects

Youth groups

Hobby classes

Community bands, orchestras, and choirs

Camps

Mentoring

Service-learning programs in schools.

GET INVOLVED! GET INVOLVED! GET INVOLVED!

Statistics show that students that participate in extracurricular activities are more successful in high school and once they have graduated. Students need to take advantage of their high school careers and participate in activities that will teach them team work, strategy concepts and working with a multitude of different personalities. Students are urged to participate in our co-curricular activity programs. We offer a wide range of activities that include the following:

38 Athletic Teams

Band

Business Professionals of America

Choir

Club International

D.E.C.A.

Forensics

Future Farmers of America

Harvard Model Congress

National Honors Society

Odyssey of the Mind

P.A.L.S.

Peer Resistance

Quiz Bowl

Science Olympiad

Ski Club

Stage Crew

Student Council

T.R.U.S.T

Teens Take Time To Care

If your student is interested, but does not know who to contact, they may stop in the Main Office for a list of advisors.

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. It encourages good attendance through use of a final exam incentive and asks parents to help students really focus on being in school.

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 student contact their teachers so they can get caught up and we ask that parents notify the Attendance Office within 48 hours of the absence.

CPAC INTRODUCES STUDENT RUSH TICKETS

The Charlotte Performing Arts Center is pleased to introduce as part of its 2005-2006 season, a new student pricing plan. For each of the nine national and international performances, including the Shanghai Circus, Chely Wright and the Broadway production of A Christmas Carol, CPAC will make available \$5 seats for students in the high school. These tickets will be available only on a first come-first serve basis, in person on the day of the event. For a complete calendar of events go to CPACpresents.com

FOOTLOOSE, THE MUSICAL TAKES THE CHS STAGE

Charlotte High School Music and Drama Departments announce auditions for the fall musical, *Footloose*. Auditions will be held Tuesday, September 6 from 3:00-8:00 p.m. All students are encouraged to audition. Audition materials will be available at the Main Office and in the band, choral and drama classrooms.

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; Adult cost is \$100.00 and student passes are \$50.00. Season passes provide entry for all home events. The season pass does not include tournaments.

Students participating in sports at Charlotte High School are required to pay a one-time yearly fee of \$50.00. This participation fee should be paid in the Athletic Office or mailed to Charlotte High School, Athletic Department, 378 State Street, Charlotte, MI 48813.

Hours for the Athletic Office are 7:15 a.m.-10:00 and 1:30-3:45 p.m.

FERPA POLICY

It is a practice of the school district to periodically issue information and publish photographs of school programs and activities. Unless you advise the school district that you do not want photographs of your student included with published articles or information releases, school officials may publish such photographs with school related articles or news releases. If you object to the publication of these photographs, please contact the Human Resources Office at 541-5013.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2005

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2005

MONDAY, DECEMBER, 5, 2005

5:30-8:30 P.M.

HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

SEE YOUR STUDENTS

- **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 Nan Herman @ 541-5750 for your user name and password.

SCHEDULE CHANGES WILL TAKE PLACE FOR GRADES 10-12 ON

MONDAY AND TUESDAY, AUGUST 22 & 23, 2005

TIME: 9:00-11:30 a.m. & 1:30-3:00 p.m.

