



City High Coffee with the principal 1/22/2020 Minutes

Updates from the principal

The Environmental Science Students (ESS) came back from their winter trip. It was a success. The trip was delayed because of the storm but the students were able to head out the next day. The students had requested to schedule the trip so they would miss the least days of school possible. That is why it was scheduled on the MLK weekend. ESS students take 2 trips one in the fall and one in the winter.

Black History month

Officer Chandler has been leading the Black Leaders aspiring for Critical Knowledge and the group will be doing several events during the month of February so make sure to be on the lookout for information. There will be evening events for families and the community. They will also be planning the assembly celebrating Black History month.

Earth day speaker

This year City will be welcoming Faviana Rodriguez. She works for Culture Strike <https://www.culturestrike.org/>, and is a fabulous artist that promotes activism, environmental issues as well as a number of other issues.

The students will participate in her presentation on Friday April 24th. This event will be livestreamed as well.

Parents, families and the community will be able to attend this same presentation at Aquinas on Thursday April 23rd from 4-6PM

Harvard visit to City

Harvard came and visited City in order to prepare material for their upcoming course on Education Leadership and School Improvement. It was very interesting having them in the building and very intense. They were really impressed with City and that is always a huge validation of the work of the entire community.

We will not be able to view footage of their work until next Fall.



3rd Counselor

Ashley Tardey will be starting next week normally. She will be taking care of counseling for 9th/10th grade students. We are very excited for her to join the team!

Keynote Speaker for graduation

Former City High Student Kelsey Purdue will be this year's keynote speaker. She is honored to come and speak. She currently works in Lansing at a Public Policy Center focusing on ending generational poverty.

Application for City

There are 2 new MAP testing dates that have been set (February 18th and February 20th) and one other testing date just before the end of the second round. If you have students that did not do well on the fall MAP test or did not have a chance to do a MAP test, please let them know of this opportunity. There is still time to apply and there are still some spots open for next year.

Senior acceptance update

We have students that have been accepted to some schools that we are very excited to announce. 2 students were accepted to Brown University (which only has a 2% acceptance rate) one student has been accepted to University of Chicago and one to John Hopkins University. We are still waiting on some other acceptance numbers but this is very exciting for our students and it shows the hard work students, staff and families put into City and how it is paying off.

New sign at City!

There will be a new sign in order to better guide people to find the main entrance of the building. This will be very helpful!

End of Semester

The last day to enter grades is Thursday January 23rd at 7:00M for the the teachers. Report cards will be sent out more or less 2 weeks after that.

Ski trip

If your student wants to participate they need to ask for a permission slip in the counseling office. The trip is scheduled for Feb. 6th and will cost \$10 or a punch on the punch card. Permission slips need to be turned in before 2/3.

Questions

- For the days that careers are highlighted for students, could parents be asked ahead of time if they have a connection to a specific job? For example- my neighbor is a pilot and instructor for Jet Blue. She said that she would be interested in talking to students about her career. I feel that we are missing a lot of opportunities from our school families/friends.



Forward Focus which used to be known as shadow day is created thanks to a grant from Junior Achievement. They are the ones that find the speakers for the event. Speakers need to be volunteers that work with the Junior Achievement.

The administration has determined that having a full day for this event might not be ideal and they are looking at changing the format. Maybe a half day or even Career lunch speakers that kids would sign up for. With the format change the administration will probably reach out to the City community in order to find people willing to make career presentations. More to come on this subject.

- I asked at an earlier meeting about having exams moved to before winter break. My son had two classes that did their exam before break and it was really nice! Any chance this can be encouraged for when the teachers sign their next contract?

Last year the change could not be made because of ongoing teacher contract negotiations. The goal for next school year is to move exams before the break. This seems to be the wish of most teachers and it will be discussed and hopefully implemented for next school year.

- In the past there used to be meetings with Juniors and their families in order to better prepare senior year and the students' future. Why is this not done anymore?

Indeed City used to have meetings with Junior students and their families. This stopped being done for every Junior student because of staffing issues in the counseling office together with a growing junior class. The goal once our 3rd counselor will be in place is to implement these meetings again. In the meantime families are more than welcome to set up a meeting with the counselor.

- What can be done to ensure that we will keep 3 (well needed) counselors.

It seems that counselors are moved very often to other buildings where there is a greater need. It is important to let the district know how important having 3 counselors is now that the student body at City has grown a lot.

- Conferences March 4th and 5th from 3:30 to 6:30PM. Some families have said that the timeframe is very difficult for them to attend. Can one night have extended hours or have one earlier and one later night like 5-8PM?

Indeed some parents or guardians do not get off till later and it makes it almost impossible to attend conferences. There used to be 3 nights of conference. This has been changed to 2 nights and one other day where the teachers can reach out to families via phone call. This is done so that families of students that are struggling can connect with the teachers and help the student succeed. The administration will look into what they can do to have a later time frame for one of the conference nights in order to try to accommodate as many families as possible.

- Is there something that can be done to avoid having PE class just after lunch

Unfortunately there are PE classes in all hours and some students have to be placed in PE after lunch. We know this is not ideal but if there are questions or concerns the best is to speak to the teacher directly and see what can be done to accommodate the students.



- The action board for staff has been pretty successful.

Apparently many teachers have been asking for bookshelves for their classrooms. The action board will be updated to show this request but if anyone has bookshelves at home they are not using please consider donating them to a City classroom!

- Shadowing at City. After being accepted is this something that can be done for incoming students?

The GRPS legal department has said that shadowing should be limited because of FERPA laws. Students that are not students in the building or GRPS do not have to abide by the student handbook (legally) and this also can create some problems. It could be possible to come spend a little bit of time during the school day but that need to be done on a case by case basis because of the legal issues it can create.