

Quick Tips from City Parents

Meeting People: City attracts students from in and out of the school district and from neighborhoods all across greater Grand Rapids. Some new City students will come in knowing a few people, some won't know anyone yet, and most will come in looking to make new friends and connections (parents, too!). Our **Student Ambassadors** are friendly and helpful – look for them at the beginning of school. Other advice from City parents:

- Try a **summer sports clinic**. Schedules will be posted here for Union and Ottawa High School Sports: <https://unionredhawks.com/www.grps.org/athletics> and <https://ottawahillsbengals.com/>.

For middle school sports visit <https://www.facebook.com/GRPSMSAthletics> or <https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=399689>

Often our middle school coaches offer a sign-up during the lunch hour a week or two before a particular sport begins, and announcements to kids are on loudspeaker. This year registration will all be online

- Join our **PTSA** (Parent-Teacher-Student Assn.) to volunteer and find out what's going on – go to www.cityptsa.com and on Facebook as City PTSA. Meetings will be held online at the start and then in-person and online whenever possible.
- **City High Middle Village** Facebook page – an *unofficial (but helpful)* page that lots of parents use to ask each other questions, plan carpools, get sports info, theater info, etc. Visit the page, ask to join, you'll be approved quickly.
- 2020 **Fall Musical** is still to be determined because of Covid-19 protocols.
- **Marching Band Camp** – *high school students (including incoming 9th graders) will not have camp this year.* Check for updates here, <https://sites.google.com/site/cityhighmiddleband/home>. You can also check the Band FB page at City High Middle School Band
- Explore **student clubs** – we have many clubs and more can always be added. Counseling Office keeps track of clubs and helps form new ones when students express an interest. A few: Comic Club, Magic Club (the card game), Speech/Debate, Democratic Club, Discussion Club, Space Club, Model UN Team, E-Club, Gay Straight Alliance, Medical Club, Ping Pong Club and many more! These usually meet for a bit after school and have a staff sponsor in attendance. Occasional lunchtime meetings are offered for career speakers, Real Talk, and Diversity Club (will be announced over loudspeaker).
- **Orientation/Registration for 2020-2021 will not take place.** Normally it is right before school starts to look around the building, get your ID photo taken (**this is also your school pic**), and let your student practice their combination lock on their locker. *You'll get a mailer/postcard invitation. You'll want to bring some cash for your lock (\$3), and a credit card or checkbook for optional things like photo package, PTSA membership, Activity Pass, tshirts/hats/stickers.*
- Go to the **Open House** – held a few weeks into school, parents get to experience a mini-version of your student's schedule and most importantly, meet the teachers and pick up classroom info that will help with homework. *You'll get an invitation or phone message.*
- Meet other parents and find out what's going on at school: Watch for **"Coffee with the Principal"** events, **social coffee gatherings** at Lucy's Cafe across the street, and **monthly** (3rd Wednesdays, 7pm) **PTSA meetings**.
- [Not for 2020-2021 year start] Go to "Jumpstart" scheduled in August (watch for a date) before school begins. Student Ambassadors will be there to help navigate through the classes, lockers and other questions you might have.

Find us on Facebook at:

- ➔ City High Middle Village
- ➔ GR City High Middle School
- ➔ City PTSA
- ➔ City High Middle School Band

Find us on Instagram

- ➔ @Citycounseling
- ➔ @chms_voice
- ➔ @citysprincipal
- ➔ @artcitymiddleschool

We are sure there are many more.....

Important websites:

- family.grps.org – (Synergy/ParentVue/Gradebook) – once school starts you'll get login info for you and your student to check grades and assignments.
- grps.org (includes a Parents tab and Calendar tab at the top) – district and administration info, Parent University classes, district calendar.
- www.cityptsa.com – parent volunteers, family school spirit, fundraising for school extras, advocacy for student needs. Meetings are usually the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at City.
- Athletics : <https://www.facebook.com/GRPSMSAthletics>; <https://unionredhawks.com/www.grps.org/athletics> and <https://ottawahillsbengals.com/>.
- www.chmsib.com – all the info on our IB program, contact info for IB Coordinator, CAS forms.
- <http://www.wearegr.com/> - GRPS school district updates on transformation plan, sports schedules, summer camps, and Grand Rapids City Manager updates/news.
- Acronyms: IB is International Baccalaureate (the name for our internationally-minded focus), MYP is Middle Years Program, DP is Diploma Program (for high school).
- CAS is a piece of the program where kids acquire hours towards Creativity, Activity, and Service. Look into getting some or all CAS hours over the summer – examples: attend a museum/art exhibit, take music lessons, write a story, volunteer for something, play a sport, take a hike, etc. This website can clarify: www.chmsib.com
- Teachers also use Weebly, Google Classroom, TurnItIn, Blogspot and other sites to communicate with students about assignments. Teachers will give out their specific info at the beginning of the year.

Ways the school communicates with you:

- Notifications and reminders go out by text, email, and robocall (phone message in English and Spanish). *Make sure your contact info is correct on the forms you'll receive in the summer.*
- Weekly Announcements come by email from the office – essential reading for sports signups, upcoming events!
- Monthly Newsletter – updates from the principal, counseling office, IB office, Athletics, etc.

WELCOME, New City Families!

For additional questions, contact Gaele Thibault (vicepresident1@cityptsa.com) or Paula Foley (secretary@cityptsa.com)

Updated August 17, 2020