



## 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:

- Check the City calendar for events <https://www.grps.org/city-calendar>
- **Orientation/Registration for 2022-2023 Information; Jumpstart** is August 10 at 9AM-1:00PM for ALL new students. Restart is August 11 Grades 7, 8 & 9 10:00AM-12:00PM Grades 10,11 and 12 1:30PM-5:30PM and August 15 Grades 10,11 and 12 10:00AM-12:00PM Grades 7, 8 & 9 1:30PM-5:30PM. CFE orientation is August 15 2PM-3:30PM. Get your ID photo taken (*this is also your school pic*), and let your student practice their combination lock on their locker. *You'll want to bring some cash for your lock (\$3), and a credit card or checkbook for optional things such as photo packages, Activity Pass etc.*
- Go to the **Open House** – which will be held September 14 5:30PM - 7:30PM. Parents get to go through the school, meet the teachers in their classrooms and experience a mini-version of your student's life at school! There will also be workshops available.
- 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>

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. Fall registration is available online already [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10aVPYgHUeA84SokPVQIKm6WsQgeh6tOBsn4VGmvuSzY/viewform?fbclid=IwAR1nxspPpLYXqJFpic-d1kLuzXXcP63JXiW30eMrmgb\\_A09BbLabZzI0XSg&edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10aVPYgHUeA84SokPVQIKm6WsQgeh6tOBsn4VGmvuSzY/viewform?fbclid=IwAR1nxspPpLYXqJFpic-d1kLuzXXcP63JXiW30eMrmgb_A09BbLabZzI0XSg&edit_requested=true)

- Join our **PTSA** (Parent-Teacher-Student Assn.) to volunteer and find out what's going on – go to [www.cityptsa.com](http://www.cityptsa.com) and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CityPTSA> . Meetings will be held online at the start and then in-person and online whenever possible. The Executive Board emails can be found on our website. Please reach out with any questions! We will be having a membership drive at the start of the year and are planning a Membership party so that people can meet. **You do not have to be a member to participate in meetings or gatherings.** Membership is required if you want to vote on the yearly budget, funding requests and other decisions that are presented during meetings.
- 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 or at Creston Brewery as well as , and **monthly PTSA meetings** (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 7pm).
- **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.
- **2022 Musical** will be Steven Sondheim's **Into the Woods**. It will be directed by a City High parent Jamie Bott! Audition dates are **Aug. 30th** and **Aug 31st**. Callbacks will be **Sept. 1st**. There will be an ALL CAST sing/read through on Tuesday September 6th with a parent meeting to follow at 5:30PM for ALL parents of Cast, crew and Pit. You can ask to join the Musical FB page for more information



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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/219780738610545> or on Instagram @cityhighmusicaltheater. For questions please contact Jamie Bott [jamieclare1@gmail.com](mailto:jamieclare1@gmail.com)

- **Marching Band Camp** – Happening August 1 to August 5. Check for updates Band FB page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2049446675330101> The City High Band also has a Band Booster that would love for your help. Please contact Ruth Wilson for any information [rewilson1241@gmail.com](mailto:rewilson1241@gmail.com)
- 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), The City Voice, Speech/Debate, Democratic Club, Discussion Club, Space Club, Model UN Team, E-Club, Gay Straight Alliance, Medical Club, Ping Pong Club, Weight 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). Can't find a club you like, create your own!

Find us on Facebook at:

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ➤ City High Middle Village   | ➤ City PTSA                    |
| ➤ GR City High Middle School | ➤ City High Middle School Band |

Find us on Instagram

- |                   |                        |                           |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| ➤ @Citycounseling | ➤ @citysprincipal      | ➤ @Cityptsa               |
| ➤ @chms_voice     | ➤ @artcitymiddleschool | ➤ @cityhighmusicaltheater |

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

### Important websites:

- <https://www.grps.org/parentvue> – (Synergy/ParentVue/Gradebook) – FOr schedules, student information etc..
- <https://app.schoology.com/login?destination=parent%2Fsettings> Schoology to check on grades, assignments etc.
- <https://www.grps.org/> (includes a Parents tab and Calendar tab at the top) – district and administration info, Parent University classes, district calendar.
- [www.cityptsa.com](http://www.cityptsa.com) – parent volunteers, family school spirit, fundraising for school extras, advocacy for student needs. Meetings are usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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.
- <https://www.grps.org/city-calendar>



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- 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](http://www.chmsib.com)

### 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 Gaelle Thibault ([vicepresident1@cityptsa.com](mailto:vicepresident1@cityptsa.com)) or Ruth Wilson ([secretary@cityptsa.com](mailto:secretary@cityptsa.com))