

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 soon: www.grps.org/athletics. You can also look at their calendar from 2018/19 to get a sense of timing of our sports seasons. (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.)
- 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.
- **City High Middle Village** Facebook page – an *unofficial (but helpful)* page that lots of parents use to ask each other questions, plan carpools, etc. – essential for all the latest info. Visit the page, ask to join, you'll be approved quickly.
- Be a Part of the 2018 **Fall Musical!** *All auditions will take place after school on **August 27 & 28**. Gain tips and advice at an **audition workshop at 3 p.m. August 24**.* Then rehearsals will commence two or three times a week after school throughout September and October with performances on the second weekend in November. Please ask to join the City High's Cinderella Facebook page. In meantime, *anyone who wants to audition should pick a song, practice singing 30-60 seconds of it and get your hands on the piano sheet music so you can bring it along to the audition.* Anyone who saw last year's stellar performance of Fiddler on the Roof will understand that it's going to be tough to top, but we are going to give it a try! Auditions will be open to all 7-12 graders enrolled at City and for students at the Center for Economicology. *We'll also be looking for backstage help - parents and students - with sound, lights, sets and costumes.* Contact PTSA Musical Theater Committee Chair Beth Cranson at bcranson@gmail.com if you have questions.
- **Marching Band Camp** – *high school students (including incoming 9th graders) will have camp Aug. 6-10.* Check for updates here, <https://sites.google.com/site/cityhighmiddleband/> 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. 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).
- Go to the **Orientation/Registration** 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**.
- Go to jumpstart scheduled on August 13th from 9:00AM to 12:00PM. 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

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
- www.grps.org/athletics - sports schedules and contact info
- www.chmsib.com – all the info on our IB program, contact info for IB Coordinator, CAS forms.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- <http://www.wearegr.com/> - GRPS school district updates on transformation plan, sports schedules, summer camps, and Grand Rapids City Manager updates/news.

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!

by your Parent Action Leaders, Gaille Thibault (gaillethibault@hotmail.com) and Lori Box (boxgirl76@gmail.com)