

CRESSKILL HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL
One Lincoln Drive Cresskill, NJ 07626 (201) 227-7791, Fax: (201) 567-0028

PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

Mr. John Massaro, Principal
jmassaro@cboek12.org

August 30th, 2021

Dear Cresskill Middle School/High School students and families,

I hope this message finds you well as the final week of summer is now upon us. While we continue to navigate through the Covid-19 pandemic and its effects on education, it is important to highlight strengths of our Cresskill community and the foundation of positive relationships that has been so critical to our school throughout this time. At the start of the summer, we were proud to announce that Cresskill Middle School/High School had earned [Gold Star Distinction as a 2020-2021 No Place for Hate School](#), the only Bergen County high school to earn this recognition! Through various classroom outreach initiatives during the school year, our student group created programming in our school including Holocaust Remembrance Day and May's Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Now the second year in a row that our school has been recognized, we are committed to fostering the best learning atmosphere possible for all students and staff in our school. We thank everyone for their commitment to this meaningful endeavor, especially as our district continues its broader Diversity and Inclusion initiative. Cresskill has long been described as "a place to learn among caring people" and our commitment to that ideal continues to evolve.

Please take a few minutes to review the various details provided in this newsletter for the start of another exciting school year. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the building on Thursday, September 9th. Let's nurture all of the relationships that make Cresskill Middle School/High School a special place as we navigate yet another unique school year together.

Sincerely,

Mr. John Massaro

Principal
Cresskill Middle School/High School
jmassaro@cboek12.org

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Welcome 6th graders & new students!

All incoming 6th grade students will attend the orientation session on Friday, September 3rd 12:45-2:00pm. Please email Ms. Lana Shtofmakher, middle school guidance counselor, if you have any questions about this orientation program (lshtofmakher@cboek12.org). You may also reference the details recently emailed to all 6th grade families.

For all new students to Cresskill Middle School/High School in grades 7-12, please attend the orientation session with Mr. Michael Zelizo, high school guidance counselor, on Friday, September 3rd at 1:45pm.

Covid-Related Procedures

Please take time to carefully review the [2021-2022 Cresskill School District Covid-Related Procedures](#) document that includes both districtwide and school-specific topics. We are focused on moving forward toward school operations that are as traditional as possible while also maintaining safe practices to minimize the potential for spread of the Covid-19 virus. The most significant change to our daily operations is the expansion to three student lunch periods. Other practices implemented last year such as daily temperature checks and screening forms have been eliminated, yet we all share the responsibility of careful monitoring and practices as we continue to navigate this prolonged pandemic.

School Safety at Cresskill Middle/High School

Building Access For the safety of our students and staff, all doors of the school remain locked during the school day. No visitors will be permitted to enter the building without an appointment. Visitors with appointments will be directed to the Main Office to sign in and be issued a visitor pass.

Item Drop-Off The following procedures and expectations for student item drop-offs during the school day:

- No lunch deliveries or drop-offs are allowed - students are permitted to bring a brown-bag lunch with them each morning or purchase lunch from the full-service cafeteria.
- Occasional emergency drop-off of essential items may be accommodated by the main office staff.
- Excessive use of the emergency drop-off procedures will be addressed by administration if necessary.
- Please note that glass bottles and containers are not allowed in the building

Traffic Patterns The safety of our children is of the utmost importance and the Cresskill Police Department has consulted with our school district to develop optimal traffic patterns for school district function. In order to keep all children safe and traffic moving smoothly, only drop-off/pick-up students curbside. The staff parking lot is closed to through-traffic or vehicles waiting to pick up students. Please remember each and every day to exercise caution during drop off and pick up. Visitor parking is located in the front by the school main entrance. The main parking lot is reserved for staff only. No students are permitted to park in this lot. Please see this [link](#) for the 2021-2022 CHS Parking Regulations Google Form, also available on

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the Class of 2022 Google Classroom, and contact Mr. Kevin Quinn, Dean of Students, if you have any questions.

Student Absence/Early Release Procedures

Call 201-227-7791 and select 3 for the high school or 4 for the middle school

Select 1 for early dismissal or 2 for absence

Please provide student name & grade, parent/guardian name and contact phone number, and reason for early dismissal or absence

Students who are aware of an early dismissal when they first report to school should obtain an early release note at the main office when they first arrive at school. This procedure will expedite students being dismissed from class and waiting on time near the main office for dismissal.

Student Activities

Middle school students will have the opportunity to be involved in clubs, athletics, and field trip opportunities throughout the school year. Extracurricular club information will be shared on the class bulletin boards and morning announcements. Grade-level trips and Student Organization-sponsored trip information will be shared with students and families via email, flyers, and Twitter (@CresskillMSHS). Middle School athletic information can be found on the school website at this [link](#).

High school students will receive information for the upcoming Club Fair that is hosted annually during lunch in September.

Social Media Communication

Please consider following our Cresskill District administrators, staff members, and programs on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Our launch of this social media platform in the past few years has enhanced communication successfully. Descriptions, photos, and video clips of daily events in school provide a window into the daily school experience. Even if you do not have an account of your own, you can view school-related Tweets on the website main page feed. Many of our student activities are freely available through their Twitter feeds, such as our school Newspaper, The Communique, the Cresskill Update monthly news program produced by video production students, and musical performances by our music groups. This is also a very useful tool to promote education-related articles and news.

News from the Guidance Department

In order to make everyone's first day productive and comfortable we ask that you make a copy of your schedule from the Genesis Portal and bring it to school on Thursday, September 9th. Also all students can view their guidance counselor assignment on the portal summary page. Your counselors are always available to you in addition to the meetings that they will schedule throughout the year.

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Please contact Mr. Thomas Krenn, Interim Supervisor of Guidance, at tkrenn@cresskillnj.net if you have any questions. You may also visit the Guidance Department tab on the school website to access more information.

News from the Athletic and Physical Education Department

The Athletics tab on the school website is a helpful resource for students and families. Details include registration information, schedules and directions. You can also register for schedule change notifications on the following NJIC conference [link](#).

Ms. Beth Del Vecchio, Athletic Director and Supervisor of Health/Physical Education, is looking forward to working with our coaches, athletes and parents to help Cresskill MS/HS athletic programs continue to grow, develop and carry on their athletic traditions. Please contact her at bdelvecchio@cboek12.org if you have any questions.

Cresskill Fall Festival, Sunday, September 26th from 10am-4pm

Join us for a fun day of delicious food, great shopping and fun music! This is a fundraiser hosted by the Class of 2022 Project Graduation Committee and will be located at the MS/HS main parking lot with a large variety of vendors and local shops selling their goods including: jewelry, designer tote bags, designer sweaters/blazers, coffee/drinks/homemade baked items, custom floral bouquets, tie-dye & custom beaded bags, delicious catering, custom sweatshirts, farmer's market items - and much more! Are you interested in promoting your business or selling your items at this event? If so, please contact Mary Klein at Cresskill.Classof2022@gmail.com.

Back-to-School Night Remote Events

The annual Back-to-School Night events will be conducted remotely on the following dates. Details with specific teacher video conferencing links will be provided as we approach each date.

Cresskill Middle School- Thursday, September 30th at 7:00pm

Cresskill High School- Thursday, October 7th at 7:00pm

Middle School Field Trips

Grade level middle school field trips are being considered for Spring 2022. All field trip decisions will be made based on current Covid-19 guidance and may be affected by conditions at the time the trip is scheduled. Additionally, field trips will be scheduled around the state testing calendar, which has not yet been determined by the NJ Department of Education. Ideally, it is our hope that the traditional trips for each grade level will be continued this year:

6th Grade: Woodloch Resort

7th Grade: Dorney Park

8th Grade: Washington, DC

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Homework “Holidays”

Homework will not be assigned during the dates listed below, nor will any quizzes, tests, projects, or any other work requiring student preparation the night before. The annual designation of these “holidays” promotes balance for student wellness.

Thanksgiving Weekend: November 25-28, 2021

President’s Day Weekend: February 19-22, 2022

Memorial Day Weekend: May 27-30, 2022 (any unused snow days added to Memorial Day Weekend will also be considered homework-free days)

Weekly Assessment Schedule

The chart below presents the weekly assessment schedule for grades 6-12. The spirit of this schedule is to promote reasonable balance of assignment scheduling for students across multiple subjects, and we thank our faculty for their professionalism and adaptability to optimize the learning experience in Cresskill. Teachers will communicate how these expectations specifically apply to the expectations in their specific courses.

This schedule applies to full period tests and long term assignments requiring substantial preparation by students, and does not apply to quizzes and other shorter assessments that generally require less than half the class period to complete. In-class essays and other types of performance tasks that do not require advanced preparation are also not included in this schedule. This schedule applies to in-class scheduling; individual student absence for any reason will require timely make-up of missed assignments independent of this subject-specific schedule.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Health/physical education/ Business/Art/ Music/other electives	Language Arts & ESL	Health/physical education/ Business/Art/ Music/other electives	Mathematics	Language Arts & ESL
Mathematics	World Language	Science	World Language	Science
Social Studies		Social Studies		

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Staff Updates

Please join us in welcoming our newest staff members as well as current staff members taking on new roles at Cresskill Middle School/High School:

Lemma Taha- Assistant Principal

Thomas Krenn- Interim Supervisor of Guidance

Judith Beekman- Supervisor of World Languages/English as a Second Language (ESL), formerly elementary ESL teacher

Alexis Peck- Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction, formerly Supervisor of Science & Social Studies

Grace Chun- Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction

Laura Alvarez- Guidance Counselor

Esther Canela- Special Education teacher

Rachel Cohen- Guidance Counselor

Joseph Meier- Social Studies teacher

Colby Mulkeen- Academic & Support Specialist, formerly Learning Disabilities Teaching Consultant

Thomas Rose- Mathematics teacher

Noreen Wilds- Language Arts teacher

Kathleen Wilkin- Special Education teacher

Cresskill Middle School/High School Parent Associations

Parent/guardian emails will be provided to our school-affiliated parent organizations in an effort to expedite communication efforts this year. You can opt-out of receiving specific group emails upon receipt.

Cresskill Home and School Association (HSA)

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year from the Home and School Association (HSA)! The HSA works collaboratively with parents, teachers and school administrators to enrich your child's educational experience. We look forward to another great school year with a number of activities and events planned during the year. Please contact President Limor Kovar at

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cmschs.hsa@gmail.com if you have any questions about the organization. Also please follow us on Twitter at @cms_chs_hsa.

HSA Meetings- The HSA exists to promote better communication and cooperation between school and parents. You are welcome to discuss issues of concern at the meetings. This is a great time to learn more about the HSA and find out about how you can get involved in various HSA activities. We welcome new ideas and look forward to your input on what school programs you feel will benefit your child/children. Our first meeting is on September 22nd at 8:00pm via Zoom.

Parent Education Speaker Series- The HSA will continue its speaker series program during the 2021-2022 school year. These topics are selected as timely and meaningful resources for parents. Specific dates will be communicated as each event approaches.

HSA Directory- The Cresskill Middle School & High School HSA will be using Membership Toolkit for our Directory for the 2021-2022 school year. We invite you to visit <https://cresskillhsa.membershiptoolkit.com> to see everything your HSA has to offer this year. If you don't have an account please create one. Once you create a Membership Toolkit Account, you will have access to the online directory. If you have any questions please email Dianne Lavin at: cmschs.hsa@gmail.com.

Korean Parents Association

The Korean Parents Association (KPA) functions as a liaison for Korean members of the Cresskill community and the Cresskill Middle School/High School. For questions and interest please contact cmschskpa@gmail.com.

KPA전체 학부모 zoom 회의를 2021년 10월 14일 목요일 7시30분에 교장 선생님 Mr. Massaro 와 교감 선생님 Ms. Taha 와 함께 갖으려고 합니다. 2021-22 KPA에서 진행 예정인 여러 행사에 대해 알려드릴 예정입니다. KPA뿐만 아니라 학교 전반에 관해 평소 갖고 계셨던 좋은 의견을 나누는 시간이 될수 있도록 많은 관심과 참석 부탁드립니다.

SEPAC

The Cresskill Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) is a district-wide organization created by parents to provide information, educational opportunities, resources, and support to families. In the past, the SEPAC has held meetings which included presentations on Managing Difficult Behaviors, The Sibling Experience (for the siblings of special needs children), as well as local care groups that provide resources to individuals with special needs and their families. If you would like to learn more or be included on the SEPAC email list please contact cresskillSEPAC@gmail.com.

Music Booster Association

Please support our Music Boosters program by becoming a member via this [link](#) to make your tax deductible donation via check or PayPal! Becoming a member is the best way to support all the fantastic talent in our own Middle and High School and is our primary source of funding for the school year. Please also list "Cresskill Middle School and High School Music Boosters" as *The Cresskill Schools will utilize the core curriculum content standards to promote academic excellence and foster self-esteem in a dynamic, caring environment and will prepare students to be life-long learners and contributors in an evolving and ever-changing world.*

your designated charity on Amazon Smile to benefit our fundraising. The Music Boosters make possible scholarships, activities, and learning that go beyond our Music, Arts, and Drama curriculum. Join today! If you have time to donate, volunteers are also always welcome. You can also email us at cresskillmusicboosters@gmail.com to see how you can help.

Cresskill Athletic Boosters

The Athletic Boosters hope everyone enjoyed a great summer and are excited for our sports programs to begin and our athletes to be back on the fields and courts. To cheer, celebrate and welcome our athletes' return to competition, the Boosters sold individual banners to be displayed at our school. If you haven't done so, you can still order, please email: cresskillathleticbooster@gmail.com. We wish all our Cougars a great year!

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