

PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

August 2023

I hope you all have experienced a restful and enjoyable summer! Please take a few minutes to review the various important details provided in this newsletter for the start of another exciting school year. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the building for the first official day of school on Tuesday, September 5th. However, activity in and around the school has steadily been increasing as we near the end of August. Please come out on Thursday 8/31 to support our football team, cheerleaders, marching band, and color guard in the first game of the season, 7pm at home against New Milford HS. We are also excited to welcome the Class of 2030 6th graders for Friday's orientation program. Not many schools can say that they are hosting two great events like this within a 24 hour period! We all know that Cresskill is a special place with many unique and distinct qualities. Let's continue to nurture all of the special relationships that define Cresskill Middle School/High School as we continue growing and improving this year.

Mr. John Massaro



IMPORTANT NEWS AND UPDATES

STAFF UPDATES

Please join us in welcoming our new CMS/CHS staff!

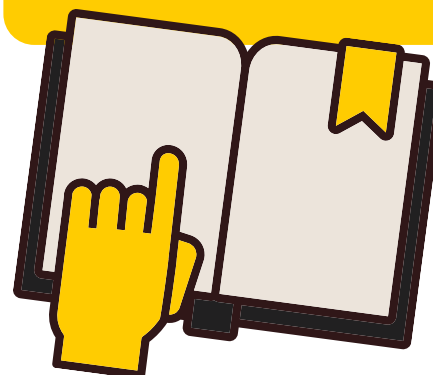
- Cristina Campos | School Psychologist
- Alvaro Cunha | World Language
- Katherine Franco | Math
- Vanessa LaValle | Business
- Jack McCaffrey | Video
- Kenneth McCarthy | Computer Programming
- Victoria Roh | Special Education



WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

All incoming 6th grade students will attend the orientation program on Friday, September 1st 12:45-2:00pm. Please email Ms. Lana Shtofmakher, middle school guidance counselor, if you have any questions (Ishtofmakher@cboek12.org).

For all new students to Cresskill Middle School/High School in grades 7-12, please attend the new student orientation session with Ms. Rachel Cohen and Ms. Laura Alvarez, high school guidance counselors, on Thursday, August 31st at 10:00am. Participating students should report to the main entrance area when they arrive.



STUDENT HANDBOOK

Important updates to this year's student handbook include:

- Facility use
- Open campus 9-12
- Dress Code
- PE changing requirements
- Cell phones
- Artificial intelligence (AI)
- Building entry, student IDs



IMPORTANT NEWS AND UPDATES

1:1 DEVICES

We are excited to be offering 1:1 Chromebooks for all students this school year! Specific details are being finalized, stay tuned for more information.



GENESIS PARENT FORMS

The following acknowledgment forms have been published on Genesis parent portals:

- Item Drop Off
- Student Drop Off/Pick Up, Traffic flow
- Student absence & early release
- 1:1 Chromebook/device agreements



STUDENT LUNCH PERIODS

We are shifting from 3 to 2 student lunch periods this school year and all CHS students will receive open campus privileges during their lunch period.

Period 5 – Grades 8th-12th Lunch

Period 6 – Grades 6th & 7th Lunch



CMS/CHS SOCIAL MEDIA

Please consider following our Cresskill District administrators, staff members, and programs on X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram. Descriptions, photos, and video clips of daily events in school provide a window into the daily school experience and celebrate the achievements of our students in so many different ways.





MEET THE ADMIN. & BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHTS

HSA Meet the Administration Event – Thursday, Sept. 21 | 6:00–6:50

Cresskill Middle School BTSN – Thursday, Sept. 21 | 7:00–9:00

Cresskill High School BTSN – Thursday, Sept. 28 | 7:00–9:00

For more information, please see [this link](#).

HOMEWORK HOLIDAYS

Periodically during the school year, we will announce designated “homework holiday” periods. Teachers should not assign any homework during the following times:

- Thanksgiving Weekend: November 23–26, 2023
- Holiday Vacation: December 23, 2023–January 1, 2024
- Winter Break: February 17–25, 2024
- Memorial Day Weekend: May 25–27, 2024
 - any unused snow days added to Memorial Day Weekend will also be considered homework-free days



WEEKLY ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Below are designated days of the week for full period tests and long term assignments requiring substantial preparation by students. The spirit of this format is to promote reasonable balance of assignment scheduling for students, and we thank our faculty for their professionalism and adaptability to optimize the learning experience in Cresskill.

Mon. - Mathematics, Social Studies, Health/PhysEd, Business, Art, Music

Tues. - Language Arts, ESL, World Language

Weds. - Science, Social Studies, Health/PhysEd, Business, Art, Music

Thurs. - Mathematics, World Language

Fri. - Language Arts, ESL, Science



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Middle school students will have the opportunity to be involved in clubs, athletics, and field trip opportunities throughout the school year, with information shared directly on the grade-level Google Classrooms and morning announcements. Grade-level trips and Student Organization-sponsored trip information will be shared with students and families directly as well. 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 late September.



NEWS FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Remember to bring a copy of your schedule from the Genesis Portal on the first day of school. 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.

Please contact Mr. Michael Stone, Director of Guidance, at mstone@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 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, 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 bdelvevecchio@cresskillnj.net if you have any questions.





FALL ATHLETICS HOME OPENERS

Football/Cheer/Marching Band | Thurs. 8/31 v. New Milford

Boys Soccer | Thurs. 9/7 v. North Arlington

Girls Tennis | Thurs. 9/7 v. Leonia

Girls Soccer | Fri. 9/8 v. Harrison

Volleyball | Fri. 9/8 v. Hawthorne Christian Academy

Cross Country | Weds. 9/13 opening meet





PARENT ORGANIZATIONS



Home and School Association (HSA)

The HSA would like to welcome the NEW and RETURNING Cresskill Middle School & High School Families to the 2023-2024 school year!

The HSA works collaboratively with parents, teachers and school administrators to enrich our children's educational experience and showcase our community spirit. We look forward to another great school year with a number of activities and events planned during the year. Organizations like ours can only be possible with the active participation of our parent volunteers, so we look forward to seeing many of you this year!

The HSA exists to promote better communication and cooperation between our school and parents. This is a great time to learn more about the HSA and find out how to get involved. You are welcome to discuss issues of concern at the meetings. We WELCOME new ideas and look forward to your input on what school programs you feel will benefit our children.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Thursday, September 21st –Meet the Administrative Team @ 6:00pm in the CMS/CHS Media Center
- Thursday, October 5th—First CMS & CHS HSA Meeting @ 7:00pm in the CMS/CHS Media Center. Mr. John Massaro (Principal) will be attending.
- Wednesday, November 1st —Special CMS & CHS HSA Meeting @ 7:00pm in the CMS/CHS Media Center. Friends of Cresskill Library will be attending.

Parent Education Speaker Series:

The HSA will continue its speaker series program during the 2023-2024 school year. These topics are selected as timely and meaningful resources for parents. Specific dates will be communicated as each event approaches.

This upcoming school year we will include topics such as college prep talk, drive wise, meet the administration, and teens dating, relationships and sex.

If you have any topics to suggest please contact us.

The Cresskill Middle School & High School HSA will continue to use Membership Toolkit for our Directory and HSA communication for the 2023-2024 school year. We invite you to visit

Membership Toolkit to update your information. Any new families to the CMS or CHS will receive a welcome email, and information to update your account. Once you have a Membership Toolkit Account updated , you will have access to the online directory. If you have any questions please email Ana Solano at: cmschs.hsa@gmail.com.

We hope to see many of you at our upcoming meetings. Please contact Limor Kovar (CMS/CHS HSA President) at cmschs.hsa@gmail.com if you have any questions about the HSA or would like to volunteer. Also, please follow us on Twitter at @cms_chs_hsa.



PARENT ORGANIZATIONS



Korean Parents Association (KPA)

Welcome back to school!!

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

안녕하세요. 2023-2024 새학기를 맞아 Cresskill Middle/High School KPA는 여러분을 진심으로 환영합니다!!

올해도 11월에 전체 학부모 정기 총회가 개최될 예정입니다. Mr. Massaro 교장선생님과 Mr. Apice 그리고 Mrs. Chun 께서 함께 하실 것입니다. 자세한 일정은 결정되는대로 다시 공지하겠습니다.

아울러 KPA에서는 매월 펀드레이징을 진행하고 있습니다.

이러한 수익금을 통해 작년에는 팬데믹과 태풍 아이다로 어려운 상황 속에 힘들었던 아이들을 격려하기 위해 Music Boosters와 Athletics Boosters에 도네이션 함은 물론 학교 안뜰에 Adirondack chairs 와 Tables를 도네이션 했습니다. 또한 학교 선생님과 직원들을 위한 Luncheon 행사, Middle School 졸업식 수료증과 졸업파티 그리고 High School 시니어들에게 Scholarship Award 를 진행했으며 그 외 학교의 각 이벤트에 협력하고 있습니다.

펀드레이징의 모든 수익금은 우리 아이들을 위해 각종 학교 도네이션, 이벤트 지원, 장학금 수여 등으로 유용하게 쓰이고 있습니다.올해도 학부모님들의 많은 도움과 성원 부탁드립니다. 모두 건강한 모습으로 다시 뵙길 바랍니다! 다른 궁금하신 사항이 있으시면 cmschskpa@gmail.com 또는 hmsmom@gmail.com으로 연락 주시길 바랍니다.



PARENT ORGANIZATIONS



Music Boosters

Show your Cougar Music pride and support the extraordinary talent in the Cresskill Middle and High School's various bands, orchestra, choir/vocal ensembles, and theatre productions/crew. The Cresskill Music Boosters, (a non-profit organization run by parents of music/theatre students) work closely with the music department to support their programs, events and activities benefiting our children. Monthly meetings and fundraising opportunities are held throughout the year. Additionally, your membership dues help fund scholarships to graduating seniors, fees associated with competitions, Tri-M Honor Society, senior appreciation dinner, concert concessions, and so much more!

Please click this [membership link](#) to join the Cresskill Music Boosters and check out the school website for more information and meeting dates. Memberships and additional donations are tax deductible. Volunteers are greatly needed and always welcomed, whether you have an hour to help at a fundraiser, can work at a concert intermission, or have the time to be more involved. Please feel free to email cresskillmusicboosters@gmail.com with any questions.

Two upcoming dates to mark on your calendars:

Thursday, October 5th, 2023: Music Boosters meeting at 7:00 pm in the cafeteria

Wednesday, November 22nd, 2023, 4:00-8:00 pm: Closter Chipotle fundraiser. Why cook the night before Thanksgiving when you can eat Chipotle and one-third of the sales are donated to the music department? If ordering on the app or website, be sure to use code XYLNWYN. Click [here](#) for details.

As always, we are looking forward to an amazing year filled with outstanding performances by our children!



PARENT ORGANIZATIONS



Athletic Boosters

The Cresskill Athletic Booster Club is excited for the upcoming season!!! We would like to extend our appreciation to everyone who participated in our recent Jersey Mike's fundraiser. Your enthusiasm and Jersey Mike's generosity helped us raise almost \$4000 to enhance our program, benefit athletes and provide six scholarships to seniors! As part of our ongoing effort to promote our school spirit, we are organizing Senior banners for the upcoming fall season. A special Thank you to Jason Timochko for all of his hard work behind the scenes to make this possible!

Mark your Calendar! We are excited to bring the Harlem wizards back to Cresskill on October 17th! If you would like to volunteer for this event, please email Brenda.CresskillAthleticBoosterClub@gmail.com
This is sure to be a great event for all!!!

We invite you to become a member of the Cresskill Athletic Booster Club using this [link](#). Your membership directly supports our programs, scholarships and Athletes.

Please follow our Facebook page - Cresskill Athletic Booster Club - for announcements and information.

Thank you for your continued support and Good luck to all our Athletic teams this fall season! Go Cougars!!!