



HAPPENINGS

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**Chattahoochee
High School**

Duncan's Den: A Message From The Principal

It is with great excitement that I will be returning to Chattahoochee High School, as Principal Tim Corrigan has been promoted to Area Superintendent of the Northeast Learning Community. Many of you may know that I started at CHS as an Assistant Principal in 1997 and served as Principal from 2003-2015. In 2015, I was recruited to work on some special projects with the Fulton County School System as the Executive Director of Accountability. During that time, I had the opportunity to work with all the schools in the system to improve their CCRPI scores and Climate ratings. Additionally, I had the chance to work on two forthcoming innovative STEM high schools that will open in a few years. These experiences will be helpful as I return to The Hooch to guide our staff as we fulfill Fulton's Strategic Plan "to prepare all students to graduate ready to pursue and succeed on their chosen path."

Anyone who knows me will be quick to tell you that I bleed Blue & Gold and that I am passionate about instilling Cougar Pride. Both of my children graduated from CHS (Alex in 2013 & Aspen in 2015), so I lead with the perspective of a concerned parent and a dedicated educator. I want all of us to hold each other accountable for reaching high expectations in how we teach, support, and love our students. I tell our staff that "we will be good because of the students that walk in the door, but we will be great because of what we do."

The start of a new school year is exciting and full of promise. It is a great time to reflect on where we've been, where we are, and where we are going individually and as a school community. As a parent, this is an ideal time to discuss with your student their goals and dreams while reviewing their roadmap. Assure them that as teens we didn't have it all figured out, but we knew that each decision we made played a part in delivering us to our current destination. Our students may seem like they need us less at this stage, but I tend to think that these years are the most critical, when they need our collective guidance the most.

Over the next few weeks, I will be meeting with the Departments, PTSA, SGC, Booster Club, and student leaders to hear how I can support their visions. I'll host Open Talks with parents an hour before the following upcoming events: Freshmen Orientation (7/30), Information Day (8/1), and the Curriculum Nights (8/30, 9/6). In addition, I'll be hosting monthly "Donuts with Duncan" morning chats and looking for opportunities to meet out in the community. Chattahoochee High School has always been a special place with outstanding results. It's not by luck or chance – it's by all of us working together, or as I like to call it, the "Hooch Family Way".

Sincerely,
Tim C Duncan
Principal



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August 2018

Volume 1 • Issue 4



2018-19 School Calendar

July 31-August 3	Pre-planning
August 6	First Day of School
September 3	Labor Day
October 8	Columbus Day
November 19-23	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 20	Last Day of First Semester
Dec. 21-January 2	Winter Break
January 7	First Day of Second Semester
January 21	M.L. King Jr. Holiday
February 15	Student/Teacher Holiday
February 18	Presidents' Day
April 1-5	Spring Break
May 23	Last Day of School
May 24	Post Planning

Counseling Department

Through the end of August, the Counseling Department will be focusing on processing students' schedule correction requests and handling other scheduling issues. After that point, we will be happy to start taking appointment requests from students and parents!

Schedule correction forms will be available starting on Information Day. All requests must be submitted on this form. We are not able to process requests made via email or phone call.

Dual Enrollment students: information will be emailed to you periodically from the Counseling Department as well as your college, so be sure to check your personal and college email accounts regularly. Dual Enrollment funding applications will not be processed by Chattahoochee until the beginning of September after the college drop/add period has ended.

The alphabet breakdown for Counselor assignments has slightly changed, so please note your student's Counselor listed below:

Mrs. Chilson – A - Deo

Ms. Blount – McG - Sa

Mrs. Johnson – Der - Hei

Mrs. Jones – Sc - Z

Ms. Vemuri – Hen - McD

We would like to welcome Ms. Navina Vemuri to the Counseling Department as well! Ms. Vemuri is replacing Mrs. Grandits. Please see the Counseling Blog to read Ms. Vemuri's bio.

Rising Seniors and their Parents: the Counseling Department will be hosting a Senior Parent Night toward the end of August – the date will be posted on the main school calendar as well as sent via email. We will also have a Senior Meeting the first week of September to discuss the college application process and the steps students will follow to request transcripts and recommendations. The Counseling Office will start processing transcript and recommendation requests after Labor Day to ensure all Summer course grades and credits are correct on Seniors' transcripts.

We encourage you and your student to check out the Counseling website goo.gl/e51Q3F as well as the Counseling blog <http://hoochcounselors.blogspot.com/> for all things Counseling related. We are so excited to start the 2018-2019 school year!



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From the Desk of Garrett Abelkop Assistant Administrator

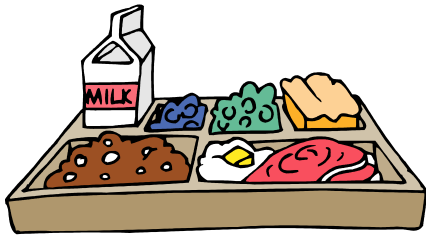
Hooch Family,

Over the past year, Mr. Corrigan led stakeholders throughout our community through a focused review of the Chattahoochee bell schedule to examine how to maximize our time each school day in order to best support our students.

In-line with the School Governance Council's development of our new Strategic Plan, we are proud to announce that Chattahoochee has adopted a new bell schedule that will be in effect beginning on the first day of school, Monday August 6, 2018.

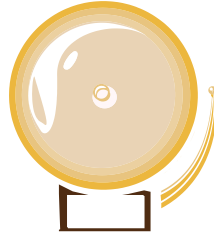
Two major features of this new bell schedule include:

1. **"Chatt Time"** - a block of time each day dedicated to providing academic support, RTI instructional interventions, study time, or teacher 'office hours' depending on the individualized needs of our students. During this 24-minute block of time, students will generally remain with their 2nd period teacher but may travel elsewhere for support or enrichment activities. Even though students will remain in the same room with the same teacher, Chatt time does not add instructional time to 2nd period but rather affords both our teachers and our students much needed flexibility during the school day to personalize the learning experience.
2. **53-minute lunch** - all students will be given a 53-minute lunch period. Our former bell schedule allowed most students only a 26-minute lunch adjoined with a 26-minute homeroom. Our hope is that a 53-minute lunch period will allow our students to appropriately pace themselves to be successful without feeling rushed or anxious. This also allows students a greater degree of flexible time to meet with peers, read in the media center, or relax in the Hooch courtyard (*note that maintaining 53-minute lunch is a privilege and students placed on Academic Probation or in certain disciplinary situations may lose that privilege*).



The new bell schedule is the latest effort towards our vision - to create a community where everyone loves to learn, work, and serve. To download a copy of the new bell schedule, check the Hooch Central page of our website, www.chattcougar.com.

I hope you are enjoying your summer and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.



2018-19 NEW Bell Schedule

1st Period: 8:20 - 9:13 (53 min)

2nd Period: 9:18 - 10:11 (53 min)

Chatt Time (Academic Support):
10:16 - 10:40 (24 min)

3rd Period/3rd Lunch:
10:45 - 11:38 (53 min)

4th Period/4th Lunch:
11:43 - 12:36 (53 min)

5th Period/5th Lunch:
12:41 - 1:34 (53 min)

6th Period: 1:39 - 2:32 (53 min)

7th Period: 2:37 - 3:30 (53 min)



HOOCH Happenings August 2018 • Issue 4

Published Four Times Per Year
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**From the Desk of Debra Bryant
Assistant Principal**

High School Can Be a Wonderful Experience

Although the transition from middle school to high school can be rough, it doesn't need to be traumatic. With preparation and support, your teen can navigate the transition successfully and positively, strengthening her feelings about herself and her school. Once the transition is over, your teen may just find that high school is a wonderful experience full of exciting, new opportunities.

Expect Mixed Emotions

Many teenagers are excited about entering high school, states research from the College of Brockport in New York. They look forward to having more freedom and growing up, as well as having more choices in the classes they take, activities they participate in and friends they have.

However, there is also fear. Incoming freshmen worry about:

- Finding their way around a bigger building
- Being picked on by older students
- If they will be able to meet the higher expectations of their teachers
- If they will be able to handle all the responsibilities that come will being in high school

Having mixed emotions is normal. Facing unfamiliar situations can cause a variety of emotions in anyone. For teens, these feelings can be more intense. Expect them to be excited one minute and nervous the next. Encourage them to talk and make sure to listen. There are some things that you can do to help decrease some of your teen's anxiety before school even starts.

- Visit the school before classes begin
- Encourage positive relationships with teachers. Teachers are there every day and know a lot more about what happens in school than many students think. Teachers can be a great source of support to a freshman that just feels a little overwhelmed.
- Encourage Involvement in Extracurricular Activities - Extracurricular activities have a variety of benefits, as is shown in the same research by experts in British Columbia. Kids who are involved in extracurricular activities boast a slew of positive benefits including:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ○ Higher self-esteem | ○ Less likely to drop out |
| ○ Better academic performance | ○ View adults more positively |
| ○ Better behavior | ○ Have stronger ties to school |
| ○ Better social relationships | |

Help them learn time management. For example, always plan extra time to complete homework, in case it takes longer than they think. Do the hardest, or least enjoyed, activity

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first when they have the most energy and concentration. Break large goals into smaller goals so they don't get overwhelmed. Study a little every day so instead of waiting until the last minute. Set rewards for getting work done before play and have different folders or binders for each subject. Get materials ready the night before so mornings aren't rushed and get plenty of sleep.

With preparation and support, your teen can navigate the transition successfully and positively, strengthening feelings about themselves and school. Once the transition is over, your teen may just find that high school is a wonder experience full of exciting, new opportunities.

Excerpt from <https://teens.lovetoknow.com/teens-school/tips-transition-high-school>.

From the Desk of Dr. Mike Todd Assistant Principal

I serve as one of the four Assistant Principals at Chattahoochee. My student caseload consists of student last names that begin with letters S-Z. I support the Science, World Language, and Physical Education departments as well as being the primary contact for bussing/transportation.

In Science, we have fifteen teachers that deliver instruction to over 75 classes a day with an average of 30 students in a class. If I did my math correctly, our science department makes approximately 2,250 student contacts a day. Can you say WOW?

In World Language, we serve students in Spanish, French, Latin, and Chinese. In most of these languages, our student retention rate (students taking additional years past the typical college admissions requirement of two) is above 50%. This means students have a desire and recognize the benefits of studying a language at Level 3, 4, and Advanced Placement.

Lastly, we have a veteran staff of four teachers in our Physical Education department delivering instruction in Personal Fitness, Health, Recreational Games, and Weight Training. The department's main goal is to provide students with the tools to support a lifelong love of sports, physical activity, and healthy choices.

As an administrator supporting the above mentioned departments, I get to interact with some of the most amazing teachers and students in the district! This includes our multi-award winning Science Olympiad teams, our numerous World Language National Honor Society members and World Language Club...the list is exhaustive. As for our teachers, they are regularly invited to support district level initiatives such as curriculum and assessment development, instructional materials adoption, and school improvement efforts.

In closing, we may not be number one in every school performance indicator that comes out, but as long as we know we are number one in the hearts of our students, teachers, and community, the rest will take care of itself...the Hooch Way!



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From the Desk of Garin Berry

Assistant Principal

PSAT/SAT and ACT Exams 2018-2019

Preparation for PSAT/SAT

Students are encouraged to use Khan Academy, a free resource offered by the College Board for the PSAT and SAT <https://cb.collegeboard.org/sat/better-takes-practice/index.html>.

- **SAT** - <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice/khan-academy>
- **PSAT** - <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/new-sat-tips-planning/new-sat-how-to-prep/a/full-length-psat-nmsqt>

SAT Test Dates

- www.collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines

The first administration of the SAT is on Aug 25th with the next on Oct 6th. *Students register for this exam on their own.* Check website for registration deadlines. College-bound students should normally take this at least once by the end of their junior year.

Other Test Prep Resources

Chattahoochee HS offers free “Zero Period” Prep before school from 7:30-8:10am Mondays through Thursday for approximately six-week sessions. Class size is limited and students must register prior. Acceptance is prioritized based upon grade level and need. Registration requests for the first session will be available by Aug 13th. The first Course begins Monday, Aug 27th.

For intensive preparation options, please see our Business Partner offerings at Cornerstone Academic, Princeton Review, C2 Education, and Peach State Tutoring and Test Prep.

Preparation for the ACT

Students are encouraged to use ACT Academy, a free resource offered by ACT.

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html>

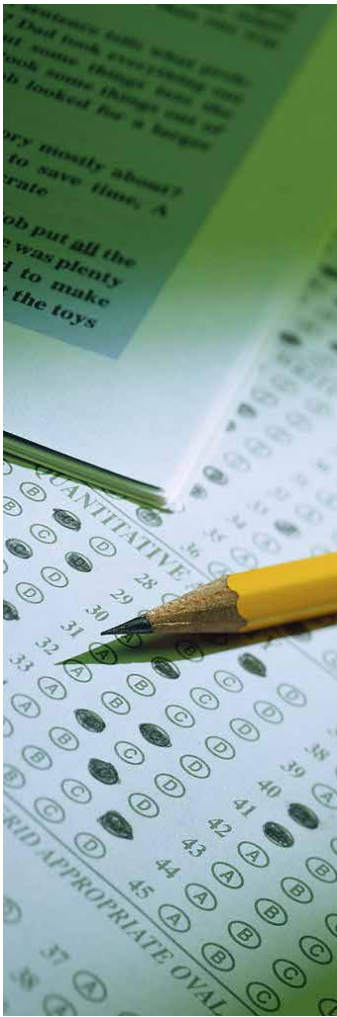
ACT Test Dates

- www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html

The first administration of the ACT is on Sept 9th with the next on Oct 28th. *Students register for this exam on their own.* Check website for registration deadlines. College-bound students should normally take this at least once by the end of their junior year.

PSAT Test Date

We will be giving the PSAT here at Chattahoochee HS to all of our 9th-11th graders on Wed Oct 10. The cost is paid for by the District and our students are automatically registered. More details will be communicated after the start of the school year.



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From the Desk of Jason Hicks

Athletic Director

Welcome back Cougar Fans for what promises to be another exciting year for Chattahoochee Athletics. Below is the Fall Sports Home schedule. Be sure to come out and support our student athletes!

Date	Activity	Location	Time	Level: V, JV, 9th	Opponent
9-Aug	Football	Home	8:00	Varsity (Scrimmage)	Banneker
14-Aug	Softball	Home	5:30	Varsity	Dunwoody
16-Aug	Softball	Home	5:30	Varsity	Pope
17-Aug	Football	Home	7:30	Varsity	Riverwood
21-Aug	Volleyball	Home	5:00	Varsity	Peachtree Ridge
21-Aug	Volleyball	Home	7:00	Varsity	Lovett
23-Aug	Volleyball	Home	5:00	Varsity	Holy Innocents
23-Aug	Volleyball	Home	7:00	Varsity	Marist
23-Aug	Softball	Home	5:30	Varsity	Cambridge
4-Sep	Softball	Home	5:30	Varsity	Alpharetta
5-Sep	Volleyball	Home	5:00	JV	Marist
5-Sep	Volleyball	Home	7:00	JV	Northview
6-Sep	Football	Home	6:00	Freshman	North Springs
7-Sep	Football	Home	7:30	Varsity	Northview
11-Sep	Volleyball	Home	5:00	Varsity	Pope
11-Sep	Volleyball	Home	7:00	Varsity	North Atlanta
12-Sep	Volleyball	Home	5:00	JV	North Atlanta
13-Sep	Football	Home	6:00	JV	Cambridge
13-Sep	Softball	Home	5:30	Varsity	Centennial
17-Sep	Volleyball	Home	5:00	JV	Cambridge
17-Sep	Volleyball	Home	7:00	JV	Northview
17-Sep	Volleyball	Home	5:00	Freshman	Cambridge
17-Sep	Volleyball	Home	7:00	Freshman	Northview
18-Sep	Volleyball	Home	5:00	Varsity	Cambridge
18-Sep	Volleyball	Home	7:00	Varsity	Northview
18-Sep	Softball	Home	5:30	Varsity	Johns Creek
20-Sep	Softball	Home	5:30	Varsity	Northview
21-Sep	Football	Home	7:30	Varsity	Pope
26-Sep	Softball	Home	5:30;7:00	Varsity	Denmark
27-Sep	Volleyball	Home	5:00	Varsity	Roswell
27-Sep	Volleyball	Home	7:00	Varsity	Pace
27-Sep	Football	Home	6:00	Freshman	Alpharetta
4-Oct	Football	Home	6:00	Freshman	Pope
5-Oct	Football	Home	7:30	Varsity	Centennial
11-Oct	Football	Home	6:00	JV	Alpharetta
18-Oct	Football	Home	6:00	JV	Centennial
2-Nov	Football	Home	7:30	Varsity	North Atlanta



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8

AP Exam Results Spring 2018!

Chattahoochee HS again yielded amazing AP Exam results! We had a new record number of students (over 850) taking AP exams with the highest number of total exams taken (1,890). Over 93% of our students taking exams earned a 3 or higher and all students in 13 courses earned an average score of 4 or better out of 5! Additionally, we had our highest number of AP scholars with 405 students and our highest number of National AP Scholars with 68! We also had 15 students earn the AP Capstone Diploma from our 1st AP Capstone Cohort and one student earned an AP International Diploma.

**Congratulations to all of
our students and teachers for this
fantastic performance!**

Congratulations!



Sam Cohen commits to play baseball with Georgia Gwinnett College.