

## Central High School

1700 West Olney Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19141

P: (215) 400-3590

F: (215) 400-3591

June 18, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and New CHS Students,

Thank you for your patience as we work out the best method to communicate with all of you. We are looking forward to staying in touch with you throughout the summer via our school website. As of today, we still do not know what our instructional program will look like for next year. The School District of Philadelphia is currently exploring 3 options. A final decision will be made by July 15, 2020. I will post our plan based upon their decision on the Central HS website. It is very important that you consistently review the CHS webpage for information throughout the summer. Here is the website address:

<https://centralhs.philasd.org/>

Please feel free to email Kristin Hinde ([kmhaskins@philasd.org](mailto:kmhaskins@philasd.org)), CHS Orientation Coordinator and/or Theresa Harrington ([tharrington@philasd.org](mailto:tharrington@philasd.org)), CHS Assistant Principal, if you have any questions.

### **Virtual Orientation**

While we are unable to connect in person before the start of classes, we have created a virtual orientation. Multiple members of our school community will be sharing important information for our incoming students and families. We have divided the videos into individual segments and will post them by August 10, 2020 on our school website. Each video contains valuable information about our school culture, from students, teachers, lead counselor, librarian, assistant principals and our athletic director. The goal is for you to become more comfortable and acquainted with our school.

### **Summer Assignments**

The summer reading activity has changed, Central HS Administrative Team and Faculty are requesting our entire school community read the following:

English Department: James Baldwin's essay "The American Dream and the American Negro" published in 1965 (Article can be found via Google search)

Link to video: <https://avplayer.lib.berkeley.edu/Video-Public-MRC/b22146014>

Social Studies Department: The American Nightmare by Ibram X. Kendi :  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/06/american-nightmare/612457/>

Additional Reading: NPR, The Enduring Lyricism Of W.E.B. Du Bois' 'The Souls Of Black Folk', 2-23-2018  
(Link to article below)

<https://www.npr.org/2018/02/23/588103943/the-enduring-lyricism-of-w-e-b-du-bois-the-souls-of-black-folk>

The reason we selected these three readings and are asking for our entire community to read them is so that when we return to Central High School we will be able to have a focused conversation about race and institutionalized racism in our nation. We want to make our community stronger and develop a foundation, as we deal with a 6 month hiatus from traditional school. The stress and anxiety that all members of our school community have suffered during the past few months has been to an extreme level. We need to heal and support one another. Our goal is for the voices of our community to be heard and create a better learning environment for all while making real world connections.

### **Roster**

Because we will be holding virtual orientation, we will not have the ability to assess our new students in World Language and/or Mathematics in person. A "Google Form" has been added to the CHS webpage in the "New Student Orientation Forms" section (<http://tiny.cc/CHScourses>). Please complete the survey **by July 10th** so that we can record your preference regarding World Language and Mathematics for next year. If the Google Form is not completed we will assign your child a World Language and Mathematics Course.

In regards to Mathematics, see the attached information from Mr. John Zak ([jzak@philasd.org](mailto:jzak@philasd.org)). It details the process for administering the placement assessment for new CHS students. This is not a required assessment. It is only for students who want to take an advanced mathematics course next year.

Differently from Mathematics, the World Language department will wait to assess incoming students when classes resume. After taking the survey, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your language placement, please contact Mrs. Rachel Rodríguez ([rgrimes@philasd.org](mailto:rgrimes@philasd.org)).

### **New Student Orientation Forms**

Please print and complete all new student orientation forms. We are asking that all new students hold the paperwork until they come to Central HS. We will collect them when school reopens for our student body.

The entire Central High School Community is excited to welcome all new students. I thank you for entrusting your child's education with us. We look forward to supporting and challenging them with our college preparatory academic program.

Be well and stay safe.

Timothy J. McKenna  
President of Central High School

# Math Placement of Incoming Freshman (2020-2021)

By default, all students will be rostered to **Algebra 1 Advanced** (our standard course). If you believe this is the best fit for your child, you *do not need to do anything*. Typically about 75% of our incoming 9th grade students will take Algebra 1 Advanced. Only students interested in taking Algebra 1 Honors or Algebra 2 Honors must complete extra steps.

## Step One: Complete the Google Form Expressing Interest

If you are considering a placement in a higher level math course for your child, complete the Google Form at <http://tiny.cc/CHScourses>.

## Step Two: Parents / Guardians Receive Honors Course Information via Email

- Parents/ Guardians will receive an email laying out clear expectations of Math Honors courses and information about administering a math assessment for their child.
- Note a difference in placement for Algebra 1 Honors vs. Algebra 2 Honors
  - After being informed of the expectations for Math Honors:
    - **Algebra 1 Honors:** Students will be placed into the course based on their parent or guardian's informed choice after taking a math assessment.
    - **Algebra 2 Honors:** Students will be placed into the course based primarily on their performance on a math assessment and not by parent or guardian choice alone.

## Step Three: Parents or Guardians Administer the Assessment

Parent's will receive the math assessment via **email** at a date to be determined.

### Algebra 1 Honors Assessment

- Parents/ Guardians will **administer** and **proctor** an assessment themselves.
  - Once the assessment is received via email, parents will have approximately 48 hours to administer the assessment and submit the results.
  - Approximately 20 questions, all open-response.
  - Approximately a 40 minute time limit.
  - Parents/ Guardians will receive a set of numerical answers to score the assessment, but not the full worked solutions.
- After administering the assessment, parent/ guardian must complete a Second Google Form:
  - Stating they understand each of the expectations of Algebra 1 Honors,

- Stating that their child took the assessment under their supervision authentically
- Attaching a scanned copy or image of their child's work on the assessment.

## Algebra 2 Honors Assessment

- Parents/ Guardians will **administer** and **proctor** an assessment themselves.
  - Students receive a link to a Google Form Quiz via email.
  - The quiz opens at a given time, for example 12:00PM and closes to responses after two hours (2:00PM).
  - Students submit all their answers via the form and also attach an image or scan of their work.
  - Approximately 30-40 questions, all open-response.
  - Students should complete the assessment in approximately 80 minutes.

## Step Four: Decision

After students completely submit the assessment through the appropriate means, the math department will confirm the student's placement via email.

- For **Algebra 1 Honors**, the parent's/ guardian's choice will be honored; however, in cases where the student's assessment performance seems unsatisfactory, the math department will reach out to the parent/ guardian to reconsider the placement.
- For **Algebra 2 Honors**, the math department will communicate to parents/ guardians the recommended placement for their child: Algebra 2 Honors, Algebra 1 Honors, or Algebra 1 Advanced.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mr. John Zak at [jzak@philasd.org](mailto:jzak@philasd.org).