Dear Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall community,

Today, the CH-CH faculty is engaged in a series of virtual professional learning workshops on topics including best uses for breakout rooms, screen-sharing, whiteboarding, recording and storing Zoom video-conference classes, as well as learning Flipgrid and Actively Learn, among other apps. In addition, there have been sessions on creating video projects and podcasts. And that’s just today’s lineup!

Needless to say, the academic leadership team at CH-CH is doing our very best to support our teachers in advance of next Monday’s launch into distance learning. For more information and resources on what they’re working on, please visit our Distance Learning at CH-CH page.

Beyond our teachers, we wish to provide parents and students with three letters from our school counselors, SAS department, and college counselor, respectively, on the support services that we will continue providing students (and parents!) in the weeks ahead. Please reach out to any and all of these outstanding colleagues, as needed.

Warm regards,

Lance Conrad, Ed.D.
Head of School

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Updates from our School Counselors

Hello CH-CH Students and Families,

With Spring Break coming to an end and everyone switching gears back into school mode with this new twist of distance learning, we are reaching out again to highlight and explain the supports available to CH-CH students.

Availability and connecting
We will be available during every office hour for students wishing to check-in. Additionally, we can be available during the lunch blocks and department meeting times, as needed. Check-ins will be scheduled in 15-minute blocks; please email us ahead of time to check availability and secure a time slot!

Explanation of services
We are here to provide check-ins with students and to connect with outside providers, as needed. We are here to support students through the academic day. If a student is looking for more therapeutic support and services, we can help identify community agencies that can provide that level of care. While in the past we may have provided “above and beyond support” that toed the line of therapeutic interventions, due to regulations with teletherapy and our licensures through the Massachusetts Department of Professional Licensure, we
may only provide check-ins. We recommend reaching out to your primary care physician and insurance company to identify local therapists, if needed. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Helpful tips
Each week the counseling office will be sharing tips, articles, and/or strategies in the newsletter, so please keep an eye out for those! Additionally, we will be working with the faculty to continue incorporating wellness into the curriculum and sending parent emails with updates, as well.

While we all transition into this new format of learning and connecting, we will be adapting and adjusting as needed to ensure accessibility and support for all.

Thank you and be well,

Kenna Weber, LMFT
Director of Health Services
kweber@chch.org

Anne Corydon McDinger, LMHC
School Counselor
cmcddinger@chch.org

A Note from our Director of Skills and Academic Support

Hello CH-CH Families,

I hope this note finds you well. I share this update on our SAS program as we head into this new, virtual learning experience. Much of this is new to us, but we are ready for the challenge of the SAS teachers working on different strategies, sharing them amongst our group, and implementing best practices to support our students. I can tell you that we are meeting as a department, via online conferencing, to review our documented resources and discuss the schedule that our academic leadership team is developing.

It is my expectation that each student’s SAS teacher will be reaching out to both parent and student before the first class, outlining expectations for classes moving forward. This may include an idea of how our class time will be used, along with skills/activities we will be working through during our class time. Our biggest concern in SAS will be that students have their devices charged nightly; this is often what we struggle with in school, and it would be incredibly helpful if parents could encourage this at home. As always, we will work to partner with parents and our students to ensure that everyone is still receiving the best support we can provide, especially through this challenging time.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with any questions; email is best initially, and I can be reached at abalaconis@chch.org. I am happy to talk through your concerns and welcome any feedback you might have as we engage in the creative process of taking SAS online!

Best,

Ashley Balaconis
Director of Skills and Academic Support
abalaconis@chch.org

A Message from our Director of College Counseling

Welcome back, CH-CH community!

In the college counseling world, we have been adjusting to the rapidly changing environment. I am so appreciative of the collaboration and sharing of resources that the secondary and post-secondary communities are engaging in. We are all connected, communicating, and in some cases, commiserating. It is on the top of everyone's agenda
to put the students first, and help to create a positive and supportive experience for you all.

I've been in direct communication with junior and senior students and families about standardized testing, and college visits and programs, so if you are in one of those groups, please check your messages! Sophomore students and families, please look out for an update about your SAT/ACT Comparison Test.

Please know that I am here for ALL of you, and excited to work with you as we navigate your individual paths to post-secondary education. If you have any questions or want to chat, please do not hesitate to email me.

Best,

Brooke Fincke
Director of College Counseling
bfincke@chch.org

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