

# CHS Communiqué

Parent Student Faculty Association Newsletter

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CHS Communiqué is the official publication of the CHS PSFA, The Parent Student Faculty Association of Communications High School, a Monmouth County Career Academy.

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The PSFA also has important PSFA announcements via our email system. **Please take a moment to register online at**

<http://bit.ly/PSFAemailsSignup2015>.

## Co-Presidents' Corner

*By Janice Quattrocchi (parent of Anthony, Class of 2017) and Jody Sackett (parent of Julianne, Class of 2018)*

Summer is flying by, and September will be here soon! We hope everyone has rested up from their summer vacations, and is ready to tackle a busy new school year.

We are delighted to welcome all the new freshmen families joining our Communications High School community, as well as the families of our sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The Parent Student Faculty Association (PSFA) has already been working on events and new programs for the coming year. Our Executive Board this year includes Vice President Sharon Jemas, Treasurer Therese Heidelberger, Recording Secretary Lucie Dickenson (all sophomore parents) and Corresponding Secretary Anthony Quattrocchi (Senior parent). Our many dedicated Committee Chairs are looking forward to meeting their committees in person next month at the PSFA meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Please join us prior to the meeting at 7:00, for a Committee Meet and Greet!

We wrapped up June with the favorite and fun all-school Color Wars competitions (the Teal Team won!) and end-of year BBQ.

Thanks to Dave Wren for organizing this much-anticipated feast, and to all the *many* generous parents who donated food, grilled, or came to help set up and clean up.

Congratulations to the 10 seniors who were awarded PSFA scholarships of \$500 each, at the Senior Recognition Dinner. Surely those will go to good use soon for college!

We are excited to introduce several new initiatives this year, starting with the Parent Mentoring program. Upper-class parents have volunteered to mentor incoming freshmen parents, and help explain the unique CHS world. Mentors are matched in the summer but last all year, providing guidance about block scheduling, clubs, and even identifying which CHS events are actually open to *parents*. Incoming freshmen parents can request a Mentor by emailing us at [CHS.PSFA@gmail.com](mailto:CHS.PSFA@gmail.com).

We extend our gratitude to all the graduating and retiring parents who have tirelessly worked as volunteers in their time at CHS. Their service to the PSFA is greatly appreciated. As we begin our new year, we invite each of you to consider how you are able to get involved, even for just one event. Many hands make light work and it is always a joy to pull together for the benefit of our students. We also hope to see you all at the Bonfire in September; look for the flyer in this edition of the Communiqué.

Keep an eye on the busy CHS website calendar so you don't miss anything, and please contact us if you have any questions about our wonderful school, or if you want to volunteer. Everyone is welcome! Enjoy these last few days of summer relaxation and sleeping late while you can, and we can't wait to see you all next month at the PSFA meeting.



## PSFA Volunteers Needed

We are looking for a few more parent volunteers to lead the following efforts. Please consider jumping in and helping us with these very important events.



**Driver's Education Chairperson**

**Gift Basket Auction Co-Chairperson**

**Public Relations Chairperson**

(This is a new committee!)

Please contact [chs.psfa@gmail.com](mailto:chs.psfa@gmail.com) if you are interested in any of these key jobs!

Don't Miss the



**Please JOIN the PSFA today!**

Follow the instructions found via this link-  
<http://bit.ly/PSFAMembership2016>.

INCOMING FRESHMEN NEW MEMBERS:

We have two forms for you to fill out: 1) Dues Payment and 2) Member Registration.

Please note that your registration will not be complete until both pages are submitted.

CURRENT MEMBERS:

Please email any updated information for your registration (address, email or phone number) to [membership@chs-psfa.org](mailto:membership@chs-psfa.org).

ALL NEW MEMBERSHIPS (and any information changes) MUST BE RECEIVED AND PAID IN FULL (or via installment plan) by AUGUST 31, 2016 to be included in our printed directory which will be distributed on back-to-school night, September, 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please email [membership@chs-psfa.org](mailto:membership@chs-psfa.org) with questions.

Welcome CHS Classes of 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 & Families!!!



## CHS Back To School Bonfire!

**Date:** Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

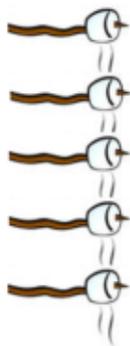
(Rain Date Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>)

**Time:** 6:30pm to 9:00pm

**Location:** 2nd Ave. Beach, Belmar

*Bring your favorite beach chair, instrument & flashlight!*

### Bonfire Guidelines:



**Mandatory check in on boardwalk at 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Beach**

**Each student must designate an adult chaperone**

**Students attending w/o adult must check in w/ Board Member**

**Students are to remain at the Bonfire location**

**Ocean wading is not permitted**

I understand and agree to follow all Bonfire Guidelines on September 16th:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent signature)

Please send form and, if you'd like, donation to school office by **Friday, Sept. 9th**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My family will attend! (Number of people attending: \_\_\_\_)

I would like to donate \_\_\_\_ s'mores \_\_\_\_ h2o bottles \_\_\_\_ monetary (max \$10)  
PSFA to provide sticks

Any questions, please contact Jocelyn Graney at 732-681-8140 or [jgraney3@verizon.net](mailto:jgraney3@verizon.net)



# MENTORS – THE BEST GUIDE TO CHS!

Welcome Freshman Families – CHS Class of 2020! On behalf of the Parent Student Faculty Association, we are *delighted* to welcome you to our beloved Communications High School. You should be so proud of your child’s acceptance to this wonderful and outstanding high school.

A new school presents many opportunities and challenges. What better way to navigate it than with a guide? **The PSFA sponsors a Parent Mentorship program** that provides experienced CHS parent mentors to new families in our CHS community. We can help explain those events listed on the CHS calendar, why the autumn Bonfire is so much fun for everyone, or even share transition stories. Need someone to explain block scheduling or discuss student clubs? Call your mentor!

Here’s how it works. Current CHS parents have volunteered to mentor all new families. Every family that requests a Mentor will be matched with one (ideally, one who lives in your town or close by). Mentors will be matched early this summer. They will contact you to introduce themselves, give you some basic information about the school, and serve as your guide to help your student and family adjust to CHS. Mentors are assigned to you for the entire freshmen year, so you can contact them whenever you have questions about high school life.

**If you would like to sign up for a Parent Mentor, please complete the information below and return it now to the PSFA.** You can return it by emailing this completed form directly to the PSFA at [CHS.PSFA@gmail.com](mailto:CHS.PSFA@gmail.com).

We’re glad you’re here, and look forward to a fulfilling and wonderful academic experience together.

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## **YES, I would like a Parent Mentor!**

**Student’s Full Name:**

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**Parents’ Names:**

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**Home Address:**

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**Phone Number: Home** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Email Address You Prefer to Be Contacted At:**

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Please email this completed form back to the PSFA at [CHS.PSFA@gmail.com](mailto:CHS.PSFA@gmail.com) .



<http://chsguidancedept.blogspot.com/>

2016-2017 schedules will be mailed home over the summer. Your counselors will be available August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and this will be your last opportunity to make scheduling changes.

Please check the guidance blog for the Course Catalog where you can get information about course descriptions, prerequisites, and other information.

### **Rising Seniors:**

As the application process begins, familiarize yourself with the Application Checklist available on the Guidance blog. A checklist is required for each college that needs your transcript and other supporting documentation. Application Checklists are given directly to your school counselor. This is the document that tells us that you've applied to a specific college or university and that you would like us to send the high school information necessary to complete your application. Don't forget to send your test scores directly from the testing institution.

Keep your Naviance account up-to-date, specifically the Colleges I'm Applying to tab. This is how we send your transcript and other supporting documentation electronically. Under the same tab, scroll down to request the teachers who will be writing your recommendation. This will allow them to upload your letter.

Stay organized. Keep a planner with key dates (application, financial aid.) Check to see if the college requires the CSS Profile, and if they do, learn if it's only for need-based aid that you may not qualify for. Do not be afraid to pick up the phone and call the colleges with questions. You may be surprised how much this helps in the application process.

Athletes that play Division I or II sports must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center online and request transcripts under My Tasks at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org).

News You Can Use...

**FINANCIAL AID:** The Obama Administration announced that changes will be coming to the FAFSA as of next year. One change, deemed Prior-Prior, will allow families to report tax information from two years ago (2015 income.) This will also allow students and families to fill out the FAFSA form earlier than ever before (the FAFSA will be available in October, as opposed to January of the student's senior year) in hopes to have their financial aid packages before making college decisions.

**ADMISSIONS:** The Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success (<http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>) announced 58 colleges and universities that plan to accept their application this fall: <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/mentors.html>. Many of the colleges listed will still accept other applications, but be sure to ask the question when visiting campus.

Have fun with the college search. Remember to include likely, realistic, and reach schools on your final list. Do your homework now, and find the right college(s) in the beginning. Doing your homework and applying to fewer schools will save your money on application fees and make the final decision less stressful.

# CATALYST



The **SAT** Catalyst Prep Bootcamp  
is scheduled for the weekend of

**September 24 & 25**

**9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

in time for the October 1, 2016 SAT.

**Cost for the weekend program is \$175.00**

The Catalyst Prep Bootcamp for the **ACT**  
is scheduled for

October 15 & 16

9a.m. -1 p.m.

for the October 22, 2016 ACT and is also \$175.00.

Registration for both programs is available through the website  
[www.CatalystPrep.com](http://www.CatalystPrep.com) or by calling 800-235-0056.

Parents may be required to help chaperone the building during the day.



## Parent Student Faculty Association

### ***2016/17 Driver Education Written Test Preparation Course***

**GOOD NEWS!** A Driver Education Theory Class will again be made available at Communications High School. This program, being coordinated by the PSFA, is available to any student ages 15 and older. The purpose of the course is to prepare for the DMV written test. Bob Estler, of Just Rite Driving School will instruct students on basic principles of driving and the rules of the road.

The class will meet at CHS beginning Wednesday, January 25th and will run for ten consecutive Wednesdays through March 29<sup>th</sup> 2017 (weather permitting) from 2:30 until 5:30 pm. The cost is \$150 (cash or money order). Students will be responsible for their own transportation home. **In addition, a parent chaperone is needed at each class. Please be prepared to chaperone one class during your student's session. The schedule for chaperoning will be pre-arranged.** Any student who becomes a discipline problem will be given only one warning. If the problem continues they will be removed from the class without a refund

This is a theory class only- but enrolled students will also take the written DMV test on the last day of this course, a new benefit being offered to CHS students through Just Rite Driving School. Each student will receive a certificate upon successful completion of the class for possible insurance discount purposes. Please note that insurance discounts vary by individual insurance carriers. Please call your specific insurance company to determine your specific eligibility. Also, note that 'behind the wheel' training is a separate course. Just Rite Driving School offers six-hour driving instruction at a discount for CHS students also enrolled in driver education theory. For 'behind the wheel' registration, please contact Luanne, of Just Rite Driving School, directly at 732.534.4688.

Please email [chs.psf@gmail.com](mailto:chs.psf@gmail.com) if you have any questions or need additional information (You may also contact Just Rite Driving School directly at 732.534.4688). To enroll, please email the following registration info to [chs.psf@gmail.com](mailto:chs.psf@gmail.com). The \$150 fee for this course will be collected at the first session.

#### 2016/17 CHS Driver's Written Test Prep Course

Student Name & Age:  
Parent Name:  
Street Address:  
Email Address:  
Parent Phone Number:  
Chaperone Phone Number (if different):  
Preferences of Chaperone Dates (either preferred or unavailable)  
Other information: