

Conestoga High School

Issue 2: September 2019



Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! We had an excellent opening with staff and students working together to get the year off to an outstanding start. It is great to have the classrooms and hallways buzzing with activity. Each day we are reminded how our students, staff and community make Conestoga a truly remarkable school.

At our opening meetings, we asked students and teachers to look ahead to the many opportunities for the upcoming year as we begin anew. We encouraged students to invest themselves in Conestoga by working hard and getting actively involved. We asked them to set goals for themselves as a way to make the most of their time at Conestoga.

I look forward to working with our students and their families during the upcoming school year. I welcome your involvement, questions and input. Please feel free to contact me at any time, and as always, go 'Stoga!

Amy A. Meisinger, Ph.D.
Principal

OPEN HOUSE **Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM**

The Conestoga High School community is pleased to announce that our annual Open House for parents will be held on Thursday, September 12, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Open House provides parents with an opportunity to experience their child's schedule and meet individual teachers. Prior to the event an evening program will be emailed to all parents. Student schedules may be accessed via Powerschool and will follow a Day 1 class sequence. Building maps will be available in the main lobby. Upon entering the building, parents will report directly to their child's first period class, which will begin promptly at 7:00 PM. Each class will meet for twelve minutes, during which time teachers will discuss course

content, requirements, homework, and grading practices. Study halls and unassigned periods will provide opportunities for brief contact with administrators, school counselors, nurses, librarians and other support personnel. These periods also provide a good opportunity to visit the cafeteria where light refreshments will be available.

All families are invited to attend, and carpooling is recommended as a large turnout is expected.

Parking will be available in the main parking lot, the north parking lot adjacent to the track, and T/E Middle School (no cars will be permitted to park in the bus drop-off loop).

Bus shuttles to transport families to and from Conestoga will also circulate between the parking lots at all T/E Elementary Schools and Valley Forge Middle School. Shuttle buses will run both before and after the event, beginning at 6:00 PM.

For Further Information Please Contact Mr. Jamie Bankert, Assistant Principal, at (610)-240-1067.

Club Fair 2019

Do you have a student interested in learning more about the clubs and activities offered at Conestoga High School? Please encourage your student(s) to spend some time at the annual Club Fair, which will take place from September 16 - 20, 2019 throughout the school day in the Main Lobby. Students have access to an online club sign-up form in Schoology. All students are encouraged to go to the club fair during a study hall, free period, or during their lunch. Conestoga offers more than 100 various clubs for students to explore and participate in. During Club Fair week, student representatives from many of the CHS clubs will set up informational tables to advertise the goals, objectives, and activities that they hope to work on throughout the year. Student Activities provide a wonderful opportunity for students to enrich their high school experience and be connected to something fun and meaningful. Club Fair is the perfect time for students to join or re-join any clubs of interest. We hope to see the students there!

New! Online Student Directory for 2019-2020

Conestoga has moved to an online directory to make it easier to update your information and access contacts for your friends and classmates! This will replace the printed directory which was sold at Back-to-School night each year. We will be working with Membership Toolkit to create the new directory.

- This will be an 'opt-out' directory - your information will be

included unless you register, log-in, and exclude information from being viewed by others.

- Conestoga will provide parents with a link to register for the Directory. Look for an email from your Parent Class Chair next week. You will log-in and 'register' (via your email address), verify your information, decide what you want to include/exclude in the Directory, and then purchase the Directory if you wish.
- Information in the CHS Directory will be safe and secure and will not be shared or sold to third parties by the District or by Membership Toolkit. You can only access the Directory via a link using your registered log-in. Each person using the Directory must agree to a Privacy Statement.
- If you indicated directory preferences on the green Student Verification Sheet that your student submitted to school, those indications will NOT be reflected in the Directory. You must make your "include/don't include" decisions yourself when you log in.
- The online CHS Directory is separate from the school data system. When you change information in the Directory, you are NOT making those changes to the school record.

Benefits to Moving to an Online Directory

- Information Updates! You can change your contact information at any point during the school year including address, phone numbers and email addresses. You can change what information is visible in the Directory as well.
- Directory App! You can download an App for the CHS Directory so the information is easily available on your devices. You can call, text or email families in the Directory right from the CHS Directory App and the App will connect directly to Google Maps.
- Environmentally Friendly! We will not be printing over 7,000 pages of directory information.

College Application Night

Attention All Seniors: Please join us on **Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the CHS Auditorium** for College Application Night. This program will teach seniors how to apply to college! It is a great way to learn more about the college application process. All seniors and their parents are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Achievement Center is Open!

The Conestoga Achievement Center, now located in Room 245B (at the back of the Library) serves as a place for any student to receive help in any subject on a drop-in basis. The best time to drop-in is during a study hall, a free period or during lunch.

Students can receive help from a Math and Science Specialist, Writing Specialist, CHS Teachers, and National Honor Society Peer Tutors. It is open every period of the school day and all are welcome.

Emergency Cards

The Green Emergency Medical Information Card was mailed home this summer. It is important for the school nurse to have this card on file for each student. If you have not already done so, please return the completed card to the school nurse as soon as possible. Remember to fill out both sides of the card. If there are any changes in emergency information during the school year, please notify the nurse with an update.

Extended Experience Fall 2019

The Extended Experience Physical Education contract is for seniors, juniors, and sophomores who want to substitute an outside physical education requirement during any given semester. In order to receive a satisfactory grade and credit on the transcript, student must meet the following requirements:

1. Submit a completed Fall EEPE Application form by the due date of September 6, 2019 through Schoology.
2. Participate in at least 30 hours of supervised instruction.
3. Complete and return a Fall EEPE Verification form by January 10, 2020.

Extended Experience guidelines and required forms are available at www.tesd.net . Please be aware that unless a completed and signed application form is submitted through Schoology on or before

September 6, 2019 students will not be able to earn credit for the Fall Semester 2019. After this date, seniors will be placed in a gym for the duration of the semester. Juniors and sophomores without a completed application who wish to complete a gym requirement during the fall should see their counselor immediately. Please remember that eight (8) semesters of physical education, extended experience and/or team sport are required for graduation from Conestoga High School.

Homecoming Dance **Saturday, September 21, 2019**

The annual Homecoming Dance, sponsored by Student Council, is

scheduled for Saturday, September 21, from **7:00 pm to 10:00 pm**. Students from all grade levels attend the dance, with or without dates. The dress is "semiformal," which means acceptable attire is considered a dress, dress pants, or coat and tie and no jeans. Parent volunteers staff the refreshment area and the coat check. If you are interested in selling tickets or volunteering at the dance, please contact Jeanne Braun at 610-240-1913 or braunj@tesd.net.

A helpful hint for parents: Please label your students' items (such as blue blazers!) so they can be easily found at the end of the evening. Unfortunately, blazers, phones, and shoes have been lost in the past. Conestoga cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items, so make sure to label everything that your student checks.

Homecoming tickets will be sold at Conestoga for two weeks prior to the dance.

No tickets will be sold at the door.

All Conestoga High School Code of Conduct Rules are in effect.

Additional Homecoming Information

With the arrival of Fall, we eagerly anticipate our annual Homecoming Weekend on Friday, September 20, and Saturday, September 21. Activities scheduled for the weekend include:

- Homecoming Pep Rally on Friday, September 20 at 1:00 pm
- Homecoming Football Game vs. Harriton on Friday, September 20 at 7:00 pm
- Homecoming Dance on Saturday, September 21 from 7:00 to 10:00 pm at CHS

Students must arrive to the dance by 8:00 pm. Guest passes are required for any non-CHS student. Passes are available in the Main Office. It is our expectation that students will conduct themselves appropriately and show good judgment throughout all events. All school rules will be in effect, as is the case with school sponsored activities.

Additionally, administrators will be visiting homerooms in the coming weeks to discuss appropriate decorum and expectations with the students. We encourage you to consider the following suggestions to ensure a successful homecoming weekend. Communicate clear expectations to your son/daughter. Help your son/daughter make the right choices by giving him/her clear, uncompromising messages that discourage drinking alcohol and the use of drugs. Communicate with the parents of your child's date. Get his/her phone number in case of an emergency. Network with other parents on safe and appropriate pre and post-dance activities. Homecoming is an exciting experience for our students. With your support of our efforts to provide a positive, safe

environment, we are confident that our students will have a memorable and enjoyable experience.

PSAT Testing - October 16, 2019

We have begun preparations for the administration of the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). As a school and community, we value the experience the PSAT offers our students in preparing them for the SAT. College Board's Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) remains the most commonly utilized assessment for Conestoga students in the college admissions process. This week, a letter was emailed home to all families regarding the administration of PSATs which contained the following information:

- On Wednesday, October 16th Conestoga will administer the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 8/9 to all students in grades 9-11
- 10th and 11th graders will take the PSAT/NMSQT
- 9th graders will take the PSAT 8/9 but may opt to take the PSAT/NMSQT by notifying their counselor before September 27th
- Seniors will NOT report to school on October 16th in order to provide an opportunity for college visitation and post-secondary planning
- All costs are covered by the district
- Students will be dismissed after testing with buses provided midday (approximately 11:30a.m.) and at 2:50p.m.
- College Board does not offer a make-up day for any absent students
- Students will receive additional information and preparation materials in homeroom in the coming weeks
- For additional information:
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/>

We are pleased to offer this opportunity to further support college readiness and assist students to achieve their personal best. Please contact any of our school counselors with questions regarding the PSAT administration.

Attention Class of 2020

Senior portraits for the Class of 2020 will be taken on the following Saturdays: September 7, 14, 21, 28 (9:00 AM - 2:00 PM) by Prestige by Lifetouch Studio. NO OTHER DATES WILL BE SCHEDULED AT CONESTOGA. Appointment cards will be mailed to your home by the studio. To contact the studio, Log on to <http://www.ouryear.com/> 87046 or call 1-800-OUR-YEAR(687-9327). The yearbook staff does not schedule your appointment. For information about what to wear and bring, go to <http://www.Stogayearbook.com>.

After September 28, if you have not had a picture taken and would like to appear in the yearbook, you must go to the studio for a session. All pictures must be taken by October 31 in order to appear in the yearbook. Contact the studio for more information. Once your pictures have been taken, the studio will mail proofs to your home. Follow their directions to select a picture for the yearbook. If you took your pictures after September 28, you might not be able to select your yearbook pose due to the late date.

'Stoga Points of Pride

Please click the headings below to view the congratulatory links in greater detail

- **Conestoga Student Selected to Perform in the NAFME All-National Orchestra**

Class Parent Organizations

Class of 2020

Senior Class Parent Meeting: September 19, 2019 at 9:30 am

Class of 2021

Junior Class Parent Meeting: September 12, 2019 at 9:30 am

Class of 2022

Sophomore Class Parent Meeting: September 17, 2019 at 9:30 am

Class of 2023

Freshman Class Parent Meeting: September 10, 2019 at 9:30 am

Sports Announcements/Alerts

To provide the most current updated sports information on a given day due to changes that may occur regarding adverse weather conditions/cancellations or for some other reason, the Athletic Department has implemented the following for your convenience:

For updated announcements, please refer to the [CHS Athletics website](#). On the top bar, scroll to Athletics then Announcements under the Athletics tab.

If you would like to receive e-mail/text alerts regarding any type of sports announcements/changes, you will need to register at [digitalsports.com](#). Please refer to [CHS Athletics website](#). On the top bar-scroll to Athletics then Schedules/Alerts under the Athletic tab to review the step-by-step directions. Daily Sports Schedules can also be located here.

Please feel free to call the Athletic Department at 610-240-1024 at any time with any questions.

T&E Care School Meal Assistance Program

Tredyffrin & Easttown Care is a local non-profit that helps families in our community in a variety of ways. Because effective learning is best done on a full stomach, T&E Care supports families in the T/E School District who meet certain income criteria with a school meal assistance program. Families who are approved for free or reduced lunch assistance are not eligible to apply for our program as well. More details on the acceptance criteria can be found on the [short application](#).

If your family could use a little extra help with breakfast and/or lunch assistance and you feel you might fit the criteria explained in the application, please contact your child's counselor for a copy of the application. You can also go to T&E Care's website to download the application (address below). There is no deadline to apply - your child can join this program at any time during the school year. Assuming funds permit, the assistance of \$35/mo/student for elementary students, \$45/mo/student for middle school students, and \$55/mo/student for CHS students will be offered by T&E Care during the 2019/2020 school year.

Any community members interested in helping to fund this important initiative, please go to T&E Care's website (www.tecare.org) for more details on how to get involved. <http://www.tecare.org/needs-assistance/school-meal-assistance/>

National Honor Society Plans Induction November 6, 2019

The Conestoga Chapter of the National Honor Society will hold its annual induction ceremony on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium. As specified by its national charter, NHS members are chosen on the basis of scholarship, service, leadership and character. They participate in various service projects in school and in the community. Students who have completed at least one full semester at CHS by the end of their sophomore or junior year are considered for membership. For the Classes of 2020 and 2021, a cumulative weighted GPA of 4.70 or higher is required for eligibility. Students who have achieved this GPA will receive letters inviting them to complete the activity form/application.

Candidates are reviewed by a five member faculty council on the basis of the four factors noted above. Students who meet the criteria of the organization are invited to attend the ceremony and become members of the NHS. Following induction, members of NHS are required to uphold the highest standards of character,

leadership, service, and academic achievement. They are also required to attend monthly meetings and participate in service projects. Parents with questions should contact Rachel Reavy, School Counselor, CCT Teacher and NHS Advisor, at reavyr@tesd.net.

A Note from the Attendance Office

When your child is going to miss school or is going to be late you must:

- Send an email to chsattendance@tesd.net or a written note within 3 days of your child's absence/ lateness with a valid reason.
- If you send a note without a valid reason (listed below), then the absence or lateness will remain unexcused.
 - If you email with a valid reason for the absence/lateness **before 9:15 a.m.** on the day of the absence/lateness, you will not receive phone calls, emails and texts. If you do not send an email before 9:15 a.m. then you can respond to the automated email you receive.
 - You do not need to call prior to your child's absence. You only need to send an email or a note for their return.

What to include in your emails/notes:

- FULL NAME OF YOUR CHILD
- GRADE
- VALID REASON (listed below)

Please note: missing the bus, traffic, and oversleeping are not reasons for being late.

Each marking period, your child is permitted 4 excused tardies and 2 unexcused tardies. Students who exceed this will receive a school detention or an ESS based on the Code of Conduct.

If you receive a phone call, email, or text that your child is absent, and you believe it is in error, please contact the attendance office as soon as possible.

Excused Absences and Tardies Reasons:

1. Personal illness
2. Family Emergency
3. Death of a Family Member
4. Medical or Dental Appointments
5. Authorized School Activities
6. Educational Travel with Prior Approval
7. Pre-approved Religious Instruction (limit 36 hours per year)
8. Bona Fide Religious Holiday
9. Tutorial Instruction in a field not offered in the District's curricula
10. Attending Court Hearings related to involvement with the

- County Children and Youth Agency or Juvenile Probation Office
11. When the student is required to leave school for the purposes of attending court hearings related to their involvement with the county children and youth agency or juvenile probation office
 12. If the student is absent due to participation in a project sponsored by an organization that is eligible to apply for a grant under the Pennsylvania Agricultural Fair Act
 13. If a student is dismissed from school during school hours for health-related reasons by a certified school nurse, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or a school administrator or designee employed by the District.
 14. For the purpose of obtaining professional health care or therapy service rendered by a licensed practitioner of the healing arts in any state, commonwealth or territory.
 15. If a student whose parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or is immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, with regard to school attendance, tests and extra-curricular or co-curricular activities, at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, no penalties shall be imposed for absences of up to five (5) days.
 16. Where the Superintendent has approved an attendance plan necessitated by rare and extraordinary circumstances. In this context, "rare" means typically no more than 1 or 2 per year District-wide and "extraordinary circumstances" means the student is engaged in a profession or activity at a nationally recognized level.

AFS Update

Conestoga welcomes four students for the full year from Egypt, Finland, Germany and Panama. Thanks for the replies about hosting Johanna, our CBYX full scholarship recipient from Germany, for the second semester-she's covered! We are looking for a family(ies) to step up for Marwan from Egypt starting in October. He is here on a prestigious Youth Exchange and Study (YES) full scholarship funded through the U.S. Department of State. Marwan will begin his year with the Fazal Syed and Maira Rashid family-thanks for welcoming him! Marwan has dreams of being a petrochemical engineer, enjoys computer programming, is an avid reader, and enjoys keeping fit by playing sports. On the study abroad side, if you have a student interested in learning about scholarship opportunities for study abroad, deadlines for full scholarships like YES, CBYX, and NSLI-Y are approaching starting in October. Please email jgreenwell@afsusa.org with any inquiries about hosting and study abroad.

**Please Join Us In Celebrating the
2019 Hall Of Fame Induction Class**

You are cordially invited to the 2019 T/E and Conestoga High School Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Dinner Ceremony to be held at Waynesborough Country Club in Paoli, PA on Saturday, September 21, 2019, starting at 6:00pm.

2019 Induction Class

- Liz Costello: 2006 (Track and Field)
- Megan Deakins: 2008 (Field Hockey-Track and Field)
- Megan Havrilla: 2003 (Field Hockey-Lacrosse)
- Pat Heim: 2003 (Football-Wrestling-Lacrosse)
- Mark Herzlich: 2006 (Football-Lacrosse)
- Chris Ippoliti: 2002 (Swimming)
- George Cockerill: Contributor (Gerry Gasser Award)

*Tickets are \$90.00/person

- 6:00pm-7:00pm: Cash Bar-Assorted Cheeses/Crudités-Silent Auction
- 7:00pm-8:00pm: Dinner
- 8:15pm-10:00pm: Dessert and Hall of Fame Induction

*[The Dinner Reservation Form is available here](#)

The Dinner Reservation Form must be received NO LATER than Friday, September 13, 2019.

*For additional information please contact Mr. Kevin Pechin at pechink@tesd.net or 610-240-1023.

Administrative and Counselor Assignments 2019-20

Principal	Dr. Amy Meisinger	
Assistant Principal	Dr. Patrick Boyle	Grade 12
Assistant Principal	Dr. Anthony DiLella	Grade 11
Assistant Principal	Mr. Jamie Bankert	Grade 10
Assistant Principal	Ms. Chandra Singh	Grade 9
Athletic Director	Mr. Kevin Pechin	

School Counselor	Student's Last Name
Laureen Stohrer	A-Bro
Rachelle Gough	Bru-Dh
Anne Davis	Di-Gr
Brian Samson	Gu-Ke

Catherine Bond	Kh-Ma
Jennifer Kratsa	Mc-N
Dan McDermott	O-R
Leashia Lewis	S-T
Megan Smyth	U-Z

Mental Health Specialists	Student's Last Name
Dr. Christine Dunleavy	A-L
Mrs. Joellen Corrocher	M-Z

Tredyffrin Library Hosts Diwali Event

[Please click this link to view the informational flyer](#) about an upcoming educational program that celebrates Diwali. Clubs from TEMS and CHS will be participating.

Conestoga Desi Club will also be hosting a Lantern (Kandil) Making Workshop on Saturday, October 12th at the Tredyffrin Library. Registration is required. [Please click here to view the event flyer.](#)

19th Annual Tredyffrin Township Citizens Police Academy

The Citizens Police Academy program was created to give people from the community a close up view into how the Tredyffrin Police Department functions and the vast array of services it provides. Attendees are provided the opportunity to come to the police department once a week and learn about various topics. Topics that will be covered are Domestic Violence, Tactical Operations, Criminal Investigations, Traffic Safety Unit, DUI and Drug Investigations, Patrol Procedures, Tour of the Chester County Public Safety Training Campus, Demonstration of Fire Services, Crime Prevention, and guest speakers from the District Attorney's office and other cooperating agencies.

Classes will be held every Wednesday evening, 7-9:30pm for 11 weeks commencing September 18th, 2019 at the Township Building, 1100 Duportail Road. If interested, please visit tredyffrin.org for more information. Deadline for applications is September 13th 2019. Space is limited. The Academy will not be held during the week of Thanksgiving.

QUICK LINKS

- **Student Services Department**
- **Senior Parking and Privilege Information**
- **Conestoga High School website**

Upcoming Events

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Freshmen Parent Meeting	9/10/19	9:30 am	Room 142 (Subject to Change)
Junior Parent Meeting	9/12/19	9:30 am	Room 142 (Subject to Change)
Open House	9/12/19	7:00 pm	CHS
Club Fair	9/16/19- 9/20/19	7:50 am	Main Lobby
Sophomore Parent Meeting	9/17/19	9:30 am	Room 142 (Subject to Change)
Senior Parent Meeting	9/19/19	9:30 am	Room 142 (Subject to Change)
College Application Evening	9/19/19	7:00 pm	CHS

Visit the Conestoga High School Website

STAY CONNECTED:

