



HUTCHINSON CENTRAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

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GABRIELLE MORQUECHO, Ed.D
PRINCIPAL

GREGORY STEFANONE
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PEDRO ESTRADA
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

DENNIS LESNIAK
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

DANIEL ZACK
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

October 4, 2021

Dear parents/guardians and families,

Today, the district has issued guidance to all of the BPS high schools regarding the cancellation of dances and large events organized by the school during the 1st semester, which ends January 2022. (Please see the letter attached.)

While we, the Hutch Tech administration and faculty, are disheartened by this decision to cancel school events such as dances and pep rallies, we understand the decision the district has made. Ultimately, the safety of the students, staff and our greater community is a top priority.

Please know that the administration and faculty of Hutch Tech are committed to keeping the Hutch Tech spirit and community alive. Even though we cannot host our homecoming dance or other large gatherings at this time, we are still planning to celebrate "Spirit Week" the week of October 18-22.

The theme for each day of Spirit Week will be posted around the building. We encourage every student to participate and show that we are Tecthonians regardless of the challenges we face. We are looking into other possibilities to help celebrate the students and help celebrate our Hutch Tech family. Additional details will be made available in the near future.

Finally, we ask you to discuss this announcement with your child(ren). Please assist us in relaying a positive message, that even though we cannot host our traditional events at this time, we are still looking forward to promoting the Hutch Tech spirit.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to email or call.

Dr. Gabrielle Morquecho

Dr. Gabrielle Morquecho
Principal

"Putting Children And Families First To Ensure High Academic Achievement For All"
256 So. Elmwood Ave • Buffalo, New York • 14201
Phone: (716) 816-3888 • Fax: (716) 851-3890



Fall 2021 Out of School Celebrations Guidelines at the Secondary Level

The following guidelines shall be used to address planning of non-instructional and non-athletics school events for the first semester. All guidelines are in accordance with current New York State Department of Health "Guidelines for Event, Arts and Entertainment Venues" and the "Updated Interim Guidance for End of Academic Year Celebrations During the COVID-19 State of Emergency" issued last spring. Adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1) There are no dances or large gatherings outside of the school day for at least the first semester. All parent conferences and open houses, for your population or for recruitment, must be virtual.
- 2) When planning large congregate gatherings during school hours (assemblies, pep-rallies, etc.)
 - 50% posted capacity
 - 3 feet (6 feet if possible) social distancing
 - Masks
 - Seating Charts
- 3) If you are making plans for a Prom at the end of the school year, anticipate Proms will be on school facilities with specific guidelines to come at a later date. For planning consult the "Updated Interim Guidance for End of Academic Year Celebrations During the COVID-19 State of Emergency" document that was used last year to plan graduations. Due to the unpredictable nature of the pandemic and the potential that future guidance from governing authorities will override our current expectations, all plans must be tentative and flexible.

At every opportunity, encourage your student body, families, and other members of the school community to avail themselves of the multiple opportunities to be vaccinated. The more of our community that is vaccinated, the more we will be able to engage in activities outside of the school day. Thank you for your extraordinary efforts to return our schools in-person learning and operations.

From: Page 8 and 9 of the "Updated Interim Guidance for End of Academic Year Celebrations During the COVID-19 State of Emergency":

"Effective June 1, 2021, Considerations for Proms and Balls

Activities traditionally associated with proms and balls, such as eating and dancing, present additional risks for viral transmission of COVID-19. To mitigate the risk of spread, proms and balls that involve eating and/or dancing, regardless of venue, must comply with the following restrictions in addition to the above venue and capacity restrictions, which shall take effect on June 1, 2021:

- Event organizers must ensure that attendees are not congregating, except when seated at their assigned table. Attendees should only be standing when necessary (e.g., enter/exit,

restroom, use of staffed buffet), when essential to the event (e.g., entrance), or, when permitted under the below circumstances.

- Event organizers may provide cocktail receptions for attendees where standing is permitted with strict adherence to social distancing; provided, however, that attendees only remove their face coverings to consume food and beverages while seated. Further, attendees must not remove their face covering and must not consume food and beverage if members of different parties are within six feet.
- Event organizers may permit live music, entertainment (e.g., DJ), and/or dancing within the following parameters, which will be revisited by the State as the public health condition continues to change:
 - o Live music performers and other entertainers, particularly if unmasked or playing a wind instrument, must be separated from attendees by either 12 feet or an appropriate physical barrier.
 - o Attendees may dance with members of their same party in designated and clearly marked dancing areas that allow for appropriate social distancing between members of different parties and any tables (i.e., at least, six feet apart). Attendees must wear face coverings while in the dancing area.
 - Event organizers can consider creating dance zones for tables, assigning parties to different times on dance floor, alternating which tables of attendees can dance or be seated, setting and enforcing capacity limits for dance floors, and/or other measures to ensure appropriate distancing between attendees.
- Event organizers should consider staggered intervals for food service at staffed buffets to allow attendees to maintain social distance while waiting in line.
- Event organizers should consider serving any passed foods (e.g., hors d'oeuvres) in containers that limit touching of any shared surfaces (e.g., platters) by attendees. • Events are subject to inspection by State and local health authorities to ensure compliance with all provisions of State-issued guidance.”