

CHS Newcomer Packet: Detailed Version

Hi and Welcome! Thank you for choosing Chantilly High School as the next school for your child. The following was created to help you transition your child to Chantilly.

1. First, general information:

- Chantilly High School - 4201 Stringfellow Rd., Chantilly VA 20151
- Phone Number– 702-222-8100
- Principal – Jim Kacur
- SubschooL Phone Numbers-the school is broken in 4 groups according to last name.
 - SubschooL 1 – 703-222-8110 (A-Fer)
 - SubschooL 2 – 703-222-8120 (Fes-Loz)
 - SubschooL 3 – 703-222-8130 (Lp-Pop)
 - SubschooL 4 – 703-222-8140 (Poq-Z)
 - SubschooL 5 – 703-222-7420 (ED Center)
 - Academy – 703-222-7460

2. Let's start with Registration. If your child is not already registered in the Fairfax County Public School system, you must do this first. Typically, new registrations are not accepted until April for the following academic year. Call Student Services at 703-222-8150 and schedule a time to come and register. Plan to spend about a half hour completing paperwork and about a half hour with your child's counselor.

- Please click on the following link and bring the following with you to your appointment. If you do not have all of the following information, you will be sent home and scheduled for another appointment.

<http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/guidance/registration.htm>

Even if you have shown lease information for your other children in the Fairfax County system, it is best to bring it.

IF YOUR CHILD PLANS TO PLAY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS, YOUR PHYSICAL MUST DOCUMENTED ON A VHSL FORM AND BE DATED AFTER MAY 1ST.

A copy of this Sports Physical Form can be found on the Chantilly High School Sports Website, at <http://www.chantillysports.org/>, and then click on Files & Forms.

- You may register your student without the physical, but you must have the immunization record at the time of registration. Please get the physical to Student Services, as quickly as possible, after registration.

- For more detailed information about the registration process you may visit the following websites:

<http://www.fcps.edu/ss/StudentServices/StudentRegistration/stsvctr1.htm>

<http://www.fcps.edu/ss/StudentServices/HomeInstruction/index.htm>

<http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/>

3. What classes should my child take? If your child is coming in as a freshman, they usually have only one elective.

- The Chantilly High School website, <http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/> is a fantastic way to find out what Chantilly has to offer. Look under **Student Services** and click on **Course Offerings**. This is an on-line copy of the Course Catalog handed out to the students. Inside, it lists the various types of diplomas and their requirements and all of the courses offered at Chantilly. Also under **Student Services** you can click on **9th Grade Coursesheet** or **10th-12th Coursesheet** to aid you in your course selections. These should help you before you visit your child's counselor who can then answer your questions.

*Make sure to ask your counselor about summer assignments. Many of the English classes have summer reading. The honors science classes begin their science fair work in the summer. Some language and math courses have summer packets that the students should complete before starting school. Or you can go to the website <http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/> and look on the left side for **Summer Reading/Assignments**.*

- If your child is transferring in as a junior or senior, be aware, that Fairfax County has six Academy Schools as well as the regular high schools. They are separate schools but are located next to six regular high schools. Chantilly is one of those schools. Academy classes are open to any student who has two electives available in their schedule. These classes are geared for the student who knows what he wants to study upon graduation, **or** who may want to pursue a vocation upon graduation. On the Chantilly website, click on **Chantilly Academy** on the left side to see what is offered. If you are interested in other academies go to the following website. <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OCTE/academies/index.htm>
- You will also find other graduation requirement information under **About CHS** on the Chantilly High School website. <http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/>

*Typically in February, Chantilly holds two **Curriculum nights**. One of the programs focuses on regular courses. The other one specifically talks about Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) Courses. Check the school **Calendar** on the website <http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/> for when these events will take place.*

- If your child receives special education services, please inform Student Services prior to beginning the registration process and bring a copy of your student's most recent IEP or 504 with you.

*Also, typically, in February is a **Special Education night**. Check the school **Calendar** on the website <http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/> for when this event will take place.*

4. The next thing we would suggest is to enroll your child in the **Charge Ahead** program held at the beginning of August. This is a weeklong, fun-filled program for incoming freshman that allows your child to make new friends and become familiar with Chantilly's facilities and programs. Information about Charge Ahead can be found on the Chantilly High School website <http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/> on the left side or under **Parents** or **Students** then **Charge Ahead**. The cost is around \$150; this covers the costs of the teachers, materials and lunch during the week. Again, contact Student Services at 703-222-8150 to register.

5. Does your child play sports? You must go to the Chantilly High School Sports Website, <http://www.chantillysports.org/> for specific information on the team(s) in which you are interested. The website contains all the information you will need, such as coaches names and contact information, tryout dates, files and forms needed etc.

If your child is interested in a fall sport, we would suggest that you contact the coach as you register your child, because, for many of the sports, there is a year-round conditioning program. For example, football conditioning starts after Fairfax County School's spring break. Chantilly provides numerous opportunities for rising freshman to participate in pre-season camps and conditioning.

- Currently, there is no charge to be on a team, but you should expect to do some fund-raising. If your child is interested in cheerleading, be aware there will be a significant cost for all parts of the outfit except the uniform.

- If your child is interested in a club sport, you may not find information on the Chantilly Sports Website because they are not school sponsored, but you may call the Activities Office for more information, 702-222-8160.

*There is an **Activities Fair** typically held in April that your child may attend. Check the **Calendar** on the website <http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/> to see when it will be. At this event, your child may sign up if he is interested in a sport, and also meet some of the senior players. This fair includes not only sports, but also all clubs and activities at Chantilly. If your child is coming into Chantilly from a private school or home school, they may attend either session. Choose the one in which their friends are coming. Check-in at the front office before going to the gym.*

6. Does your child play an instrument?

- For information visit <http://www.chantillyband.org> or go to the Chantilly website <http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/> and click on **Chantilly Band** on the left.

New students to CHS must audition for placement in an ensemble. They can set up an audition with the director. Beginning students are not expected to audition, but should meet with the directors to discuss instrument selection.

- Students will perform samples of the following: major scales, chromatic scale, and sight-reading. Based on the student's abilities, he or she will be placed in the appropriate ensemble.
- There are a variety of programs, many of which are part of the daily class routine. Other programs (i.e. Indoor drum line, Jazz Combo) are not part of the curriculum, but are conducted after school.
- Fees depend on the ensemble. Students who participate in a co-curricular ensemble are expected to participate in all functions. This includes marching band fees, trip fees, and uniform/equipment fees. The uniform/equipment fee is approximately \$500 and the spring trip should be under \$1,000.
- Private lessons are not required but highly recommended.

7. Does your child like to sing?

- Freshman students are usually put into freshman choirs and there are no assessments. Information specifically for Freshman can be found at the following link <http://chantillychoral.org/documents/FreshmanClassChoice.pdf>

- Yet, if your student chooses to continue their choir experience, please be aware of the following information found at <http://chantillychoral.org> or go to the Chantilly website <http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/> and click on **Chantilly Choir** on the left.

Assessment materials are usually posted on-line at the beginning of February. For placement in all choirs, you need to sing/record "The National Anthem", a song of your choice, and 8-12 measures of an assigned selection based on voice part.

- For show choirs, a dance assessment is required which typically takes place in April.
- Fees are dependent upon the type of choir chosen. Fees can range from \$85-\$1200+ and typically include costumes and trips. Other costs may pertain depending on activities and student involvement. For some choirs, the trips are not mandatory.
- Private lessons are not required but highly recommended, especially if the student hopes to advance in the program.

8. Is your child interested in Theatre/Drama?

- For information visit <http://www.chantillyhsdrama.com/> or go to the Chantilly website <http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/> and click on **Chantilly Drama** on the left.
- All new theatre students take either Theatre Arts I (acting only) or Technical Theatre I (Tech Theatre only) depending on their interest.
- There is no audition.
- There is a small activity fee for all theatre classes.
- If a student has taken a theatre class before, they would take the next level of theatre.

9. How else can my student be involved? If your student is not interested in sports, music, or theatre, there are still numerous opportunities to be involved at Chantilly High School.

- The **Activities Fair**, mentioned above, is for all activities or clubs. This is a great way to sign up and have someone contact you with information.
- For a listing of what opportunities are currently available, go to **Clubs** on the Chantilly website. The list changes yearly.
- If there is a club your child would like to start, it is easily done once he has found an adult sponsor.
- The clubs usually begin the 3rd week after school begins when the late buses are available.

10. How can I get involved? Being involved at Chantilly will help you to keep in touch with your child.

*There are numerous opportunities for you to help at Chantilly, go to **Parents** on the website and click on **Parent Organizations** for specific contact information. Most of these groups meet monthly.*

- There are numerous Parent Booster Clubs that would love your help. You don't have to hold a position, you can represent your child's team or group, help host events, work at the concession stands etc.
- The PSTA (Parent Student Teacher Association) would also love your help. If you have not been involved before now, maybe now is the time to get involved. Again, if you don't want to hold a position, there are many opportunities to help or host events such as After Prom or After Graduation Parties, make cookies, help with testing etc. Contact ptsa@chantillyhsptsa.org for more information.
- The ABSS (Advisory Board for Student Services) is composed of parents, CHS staff members, and the Director of Student Services. The board partners with Student Services to give them feed back on the various existing programs, as well as, give them ideas for future programs. They also bring concerns from those not on the board. They are also involved in special projects relating to Student Services.
- Or you can help the school directly; there are often times when the school needs help with general administrative tasks. Information on how you can help will be found in the student packet your child receives with his class schedule.

11. SOL's (Standard of Learning) all students are required to earn 6 or 9 VERIFIED CREDITS for graduation depending on the type of diploma they are pursuing. A verified credit is earned upon successful completion of an SOL tested course and a passing score on the accompanied EOC (End of Course) SOL test.

- Information can be found on the Chantilly website <http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/> under **About Us, Students or Parents**.
- The Fairfax County's Website for SOL's is <http://www.knowledge.state.va.us/main/sol/sol.cfm>
- If you would like to practice or study for an SOL, the following website has a copy of older tests in various areas of study <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Assessment/releasedtests.html>
- Students transferring to Chantilly from out of state and/or private schools may take SOL exams in August upon completion of a 3-week remediation course offered during summer school. Students may register through ACE (Adult and Community Education).
- If August is not an option for your family, the SOL can be taken during the school year; remediation classes are available. Your child's counselor will help you to schedule this.

- The summer course offering booklet is usually sent in the mail in March; the forms you need are in the back. Your student must, first, be registered at their base high school (Chantilly) before enrolling in a Fairfax County summer program. This is due to the fact that your student will need a student ID number to fill out the form.
- To register for summer remediation or classes, the Centreville ACE is located at Mountain View Alternative High School, Entrance 7, Room 2, 5775 Spindle Ct., Centreville, VA 20121, 703-227-2340.

12. *Chargin' In* is a night in late August just before school begins.

If you are registered, information will be mailed to you about when Chargin' In will be and what time you should come.

- Students are asked to come and get their class schedules. They will also receive a large packet of information for you to read. It is an almost overwhelming amount of information, but we highly suggest you go through it.
- This is also a good night for your student to walk through their schedule to help them learn where their classrooms are located.
- You can purchase lunch money on this night.
- You can purchase gym uniforms on this night.
- The PTSA and Booster Clubs all have booths set up for your information.
- There is also an informational meeting for all freshman or new parents in the auditorium.

13. *Other FAQs*

- When you register, take a copy of the map of the building.

*Make sure to notice where the **clinic** is located. Information about handling medicines can be found in the student packet that comes home with the class schedule.*

- Many of your questions can be answered by reading the CHS Handbook which is also on-line on the Chantilly website <http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/> under **About CHS** under **CHS Student Handbook**. There are answers to questions about dress code, the clinic, lockers, attendance, grades etc.
- If you know your child will take the bus, ask Student Services for a copy of the bus schedule. This is the preferred mode of transportation because of the congestion in front of the school. There is usually a copy of the bus schedule in the information packet that comes home at Chargin' In.
- If you plan to **drive** your child to school, click on <http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/headlines/headline14.htm> for information.

- **Parking** spaces are for seniors and some juniors, there is a fee of at least \$150. More information can be found under **About Us** under **Parking Policy**.
- If your child has an **appointment** during the day, write a note to the Sub School Administrative Assistant and she will give your child a pink pass so they can meet you out front.

The Sub School Administrative Assistant is also the person to call if your child is sick, or if you need to get a message to your child.

- **PSAT's** (Preliminary Standard Aptitude Tests) are taken in the fall by *all* sophomores and juniors. These tests help your child prepare for the SATs required by most colleges for admission. Fairfax County will pay for the sophomores to receive their scores. If you want to receive your child's scores their junior year, you must pay a fee of about \$15 to have them scored. Tests will be taken in early October.
- ACT's EXPLORE test will be given to *all* freshman students. EXPLORE is specifically designed for 8th and 9th grade students (unlike PSAT, which is designed for sophomores and juniors) and tests four different areas: English, Math, Reading and Science. More information is available online at <http://www.actstudent.org/explore/> A fee of about \$15 will be charged and the tests will be taken in early October.

Hopefully, this packet has answered some of your initial questions, which should ease your transition. Enjoy, and welcome again, we are glad you chose to come to Chantilly!