



# Welcome to Colchester High School

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# 8TH GRADE OPEN HOUSE



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# WELCOME CLASS OF 2029!





# PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

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## Andrew Conforti

### **Fun Fact:**

Won two high school championship football games at Giant Stadium.





# PURPOSE OF THE EVENING

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1. LEARN ABOUT OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM & VISION
2. PROVIDE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE 9TH GRADE EXPERIENCE (AND BEYOND!)
3. BEGIN THE TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE CLASS OF 2029!

## TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE OVERVIEWS

- MATH
- SCIENCE
- HUMANITIES
- ELECTIVES
- SUPPORT SERVICES



# CORE BELIEFS

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1. WE ENGAGE IN **DIVERSE LEARNING EXPERIENCES** ROOTED IN RELATIONSHIPS, RELEVANCE, RIGOR, AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY.
2. WE **WORK TOGETHER** TO BUILD ON ONE ANOTHER'S STRENGTHS AND PERSPECTIVES.
3. WE CULTIVATE A **STRONG AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY** THAT RESPECTS AND CELEBRATES ALL LAKERS.
4. WE DEMONSTRATE **RESPECT AND COMPASSION** FOR OURSELVES, ONE ANOTHER, AND OUR SCHOOL.
5. WE CREATE **SAFE SPACES** WHERE ALL LAKERS CAN THRIVE.
6. WE EMPOWER ALL LAKERS TO USE THEIR VOICE, PURSUE THEIR ASPIRATIONS, AND BE **ACTIVE AND ENGAGED** MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.



# MISSION STATEMENT

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EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY IN A  
CLIMATE OF RESPECT,  
RESPONSIBILITY, AND PRIDE.



# CHS ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

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Assistant Principal  
Chad DeMagistris



Assistant Principal  
Erica LeClair



Director of Student  
Support Services  
Amber Keep



# ACADEMICS @ CHS

## THE HIGH SCHOOL JOURNEY

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

<u>Requirements</u>	<u>Credits</u>
English	4
Social Studies	3.5
Math	3.5
Science	3.5
Fine Arts	1.0
Health	0.5
Physical Education	1.5
Electives	7
	<b>24.5</b>







# DAILY BELL SCHEDULE



## CHS DAILY BELL SCHEDULE 30 MINUTE AT

A1/B1 7:45 AM - 9:05 AM

### AT (Advisory Time)

A2/B2 9:09 AM - 9:39 AM

A3/B3 9:43 AM - 11:03 AM

A4/B4 11:07 AM - 12:55 PM

Lunch #1 11:07 AM - 11:34 AM

Lunch #2 11:34 AM - 12:01 PM

Lunch #3 12:01 PM - 12:28 PM

Lunch #4 12:28 PM - 12:55 PM

A5/B5 12:59 PM - 2:20 PM



**“Differentiated  
instruction doesn’t  
make me feel smart or dumb,  
big or small, it makes me feel  
important.” -CHS 9th grader**



# MATHEMATICS @ CHS

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## Team Leader: Josh Parker

### Fun Fact:

I have been to 33  
US states.





# MATHEMATICS @ CHS

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**Problem Solve**

**Model**

**Algebra & Functions**

**Geometry**

**Statistics & Probability**

**DISCIPLINE  
PROFICIENCIES**



# MATH DEPARTMENT MISSION

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## We focus on:

- cultivating mathematical reasoning
- helping all learners grow
- encouraging students to think flexibly
- solving problems in a variety of ways





# MATH COURSE PROGRESSION

**Algebra I  
(1 Credit)**

**Strategic Algebra  
(Elective Credit)**

**Algebra 1 @ CMS  
(Elective Credit)**

**Geometry  
(1 Credit)**

**All students need 3.5 credits of math including Algebra I and Geometry.**

**Algebra II  
In Depth  
(1 Credit)**

Math electives based on completion of Algebra I: **Statistics** and **Math of Sports** (.5 credit)

# CHS Math Lab

*Open Every Day!*

*Open Every Mod!*

**7:45 am - 2:20 pm**

and...

***The Math Lab Homework Hour***

**Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30 - 3:30 pm**



**Welcome to  
LAKER NATION!**







# SCIENCE @ CHS

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## Team Leader: Will Warren

**Fun Fact:** For more than 30 years has enjoyed a commute that involves a boat.





# SCIENCE @ CHS

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**DISCIPLINE  
PROFICIENCIES**

**Modeling**

**Analyzing**

**Communicating Scientifically**

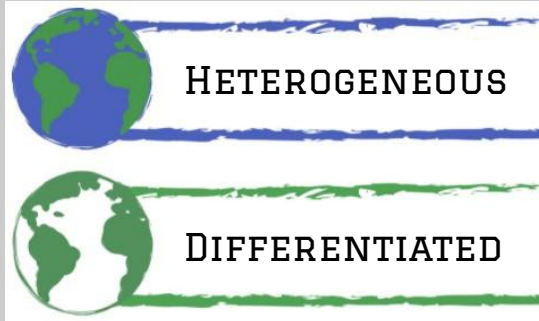
**Investigating**

**Connecting**



# EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY

How do we know what we know? What is the evidence?  
 What does it mean to be living? Why is life on earth so diverse?  
 How is life on earth connected?



S E M E S T E R	<b>Characteristics of Life and Population Dynamics in Ecosystems</b> 	<b>Energy Transfer in Ecosystems</b> 	<b>Cells: Structure and Transport and Homeostasis: How your body maintains stability</b> 	
	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Characteristics of life</li> <li>★ Limiting factors for populations</li> <li>★ Carrying capacity of an ecosystem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Food webs</li> <li>★ Photosynthesis</li> <li>★ Cellular respiration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Cell membrane structure and function</li> <li>★ Transporting molecules in and out of cells</li> <li>★ Maintaining balance through homeostasis</li> </ul>
S E M E S T E R	<b>DNA: Structure and Replication and Cell Division</b> 	<b>DNA: Protein Synthesis</b> 	<b>Heredity: Reproduction, Meiosis and Genetics</b> 	<b>Classification of Life and Evolution</b> 
	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Structure and function of DNA</li> <li>★ How DNA makes copies of itself</li> <li>★ Cell cycle and Mitosis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Process of DNA coding for the building of proteins</li> <li>★ Mutations in DNA and genetic disorders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Human reproduction</li> <li>★ Meiosis: formation of egg and sperm</li> <li>★ Genetics: Punnett squares and inheritance patterns</li> </ul>



# WHY THE CHANGE IN COURSE?

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- 1. Boost science engagement**
  - We're all alive - Biology is good common ground
  - Build important science skills for CHS career
- 2. Exploration of Earth Science topics requires more academic experience**
  - Science
  - Math
- 3. Experimental Chemistry Possible in 9th grade**
- 4. Opportunity for AP Environmental Science in 10th grade, if students are ready (College Credit)**





# MORE 9TH GRADE CLASSES

## EXPERIMENTAL CHEMISTRY

### Learn about:

- ★ matter
- ★ how matter is held together
- ★ how matter interacts through reactions
- ★ How we can tell what's happening with things we can't see

### Pre-req:

**Algebra 1 and Grade 8  
teacher recommendation  
1.0 credit**



## SCIENCE OF SURVIVAL

### Learn how to:

- ★ Start fires with flint
- ★ Build shelter
- ★ Locate edible plants
- ★ Source clean water
- ★ Be safe in the outdoors

**.5 credit**

## BREAKING INTO CODING

### Learn coding to:

- ★ Problem solve
- ★ Program a robot
- ★ Build an app / game
- ★ Physical computing

**Pre-req:  
Algebra I  
.5 credit**



# EYE TO THE FUTURE

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## 3.5 credits

- Experimental Biology (1)
- Earth Systems Science (1)
- Physical Science (Chemistry or Physics) (1)
- Elective or any other course in science (0.5)



Lab Chemistry  
Experimental Chemistry  
Introduction to Physics  
Principles of Physics

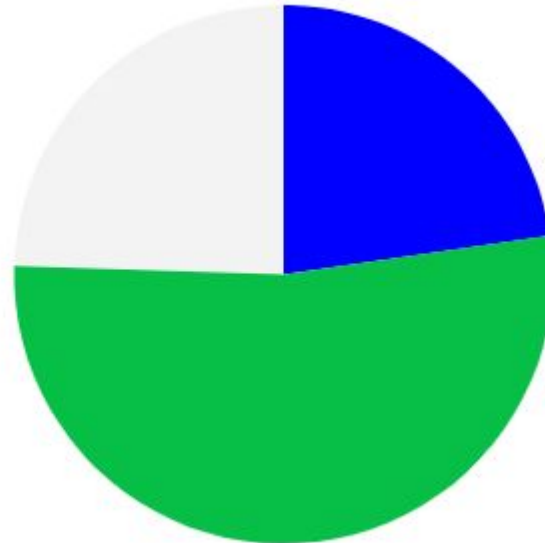
Science of Survival  
Breaking into Coding  
Forensics  
Anatomy & Physiology  
Engineering Lab

AP Biology  
AP Chemistry  
AP Physics  
AP Environmental  
Science



# Science Credits Earned

Science Credits Earned by CHS Graduates 2014-2023



● 3.5 ● 4-6 ● 6.5+



# PLANNING ON GOING TO COLLEGE?

We highly recommend taking BOTH

**Physics** and **Chemistry**

**AND**

**Taking science credits SENIOR year**

***RIGOR! RIGOR! RIGOR!***





**CollegeBoard**

Advanced Placement  
Program

***Biology***

***Chemistry***

***Environmental Science***

***Physics 1***



**Many roads lead to Science!**



**Welcome to  
LAKER NATION!**





# HUMANITIES @ CHS

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## Team Leader: Wayland Cole

**Fun Fact:** I love writing short stories about the end of the world in my spare time.





# WHAT IS HUMANITIES @ CHS?



**ENGLISH**

+

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

=



**Humanities**





# HUMANITIES @ CHS

**DISCIPLINE  
PROFICIENCIES**

## ENGLISH

Read Effectively & Comprehensively

Write Clearly & Coherently

Engage in Inquiry & Research

Practice Speaking & Listening

Consider Style & Conventions

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Understand & Apply Content and Concepts

Analyze Cause & Effect Relationships

Identify Patterns & Connections



# HUMANITIES COURSE

## PROGRESSION

9th

**The Regimes & Revolutions of the Modern World aka “T. REV**

10th

**The American Experience**

11th

**ENGLISH:**  
Human Experience English  
or AP Language

**SOCIAL STUDIES:**  
Human Experience Legacies  
or AP History

12th

**SEMINAR: Senior Capstone Requirement**  
.5 ENG Credits/.5 SOC ST Credits = 1 Full Year

**Team Taught  
Integrated  
Curriculum**

**PLUS...  
English & Social  
Studies Electives**



# WHAT IS HUMANITIES @ CHS?

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**ENGLISH**

+

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

=

***Humanities***





# HUMANITIES @ CHS

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## T. REV At-A-Glance

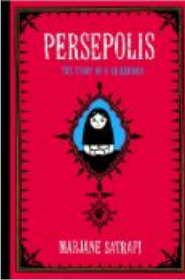

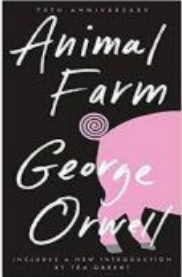
- Study of modern world history & literature
- Integrated ENGLISH & SOCIAL STUDIES
- Co-taught, double classroom, collapsable wall
- Meets EVERY day, 80 min
- 2 credits (1 ENG/1 SS)



# HUMANITIES @ CHS

**Essential Questions:**  
**How do repressive regimes limit the rights of their citizens?**

**How and why do people fight for greater rights and equality?**

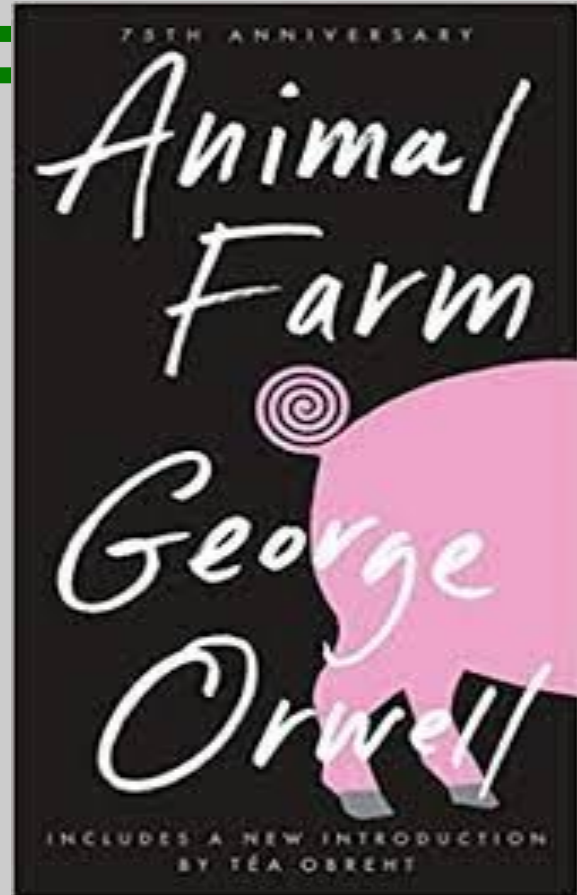
<p><b>Unit 1: Authoritarian Government in Pop Culture</b>            September to October            Media: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i></p> 	<p><b>Unit 2: Authoritarian Governments Today</b>            October-Thanksgiving</p>  <p>Case studies: Russia, North Korea, China</p>	<p><b>Unit 3: The Middle East</b>            December            Media: <i>Persepolis</i>            Project: Authoritarian Inquiry Project</p> 
<p><b>Unit 4: Refugee</b>            January - February Break            Media: Refugee, guest speakers</p> 	<p><b>Unit 5: Resisting Oppression</b>            Mid-March - April Break</p>  <p>Case studies: Haiti, India, and South Africa</p>	<p><b>Unit 6: Animal Farm</b>            May - June            Media: <i>Animal Farm</i></p> 



# HUMANITIES @ CHS

## Integrated English & Social Studies Unit EXAMPLE:

**Authoritarianism  
and The Russian  
Revolution**





# WHAT CAN I EXPECT MY STUDENT TO **READ** AND **WRITE** AT CHS?

Students will read full novels, memoirs, plays, poems, and articles.

Students will read a combination of “classics” and contemporary works.

Students will write a variety of short and long argument and inquiry-based writings.

Additionally, students will write narratives, such as short memoirs and fiction.

*All of this prepares students for the 12th grade capstone course.*

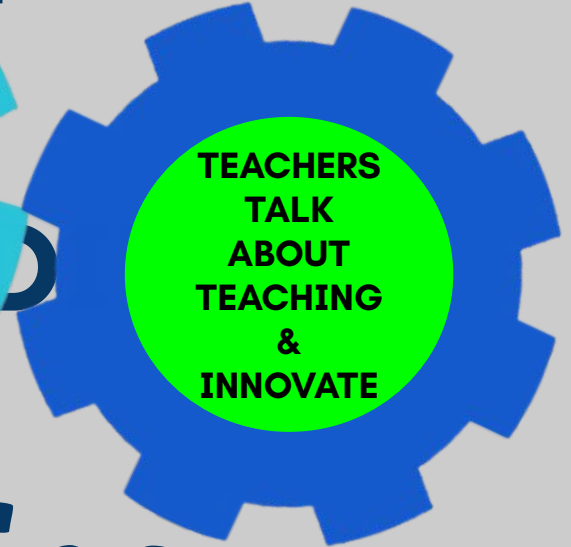
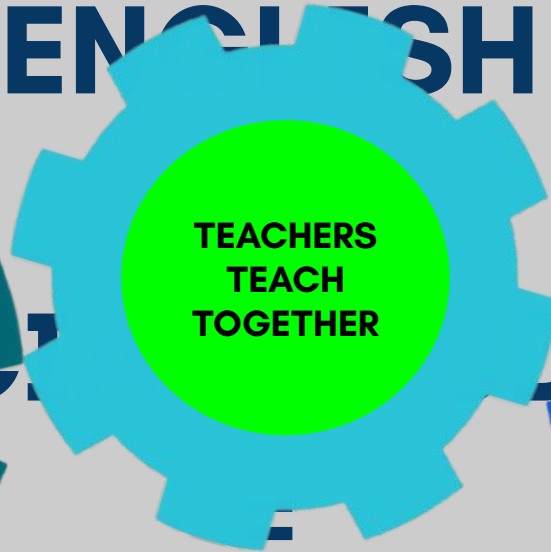


# WHAT IS HUMANITIES @ CHS?

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ENGLISH



*Humanities*

# ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER!

*Get help  
with  
HUMANITIES  
or any other  
subject!*

*Staffed by  
CHS  
teachers  
each mod,  
each day.*

**BEHIND THE LIBRARY, ACROSS FROM ROOM 111!**



**Welcome to  
LAKER NATION!**





# ART, MUSIC, AND WORLD LANGUAGE @ CHS

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## Team Leader: Vito Cannizzaro

### Fun Fact:

I have 13 siblings and  
42 nieces/nephews







# ART @ CHS

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**DISCIPLINE  
PROFICIENCIES**

**Create**

**Present**

**Respond**

**Connect**



# ART @ CHS

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- All CHS students are required to take 1 credit of Fine Art - Visual Art or Music.
- All Art classes are one semester, earning .5 credit per class.
- Freshmen may take Drawing, Painting, Pottery 1, or 3D-Art.





# ART @ CHS



## Art Course Sequence

Drawing

Pottery 1

Painting

3D-Art

Pottery 2  
(Pottery 1)

Photography  
(Two Art Classes, 11th grade)

Advanced Studio Art

*(Teacher Recommendation, Drawing, Painting, Pottery 1 or 3D-Art, and 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade)*





# MUSIC @ CHS

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**DISCIPLINE  
PROFICIENCIES**

**Present**

**Connect**

**Create**

**Respond**



# BAND PROGRAM @ CHS

## Colchester Concert Band

- Year long course / 1.0 credit

## Colchester Wind Ensemble

- Year long course/1.0 credit
- Audition is required - acceptance based on proficiency/readiness level

## Colchester Jazz Band

- Year long course / 1.0 credit
- Meets Monday evenings





# CHOIR PROGRAM @ CHS

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## Chorus (freshmen)

- Year long / 1.0 credit

## Concert Choir (upperclassmen)

- Year long / 1.0 credit



## Chamber Singers

- Year long / 1.0 credit
- Meets after school on Mondays
- By audition

## Chorale

- Year long / 0.5 credit
- Meets after school on Wednesdays
- Teacher recommendation required



# MUSIC CLASSES @ CHS

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## Beginner Piano

- Semester course / 0.5 credits
- For the beginning pianist

## Intermediate Piano

- Semester course/0.5 credits
- Designed to build on beginner piano

## Beginner Guitar

- Semester course / 0.5 credits
- For the beginning guitarist





# MUSIC CLASSES @ CHS

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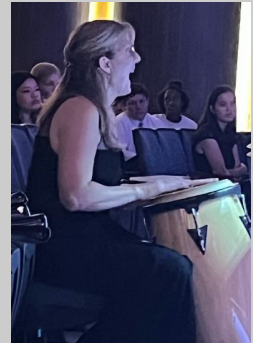
## Music Technology

- Semester course / 0.5 credits
- Compose, create, and record music



## Introduction to Music Theory

- Semester long / 0.5 credits
- Learn about the construction of music!







# WORLD LANGUAGE @ CHS

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**DISCIPLINE  
PROFICIENCIES**

**Presentational**

**Interpretive**

**Interpersonal**

**Language Fundamentals**

**Culture & Connections**



# WORLD LANGUAGE @ CHS

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- **Language classes are not a graduation requirement at CHS, but all students are encouraged to enroll in a language.**
- **College bound students should plan to take a minimum of two years of the same world language.**
- **Competitive colleges are looking for three to four consecutive years.**



# WORLD LANGUAGE OFFERINGS

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- French I through French V
- Spanish I through Spanish V

*\*Level V is offered as enrollment and staffing allow*

- Part 1: Introduction to Arabic (Semester long)  
Part 2 Introduction to Arabic (*Prerequisite: Part 1*)
- International travel





**Welcome to  
LAKER NATION!**





# HEALTH & PHYS EDUCATION @ CHS

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**Team Leader:  
Melanie Laquerre**

## **Fun Fact:**

I like to binge-watch





# HEALTH EDUCATION @ CHS

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**DISCIPLINE  
PROFICIENCIES**

**Good Health**

**Decision Making & Goal  
Setting**



# HEALTH EDUCATION @ CHS

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**Requirement: One semester of health**

**Human Ecology** - designed for grades 9/10

**Life 101** - designed for grades 11/12

Students can choose **one** or **both** Human Ecology and Life 101.

## Topics to be covered:

- Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs
- CPR
- Health Skills
- Human Sexuality
- Mental Health
- Nutrition
- Personal Health



# HEALTH EDUCATION @ CHS

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## Electives:

### Food:from Soil to Stomach I and II

### EPL (Eat! Play! Live!)

A fitness and wellness class. (10th-12th grade)

## Topics to be covered:

- Sustainability
- Food systems: global, local, organic, conventional
- Explores the many facets of food: growing, cooking and eating.
- Gardening
  
- Wellness & Personal Fitness Programs





# PHYSICAL EDUCATION @ CHS

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**DISCIPLINE  
PROFICIENCIES**

**Motor Skills Knowledge &  
Use**

**Motor Skills Analysis**

**Physical Fitness**

**Affective Qualities &  
Social Interaction**



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION @ CHS

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## Requirement: 1.5 credits

PE Course offerings

- Physical Education
- Fitness for Life





# PHYSICAL EDUCATION @ CHS

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## Sample PE Offerings

- Pickleball
- Badminton
- Mountain Biking
- Orienteering
- Climbing wall
- Ropes Course
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Paddleboarding
- XC Skiing & Snowshoeing
- Table Tennis (ping-pong)
- Weight Training
- Dance
- Crossfit
- Team Sports
- Personal Fitness
- Tennis
- Volleyball





# ELECTIVE COURSE @ CHS

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## **Eat! Play! Live!**

*A fitness and wellness class*

**0.5 Elective credit  
(10th-12th grade)**





# Welcome to **LAKER NATION!**





# SUPPORT SERVICES @ CHS

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## School Counseling Team Leader: Bob Hall

**Fun Fact:** In 7th grade I was abducted by aliens. I was gone for three “alien” years, but it was only minutes in Earth time. I don’t like to talk about it.





# SUPPORT SYSTEMS

- School Counseling
- AT (acceleration, advising, academics)
- Math lab
- Individual teacher help
- Parent Portal
- Teacher websites, Google Classroom
- WLP (Weekly Learning Plan)
- MTSS:

- Educational Support Team, Special Education, 504, ML





## MEET OUR STAFF



**Bob Hall**

School Counselor

Robert.Hall  
@colchestersd.org  
Phone: 802.264.5710

Grade 9: A-F  
Grade 10: A-E  
Grade 11: A-DA  
Grade 12: A-D



**Julie Pastore**

School Counselor

Julie.Pastore  
@colchestersd.org  
Phone: 802.264.5712

Grade 9: G-O  
Grade 10: F-ME  
Grade 11: DB-N  
Grade 12: E-MC



**Katie Moran**

School Counselor

Katherine.Moran  
@colchestersd.org  
Phone: 802.264.5709

Grade 9: P-Z  
Grade 10: MF-Z  
Grade 11: O-Z  
Grade 12: ME-Z



**Patty Ward**

Guidance Registrar

Patty.Ward  
@colchestersd.org  
Phone: 802.264.5713  
Fax: 802.264.5757

## SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE

### Various Support Available

Counselors are available daily for academic, career, personal, and/or social counseling. Stop by the CHS Guidance Office or email your counselor directly to make an appointment.

[ACADEMIC PLANNING](#)[ACADEMIC SUPPORTS](#)[COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER](#)[FINANCIAL AID](#)[MEET OUR STAFF](#)[MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS](#)





# SCHOOL COUNSELING @ CHS...

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...helps students plan for success in 3 domains...

## ACADEMIC

- COURSE SELECTION AND PLANNING
- ACCESSING SUPPORT SERVICES

## CAREER

- ☐ CAREER PLANNING
- ☐ COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

## PERSONAL/SOCIAL

- ONE-ON-ONE
- GROUPS
- MEDIATION
- REFERRAL

# FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

→ LAKER LEARNING LAB

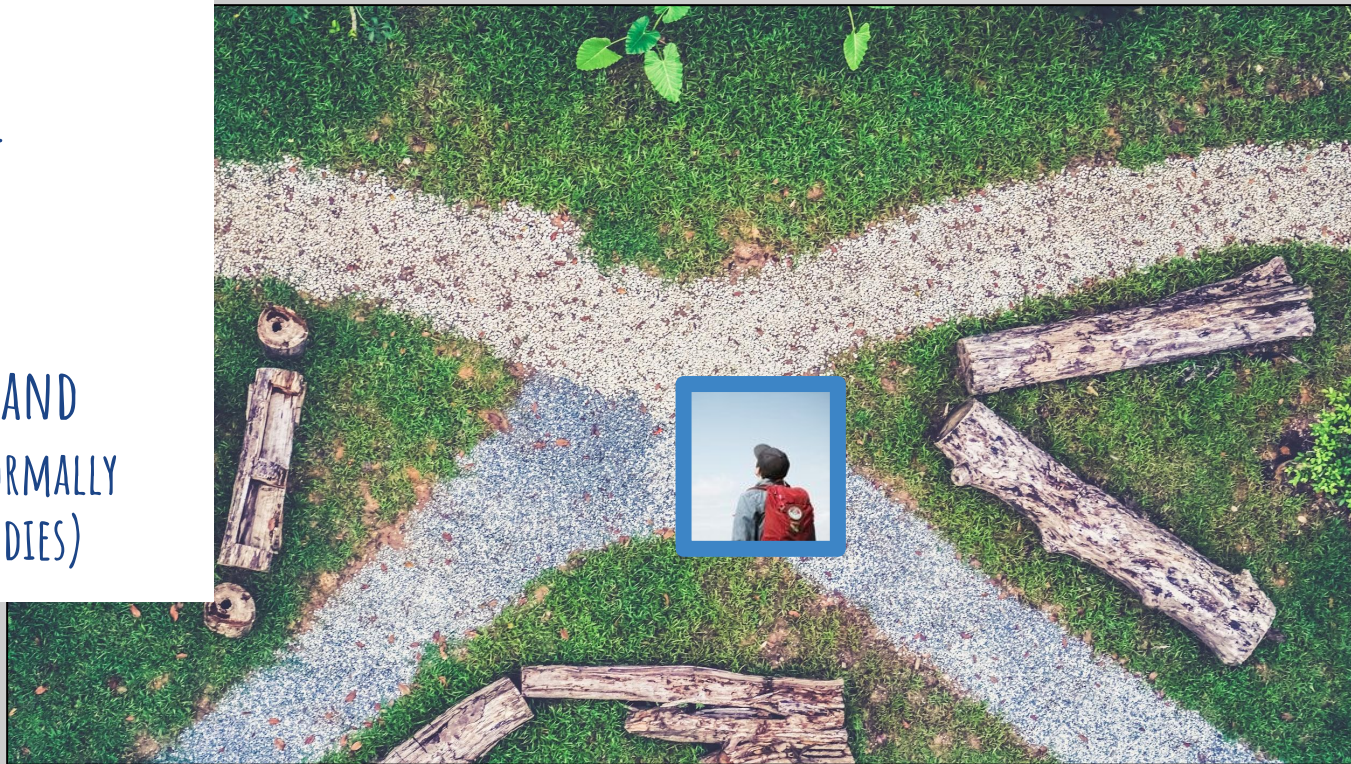
→ VHS

→ TIPS

→ DUAL ENROLLMENT

→ EARLY COLLEGE

→ INTRO TO COLLEGE AND  
CAREERS COURSE (FORMALLY  
INTRO TO COLLEGE STUDIES)





# OTHER FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

- BURLINGTON TECHNICAL CENTER
- CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY ESSEX
  - BTC- HALF DAY
  - CTE- FULL DAY
  - PRE-TECH

- WORK BASED LEARNING
- OPTIONS CREDITS
  - WORK
  - VOLUNTEER
  - MENTORING
  - AIDE





# SUPPORT SERVICES @ CHS

**Special Education Team  
Leaders: Dave Sharkey &  
Dana Visser**

**Fun Fact:** CHS  
Soccer Coach.

**Fun Fact:** Considers pie to be a  
legitimate breakfast food.





# EXAMS



- The buses will run in the mornings as usual. There will be a run at 12:30pm instead of 2:20pm
- Exams begin promptly at 8:00am. Students will NOT be admitted late.



**JANUARY 14TH | TUESDAY**

A1 Exam 8:00am - 10:00am  
A3 Exam 10:30am - 12:30am

**JANUARY 15TH | WEDNESDAY**

A4 Exam 8:00am - 10:00am  
A5 Exam 10:30am - 12:30am

**JANUARY 16TH | THURSDAY**

B1 Exam 8:00am - 10:00am  
B3 Exam 10:30am - 12:30am

**JANUARY 17TH | FRIDAY**

B4 Exam 8:00am - 10:00am  
B5 Exam 10:30am - 12:30am

**JANUARY 21ST | MONDAY**

Make-Up Exam Day

### Nationwide PowerSchool Cybersecurity Breach

CSD Community, We have been informed that the Colchester School District was impacted by the nationwide cybersecurity breach of PowerSchool, the company that provides our student information system. PowerSchool has...

Wednesday, Jan 08 2025

### Laker View | January 2025 Edition



Dear CHS Families, Welcome to the Laker View 8th Grade Families & Students! Every year in January we start to include 8th grade students and families in our newsletter in addition to holding our annual 8th...

Friday, Jan 03 2025

### The Compass: CSD Districtwide Newsletter for December



Off to Winter Break We Go! This time of year is a wonderful opportunity to unwind, relax, and recharge. Whether you're celebrating traditions, spending time with family and friends, or simply enjoying a quiet...

Friday, Dec 20 2024

### Laker View | December 2024 Edition

WEEKLY LEARNING PLANS

INCOMING 9TH GRADE PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

CHS HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM



## COLCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

Excellence and Equity in a climate of Respect, Responsibility, and Pride



### CORE BELIEFS

1. We engage in **diverse learning experiences** rooted in relationships, relevance, rigor, and shared responsibility.
2. We **work together** to build on one another's strengths and



**Welcome to  
LAKER NATION!**





# LAKER-NATIO N

**Athletics and Activities  
Director: Oluwadare  
Sowunmi**

**Fun Fact: I can't  
swim or ride a bike,  
yet!**





# CO-CURRICULARS @ CHS

## Varsity and JV Sports



Alpine Skiing (V)

Baseball (V, JV)

Basketball (V, JV, F)

Bass Fishing (V)

Dance (V)

Football (V, JV)

Field Hockey (V, JV)

Golf (V)

Ice Hockey (V)

Lacrosse (V, JV)

Nordic Skiing (V)

Soccer (V, JV)

Softball (V, JV)

Tennis (V)

Track & Field (V)

Ultimate Frisbee (V)

Volleyball (V, JV)

XC Running (V)







# CO-CURRICULARS @ CHS

## Other Teams, Clubs and Activities



Art Club

Athletic Council

Botany Club

CHS Cares

Colchester Theatre Company

Debate/Speech Team

Dungeons & Dragons Club

E-Sports

Film Club

Green Team

Gender Sexuality Alliance

International Club

Journalism Club

Literary Journal Club

Math League

Mentoring

Model UN

National Honor Society

Ski & Board Club

Social Justice Alliance

Student Committees

Student Council

The Lake Show

We Matter Here

Variety Night



**Welcome to  
LAKER NATION!**





*See you soon, Class of 2029!*

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**THANK YOU *for***  
**ATTENDING!**