



City High Middle NEWS

Greetings From the Principal:

February 2012

Inside this issue:

Letter from the	1
IB Update	2-3
Counseling Office	4-5
February Events	6
Athletics	7
Center for Economicology	8
PTSA	9
Hub Update	10-11
Calendar	12

Dear Parents /Guardians/Students:

Greetings and welcome to the month of February! As you may have heard we have a new GRPS Superintendent Mrs. Teresa Neal; I would like to congratulate her on this appointment and look forward to the positive changes she will bring to our district. Also, I would like to congratulate our own Dr. Matthew Gonzales on receiving his Ph.D. from Oakland University last week in Educational Leadership.

As a school community, we have a host of activities to engage in, such as: Middle School Valentine's Dance (February 10th) 3:30-5:30 pm, High School Swirl Dance (February 11th) 7:00-10:00 pm, IB College Night (March 7th) 6:30-8:00 pm, as well as parent-teacher conferences held in our gymnasium during the following dates and times:

- February 23rd: 5:00-8:00 pm
- February 27th: 5:00-8:00 pm
- March 1st: 4:00-7:00 pm

A reminder that electronic devices such as cell phones and media players are not permitted in school per the district student handbook. I strongly encourage students to keep all valuables (including electronic devices) at home! If valuables must be brought to school, please keep them locked up and secured. We simply cannot spend instructional time investigating lost, stolen, or misplaced electronic devices. Please assist us and communicate this with your students.

As we move through this month, we will continue to engage our 11th grade students in preparing for the Michigan Merit Exam that will take place on March 6th, 7th and 8th.

We will be conducting another ACT practice test on February 1st and will analyze our data with Sylvan Learning to provide additional supports to students.

A reminder that February 20th is a district professional development in which there will be no school for our students.

In closing, the school community would like to thank all our families for sending your children to City High Middle. We embrace the opportunity to educate your children and look forward to the continuation of that charge. Have a great month!

Respectfully,
Michael Pascoe
Michael Pascoe, Ed. S.
Principal



IB Update

Economicology & International Baccalaureate at City High Middle School

What is Economicology?

Economicology is the combination of economics and ecology; it is a fundamental basis for achieving sustainability.

It is sustainable education framed through the six E's of Economicology - Economics, Environment, Ecology, Ethics, Empathy and Education.

Economicology states that 'we need to teach people, especially the young, how to use our resources'.

Example of Economicology involving Steelcase—

'Instead of sending truckloads of fabric remnants to landfills . . . Steelcase uses some of the recycled fabric as a sound deadener in one of its product lines . . . Economicology in action'.

What is International Baccalaureate?

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) is a non-profit educational foundation, motivated by its mission, focused on the student.

What is the IB Diploma Programme?

The IB Diploma Programme is designed as an academically challenging and balanced programme of education with final examinations that prepares students in grades eleven and twelve for success at university and life beyond. The programme has gained recognition and respect from the world's leading universities.

IB Diploma Programme students study six courses at higher level or standard level. Students must choose one subject from each of groups 1 to 6, thus ensuring breadth of experience in languages, social studies, the experimental sciences, mathematics, and the arts.

In addition the programme has three core requirements that are included to broaden the educational experience and challenge students to apply their knowledge and understanding.

The extended essay is a requirement for students to engage in independent research through an in-depth study of a question relating to one of the subjects they are studying.

Theory of knowledge is a course designed to encourage each student to reflect on the nature of knowledge by critically examining different ways of knowing (perception, emotion, language and reason) and different kinds of knowledge (scientific, artistic, mathematical and historical).

Creativity, action, service requires that students actively learn from the experience of doing real tasks beyond the classroom. Students can combine all three components or do activities related to each one of them separately.

What is the IB Middle Years Programme?

The IB Middle Years Programme, for students in grades six through ten, provides a framework of academic challenge that encourages students to embrace and understand the connections between traditional subjects and the real world, and become critical and reflective thinkers.

The programme consists of eight subject groups integrated through five areas of interaction that provide a framework for learning within and across the subjects. Students are required to study their mother tongue, a second language, humanities, sciences, mathematics, arts, physical education and technology. In the final year of the programme, students also engage in a personal project, which allows them to demonstrate the understandings and skills they have developed throughout the programme.

Assessment is criterion-related, so students around the world are measured against pre-specified criteria for each subject group. Teachers set assessment tasks that are assessed internally in the school. External checks (either moderation or monitoring of assessment by IB examiners) are carried out on this internal assessment to ensure worldwide consistency of standards. For schools that require official IB certification for their students, moderation is carried out every year.

Inquiry-based instructional model

The instructional model of Economicology & IB at City is inquiry-based. Critical thinking and questioning are at the center of Econ.IB.

Economicology states that “. . . schools should teach young people how to process information for themselves. Instead of memorizing chunks of data, young people learning to live in the fast-changing international world must learn how to analyze the data” (Wege, 1998, pp. 88-89).

“Driven by inquiry, action and reflection, IB programmes aim to develop a range of strategies, competencies, and attitudes that helps students effectively manage and to evaluate their own learning. Among these essential approaches to teaching and learning are skills for inquiry, critical and creative thinking, collaboration, communication, managing information and self-assessment” (IB, 2011, p. 1).

Depending on the context, students are expected to explore significant issues by formulating their own questions or seeking the answers to prescribed ones.

All students, in an age appropriate way, are expected to be able to:

- design their own inquiries
- assess the various means available to support their inquiries
- proceed with research, experimentation, observation and analysis that will help them in finding their own responses to the issues and in solving problems
- determine the validity and authenticity of what they read or hear
- question the attitudes and history behind what they read or hear
- develop the confidence and experience with which to form an opinion.



Danielle Ralston, Guidance Counselor
(616)819-7867 ralstond@grps.k12.mi.us



Frequently asked questions:

How do I make an appointment to see the counselor?

Students can:

- Drop by the counseling office at break, lunch, or after school to see if a counselor is available
- Ask a teacher for permission to go to the counseling office
Add their name to Mrs. Ralston's schedule located on the office counter outside of her Office

Parents can:

- E-mail ralstond@grps.k12.mi.us
- Call the office at: 616-819-2380

My student is having difficulty in a class. What should I do?

- Check Earth. Notice if your child is having trouble with organization, homework, and/or tests.
- Talk with your student's teacher, if needed. Teachers can be e-mailed through Earth.
Encourage your student to attend Work Zone.

Our Work Zone schedule is:

7:30 am —8:15 am Tuesday—Thursday

3:30 pm—4:30 pm Monday—Thursday

Parent Information Evenings:

A parent course selection information meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1 in the Cafeteria at City High Middle. At this meeting, we will explain course sequencing, course selection process, and IB requirements.

Wednesday, February 1	6:30-7 PM	7th through 9th grade
Wednesday, February 1	7-7:30 PM	10th grade
Wednesday, February 1	7:30 - 8 PM	11th grade

Changes after students have entered their requests will be limited to the following:

- required courses missing
- prerequisites not met
- course failure/graduation requirement issues

IB College Roundtable

On March 7th at 6:30 PM there is an IB roundtable discussion scheduled with College Representatives. College Representatives will present information on how the Diploma Programme positively impacts Admission, Course Credit and Placement, and Scholarship. This meeting will be held in the Café.

Information for Juniors and Senior Families:

Juniors: Winter and spring are very important times for you to be visiting college campuses! Campuses present a different perspective in the summer, when they are deserted, than during the academic year, when they are a more honest representation of life on campus.

It is important that you:

* Make an appointment with your counselor to review and finalize the colleges you have selected, and to ask about how you visit college campuses.

* Plan for the February long weekend & April’s spring break week to visit far-away campuses. Use your winter/spring weekends to visit campuses nearby.

NCAA: Any students interested in applying for sports at the college level should check with their coach to determine eligibility. Students must register with the NCAA in order to participate in any Division I or Division II sports, or receive any form of athletic scholarship for college. Forms are available in the Main Office.

SENIORS need to maintain high levels of grades. Colleges will be requesting mid-year reports. When you receive your Acceptance Letter(s), please bring a copy to your school counselor!

FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) may be submitted now to receive priority consideration for state or college aid for college.

Forms must be submitted by March 1, 2012. Apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Senior Schedules: All seniors must have online classes completed by June 1st. This includes both Michigan Virtual High School and Education E20/20.

Upcoming ACT Registration and Testing Dates

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration</u>
February 2, 2012	Friday, January 13, 2012	January 14-20, 2012
April 14, 2012	Friday, March 09, 2012	March 10-23, 2012
June 9, 2012	Friday, May 04, 2012	May 5-18, 2012

February Events

Writing Prompts (for incoming students)

City High Middle
Cafeteria

Sat—Feb 4th 9:00 am
Tues—Feb 7th 5:00 pm

(Please schedule an appointment
through the City High Middle
Main Office 616-819-2380)

MAP Testing

(for incoming students)

City High Middle
Cafeteria

Thurs—Feb 16th 5-8 pm

(Please schedule an appointment
through Student & Community
Services 616-819-2150)

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Please join us for Parent/
Teachers Conferences on

Feb 23rd—5 to 8 PM
Feb 27th—5 to 8 PM
March 1st—4 to 7 PM

Parent Course Sequencing Night

February 1st

6:30 PM—8 PM
City High Middle
Cafeteria

French Exchange Students

On Valentines Day 2012,
twenty-one (21) French teens
will shadow our own French
students for an entire school
day.

Our student chaperones will
show our guests what a
“typical day at City is like.”

Students from both nations
will exchange ideas about be-
ing a teenager, foods, cus-
toms, laws, politics, teachers
and family life.

Important Dates to Remember!

MME Testing

(Michigan Merit Exam)

11th Grade Only

Coming March 6th—7th—8th 2012



The February 10th Valentines Day Dance
For Middle School Students will be here soon!

Join us for pizza, drinks, snacks, games and great music!

It will take place from 3:45 to 5:30 pm.

The cost is \$3 or \$2 with an activity pass.

Hope to see everyone there!



Swirl! Swirl! Swirl! Swirl! Swirl! Swirl! Swirl! Swirl!

February 11, 2012 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Tickets Go On Sale Feb. 6th

At Mosaic Space, 25 S. Division

\$10.00 per person or Activity Pass

(If your Community Service Hours OR CAS plan and first CAS reflec-
tion are complete you can buy tickets in advance through Ms. Noren)

Semi-Formula Dress is required

Swirl! Swirl! Swirl! Swirl! Swirl! Swirl! Swirl! Swirl!

**Happy
Valentine's
Day**



Middle School Athletics

Girls Basketball: Games

Monday, Feb. 13..... City vs. Riverside at City 4:00pm **SCRIMMAGE**
Wednesday, Feb. 15 City vs. Ford at City 4:00pm **SCRIMMAGE**
Tuesday, Feb. 21..... City vs. Alger at City 4:00pm
Thursday, Feb. 23 Burton vs. City at Burton 4:00pm
Monday, Feb. 27..... Westwood vs. City at Westwood 4:00pm
Wednesday, Feb. 29 Riverside vs. City at Riverside 4:00pm
Monday, March 5 Ford vs. City at Ford 4:00pm
Wednesday, March 7 Alger vs. City at Alger 4:00pm
Monday, March 12 City vs. Burton at City 4:00pm
Wednesday, March 14 ... City vs. Westwood at City 4:00pm
Monday, March 19 **Tournament starts** TBD 4:00pm
Wednesday, March 21 **Tournament Round 2** TBD 4:00pm

Bowling: Meets

Thursday, Feb. 23 All Base Middle Schools at Wengers 3:00pm
Thursday, March 1 All Base Middle Schools at Wengers 3:00pm
Thursday, March 8..... All Base Middle Schools at The Clique 3:00pm
Thursday, March 15 All Base Middle Schools at Wengers 3:00pm
Thursday, March 22 All Base Middle Schools at Wengers 3:00pm

Wengers: 629 Leonard St. NW
 The Clique: 533 Stocking Ave NW

Wrestling: Meets

Thursday, Feb. 23 All Middle Schools Central HS 5:30pm
Thursday, March 1 All Middle Schools Central HS 5:30pm
Thursday, March 8 All Middle Schools Central HS 5:30pm
Thursday, March 15 All Middle Schools Central HS 5:30pm
Thursday, March 22 All Middle Schools Central HS 5:30pm

The Center for Economicology-



Re:New Blandford School!:

Calling all BEEPS...Attention Blandford School Friends and Families:

Please visit the new website/blog created to spark interest in the soon to be built new Blandford School building. You will see some powerful entries by members of Blandford's learning community. Mary Jane Dockeray has even committed to contributing to the blog!!! The site's objective is to collect stories and experiences of current and former Blandford students and families and spread the message of the Blandford experience. Donations are kindly accepted (if anyone is so inclined). The site is located at renew-blandfordschool.org. Anyone is encouraged to send blog submissions to hello@renewblandfordschool.org. Submissions will be screened and selected. Your ideas might end up on the site! Thanks for your excitement and support!

Sustainability Study in Costa Rica- Travel Abroad for Language, Culture, and Sustainability:

We have our group formed to travel to Costa Rica. If you were unable to make the trip this year, please keep it in mind for next year, as we hope to offer this experience every year. As we seek to become more sustainable citizens of the Earth, it is crucial that we find inspiration and look to models who are leading the way. Upon our return we will be presenting on our learning adventure at the Economicology Expo this Spring. Stay tuned... Also, please check out the blog from last years travels at this site:

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

Electric Car Charging Stations and CFE:

The 6th Grade Center for Economicology students went to City Hall to meet with the Mayor in order to present their learning after studying the electric car and its role in automotive sustainability. They were interviewed by local media and the Mayor; we were involved in the news release made by the City. The City of GR has made electric car charging stations available throughout downtown to help electric commuters charge up without putting any petroleum in the tank! The CFE students' work will be on display in City Hall!

Ryan Huppert, City Middle/High Administrator

School Improvement Administrator of City at Blandford/Zoo/Economicology & C.A. Frost &

Env. Science Academy

“Box Tops” Deadline! Please Remember to bring your Box Tops to the office by February 20!
We are collecting Box Tops between now and February 20. See Christine Bartman, 11th grade PTSA student member if you have any questions.

Parent Volunteers needed for Middle School Lunch (Mon – Fri, 11:20 – 12:15)

Mr. Pascoe needs our help! He needs two to three parent volunteers each day during the Middle School lunch period. You will need a pink or green GRPS Volunteer Badge. If you do not have one, and would like to volunteer, the office can expedite the processing of your volunteer application. Please email Mr. Pascoe at: pascoem@grps.k12.mi.us

Save the Date! Friday, March 23, City Nights, City Lights Auction at San Chez Bistro

Tickets will go on sale soon! Volunteers Needed! Donations Needed! Mark your calendars to support your school!
Contact Sharon Hayward for details at: sharonhayward@comcast.net.

Auction Donations Needed! Parents - we need your help! Do you own a business? Are you crafty? Do you have season Tickets to a sporting event and are willing to donate a couple of tickets? We need donations for the City Nights, City Lights Auction! Gift cards are always great donations. Please send in your donations to the office marked Auction.

PTSA is utilizing a new website!

PTSA is now using the website, <https://justbetweenfriends.com/php/> (JBF). You may have already received an email from JBF inviting you to verify your email address. We are finding this website very useful and believe it will help in our communications and our volunteer activities. The website is provided for us free of charge from MI PTA. It is our hope to have most of the calendar and PTSA information up on the site by early spring. Please feel free to check out the website at your convenience. If your information is not correct on JBF, please let me know and I will correct it right away. If you have any questions/concerns, please contact Carla at mrsbartman@sbcgloabl.net

Fresh Healthy Vending Machines are downstairs near the Gym. This fundraiser is ongoing and will annually benefit each senior class. Please, continue to enjoy a healthy snack or drink and fund a good cause.

City PTSA Meetings for 2011 (Generally the 3rd Tuesday of the month unless posted otherwise)

Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

See our website for further information: <http://www.cityptsa.com/> or
Contact Kim Waalkes, City PTSA President, Email: kim_waalkes@yahoo.com, phone: 460.2983 or
Bonnie Czuhajewski, City PTSA Co-Vice President, Email: bonnie.czu@gmail.com, phone: 575.8545



Upcoming Events

Music Events for Band, Choir and Orchestra:

***Musical Auditions for “Lights, Camera... Broadway!” – A Musical Review**

February 7th and 8th, 2012 at City in room 159 beginning at 3:30 PM

Audition packets will be available from Mrs. Jewell in room 159 beginning on Jan. 31st.

Please contact Mrs. Jewell at 819-2447 for any further information.

***Side By Side Concert with the Grand Rapids Symphony**

March 15th, 2012

Creston High School Auditorium 7:30 PM

Ticket cost is \$3.00

The Chorale, Symphony Orchestra, and members of the Wind Ensemble will be participating in this event with a rehearsal directly after school on March 15th.

Parent and student volunteers are needed for this event.

More information will be sent home soon with the students that are performing.

Band/Orchestra Events:

***MSBOA High School Solo/Ensemble Festival**

Saturday February 4th, 2012

East Kentwood High School – All Day Events

This event is only for students that signed up to perform.

Good Luck to all of the high school instrumental students participating!

***MSBOA District Band and Orchestra Festival**

February 22-24, 29 or March 1-2, 2012

The Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble will all be participating in this event on one of the dates listed above.

The exact date and times have not been released yet from the MSBOA office.

Once each director has been notified with the details family notification will be sent out.

Choir Events:

***MSVMA Solo/Ensemble Festival – Concert Choir & Chorale students**

Saturday February 4th, 2012

Grand Valley State University – All Day Events

This event is only for the high school students that signed up to perform.

Good Luck to all of the high school vocal students performing at this event!

***MSVMA District Choral Festival**

February 22-24, 2012

The Chorale and Concert Choir will be performing on one of the dates listed above.

The exact date and times have not yet been released from the MSVMA office.

Once each director has been notified, notifications will be sent out to families.

Parent Volunteers:

If there is an event that you would like to help out with please contact Mrs. Morgan. Any help is greatly appreciated!

Email: MorganE@grps.k12.mi.us Phone: (616)819-3437

**CBOP – Choir, Band, Orchestra Parents*

We exist to support our City music students and their teachers through fundraising and volunteering.

Here are some ways you can help:

- **Shop with Scrip!** (<http://www.glscrip.com>) Contact Bonnie Czuhajewski at (575-8545) for questions or to place your order!
- **Sign up for Meijer Community Rewards, code 571046** (<http://www.meijer.com/rewards>)
- **Check out the Band website:** <http://sites.google.com/site/cityhighmiddleband/>

Join the CBOP email list: Citybandorchparents@gmail.com

Check out the City High Middle PTSA regularly at www.cityptsa.com/news/

~ February 2012 ~

[◀ Jan 2012](#)
[Mar 2012 ▶](#)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Parent Course Sequencing Night 6:30 pm—8 pm	2	3	4 Writing Prompts 9:00 am
5	6	7 Writing Prompts 5—8 pm	8	9	10 Middle School Valentine Dance 3:34 pm—5:30 pm	11 Swirl 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Mosaic Space
12	13	14 French Exchange Student Day	15	16 MAP Testing Through Student Services 5-8 pm Call 819-2150	17	18
19	20	21 PTSA Meeting 6—9 pm	22	23 Parent/Teachers Conferences 5—8 pm	24	25
26	27 Parent/Teacher Conferences 5—8 pm	28	29 Deadline for First Round of Apps to Enter City High Middle	March 1 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4—7 pm		