

CBHS Parent Newsflash, August 31, 2026

Dear parents and guardians,

Welcome back to an exciting new school year, one that I hope will be full of learning, growth, friends, and joy for your students and our whole community. The laughter and positivity was all around our community today and it is our hope that our new students also felt welcomed! **You will receive this Newsflash once a week with general commentary from me, important dates, and announcements.**

We have a few **new faculty**...Ms. Sarah Lindquist is our new art teacher, and comes to us with over 13 years of art teaching experience. Ms. Linda Van Vranken is our new French teacher, having taught ESOL and French all over Southern Maine and in the Czech Republic. We have a few new educational technicians who support our staff members—Brooks Miller, Maya Guttman, and Katie Leavitt, as well as a new Make It Happen coordinator who is in the process of being hired. We're also thrilled that Mrs. McDonald is back from maternity leave.

We continue to implement the district's personal device policy and also the state's personal device policy. Today, around 50% of our students brought their phone and locked it into their pouches for the day. The other 50% had to wait in a line to record what they were missing. We know that it has been a long summer and that sometimes students test us—are we actually going to ask for the pouch or not? We are! And we hope the majority of the students will bring their pouches and phones in the morning and lock in for a great school year. **In partnership, please ask your student if they had their Yondr pouch today.** It is possible that they need some support to find it. Replacement pouches are \$40 per district vendor rate.

PATHS families: I met with all **61 PATHS students** today in the library to explain the general workings of PATHS/CBHS. **Tomorrow is the first day of PATHS** and staff will be there in the hallways to guide students to the lunch line at 10:45 and then to PATHS by 11:05. This is the largest cohort of PATHS students ever for CBHS and we couldn't be more thrilled for our students.

As an FYI, we have a rotating schedule called **A Days (Blocks 1,2,3)** and **B Days (Blocks 4,5,6)**. These days alternate all year long. Tomorrow is our very first B Day, so students will start the day in Block 4. Students learn the schedule very quickly. [Here's another copy](#) of it in case you need it!

There is so much to process with your student—classes, friends, transportation, sports, intentions for the year. It is my firm belief that the majority of students want to share their highlights and quirky noticings with their families, though “the culture” assumes that most students do not want to share. Sometimes having a question other than “how was your day” can be helpful. Try... What was the funniest thing your student saw or heard today? Was there someone new in their crew or someone they were not expecting to come to CBHS this year? What was the most surprising summer highlight they heard today? For some students, getting practical is helpful—do they have a solid transportation plan in the morning and evening that allows them to get to school on time? Do they need school supplies, schedule changes, sports equipment, a new French class? Please encourage them to reach out to their crew advisor, counselor, or me.

We are here to partner with you and make it a great year! Happy 2026-2027!

Sincerely,
Ms. Natarajan

Dates to Know Now

Sept 2	First 1:50 Districtwide Early Release & School Meeting
Sept 4 & 7	NO SCHOOL for Labor Day Weekend
Sept 8	Fire Drills @ 10 am and 12:50 pm
Sept 8	Parent Advisory Group Meeting, 6-7:30 pm in the Library
Sept 10	Open House; 6-7:30 pm in the Great Space! Parents/guardians, we hope to see you there! Students are always welcome.
Sept 11	First Fun Friday Crew
Sept 14	Telling Room Interviews for students (Info coming to student email after this week's School Meeting presentation)
Sept 15	Fire Drills @ 10 am and 12:50 pm
Sept 21	No School, Yom Kippur

Headline News

Sept 8th is the first **Evacuation Drill** (what we used to call Fire Drills) of the year. We do each Drill twice, because we share our building with PATHS, which has a morning and afternoon session. Generally, we like to keep the Drills a surprise—however, if your student would benefit from knowing ahead of time, please tell them. I will always alert you in this Newsflash.

The **Parent Advisory Group** will have their first meeting in the library at 6 pm on September 8th. CBHS's Parent Advisory Group (PAG) is a resource for parents to know what's going on at school and to help out a little or a lot with fundraising and events. The best way to be in the know is to get on the email list and/or attend PAG meetings. We would be glad to have you! Parent/Guardian participation is essential in helping all the special events at CBHS happen! Sign up for PAG emails: <https://cbhsfamily.org/signup/>

We're excited to invite all parents and guardians to **Open House** (Sept 10, 6-7:30 pm)! You'll get a chance to hear more about what's happening at the school and then break directly into grade level assemblies, have time to meet all your student's teachers, and gather with your crew advisor. See you there! This event is targeted for parents and guardians, but we do sometimes have students attend—they are welcome!

Mr. Morales, per district policy, will now be the **504 coordinator**. Please contact him directly with any concerns or to update your plan. morala@portlandschools.org.