

**East Chapel Hill High PTSA Meeting
Tuesday, February 22, 2022 via Zoom**

6:32 p.m. Meeting Call to Order

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** (5 mins) May Bryan
25 participants
March meeting date will be changed since February date got pushed out

- II. **Business and Announcements** (3 mins) May Bryan
Approve December minutes - minutes not available; meeting was recorded.

- III. **Registration Panel and Q & A** (45-50 minutes) counselors Ms. Jessica Harris and Ms. Mariel Martinez, teachers Mr. Brian Link and Mr. John Wilson
Ms. Harris (sk-z) - did not go into the classrooms for registration for info session. Did it through video that you can access now [here](#). Met with seniors at beginning of the year and freshmen in October. English teachers showed 10th and 11th graders their videos recently. 10th - addressed questions/concerns of anxious, over-zealous, non-college bound; 11th - questions about college application process addressed. Graduation requirements, course requirements, importance of talking to teachers. etc. Counselor chats starting in March. Students/parents encouraged to reach out if questions. Registration materials will be collected in **Math classes in March**. Enter in powerschool, but keep forms for now. Will meet with counselor 3-4 minutes to hand in forms.

Registration closes on March 25th.

BOE is doing away with the service learning requirement so service learning hours are no longer needed for off-campus privileges or to graduate. Lets Serve will still be available to students wanting to do service hours.

East doesn't have an official drop/add period. Master schedule built on what classes students sign up for. Course changes entertained the first week of school - not guaranteed; may not be room in desired classes. Do not ask teacher if s/he will accommodate a student. Work through counselor.

If drop class in first week or 2 of school, doesn't show on transcript. If have been in a class for at least a quarter, if you drop it, will show up as withdraw passing or withdraw failing. If it's a level change rather than a drop, it doesn't show up. However, if switch from AP to honors, will show up as withdraw passing or failing for the AP class on transcript.

In Powerschool, submit button still shows after you click submit button. Courses should still be saved. You can tell by checking the "courses requested". If there is a problem, counselor will let you know.

How many AP classes should a student take at a time? Recommend no more than 3 a year. However, many students will take more than that. Responsibility of student/family to gauge what is appropriate. Estimated homework load is as follows: AP - 60-90 minutes/night; honors 45-60; college prep 30 minutes/night. Students who take 5+ AP's at a time often show up in counselor's office looking to drop one. It is a small % of students that can load up on AP's without undue stress. Students should talk to teachers to figure out what they should take.

Brian Link: 12th year, District TOE, Director of SJ Academy. Mr. Link will go in to each of the 10th and 11th SJ classrooms to talk to students about registration. Made a video for 9th graders

Jay Wilson: 24 years at East, pre-calc, AP Calc, taught every math course at East. Info available on math website to provide guidance on which math courses to take. Important to consider mental health and finding balance in schedule. Consider areas of interest, but be well-rounded

Ms. Martinez - 1st year at East/in NC. Moved here from NY. Agrees with Ms. Harris, Link and Wilson - don't overload! Can be hard to switch from AP to honors - may not be room; also hard on teachers to try to catch up student if switch mid-year.

How do parents set up a meeting with counselor to discuss specifics about their student given how busy counselors are? Suggest emailing, joining counselor chats. If still need meeting, email the counselor and ask for a meeting.

Counselor chat link has been posted. Counselors will take turns during lunch facilitating the counselor chats.

Virtual Public School classes - when put into the system? Fall enrollment not open yet. Ms. Ellis NCVPS coordinator. Submit requests for NCVPS classes to Ms. Ellis. She'll let us know when registration is open. Enrollment will open in late summer - those that signed up will get an email with user name and how to sign up for classes

CDM scores will not be before registration. Register for course would normally register for and can make changes after receive CDM results.

If elective isn't showing up in powerschool, email counselor. Counselors have to set up courses in powerschool every year. Sometimes a class or 2 gets missed.

First year languages available at East: latin if have enough students, German 1 now NCVPS (lost teacher 8 years ago); German 2 no longer available. French, Japanese, Spanish in person available as long as enough 1st year interest. chinese/mandarin taught through NCVPS. Update: there is an online option for German 2. Contact Ms. Harris for details

Financial literacy - required for freshmen and sophomores. Juniors don't have to take it because they had civics/economics together. This year's sophomores are the first year with de-linked civics and economics. Will take financial literacy senior year.

Current juniors need World History, Civics & Econ OR Civic Literacy, American History OR US 1... and then a fourth class that is an elective.

Cross-enrollment - student enrolled at East part of the day and CHHS part of the time. Do not recommend for rising freshmen. East counselors coordinate cross-enrollment with CHHS counselors at end of summer - have to make sure there is capacity and schedules match up. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't.

When teacher quits a class that is a pre-req for another class, how do they make up the material so they're ready for the next class? Mr. Patterson - the school starts recruiting right away. They reach out to Lincoln Center and try to find subs. Constantly recruiting for vacant positions. Very aware and concerned about shortage of teachers. If teacher resigns, will communicate to parents ASAP. If for a medical reason, privacy issues. Try to communicate the plan as soon as one is in place. Would like to communicate more quickly, but East is short-staffed administratively. May: how does grading work for classes that have series of subs? Patterson: can use administrative discretion to support students and re-norm if necessary so student is not penalized for not having a consistent teacher (sensitive to not impacting GPA). Because of Covid, lot of re-teaching going on at beginning of year.

Counselor chats well attended previously. Spring chats March 3,10,17, 24.
g.co/meet/echhs-counselor-chat

May: what do teachers/counselors need?? Ms. Harris - will ask counselors and get back to us.

IV. **Administration Update** (10 mins) Mr. Brandon Patterson

Mr. Aacome had a conflict and couldn't join us, but send his regards. Mr. Casey is new principal and will join us in July. Looking forward to having a full team. New EC/AC TA -Chavis McManus; Pending candidate in PLTW Engineering; Pending candidate in Spanish; actively working on other vacancies. Interviews for Asst Principal (Ms. Herrera's position) has not started yet. LC has been providing a lot of administrative support at East so they want to expedite AP hiring also.

Working with PTSA on updating teacher workrooms.

Registration in progress. Because short-staffed, we have rotation of administration support from Lincoln Center. 2 days a week, a retired principal is working at East to help administratively (teacher evals, etc.)

10 vacancies at East - 6 teachers, 1 AP, 1 mental health specialist, 2 assistants

V. **Teacher Rep Report** (5 mins) Mr. Brian Link

Mr. Patterson has picked up a lot!

Public School Forum - #1 issue across the state is lack of educators/personnel.

Personal safety, compensation, how teachers are treated are a concern.

Encourage parents to advocate for better compensation - lot of competition for fewer resources - CHCCS needs to be prepared to attract the best. Budget process begins soon!

This PTSA is the best. 2/11 event was fantastic/magnificent. Grateful/thankful to parents who do so much for the teachers/staff at East.

Mr. Casey will be here March 4th. How do we create an environment to help create a successful transition for Mr. Casey?

Every English/Social Studies class is blended at East. There is not an AP World option for the Social Justice academy. AP World is recommended for Seniors, not freshmen. Take AP classes you're passionate about, not just to rack up APs. What's best for your overall success? Doing fewer things really well is more important than trying to just do more.

VI. **President's Report** (5 mins) May Bryan
(shared after Michelle's hospitality update below)

Lotta Sjoelin (A Lotta Love) Created vision board for teacher workrooms. Triangle Office Supply store is donating chairs to replace peeling chairs in workroom. Focusing on updating one of the workrooms as a model to replicate in other workrooms. More info to come! Contact May (president@echhsptsa.org) to get involved. Teachers excited at the possibilities.

VII. **Treasurer's Report** (5 mins) Linda Gilchrist

In good shape. Dynamic budget vs actual available [here](#)

VIII. **Standing Committee Reports** (10 mins)

Hospitality -- Michelle Varma

Pre-covid hospitality events not back yet (e.g., lunches), so we've shifted focus to improving teacher workplaces. Replaced broken microwave in one teacher workroom. Added a fridge to media center and ordered 2 more for unreliable older fridges. Zen Den created in room off library (quiet

space - chair, table, calming music). Ms. Wright suggested items and PTSA paid for it.

Audit -- Sue Sept

January and February will be audited March 8. Financials in good shape - Linda does excellent job with the books.

7:59 p.m. ADJOURN

Upcoming Dates

March meeting date TBD

April 5 PTSA General Meeting

May 3 PTSA General Meeting

June 7 PTSA General Meeting