

# HOOCH



## HAPPENINGS

Dedicated to Learning and Committed to Excellence

Chattahoochee  
High School



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Johns Creek, GA 30022

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### Corrigan's Corner: A Message From The Principal

**Welcome to our first edition of Hooch Happenings** – News and Notes for the Hooch Family! What makes Chattahoochee High School so special? This is a question I am often asked and find so easy to answer. We have shaped our culture around the simple fact that how we treat each other is essential to creating our Hooch Family. Hooch Family exists in every aspect of life at Chattahoochee: Academics, Arts, Athletics, and Service to Community.

This school year marks our 27th year as one of the highest performing high schools in the country as we continue the tradition of excellence. We are as committed now as was the original staff back in August 1991 to developing a community dedicated to learning and committed to excellence. This strong tradition continues today as we continue to focus on the right things for our students, staff, and community. I am proud to be the Principal of this amazing school, and I love serving our Hooch community. As a parent of a Senior and two Hooch alumni (Class of 2012 and 2014), I am thankful for our teachers, support staff, coaches, PTSA, business partners, and collective Hooch families that have played a part in creating this community that loves to learn, work, and serve!

This fall the district will unveil Strategic Plan 2022. The district's goal is to ensure that all students graduate prepared to pursue and succeed on their chosen paths. Our School Governance Council (SGC) will also begin working on Chattahoochee's next three-year strategic plan. You will be receiving communication about this important process so stay tuned.

What will the next 25 years hold for Chattahoochee High School? Time will tell, but we will continue to ask ourselves three important questions that will keep us focused on doing the right kind of work. What are we doing? Why are we doing it? Where do I fit in?

**What are we doing?** We are creating a community to which people love to belong. We will seek clarity of purpose and mission. This will be our north star. We need you now more than ever to help us accomplish our mission and support the work we do.

**Why are we doing it?** Simply, we want to make the world a better place. What would our community look like if we were not here or doing what we love to do? We need you to help keep us inspired.

**Where do I fit in?** Each of us have critical roles to fill – student, parent, teacher, administrator, coach, bus driver, cafeteria worker, custodian, etc. Each of our contributions are unique, and we are at our best when our people are doing what they do best. We need you to be involved. Join the PTSA. Join the booster clubs. Volunteer at school. Talk to your child(ren) about what is happening at school. Help make us better!

I am so proud and honored to be named the 4th Principal of Chattahoochee High School. I have lived in this community for 26 years and I am starting my fourteenth year at Chattahoochee. I absolutely love this school and community, and I am livin' the dream! The Hooch Family is as strong as ever and I promise to carry on the strong tradition of excellence. I am here to serve. It is going to be a great year, and together we will continue to accomplish amazing things!

With much respect,

Tim Corrigan  
Principal

December 2017

Volume 1 • Issue 1

## From the Desk of Cynthia Butler

### Clinic Assistant

Cold and flu season are upon us! Here are some things to help get you and your family through this wonderful time of year.

#### As always:

- Wash your hands with soap and water all the time
- Try not to touch your face
- Drink lots of fluids - the more water, the better
- Eat lean proteins
- Eat more veggies
- Eat some fruit
- And the biggest one...get REST, even if only 15 minutes more! When your body is worn down, everything follows suit.

I know it can be hard to do everything right and healthy so I challenge you to try to do at least one of these a little bit better - every bit helps!

### Flu vs. Cold from CDC Atlanta

What are the symptoms of the flu versus the symptoms of a cold?

The symptoms of flu can include fever or feeling feverish, chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, and fatigue (tiredness). Cold symptoms are usually milder than the symptoms of flu. People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems.

If you are sick, stay home and rest. Taking care of you helps your family stay healthy, too.

#### HOOCH Happenings

December 2017 • Issue 1

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## Important Dates

December 19 - 21, 2017 1st Semester Final Exams (*Bell schedule below*)

Tuesday, December 19, 2017		Adjusted bell schedule/Exams 1 and 7
1st period exam		8:20 AM - 10:10 AM
Break (15 minutes)		10:10 AM - 10:25 AM
7th period exam		10:25 AM - 12:15 PM
Lunch (optional)		12:15 PM - 12:35 PM
Buses Depart		12:40 PM
Wednesday, December 20, 2017		Adjusted bell schedule/Exams 3/4/5 ( <i>Advisement will not meet</i> )
3rd period exam		8:20 AM - 10:10 AM
Break (15 minutes)		10:10 AM - 10:25 AM
4th OR 5th period exam		10:25 AM - 12:15 PM
Lunch (optional)		12:15 PM - 12:35 PM
Buses Depart		12:40 PM
Thursday, December 21, 2017		Adjusted bell schedule/Exams 2 and 6
2nd period exam		8:20 AM - 10:10 AM
Break (15 minutes)		10:10 AM - 10:25 AM
6th period exam		10:25 AM - 12:15 PM
Lunch (optional)		12:15 PM - 12:35 PM
Buses Depart		12:40 PM

December 22, 2017

January 3, 2018 – Winter Break (*schools closed*)

January 8, 2018

First Day of the 2nd Semester

January 15, 2018

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (*schools closed*)

January 23, 2018

Advanced Placement (AP) Night & Dual Enrollment Night 7

## From the Desk of Garrett Abelkop

### Assistant Administrator

As an alumnus of Chattahoochee, I am so proud of the opportunity to work with the amazing community of students and educators here at this school. Chattahoochee is truly a special place and I hope and trust that all members of the Hooch Family know that we are here to support them. As our former Principal, Mr. Duncan, would always say, "It's not the bricks and the mortar...it's the people inside the building that matter most." Even though I wholeheartedly believe in that statement, we nevertheless have continued to work hard over the past few years to update our building and grounds to ensure that every space on our campus inspires teaching and learning. From major renovations to our main entrance and media center, to updating our Counseling office and adding a college lecture-style classroom, we continue to challenge ourselves to update spaces throughout the school. We are continuing this work with projects planned all around the campus including preparations to construct a greenhouse for our biology, botany, and environmental science students to be able to learn in a classroom environment immersed in their curriculum. We want all our students to take pride in where they come to learn each day, and we strive for our school to be a welcoming and positive educational environment. It is with that sentiment in mind that I challenge all of you to throw your trash away in the proper receptacle, to pick up litter that you walk by on the ground, and to do better to help keep the building and campus clean. If we all rise up to do a better job controlling what we each can control individually, then collectively we will come together as a community to ensure that Chattahoochee remains a place where everyone loves to learn, work, and serve.

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## From the Desk of Dr. Mike Todd Assistant Principal

I serve as one of the four Assistant Principals at Chattahoochee. My student caseload consists of student last names that begin with letters S-Z. I support the Science, World Language, and Physical Education departments as well as being the primary contact for bussing/transportation.

In Science, we have fifteen teachers that deliver instruction to over 75 classes a day with an average of 30 students in a class. If I did my math correctly, our science department makes approximately 2,250 student contacts a day. Can you say WOW?

In World Language, we serve students in Spanish, French, Latin, and Chinese. In most of these languages, our student retention rate (students taking additional years past the typical college admissions requirement of two) is above 50%. This means students have a desire and recognize the benefits of studying a language at Level 3, 4, and Advanced Placement.

Lastly, we have a veteran staff of four teachers in our Physical Education department delivering instruction in Personal Fitness, Health, Recreational Games, and Weight Training. The department's main goal is to provide students with the tools to support a lifelong love of sports, physical activity, and healthy choices.

As an administrator supporting the above mentioned departments, I get to interact with some of the most amazing teachers and students in the district! This includes our multi-award winning Science Olympiad teams, our numerous World Language National Honor Society members and World Language Club...the list is exhaustive. As for our teachers, they are regularly invited to support district level initiatives such as curriculum and assessment development, instructional materials adoption, and school improvement efforts.

In closing, we may not be number one in every school performance indicator that comes out, but as long as we know we are number one in the hearts of our students, teachers, and community, the rest will take care of itself...the Hooch Way!

## Parent Checklist

1. **GET AND STAY CONNECTED.** Obtain your user ID and password and utilize Home Access Center. Through this resource, you can monitor your child's progress on a weekly basis, and communicate with your child's teachers if you have questions, concerns, or if you'd like to request additional information regarding resources that may help your child master course standards. Be aware of what's happening in your student's school life and *TALK ABOUT IT*. Your interest and involvement has a tremendous effect on your student's performance and attitude at school.
2. **ESTABLISH A SOLID HOME STUDY ROUTINE.** Encouraging and supporting this vital activity will improve your student's attitude and performance at school and instill a work ethic that endures for a lifetime. **SET A SCHEDULE.** Establish a regular timeslot for this important daily activity. Seek your child's agreement and commitment to reserve this time each day for homework and study. Encourage this discipline. **CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT.** Students can be easily distracted. Teach them to create an atmosphere conducive for concentration. Minimizing social media access, loud music, and other distractors will improve effectiveness and retention. Having a defined study area works with some students but not all. The most important factor is the discipline of doing it every day. **OBSERVE AND ENGAGE.** Psychologists suggest that it takes three weeks to break or establish a habit. Commit three weeks to assisting with your student's daily routine. Make good homework practices a habit for both of you.
3. **MAKE DAILY ATTENDANCE THE EXPECTATION.** Very few things have as much negative effect on academic performance as poor attendance. Be clear in your attitude towards attending school every day. In the working world, attendance is equated with dependability.
4. **ENCOURAGE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY.** Involvement in any of our many clubs, sports, and arts programs improves academic performance, attendance, and discipline issues. We have something for everyone. Participation in these activities enhances school life and looks good on career and college applications. Also, help your child plan and execute community service.
5. **HELP YOUR STUDENT PLAN FOR POST-GRADUATION.** Talk to your student about career interests and passions. Many free online career assessment questionnaires are available that may help. Assist with a search for training programs or colleges that will prepare them for a career that interests them. Learn the entrance requirements and costs associated with attending those programs. They should be asking questions about career opportunities but may not know the right questions to ask. Our Counselors can help. No matter what they dream of doing after graduation, planning for the next step is a wise choice. Post high school education contributes to a better quality of life. Whether or not they go on to a college/university, career or technical school, the military, or join the work force, information and skills they learn in high school will always be important in every career. Everyone, in every kind of job, needs to be able to write and speak clearly, listen carefully, understand what is written and spoken, and use math effectively.

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## From the Desk of Garin Berry Assistant Principal

This is my 3rd year at Hooch and I am fortunate to serve here as an Assistant Principal, having completed my student teaching here back in 2001. My responsibilities include supporting the Math, TAG, Fine Arts, and ESOL Departments as well our AP Program, Hooch Cares and Advisement, and College Readiness through PSAT/SAT/ACT preparation.

### Hooch Cares

The goals of our Hooch Cares initiative is to intentionally build the values of Hooch culture and to help students grow in every way. The values we emphasize are growth, respect, integrity, pride, and teamwork along with the concept of caring and the Hooch Family.

Our 50 Student Advisors and 32 Teacher Advisors lead our 9th and 10th graders in weekly themes designed to assist their emotional/social growth and enhance their executive functioning skills. They engage these themes twice per week through discussion and activities with an additional two days for study time.

Additionally, our 1-to-1 Mentoring matches Freshmen with upperclassmen and adult mentors in a big-brother/big-sister type relationship that meets for 20-30 minutes once per week.

More information about Advisement and 1-to-1 Mentoring can be found at our Hooch Cares website at <https://sites.google.com/view/hoochcares/home>. We encourage our upperclassmen to become mentors as well as Freshmen to become mentees and take advantage of a mentor's experience.

The pictures below demonstrate what students can do when inspired and motivated. Hooch Cares Advisement and FBLA leaders, Kehisha Johnson and Radha Panchap, sponsored an Adopt-A-School Drive for College Park Elementary in South Fulton with over 1500 items collected!



### Hooch AP Program

*(College Board Advanced Placement)*

Chattahoochee offers 30 AP courses across all subject areas. We have over 900 students enrolled in over 2000 class hours this semester. Last year, we broke records with 826 students taking 1766 exams and earning a phenomenal 93.2% pass rate. Our teachers do a fantastic job preparing students for success in their respective AP courses down the road and many of our AP teachers serve as instructors and exam

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readers at the regional and national level.

We would love to see a significant majority of our students take an AP course at some point in their high school career. At the same time, we also encourage Dual Enrollment as another option to earn college credit. For many students, AP and Dual Enrollment are both good options at some point in their high school career.

Our recommendation is whenever a student is ready for AP during their academic career, they should start with one course and then normally add one additional course the following year based upon their growth and development. Balance is important, and adding too many AP courses at once can be detrimental overall.

One of the fantastic benefits in Fulton County Schools is that the district pays for every AP exam that our enrolled students take. Thus, we expect all of our students to take the AP exam in May for their course. Additionally, AP students receive an additional 7 points on their passing grade for the course at the end of the semester. Thus an 80% in a course appears on the student's transcript as an 87%. Students will receive a hard copy of this year's AP bulletin in December.

## From the Counseling Department

The Chattahoochee Counseling Department is a team of School Counseling Professionals who work with students individually, in small groups, and through classroom guidance in an effort to identify and remove barriers that impede their academic success, college/carrier readiness, and emotional growth.

At Chattahoochee, we encourage direct communication between the students, parents, and teachers. The most helpful resource a parent can utilize is the Home Access Center portal, as it allows parents to monitor their student's grades, behavior, and attendance, and it provides a direct link for emailing teachers. Parents are also able to set up alerts that will notify them about low grades, missing assignments, absences, and discipline. If you still need your login information for Home Access, please stop by the Main Office with your picture ID.

### How can we help?

If you have been working with your student's teachers and would like to talk through some options for improving their academic success, here are a few things we can do to help:

- Struggling in multiple classes** - Counselors can set up a conference with the student's teachers upon parent request (one week advance notice is needed)
- Discuss future course selections** - Counselors are happy to consult with parents and students to help determine appropriate course planning
- Making up courses** - There are a number of ways that students can make up failed courses. Counselors are available to talk about the best options for your student.

Please visit the Counseling website (<http://school.fultonschools.org/hs/chattahoochee/Pages/Counseling-Department.aspx>) for additional resources related to the above topics, contact information, and so much more!



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## From the Desk of Debra Bryant Assistant Principal

The departments that I supervise are Interrelated Resources (Special Education) and English. The IRR department is dedicated to providing high quality services and supports to students with disabilities. The IRR department uses research based strategies and resources to specifically design instruction which meets the needs of students with disabilities. While this department provides differentiated instruction, they also hold high standards for all students with educational disabilities. They work tirelessly to learn how their students process and learn and are continually seeking new ways to measure mastery of content. They are innovative and understand that students with disabilities don't always learn at the same pace in the same way. They understand what students know can't always be measured by a paper and pencil test.

In addition to meeting the educational needs of students, they work to meet the emotional needs of their students as well. This department knows that sometimes, the most important thing to focus on when a student is in distress is their emotional well-being and not last night's homework. They balance growing the mind with growing the heart.

Our English department has a heavy load. The importance of teaching critical thinking, questioning, writing and making connections that extend beyond the classroom impacts every other content area at Chattahoochee. They build the foundational skills needed for students to ask probing questions in science as well as connect deep understandings of literature from a certain point in time to historical events in social studies. Increasing student literacy, the ability to read and think and synthesize, has

far reaching impact in all other classes.

Our English department continually finds innovative ways to give students choice and voice. They find multiple ways to measure student knowledge through projects, podcasts, producing videos, digital storyboards, writing and performing songs based on books. This department knows that providing an insight into the human experience through the study of literature, our students will have richer lives and a broader perspective in which to view the world around them.

One of my other primary responsibilities is the coordination of End of Course testing. It is a daunting task but one that I enjoy...once it's over successfully. December and April are the busiest months for me preparing for testing and making sure each student's EOC experience goes smoothly. From building testing rosters, planning a testing schedule, training teachers, and checking technology, it takes quite a team. Margaret Garth is my assistant test coordinator and I also have Tamara Pobee, our technology specialist, to help. Last year alone, we gave over 3,700 individual EOC tests. To help organize information for teachers, parents, and students, I developed the Hooch Testing website [www.hoochtestinglocker.weebly.com](http://www.hoochtestinglocker.weebly.com). There you can find everything you need to know about EOC testing AND College Board AP testing.

Lastly, I serve our parents as well as your children. I am a listening ear and a liaison between home and school. I wipe tears, discipline your children with compassion when needed, and advocate when they can't advocate for themselves. I love my job and I love Chattahoochee!

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## From the Desk of Camille Christopher

### Assistant Principal

This is my ninth year as an Assistant Principal at Chattahoochee High School and my 21st year in Fulton County Schools. My student caseload consists of student last names that begin with letters M-R. This year, I work closely with three departments: Counseling, Career Tech, and Social Studies. In addition to supporting these departments, I want to highlight a couple of my focus areas.

### Master Scheduling

As the Curriculum Assistant Principal, I am responsible for creating our master schedule. I work closely with our counselors on our master schedule and registration activities which will begin in January. The process for selecting courses is something that involves ALL stakeholders (teachers, students, parents, counselors and administrators). This process is very important, as course requests are what drives our staffing and master schedule.

In January, our teachers will begin to make course recommendations for our students. This will involve reviewing 1st semester grades, course prerequisites, standardized test scores, work ethic, and motivation. Teachers will meet with students individually about their initial course recommendations during this time.

Once all course recommendations have been entered, students will receive their first course verifications around mid-February. This is a great time to discuss the course recommendations and elective choices with your child. When helping your child choose courses, consider his or her strengths, weaknesses, and interests. Balance is also important to consider when selecting courses, especially if he or she is involved in extracurricular activities.

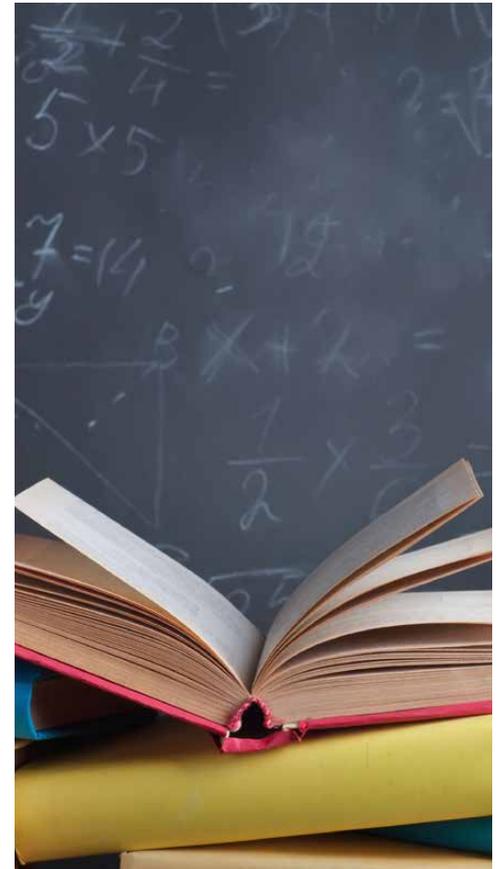
There will be more information communicated as we approach the verification process. Remember: if you ever have questions regarding course placement, the first person to contact is always the teacher.

### Personalized Learning

I have had the pleasure of working with our school's Personalized Learning Team. We began our personalized learning journey in 2015 when our team determined which principles would best meet the needs of our students. Our personalized learning principles are: **Just-in-time Direct Instruction, Choice for Demonstrating Learning, Choice and Voice, and Varied Strategies.** Personalized learning provides teachers the opportunity to better meet the needs of the students, utilize technology to enhance learning, and to use a variety of teacher-led instruction, student-centered and collaborative instruction, as well as online instruction.

During the 2015-2016 school year, the team was closely involved in the device selection process which, as you know, ended up being the Microsoft Surface. This is the 2nd year that our students have received devices, and the teachers and students are loving it! The devices have helped our students access various online resources both in and out of the classroom. The devices have allowed our teachers to be more efficient and effective and to better meet the personalized learning needs of our students.

You can learn more about personalized learning in Fulton County via the district website - [www.fultonschools.org](http://www.fultonschools.org) - and the link is located under **Quicklinks.**



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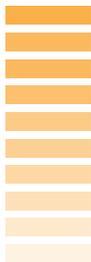
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**Dr. Iryna Yelissety, DMD**





# HAPPENINGS



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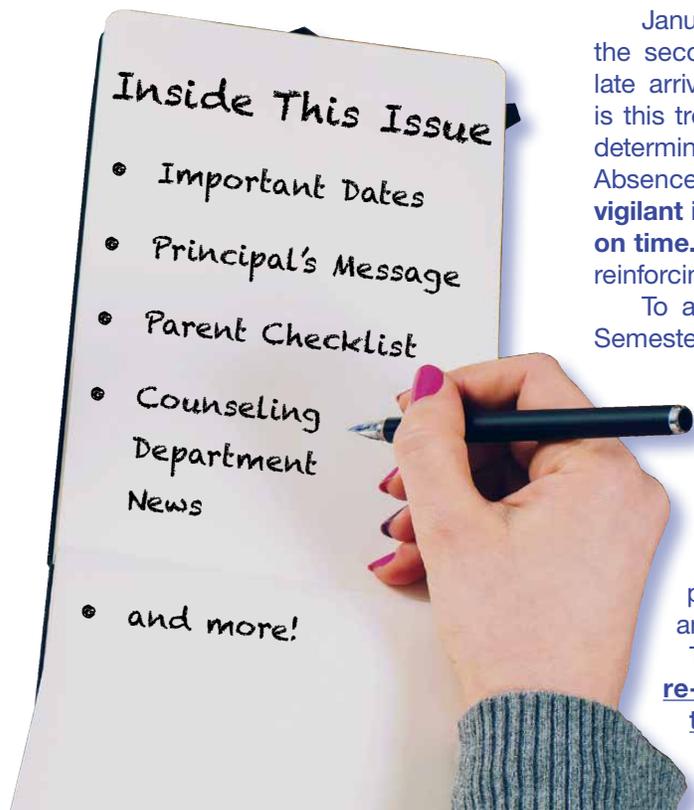
## Second Semester

January marks the beginning of our second semester. Each year during the second semester, all schools experience an increase in absences and late arrivals and a gradual decline in academic performance. So prevalent is this trend, it has been referred to as the "Second Semester Slide." We are determined to improve this trend and **you as parents** can play a major role. Absences and tardiness are two main reasons that grades decline. **Please be vigilant in making sure your student attends school every day and arrives on time.** Your attention to this issue will have a positive effect on your student, reinforcing the importance you place on attendance.

To assure continued academic success and not fall victim to "Second Semester Slide", **re-establish your student's homework and study routine.**

**Help him/her to reclaim the space and time meant for this important purpose.** Determine if any supplies or devices are needed. They make great holiday gifts. Also, **monitor your student's grades, attendance, and classwork by utilizing Home Access Center.** Learn what tutoring and support opportunities are available here at school to improve results. Again, your attention to your student's school work will have a tremendous positive effect. When students are prepared for class each day, they will attend each day, arrive on time, and perform with confidence.

These efforts - **staying informed about your student's progress, re-establishing a solid home-study routine, and making certain that your student attends every day and arrives on time** - will have an enormous positive result and help us all overcome "Second Semester Slide."



**Dedicated to Learning and Committed to Excellence**