

# Fort Hayes Opus

Volume 7 Issue 7 March 2025 Yearlong

*The mission of Fort Hayes is to create expectations of excellence within students through challenging and collaborative learning by blending the arts, academic and career programs.*



Students have begun playing chess during lunches. Not only playing but also observing, learning and teaching their peers to play.

**Main Number (614) 365-6681**

## **High School Office**

**7:00 am – 3:30 pm**

<https://www.ccsok.us/FortHayesHS>

Office 380-977-5640

[forhayeshs@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:forhayeshs@columbus.k12.oh.us)

Attendance 380-977-6024

[attendance.fhsarts@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:attendance.fhsarts@columbus.k12.oh.us)

### School Counselors:

Gillman: class of '27 & class of '25 (O-Z)  
380-997-6186

Palmer: class of '26 & class of '25 (G-N)  
380-997-5395

Plesea: class of '28 & class of '25 (A-F)  
380-997-3410

## **Career Center Office**

**7:00 am – 3:30 pm**

<https://www.ccsok.us/FortHayesCC>

Office 380-977-6050

[fhcc@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:fhcc@columbus.k12.oh.us)

Attendance 380-977-6139

[attendance.ffccc@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:attendance.ffccc@columbus.k12.oh.us)

### School Counselors:

Bryant: Health and Construction Arts  
380-977-4890

Matunas: Visual and Performing Arts and  
Automotive Technology  
380-977-6052

## Main Offices

High School in Building 101

Career Center in CAATC & Health



## *Career Center Highlight:*

### *Columbus Zoo offering hands-on experience for Students*

Some Columbus City Schools students are getting a unique hands-on experience through a partnership with the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

It takes hundreds of people to make the zoo runs smoothly and these students have been getting a behind-the-scenes look. Many students at Fort Hayes Career Center are focused on skilled trades, like carpentry and electrical maintenance. Some people may not realize it, but the Columbus Zoo relies on trade workers to keep up with the zoo, which is how this partnership came about. Animal caretakers and seasonal workers are essential, but the zoo also requires a lot of upkeep.

"It's basically a small city," the zoo's schools educator Eli de Nijs said. "We have one of the largest zoos in North America and so being able to tell students that there's jobs other than zookeepers is a huge thing."

The partnership between Columbus City Schools and the zoo allows seven students to get hands-on experiences in skills like HVAC, carpentry, landscaping, plumbing and electrical maintenance. "They've told me that they're getting really great hands-on experiences and learning a lot of things that they're not necessarily learning in the classroom which is great for their future and I think makes a very strong partnership for the program," de Nijs said.

The seven Columbus City Schools students are working at the Columbus Zoo until March 10, but they have the opportunity to extend the internship through the rest of the semester. The partnership is a pilot program at this point, but the zoo and the school district said the goal is to keep it going long term.



## Finishing High School Strong: 5 Remedies for Senioritis

by: John Montesi

It may not be in medical dictionaries (yet), but senioritis is a well-known affliction that affects thousands of high schoolers across the country, starting right around now. It's so pervasive that Microsoft Word recognizes it as a word and informal polling shows that most everyone knows what it is. But not everyone knows good remedies for senioritis—and overcoming it is an important part of preparing for college.

Don't worry, we've got you covered. Here are five effective ways to address a serious case of senioritis.

### 1. Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

It might seem like you're in the clear now that you've submitted your college applications (you have done that, haven't you?) and are starting to hear back from some schools. But don't forget, acceptance letters and scholarships are contingent on you graduating high school and maintaining similar grades to what you demonstrated during your previous high school years.

It's important to keep your eyes on the prize and avoid the impulse to slack off as you approach graduation day. Coordinating that epic senior prank you have in mind—or skipping every test from now till May—might sound nice, but remember who holds your diploma!

### 2. You Can Still Have Fun

One of the best remedies for senioritis is realizing that you can still have a lot of fun without completely giving up on the academic (and behavioral) standards that have gotten you this far. There may not be quite as much pressure to turn every 89 average into a 90, but colleges will want to see you finish strong, especially if you've been waitlisted or plan to apply for competitive programs after enrolling.

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## ...Remedies for Senioritis...

### 3. Shift Your Focus—but Stay Focused

One of the main causes of senioritis is the sense that you've "done all you can do" before choosing a college and heading off for freshman year in the fall. The reality is that not only do you need to maintain your grades, you also need to start considering some details about your not-so-distant future at the school of your choice.

For instance, where are you going to live? Are there additional scholarships you should apply for, or any more FAFSA forms to fill out? Have you thought about your major, and does your college require you to declare a concentration or apply to a specific school? How are you going to get there? Just because you got that acceptance letter and started wearing sweatpants to school doesn't mean you don't have any work left to do!

### 4. Make Friends with Your Teachers

Think graduating from high school means you never have to think about high school again? That's not exactly the case. Your high school teachers can be valuable sources of recommendation letters and even assistance with applications for special majors, study abroad programs, and scholarship opportunities that will arise throughout your college career. Instead of treating the second semester of your senior year of high school as a vacation, treat it as an opportunity to feel a bit less academic pressure without losing sight of the big picture. You might spend more hours working on the perfect prom-posal than you do on your homework, but that doesn't mean brownie points are worthless.

### 5. Remember, It's Not Too Late

For some students, senioritis can set in early, causing them to be blissfully unaware of important dates and events. Even if you think you missed the deadline for applying to college, many schools—including Azusa Pacific University—offer extended deadlines and alternative admissions opportunities.

College is a major stepping stone in your career and personal life, so a case of senioritis is no reason to miss out on all that an education can offer you. Identify a few sure-fire remedies and get excited about heading off to write your next chapter this fall. We promise it's worth the effort; experiencing spring break in college is a lot more fun than slacking off for one semester of high school. Just saying!



#### Teacher of the Month: Mrs. Vrancken

With 16 years of experience in Columbus City Schools, including 11 dedicated to teaching STEAM at Fort Hayes, Mrs. Vrancken is passionate about inspiring her students. A Clemson University graduate with a degree in Business and Marketing, she also holds a Master's in Education from The Ohio State University and has pursued technical training through Project Lead the Way, becoming certified to teach STEM. Her project-based learning approach encourages students to tackle real-world challenges using innovation and creativity. Mrs. Vrancken has been recognized multiple times, including receiving the Teacher's Dream Grant three times, and has partnered with local organizations like Columbus Landmarks and The Ohio State's Society of Women in Engineering to enhance her students' learning. Her classroom is known for fostering curiosity, collaboration, and problem-solving while supporting students' technical and interpersonal development. Outside of school, she enjoys outdoor activities like paddling and hiking in northern Michigan, photography, and spending time with her family. She takes pride in watching her sons compete in athletics and enjoys family camping trips. One of her greatest joys is when former students return to share their successes. Mrs. Vrancken's dedication as a mentor and advocate makes her an invaluable asset to Fort Hayes.

#### Student of the Month: Kyle Meadows

Kyle Meadows is a sophomore at Fort Hayes Arts and Academic High School, where he has spent the past two years being inspired by the amazing people and talent around him. His favorite class is Choir because of his love for singing, a passion he's had since he was five years old. Kyle has been actively involved in the school's performing arts, participating in three principal shows—twice as a performer and once as a host—and two musical reviews. He's proud of his academic achievements, earning a 4.1 GPA as a freshman and maintaining a 4.2 GPA this year, all while excelling in his vocal and musical pursuits. Although he hasn't received formal awards yet, he is hopeful for a Best Leading Actor nomination for his role as Hades in *Hadestown: Teen Edition*. Kyle is inspired by his mother and the world around him, and he balances his schoolwork with his passion for acting and singing thanks to a strong support system. One fun fact about Kyle is that he has two extra fingers, a trait that has been passed down through three generations on his mother's side. Looking to the future, Kyle dreams of becoming a successful Broadway singer and actor and plans to continue his artistic journey after high school.





## School Calendar

### Thursday, March 20

Shot Tower Gallery City Council Show: My Columbus – Professional Work and Student Show through April 15

### Friday, March 21

High School Dance Performance  
Performing Arts Auditorium 7:00 pm

### Saturday, March 22

High School Dance Performance  
Performing Arts Auditorium 7:00 pm

### Wednesday, March 26

Records Day  
(no students)

### Friday, March 28

A Celebration of the Arts and Academics and Culture of Fort Hayes  
Lincoln Theater 5:00 pm (doors open)  
Reception from 8:00 – 10:00 pm

### Saturday, April 5

Saturday School  
8:00 – 12:00 pm

Senior Fun Day  
(details to be announced)

### Wednesday, April 9

Career Center Class Meetings

### Thursday, April 10

CTE Construction Expo Career Fair

### Friday, April 11

“Hall Pass: A Musical Revue”  
Performing Arts Auditorium 7:00 pm

### Saturday, April 12

“Hall Pass: A Musical Revue”  
Performing Arts Auditorium 7:00 pm

The Fort Hayes Photography Program Presents



## Senior Year: The Final Frame

Opening Reception: 03.20.2025

Shot Tower Gallery  
546 Jack Gibbs Blvd  
Columbus, OH 43215

6-8 PM

BE EXCELLENT.  
BE THE EXCEPTION.  
**BE FORT HAYES.**

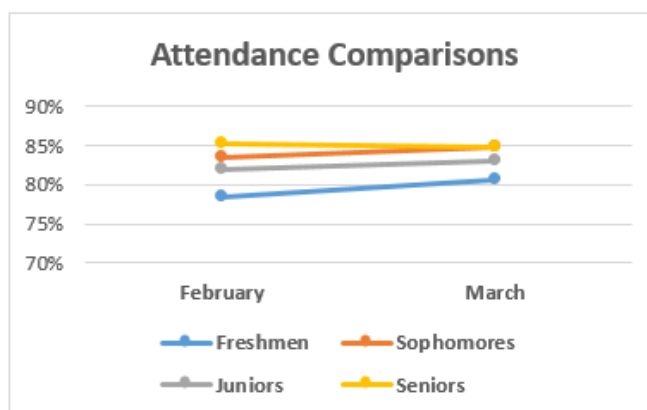
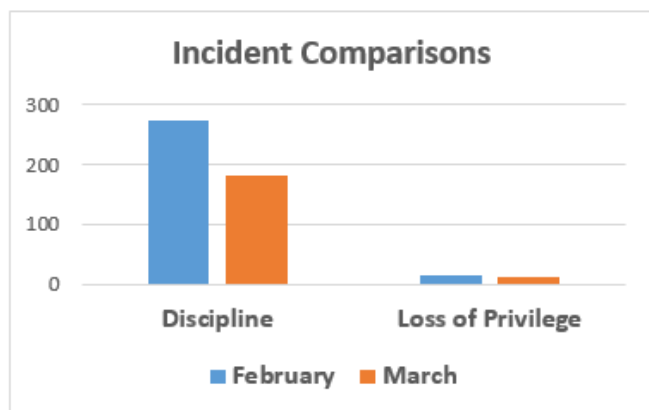
Focused  
Organized  
Resourceful  
Teachable

Hardworking  
Artistic  
Yearlong  
Engaged  
Scholarly



# Parent Page

## PBIS Trending Data



## News you Need to Know:

**Ohio SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER**

# **SPEAK UP**

## **SAVE LIVES**

By calling or texting the statewide tip line at **844-723-3764** you can anonymously report anything that is suspicious or endangering you, your friends, or your school.

**COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS**

### Anonymously Report Safety Concerns 24/7

The Safer Ohio School Tip Line is a free safety resource available to all Ohio schools. The tip line is an anonymous reporting system that accepts tips via call, text, webform, and mobile app 24 hours a day. Anyone can download the Safer Ohio School Tip Line app or use the webform.

This tip line allows students and adults to anonymously share information with school officials and law enforcement about threats to student safety. Learn more at <https://ohioschoolsafetycenter.ohio.gov/>

The Parent Portal Access email address has changed and is now:

[Parentportal@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:Parentportal@columbus.k12.oh.us)

Please email this address if you need to change your password, if you need your activation code when setting up your parent portal access, or if you have forgotten your user name and password.