

Classical High School Community Association (CHSCA) Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2026 / 5:30pm / School Library

1. **Welcome!** Jennifer Ortiz, CHSCA President

Jen started the meeting and introduced board members.

2. **Opportunities for Classical students at Brown University:** Joi-Danelle Whitehead, Assistant Dean for Equity Initiatives and University K-12 Engagement, Brown University joi-danelle.whitehead@brown.edu | <https://precollege.brown.edu/>

Ms. Whitehead introduced herself and her work connecting Brown University with Rhode Island schools. There are many many opportunities for Classical and other Providence Public School Department students at Brown. PPSD students receive full scholarships for almost all of the programs, and there is dedicated support for them on campus. Here are a few of the programs discussed:

- [Black and Indigenous Histories High School Summer Institute \(BIHSI\)](#)
- [Brown Collegiate Scholars Program](#)
- [Brown Pre College](#)
- [GoGetMath](#)
- [HealthCORE, Pathways to Medicine, and other pre-med programs](#)
- [Leadership Institute](#)
- [Pre-Baccalaureate Program](#)
- [STEM for Rising 9th and 10th graders](#)

Brown draws a global community of summer students. Several parents shared that their students had great experiences at Brown summer programs.

3. **Store:** CHSCA is putting final touches on the online merch store. More details to come.

4. **Administration updates:** Brian Baldizar, Assistant Principal, brian.baldizar@ppsd.org

Mr. Baldizar provided information relating to safety at Classical, including:

- Checking security of doors
- New district security checklists
- Lockdown drills and skills

He provided information about academics, including:

- Upcoming exam schedule
- Free SAT prep through Khan Academy and College Board
- AP exams in May
- Chromebooks (Keep them charged! Return at end of senior year)

5. **Guidance presentation:** Scott Harding, Director of Counseling and Guidance, scott.harding@ppsd.org | <https://classical.providenceschools.org/guidance>

Mr. Harding gave a presentation about Guidance, including

- Introducing Guidance staff (all Providence high school grads)
- Classical as a college-prep school
- AP classes
- College applications; follow @classicaldecisions on instagram
- Importance of academic transcript and GPA
- Open doors at Guidance—students welcome
- Admissions decisions for class of '30 coming soon

6. **Teacher + staff appreciation breakfast:** CHSCA Board, classicalparents@gmail.com

Donate \$: <https://tinyurl.com/3nr5zy9a>

Volunteer/donate food: <https://tinyurl.com/s753nz49>

The Teacher + Staff Appreciation Breakfast will take place Friday, February 13. CHSCA and parents will put together a delicious breakfast buffet for Classical's hardworking team. To volunteer or donate food/drink, visit the [sign-up page](#). To donate funds for coffee/pastries/paper goods, visit the [gofundme page](#).

We welcome your help!

Reach out to us at classicalparents@gmail.com.

Jen Ortiz closed the meeting at 7:00pm

Minutes prepared by Sarah Zurier, CHSCA Secretary