



# Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Gov. Christie Visits LHS to Film CNN Show

### For Immediate Release:

Gov. Chris Christie came home to Livingston High School last week to spend a morning filming an appearance on the Piers Morgan show on CNN and reminiscing about his days in Livingston.

Christie, who graduated LHS in 1980, was class president all four years he attended Livingston High School and also served as catcher when the baseball team won the State Championship in 1980.

Don Schwartz, the Governor's photography teacher and mentor, greeted Christie when he arrived and also talked to him about his sports career in Livingston later when they walked down the hallway of Livingston High School's Fitness and Wellness center. "What a thrill and honor for a teacher to see a former student excel and become the Governor of the State of New Jersey," said Schwartz, who retired from teaching in 1999 and is a sports photographer for the West Essex Tribune. "It seems like yesterday that you were here. It is a proud moment for Livingston to have one of its' own become Governor."

"Welcome to your old high school gym," Piers Morgan greeted Christie as he walked in and sat down for the interview.

Morgan asked Christie about everything from "his slightly intimidating reputation" to his views on gay marriage and abortion, his recent helicopter ride to his son's baseball game, his weight and his position on a possible run for the presidency. He asked him several times if he had "any skeletons in his closet."

Before his interview in the gym, Christie also greeted junior Jessica Chu, who created the chalk drawing of a Lancer for the taping of the show. Her drawing was featured on a background blackboard throughout the interview. "I feel honored," said Jessica of her opportunity to draw a Lancer for the Governor and have her art work featured on national television. "I am really happy to get this chance. It's like 'wow,' I get to meet the Governor."

Teacher Steve Safran was excited to have the Governor and Piers Morgan visit his AP Government class. "Having the Governor show up is much more interesting than anything I can do."

"Uh oh, I am back," Christie laughed as he walked into the classroom. "Everybody, how are you doing?"

Students asked Christie about school funding and his plans for the future and expressed concerns about the lack of jobs for young people.

"Do you think he's the guy to get Americans back to work?" Morgan asked the students. "Can we start a presidential chant?"

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Christie told the students how he enjoyed studying history in school, but was not a big fan of math or science. "This school gave me incredible confidence," he told the students.

Throughout the interview at the school, Morgan kept returning to the question about Christie making a bid for the presidency to which Christie replied "I do not feel like I am ready to be president," explaining that when he is ready, he will "get a feeling inside."

"You should be about to say to yourself 'I know I am ready and I hope I can win,'" Christie said.

One student asked Christie about his opinion of President Obama. "I like the president personally," Christie said. "I don't agree philosophically on his approach."

Before heading off in the entourage of black sedans and sport utility vehicles, Morgan and Christie said goodbye to the high school office staff and principals and walked out to the baseball field on the oval where Christie used to play. After his visit to the high school, Christie and the CNN television crew visited the Ritz Diner and then went to his home in Mendham to continue the interview.

The interview will be broadcast on the Piers Morgan show on CNN Wednesday at 9 p.m. and rebroadcast at midnight.

**For information, contact Allison Freeman, Interim Manager of Communications and Community Outreach, at (973) 535-8000 ext. 8036 or [AFreeman@Livingston.org](mailto:AFreeman@Livingston.org).**