

HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL
A Recognized New York State Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
A Bill and Melinda Gates Small Learning Communities Demonstration Site
National School Change Award Winner
An Educational Partner with New Visions for Public Schools
160-05 Highland Avenue
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718-658-5407
David T. Morrison, Principal

www.hillcrestweb.com

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Leslie Brunson, P.T.A. President

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From the Principal's Desk



Dear Parents:

Well summer is nearly over; where does the time go. For all who are already part of the Hillcrest community, welcome back; and to the new students, welcome to the wonderful community of Hillcrest High School, I can't wait to meet you! The theme for this school year is **"Your Future is Now!"**

Since 2006 Hillcrest High School has provided all students a "home" in one of our nine, themed based, Small Learning Communities. We continue to provide our students with a wealth of activities, teams, clubs, internships, electives, Advanced Placement courses, College courses, and more. We pride ourselves on the relationships that are formed between the students, parents and staff.

Our results from 2016-2017 continue to be among some of the best in the city, with nearly 80% of our students graduating within four years and over 95% of the students enrolled in college.

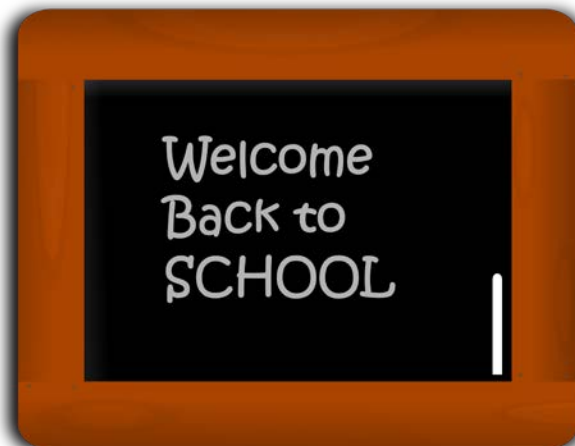
I am requesting that you make a commitment to be involved in Hillcrest this year, either by attending PTA meetings or making financial contributions to our PTA. We, and more importantly, your children need you to be involved.

Well, let's start what will hopefully be our best year ever. I look forward to meeting many of you personally in the upcoming weeks.

Remember to email me at dmorris4@schools.nyc.gov if you have any questions or comments.

Yours truly,

David T. Morrison





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Parent Coordinator 1161

Deborah Ziozis
A.P. Organization

As we approach the end of summer and the beginning of fall, please take some time to prepare for the upcoming school year and consider how you can help make it a successful year for your child.

Breakfast/Lunch Program

Has your child submitted a lunch application? We urge you to submit a lunch application to ensure on-going education benefits for our students. Due to the submission of lunch applications, we are a Title 1 school. Through Title 1 funding, we can afford our students many avenues to enhance their education. **Applications must be submitted yearly.** As of July 1, 2017, the online School Meals Application for 2017-2018 school year opened. Please apply now!

Your children may qualify for free meals. To apply for free and reduced-price, parents have access to the **ONLINE SCHOOLFOOD Application**. If you apply online, please bring us a copy of your confirmation page for our school records. The online application will take 24 hours to process whereas the paper application will take 3-4 weeks to process. The website for the **ONLINE SCHOOLFOOD APPLICATION** is **www.nyc.applyforlunch.com**

If you need assistance or have questions, please call the **School Food Help Desk (877) 363-6325**.

If your child is eligible for free lunch, you can also receive the following financial benefits:

Two Waivers for SAT I Exams, SAT Score Reports, 6 SAT Subject Tests, Free SAT Prep Courses, College application fee waivers for over 300 Participating Colleges, SUNY Applications, NCAA Clearinghouse Application Fee, and AP Examinations.

That is a potential opportunity to save thousands of dollars in fees.

We are looking forward to a productive **2017-2018** school year.

Although breakfast is widely regarded as the most important meal of the day, many of our students go without breakfast. Hillcrest High School distributes "Bag and Go" breakfast in the school lobby. As students enter the building, they have access to a free nutritious breakfast.

Metro Cards

Students who are eligible for full and half-fare Metro cards will pick them up at Hillcrest High School on **Wednesday, September 6, 2017 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am**. Metro-cards are extremely valuable. Please talk to your student about the importance of keeping their Metro cards in a safe place.

Parent Teacher Conference

Open School Evening will be on **Thursday, November 9, 2017** from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Open School Afternoon will be on **Friday, November 10, 2017** from 12:45 pm – 2:45 pm



**John Michalos
A.P. Pupil Personnel Services**

As the new school year begins, every student is given a fresh start. It is important that all students return to school ready to meet the challenges that lie ahead. It is essential for students to attend school on a regular basis. Students with poor attendance generally do poorly in class. Parents are encouraged to monitor their children's attendance by speaking to their children, checking notebooks and contacting the school at the first sign of a problem.

Early in the fall term, each Small Learning Community will conduct Town Hall Meetings to discuss school policies, rules and regulations, promotion and graduation requirements and other important issues. It is essential for all parents to become familiar with the Director/Guidance Counselor teams for their child's Small Learning Community. These are the people who are responsible for ensuring that your child has every opportunity to succeed in high school. The following is a list of each Small Learning Community Team:

- The Academy of Media, Arts and Music
Ms. Stella Boghosian, Director (ext. 3806)
Ms. Regine Dejean, Guidance Counselor (ext. 3780)
- Pre-Med
Ms. Nelcia Skobelsky, Director (ext. 3881)
Mr. Claude Ertel, Guidance Counselor (ext. 3871)
- Teachers of Tomorrow
Ms. Jessica Miller, Director (ext. 3340)
Ms. Aarti Bhanot, Guidance Counselor (ext. 3342)
- Health Sciences
Ms. Gloria Zotti-Meltzer, Director (ext. 3620)
Ms. Cassandra Johnson, Guidance Counselor (ext.3512)
- Theatre
Ms. Adia Barboza, Director (ext. 2081)
Ms. Audra Manganiello, Guidance Counselor (ext. 2011)
- Public Service and Law
Ms. Salima Khan, Director (ext.4306)
Ms. Jaime Olechowski, Guidance Counselor (ext.4650)
- Biz-Tek
Ms. Catherine Romero, Director (ext.2808)
Mr. Anthony Rico, Guidance Counselor (ext. 2880)
- Global Citizens
Ms. Sally Mussafi, Director (ext. 4803)
Ms. Judy Cancel-Valerio, Guidance Counselor (ext. 4421)
Ms. Humaira Abbasi, Guidance Counselor (ext. 4420)
- iLearn Academy
Ms. Ena Baxter, Director (ext. 2530)

The guidance department is here to help you and your child. It is the beginning of a new school year filled with wonderful opportunities. We hope this will be a successful year for your child. As always, you may contact us at 718-658-5407 ext.1120 to discuss any guidance concerns. You may also contact our Parent Coordinator, Ms. Bilquees Akhtar at extension 1161.



Jose Rios
A.P. Mathematics

This is my seventh year as the Assistant Principal for Mathematics and I continue to be excited about new initiatives that I trust will result in even stronger mathematics achievement this year.

This year's math classes will build off last year's momentum and continue to push for more identification and assessment of key and "big" ideas, more technology use in the classroom, more access for students to external resources, increased focus on assessment and practice through Castle Learning, on-line access to textbooks, and more familiarity with and use of graphing calculators by students. Most significantly, though, is the continued role out and implementation of the Algebra I Common Core Standards and Curriculum for incoming 9th graders, Common Core Geometry for 10th graders, and Common Core Algebra 2 for 11th graders.

We will continue our partnership with New Visions to further implement curricula that will assist us, as a department, in better assessing our students, and better aligning what we teach with data of student performance. This latter action will allow us to more directly assist our students in areas where they may struggle, while also allowing us to use data on student strengths in the classroom. Our experiences over the past four years have allowed us to re-focus curriculum based on commonly tested themes. Students should expect to see this in weekly or monthly themes that stress big ideas to be learned, and expect to see these ideas assessed thoroughly in math classes. These practices are the basis of our Math Department teaching philosophy, and will still be in place even as New York State re-evaluates the Common Core Learning Standards.

The Common Core Standards for Algebra I, Geometry and Trigonometry have heavily streamlined the traditional math curriculum, while at the same time requiring much more thought, justification and explanation by student. Each Unit of study will provide numerous opportunities for student and group collaboration, exit tickets to provide immediate assessment opportunities on lessons, and problem sets that provide homework and additional opportunities to better master the standards. Learning across modules will be encouraged and expected. The larger picture of this effort will focus on students' ability to make connections across units in mathematics, and to additionally make connections to mathematics in other subjects such as science and social studies. The long-term payoffs of such efforts should result in higher levels of college readiness by our students.

As always, I am open to suggestions and comments. Please feel free to contact me at: jrios7@schools.nyc.gov or jrios7@hillcresths.org

Have a wonderful school year.



Eliot Finkelstein, A.P.
Security & Student Life

Hillcrest H.S. students have both the rights and responsibilities that will provide a safe and secure surrounding in which to learn and in which all people are treated with respect and courtesy. We are committed to working with staff, students, parents and community organizations for this purpose. School rules and regulations have been developed to ensure that the rights of everyone are protected. Students have received information specifically outlining their "Rights and Responsibilities." Please review it and discuss it with your child. It is inappropriate for students to have large sums of money or wear expensive jewelry to school. We do not have all day storage lockers

for outer wear; therefore we recommend that students do not wear very expensive coats to school. The school day consists of four regular entry periods. Students must arrive at the following times as they will not be allowed to interfere with ongoing instruction if late.

Period	Arrival Time	Entry Closes
1	7:20 A.M.	8:20 A.M.
2	8:30 A.M.	9:00 A.M.
3	9:15 A.M.	9:45 A.M.

Detention will be given for students arriving after last entry. We require our students to follow all rules and regulations. Beepers/Cellular phones and unauthorized electronic equipment and potentially dangerous items are not permitted in school and will be confiscated. A dress code is in effect. A copy of the dress code is available from the Dean's office. Students are required to follow all rules and regulations:

- No hats may be worn in classrooms/offices/auditorium presentations.
- No "doo" rags/stocking caps/neck beads may be worn anywhere in the building.
- Cellular phones and all electronic devices must remain in the **off position at all times. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the confiscation of the device.**

We are a zero-tolerance school. We will suspend and/or arrest any person violating the law, Chancellor's regulations, and/or city-wide code of conduct. We strive to keep Hillcrest High School a safe and secure environment so that teaching and learning can thrive. We need your support and cooperation.



Justin A. Follyga, A.P.
 Foreign Language
 Arts/Music/Theatre/Business

Each and every student at Hillcrest will receive instructions in foreign languages at his/her assigned small learning community. We are offering Spanish levels 1, 2, 3, & 4; French levels 1, 2, 3 & 4. We will discontinue to offer Latin for the freshman Pre-Med and Humanities students and students who are willing to take Latin will have a chance to take as an elective after they have completed the three-year sequence in French or Spanish.

As always, the Foreign Language/Arts/Music/Theatre/Business teachers will continue to dedicate themselves to our students by providing them with a quality education that would prepare each and every one of them to compete in today's global economy.



Amar Nepal
A.P. Data Analyst

As the summer winds down, we hope you and your child had some quality time to re-charge. We have been working hard all summer to meet with success this school year. We welcome our new students and welcome back returning students.

We hope you are taking advantage of Pupil Path. The Pupil Path online portal is located at www.PupilPath.com. You can easily access your child's academic, exam, and attendance history all in one place. This portal will give you information on a variety of information on your child's progress. You will be able to monitor your child's attendance, Regent scores, and check their class grades to monitor their progress. If you need assistance in logging on please contact your child's guidance counselor or my office.

Our data shows the high quality of teaching and learning that occurs at our school. We pride ourselves in having the finest certified teachers and the best course offerings of any high school in the city. We boast one of the largest College Now program in the city. Students who enroll in these courses can gain up to 6 college credits in just one semester. The courses are all FREE and enhance your child's college application; they also may save you thousands of dollars in college tuition. York College Now courses are offered at Hillcrest High School as well as the York College Now campus. Although it is very convenient for students to take courses at the high school the college campus offers them an opportunity to get assimilated in the college environment. Research shows this increases the likelihood of student success in the first year of college. All courses are taught by highly qualified lectures hired by the college. Some of these new classes include:

Medical Anthropology is instructed by Mr. Nepal. This course explores various cultural healing methods and the actual science behind it.

Cultural Diversity is instructed by Ms. Zotti. This course explores different cultures and incorporates tolerance into every lesson. Participants carry out extensive research and report on their own cultures.

Health Professions is instructed by Mr. Brijram. Health Professions is a laboratory based course that teaches skills and techniques used by various health professions.

Nutrition is instructed by Mr. Brijram. Nutrition is a two-credit college course that covers the topics of health and the physiology of the human body.

History of the Caribbean is instructed by Ms. Khan. This course will explore the colonization and development of areas of the Caribbean region.

History 100 is instructed by Mr. Cichon. This course explores European history from the past to present.

Genetics is a course that is instructed at York College's campus. It is usually taken by upperclassmen and is a good pre-requisite for any student taking AP Biology or interested in taking advancing Biology course in college.

Sociology takes a look at different theories of society. This course takes place at the York College campus.

Psychology is an introductory course which explores the different theories of how the human mind works. This course also takes place at the York College campus. The pre-requisite for all York College Now courses requires your child to take and score 75% or higher on their English Regent. If your child meets this requirement and has an interest in taking any of these courses, they can see their guidance counselor, director, or Mr. Nepal in room 104 (or call Mr. Nepal at ext. 1042). Mr. Nepal can also be reached via email at anepal@schools.nyc.gov



**Stacie Sugarman, A.P.
Intervention Specialist Support**

On behalf of the Instructional Support Services (ISS) team I would like to encourage all students and families to begin to prepare for an exciting upcoming school year. As summer comes to a close the team at Hillcrest is already at work thinking of new and innovative ways we can ensure that all of our students are successful. We will continue to support our students who learn "differently" in the classroom by providing over 50 classes that will have two teachers in the classroom. These inclusive collaborative teaching (ICT) classes offer students the opportunity to learn the curriculum from two teachers, with a much lower student to teacher ratio than a traditional one teacher class. We have found these classes to be very successful in previous school years, and will continue to nurture the partnerships that have formed between these team teachers.

Once again, the Hillcrest community will continue to offer intervention and support for all students through programs such as Saturdays at Hillcrest, PM School, tutoring, online blended learning, and online test preparation. Please encourage your students to take advantage of all the opportunities offered in order to ensure they do their very best.

We will continue to expand our school focus this year to support students not only with their high school studies, but also to prepare and equip them with skills that will enable them to be successful in their education beyond high school. Students will have continued opportunity to work on their college skills both in their regular classes and during after school programs. There are many college level courses that students can take and earn credits for while still at Hillcrest. In addition, we will also continue to provide students with as many real-world opportunities and guide them in coming up with a transition plan for after high school. We will work with students that have IEPs throughout the school year to complete an Employability Profile and Career Plan to help better prepare them for their future beyond high school. Please make sure your child takes advantage of all the opportunities offered to them!

As the Assistant Principal Intervention Specialist, I am here to support both you and your student with all academic needs. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the support and services offered. Welcome back to a new and exciting school year!



**Tarek Ali, A.P.
Health & P.E. / Technology**

Welcome back.

Our Fall sport program started August and your support is always appreciated. The game schedule can be found by visiting the PSAL web site (www.psal.org). Click on Hillcrest High School to see the master schedule for all our sporting events. I am looking forward to seeing you during our games.

As a reminder, please make sure that your child has complied with all immunization requirements. Please understand if your child did not comply, she/he will be excluded from school to comply with New York State Health department law.



Kevin Meichsner
A.P. Social Studies

Welcome back. We in the Social Studies Department hope you're as excited about the new school year as we are, and we would like to assure you that we will do everything in our power to make this year a success for your child.

For those who have children entering high school for the first time and as a reminder to those of you more familiar with high school graduation requirements, students are required to pass four full years of Social Studies. Additionally, students must pass two Social Studies based Regents exams: the Global History Regents, taken in June of tenth grade, and the US History Regents taken in June of eleventh grade. Failure to pass either of these Regents, or any of the eight required terms, will lead to delays in graduation.

Some of our students will be interested in our Advanced Placement offerings, which grant college credit upon successful completion of the Advanced Placement exam. The Advancement Placement classes in Social Studies are World History, offered to tenth graders, and Advanced Placement US History, given to eleventh and twelfth graders. Interested students should see their guidance counselors.

The Social Studies Department also offers a variety of electives, including Introduction to Law, Criminal Law, Council for Unity and Model UN. Students may also wish to register for Criminal Justice, a Queensborough Community College course, leading to college credit, offered at Hillcrest. Students interested in any of these classes should see their counselors.

Your experience at Hillcrest will be both more enjoyable and more meaningful if you participate in some of our extracurricular programs such as Mock Trial, Moot Court, or Council for Unity. These programs allow you to apply what you are learning in the classroom to the "real world", and have fun while doing so.

Parents should be aware that all students will receive a textbook and a grading syllabus in their Social Studies class. The textbooks should be used at home for homework and studying and should be returned at the end of the school year. The syllabi detail the requirements students must meet in order to pass their Social Studies class; please ask your child to see his/her copy.

So, whether you are new to Hillcrest or a returning student, welcome to a new school year. Please do not hesitate to reach us at 718-658-6507 ext. 1162 should you have any question.



Russell Wasden
A.P. ENL (English as a New Language)

As we enter a new year as a Small Learning Community (SLC) that serves students from languages other than English, our community has learned more and more what it means to be **Global Citizens**.

We know that with continued academic success and community unity, we will accomplish our vision:

In Global Citizens, we believe all our students can become loyal to their new country while learning to be an integral part of a world community whose values include human rights, education and literacy, equal access to

information and technology, gender equality, religious tolerance, protection of law, environmental awareness, sustainable worldwide economic growth, poverty alleviation, humanitarian cooperation and assistance, and preservation of cultural diversity.

Our mission is:

In Global Citizens, we prepare our students for real-life challenges by providing them with Common Core aligned projects and lessons that are purposeful and scaffolded. In our Small Learning Community (SLC), students will acquire the critical thinking skills necessary to be successful in college, careers, and beyond. With help from their teachers and peers, our students will become self-aware, confident, and retain a sense of pride for the languages, countries, and cultures that they come from. In classes and in extracurricular activities, our students will be asked to work collaboratively and respectfully in diverse groups and teams. We will strive every day to shape our students into innovative, productive members of society, across borders and academic disciplines, all the while maintaining social order, dignity, decency and integrity.

As we bring our vision and mission to life, we will not lose any of the aspects of our community that have, over the past four years, symbolized our tremendous growth and success. Our after school and Saturday programs will continue, and we will keep trying to provide our students with meaningful opportunities for experiences and travel, in and out of the classroom.

We thank you, the parents, and all of those who go out of their way to the support Global Citizens. We know that 2017-2018 will prove to be another great year!

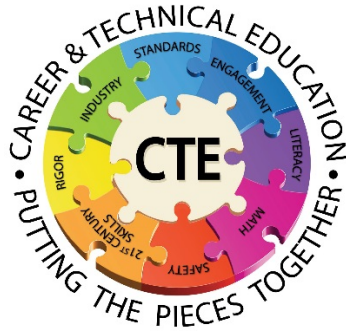
Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or questions: rwadsen@schools.nyc.gov or 718-658-5407 x 1169.



Maureen Reilly-Gaisor
A.P. Science / Health Sciences / CTE

The Science, Health Sciences and Career and Technology Education Departments are looking forward to a successful fall semester! Your child needs to pass one of the Science Regents with at least a 65: Living Environment, Earth Science, Chemistry or Physics in order to graduate. We encourage all our students to achieve an Advanced Regents Diploma, which requires them to pass the Living Environment Regents with a 65% and one other Science Regents. In order to be eligible to take a Science Regents exam, a student must complete 1200 minutes of lab seat time and write satisfactory labs, as mandated by the NYS Department of Education. Students that do not complete the lab requirement will be barred from sitting for the exam. Attending lab is critical to success in a science class! Labs are designed to promote critical thinking with hands-on opportunities for learning, and students have fun!

We offer elective science courses in: forensics, anatomy, environmental science, medical lab technology, microbiology and a new course STEM Research (STEM IS Science, Technology, Engineering and Research). These courses give students the opportunity to develop their knowledge of science. For eligible students, we have AP Sciences Courses: AP Biology and AP Environmental Science. We are working with both Queensborough Community College and CUNY York College to offer our students various STEM Programs, (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education). These programs provide students with the hands-on skills and real-world knowledge that are essential for student success and possible careers in a science field!



Our CTE (Career and Technology Education) programs are in full swing! We now have two programs, Virtual Enterprise and Nurse Assistant that are NYS CTE Approved, which means those students are eligible for NYS CTE Endorsed Diplomas. We also have a CADD/CAM Program and Computer Engineering, which are not approved at this time. These students have the opportunity to receive: an entry level certification in these fields, work with industry partners, participate in paid/unpaid internships and have advanced standing in college. These programs prepare students for both college and career!

Any questions, please feel free to contact MReilly13@schools.nyc.gov



John Binet
A.P. English

The English department welcomes back all of our readers, writers and thinkers to another exciting school year where we as a community will be investing our time in the beauty of cultivating life-long learning! I would like to challenge all parents to become our partners in education.

You can easily do this by asking your child to see their English class Syllabus and Course Overview. All English teachers will also be attaching a contract to be signed by the parent, student, and teacher to seal the deal of excellence for the school year. In this Course Overview you will get a scope and sequence of what the class will be covering throughout the year and some of the course's essential questions.

Data compiled by educational theorist says speaking to your child about content covered in school helps them become better articulators and also extends the learning beyond the classroom.

Along with receiving a syllabus you should also receive a phone call or email from an English teacher to provide you information about tutoring office hours and other important information. All English teachers will be asked to invite students to tutoring sessions when they do not meet with at least 75% skill mastery in any particular content.

We look forward to a very successful school year filled with imagination and optimal learning. Please feel free to email me at jbinet@hillcresths.org or call me at 718658-5407 ext 1163 to discuss your child's progress.



Teachers of Tomorrow Institute
Jessica Miller, Director

I want to welcome everyone to the 2017-2018 school year. I hope everyone enjoyed the summer. As we prepare for this upcoming school year, please keep in mind the importance of attendance to every class. Please make sure you are registered for Pupil Path to track your child's attendance record. Our teachers will post parental outreach, assignments, & grades through Pupil Path.

For our incoming freshman class, please make note that freshman orientation will take place on August 30th from 6 pm to 8 pm. Also, the freshman pizza social will be held on August 31st at noon on the 3rd floor cafeteria. As incoming freshman into high school, I want to stress the importance of time management & school involvement. In addition, please take advantage of our SLC's targeted tutoring program where your child can sit one on one with their teachers and receive additional academic support.

For all our sophomores & juniors, now is the time to make sure you are up to date on your credits. It will be time to take the PSAT Exams & the SAT Exams as well. It is also a good idea to attend a college fair or two to become familiar with various colleges to inquire about in the upcoming months.

For our new senior class, it is time to apply for college! Take a visit to see Ms. Conforti down in the college office if you have not done so already to discuss the college application & financial aid process. Applying for college should not be a last minute decision but an important decision that will affect your career goals for the future.

I want to wish everyone a successful school year!



Theatre Institute
Adia Barboza, Director

The Theatre Institute is fired up about the upcoming fall semester! The teachers and guidance counselor in our Small Learning Community are rested and ready to offer our students the best possible education. Our Institute will be offering tutoring and Theatre Office Hours throughout the fall to ensure that our students start the school year off right. We hope that all students take full advantage of these services.

The Thespian Counsel will be continuing its work to organize and host poetry slams and open mic nights as well as movie nights. Additionally, we will be searching for new ways to spread peace and good karma to the community through other organizations.

This fall and winter our students will be provided the opportunity to attend trips to off-Broadway and Broadway productions, including a mesmerizing Disney production and actor talk-back. Also, we will continue our work with LeAp and one of our students will have the opportunity to have his or her original one-act play produced on an off-Broadway stage.

During the upcoming months look for your children in their Senior Theatre productions or in the Junior Theatre Showcase. In an effort to give all performers time on stage, the sophomores and freshman will have a chance to shine in their own showcases in toward the end of school year! We are also excited about opening our Open Mic Nights and Talent Shows to all of the talented students at Hillcrest! Students from all SLCs are encouraged to audition for our spring musical in January. The Theatre Institute is proud to support the creativity and uniqueness of all students.

Please remember to have your child come to school each day with the proper supplies - **pens, pencils, highlighters, notebooks/binders, and folders; and don't forget their ID cards and Programs.**

We hope your child has a school year full of personal and academic growth!

Feel free to call Ms. Barboza any time or email at abarboza@hillcresths.org



BizTek Institute
Catherine Magrane-Romero, Director

It is the start of another school year and BizTek is ready to become GREATER. We welcome all of our current students back as well as the incoming freshmen. Freshmen, please feel free to pair with a current student and ask questions about our wonderful Small Learning Community (SLC). Also feel free to speak with any of our staff members here in BizTek. We are excited that you are here and chose us to share your high school experience.

Do not forget that **summer projects are due on September 29, 2017.** Projects will count towards a grade for the first marking period. Be sure to make sure you and your parents are registered for Pupil Path to ensure you receive communications from the school, guidance counselors and your SLC.

Our first fall Spirit Squad meeting will be held on September 12 at 7:30am. Join our leadership club and show your BizTek Spirit!

BizTek welcomes you to the 2017-2018 school year!



Public Service & Law
Salima Khan, Director

The Academy of Public Service & Law plans on having an exciting and challenging 2017-2018 academic year. Our teachers will continue to raise the educational standards of our students in every single subject area. Through the use of available data, these dedicated teachers will continue to change their pattern of instruction to target the academic needs of all our students and even reduce negative attitudes to school.

We would like to welcome our incoming Ninth Grade Students and Parents, with the promise that you will enjoy your four years with us and we are eager to get to know all of you. Effective communication between school and home is a high priority for all of us, so that we can cater to specific individual needs as well as ways for families to keep up-to-date on events at our institute. Your Guidance Counselor is Ms. Jamie Olechowski and the Director of the institute is Ms. Salima Khan.

Your first task is to complete a summer project which you will have to submit during the first week of school. The summer project is required of all Public Service & Law students and must be submitted to your English or Social Studies teacher during the second week of school (September 2017). The project is designed to provide you with a

portfolio that will help you get prepared for college and it will be given a grade which will be the first test grade for every subject. So, if you fail to complete the project, you will be failing the first exam for each of your class, which could lead to your failing the first Marking Period. Projects were mailed to your homes and you can also find them on the school's website www.hillcrestweb.com

We would like all students to be on track for college from the ninth grade so you will have a chance to take Honors and Law classes from September.

Welcome back to all our tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders. Congratulations to those students who completed summer internships and those who took classes at the John Jay Summer Institute during the summer vacation.

Your child will create goals at the end of each marking period, which will help develop and execute a plan on how to succeed in each class and ultimately lead to high school graduation in four years and the development of a readiness for college.

The law program will feature Mock Trial and Moot Court tournaments and a chance to take classes in Introduction to Law, Criminal Justice/Criminology, Constitutional Law, Legal Research and Legal Forensics. We will continue to offer our students internships at the High School Law Institute at Columbia and New York universities. We will be strengthening our connection with the MTA Police Explorers, the New York City Youth Department and the New York Bar Association this year.

We will continue to reward our students who do well in class by creating Honor Rolls and Perfect Attendance lists at the end of each marking period. The tradition of having Achievement Parties to honor our top achievers and those who improve consistently will continue.

We plan to continue doing rigorous outreach to parents. Hundreds of letters will be mailed and numerous phone calls will be made by our Guidance Counselor and to parents/guardians of students with truancy, tardiness, academic and behavioral issues. Progress Reports will also be sent to parents whose children have academic problems and are off-track for graduation/college.

See you all in September.



Health Sciences Institute
Gloria Zotti-Meltzer, Director

Welcome back Health Sciences! Hope all of you have been enjoying the summer and are now preparing for the beginning of school.

Health Sciences Freshmen:

Freshmen Orientation will be on August 30 from 6 to 8 PM in the Hillcrest Auditorium. Orientation is the day that gives you a real sense of what Hillcrest and Health Sciences SLC can offer you- get SLC information, meet teachers, tour the SLC and the school.

The Meet & Greet Pizza Social will be on August 31 from 12 noon to 2 PM in the 3rd floor cafeteria. Come meet and talk with fellow freshmen and Health Sciences students. Reminder - You should be working on your summer project. If you did not receive a copy in the mail, visit the Hillcrest website for more information.

Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors:

Time for you to start / continue your preparation for college. Start the school year with resolutions that will help you meet your goals for the year. Be sure to touch base with the College office (Seniors: that's ASAP for you).

We are going to have a great year in Health Sciences: we are continuing to strengthen and expand our New York State CTE certified program in Certified Nursing Assistance and we are further developing our program in Personal Trainer/ Sports Medicine. We are looking forward to exciting field trips, SLC events and of course Health Sciences Week.

Once again, welcome back! Any problems or any concerns - feel free to see me in my office (room 362) or visit our Guidance counselor, Ms. Johnson in room 358.



Pre Med Institute
Nelcia Skobelsky, Director

The PreMed Institute is committed to ensure that our students achieve a well-rounded college bound education. We provide the preparation and the inspiration for students to enter the medical field. Our curriculum content includes the following advance courses: Biology, Environmental Science, Literature, Microbiology, Foreign Languages, Calculus, History, Anatomy and so on.

To broaden their horizons; many of our students have been provided opportunities to expand their personal academic interests with a hands-on approach in software engineering, and have taken courses in law and the humanities like United Nations. In our science labs our students experience lab dissections and explore problems associated with the human anatomy via hands-on exploration.

Our mission in this PreMed Institute is to pursue a STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) pathway that would lead our students to be leaders in science and research. PreMed is affiliated with the College Now Stem Research Academy at York College. This science-inquiry based learning and science research approach is a rigorous hands-on experience that will encourage our students to experience science methodologies and practices. Students study forensic science and how it relates to environmental issues via a hands-on exploration. Our students are matched with a distinguished professor to work in a research lab in their area of interest. These select students will have the opportunity to lead discussion groups and present their research to the York faculty as well as lead their colleagues at Hillcrest with their training.

All PreMed students selected for top academic performing levels i.e. 90% and above in all subject areas will be part of an induction ceremony in June. Keep those grades up! All seniors should have their college portfolio's updated and submit all necessary paperwork to their college preferences. Please see Mr. Ertel, your guidance counselor or Ms. Skobelsky, your director. Our PreMed teachers are committed to helping you all succeed and become tomorrow's leaders.



Global Citizens
Sally Mussafi, Director

Every school year is bittersweet. Our seniors graduate and move on to other new adventures, while we welcome our incoming freshmen and other students from all over the world. Our community of dedicated staff and motivated students welcome new students and assist them in acclimating to Hillcrest High School and their new way of life here. We guide them academically, socially and emotionally to become the best they can be.

Next year, we will continue our special events and exciting trips to offer experiential opportunities for our students and to provide them with fun learning in one of the most amazing resources – New York City and beyond.

Our diversity is what makes Global Citizens an amazing place for everyone! We are looking forward to an awesome 2017-2018 school year!



Academy of Media, Arts and Music
Stella Boghosian, Director

Our SLC is structured to meet the needs and talents of our artistic and creative students while still maintaining high standards and rigor of academic achievement. Our students are taking Honor classes in English, Math, Science, History and Foreign Language, as well as over a dozen Advanced Placement courses including AP English, AP Art History, AP Biology, AP Calculus, and AP History. In addition to this rigorous slate of classes, our students are now engaged in their media, arts and music tracks that invites them to explore their own creative and artistic talents.

Our SLC community will be embarking on trips around New York City this spring. Community builders such as bowling, museum trips, a Broadway play, a potential Mets game, dances, and a picnic are being planned so that students can get college-ready experiences while bonding with peers and staff members.

One final reminder is to our parents to please check your child's progress each and every day using Pupil Path. Our teachers use the site to track student progress. If you do not know how to log into your Pupil Path account or have any questions about the site, please contact Ms. Dejean at rdejean@schools.nyc.gov or Ms. Boghosian at sboghos@hillcresths.org

iLearn Academy
Ena Baxter, Director

The iLearn Academy takes a step toward the future by providing **online courses and blended classrooms**.

In our blended classroom, our teachers use a combination of online instruction and activities coupled with in class instruction and group specific collaboration. This creates a dynamic learning environment for our students.

Certified teachers supervising **online instruction** frequently interact with, observe, and measure their students' progression through course content and provide meaningful feedback on student work. This online program provides a comprehensive, multimedia approach to instruction built to address **diverse student needs**.

iLearnNYC is a program that is enabling schools to implement online and blended learning to expand current school boundaries that limit how and when a student can learn. **iLearnNYC** empowers teachers, administrators, students and parents with digital resources, including online content, real-time data on student work, and a suite of robust educational tools. Students in **iLearnNYC** classes can get access to courses not currently offered, and accumulate credits if they are behind in school work.

The boundary of the school day can be expanded so students can complete their coursework anytime, anywhere from any computer with internet access. This helps students learn all the time, not just when they are at school.

All students doing online courses are encouraged to **complete assignments on time**. Even though this is an exciting program, it may not be a good fit for all students; so if a student is not progressing as expected with the help of teachers, they will be reassigned to complete instruction that is more suited to their needs.

College Office News

Parents, seniors will apply for college beginning October. It is very important you provide them with all of the necessary information and fees in a timely fashion so they do not fall behind in the process.

Deadlines are more important than ever! The cost of the CUNY application is currently \$65.00 and subject to an increase in the fall. Here is some information regarding the CUNY application process.

Note: the fee could be waived if you have completed your lunch forms for this academic year and your child receives free or reduced lunch. They can also benefit financially through the entire college process with a completed lunch form.

<http://www.cuny.edu/admissions/apply.html>

All Hillcrest students are encouraged to and will apply to CUNY; even if they plan to apply to SUNY, and/or private schools in the event they are not accepted or if they do not get sufficient financial aid, they will have a viable option.

For our undocumented students, we highly encourage that you contact Legal Aid or other immigration services to determine if your child qualifies for Legal Permanent Residency or Citizenship. Doing so as soon as possible will increase the chances of obtaining financial aid when the time comes:

<http://www.cuny.edu/about/resources/citizenship.html>

If your child has been granted "Deferred Action", please know this does not qualify students for financial aid. This gives the student the ability to work. Here is additional information.

<http://www.cuny.edu/about/resources/citizenship/info4noncitizens/info4undocumented/DeferredAction.html>

College Applications

There are a variety of applications and forms that need to be completed depending on where a student is applying. Your children will be given all of the information; it will be their responsibility to bring the necessary information to proceed.

CUNY - \$65.00 to apply for 6 schools

SUNY - \$50.00 per school and there are waivers available for qualifying students.

Private schools via Common Application or through the school's website – Prices vary by school and waivers may be available. * (Lunch forms MUST be completed).

College applications require:

- Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation (Amount depends on school)
- College Essay(s)/Personal Statement
- SAT or ACT Scores
- SAT Subject Test Scores (Certain schools or majors may require).
- Regent Scores
- Some schools require special financial aid forms such as the CSS Profile.
- Colleges like to see students that challenge themselves with College Now Courses, AP Courses, and are volunteering in their schools and in the community through community service hours.

***It is the student's responsibility to make sure they know all of the requirements of a particular school.**

Reminder: Regent Scores are particularly important; most 4-year colleges require 80 on the Mathematics regents and a minimum of a 75 on an English regent. If a student does not have these regent scores, they may be denied admission or be required to complete remedial courses. (Remedial courses are high school level courses that are not credit bearing and cost money).

Scholarships

Scholarships are available all year round but are also very time sensitive and require essays, letters of recommendation, transcripts, SAT scores, and other important information. The college office will send scholarships throughout the year and students are encouraged to also search for scholarships. If you do not apply, you cannot be considered for scholarships. Many scholarships require low income and/or high averages and above average SAT scores.

Financial Aid

The College Office encourages parents to complete their financial aid applications as soon as possible. Not doing so can and will delay and possibly reduce financial aid awards. The FAFSA and TAP applications are required financial aid applications and many colleges will not accept students until the applications are completed. Financial aid meetings and completion workshops will be provided. Space is limited and appointments are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. Dates: To Be Determined. Students will also have the option of completing their financial aid in school as long as they bring in the required documents/information.

Our **Annual College Fair** is scheduled for **September 19, 2017**. Please encourage your children to attend.

Financial Aid Night – Date **TBD**

For additional information, please visit the College Office tab on www.hillcrestweb.com or email Ms. Conforti at collegeoffice@hillcresths.org

**Parent Coordinator
Bilquees Akhtar**

Welcome to our freshman class of 2021 – Your Future is NOW. Parents thank you for sending your child to Hillcrest High School and being part of our family. Please stay informed and engaged by:

- o Signing-up for Pupilpath (contact me for more information)
- o Checking your email regularly
- o Getting to know your child's guidance counselor
- o Attending PTA meetings and Parent/Teacher Conferences

PTA will conduct workshops on various topics: Graduation Requirements, College Now, and other relevant topics. Every meeting has a theme and a guest speaker. It is very important to be involved in the PTA. Each meeting provides wealth of information, latest updates, chance to voice your concerns, learn about various parent and student opportunities. Monthly meetings are held on Tuesdays at 6pm.

**Parent Teacher Association
Leslie Brunson, President**

I am pleased to announce that the members of the 2017 – 2018 PTA Executive Board will be as follows:

Leslie Brunson, President
Melissa Marcus, Vice-President
Lelian Harrigan, Treasurer
Simone Brown, Secretary
Sidhartha Agicha, Corresponding Secretary

I can only accomplish ambitious goals I have set for the school year with your help. Come attend our PTA monthly meetings to assist with activities, events, family trips, and initiatives we can implement in 2017-2018. Let's work together to make our PTA more effective and engaged.

Thank you all for your support!



IMPORTANT DATES

LAST DAY OF SUMMER SCHOOL

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

REGENTS EXAMS

Wednesday, August 16, 2017 **and** Thursday, August 17, 2017

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

Wednesday, August 30, 2017 @ 6:00 P.M.

FRESHMAN PIZZA SOCIAL

Thursday, August 31, 2017 @ 12:00 Noon

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Thursday, September 7, 2017