

From the Principal's Desk



Dear Parents:

Another school year is just about coming to a close at Hillcrest High School.

Our theme this school year was "**Your Future is Now!**". As we reflect on our individual and school-wide accomplishments, 2017-2018 was a wonderful year. I personally learned a great deal during my fourth full year as principal and look forward to leading our school successfully until I retire.

Our anticipated four-year graduation rate will near 80%. This is accomplished by the strong collaboration of our students, parents, teachers, and the administration. Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

I am also very proud that over 95% of our graduates have been accepted to some of the best colleges in the nation!

I also want to thank the 2017-2018 PTA Executive Board: President Ms. Marcus, Vice President Ms. Titus, Secretary Ms. Shields, and Treasurer Ms. Sadiq. I look forward to working collaboratively next year.

During the summer, it is expected that all students will complete the Summer Projects and College Readiness tasks that will be available beginning in July on our school's website, hillcrestweb.com

For students who need additional support, summer school programs will run from July 5, 2018 – August 15, 2018. Summer School Regents exams will be on August 16, 2018 and August 17, 2018.

If you have any questions regarding summer school, please email Assistant Principal Pupil Personnel Services John Michalos at: jmichal@schools.nyc.gov

Classes for Fall 2018 will begin on September 5, 2018.

Wishing you all an adventurous sun-filled summer, and to those of you whose children are graduating Hillcrest, I hope you were happy with the education your children received. To everyone else, enjoy and see you in September.

Yours truly,

David T. Morrison



IMPORTANT REMINDER – MARK YOUR CALENDAR
PROGRAM CARDS & METRO CARDS FOR FALL 2018 SEMESTER

Tuesday, September 4, 2018 (Pickup time from 8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.)



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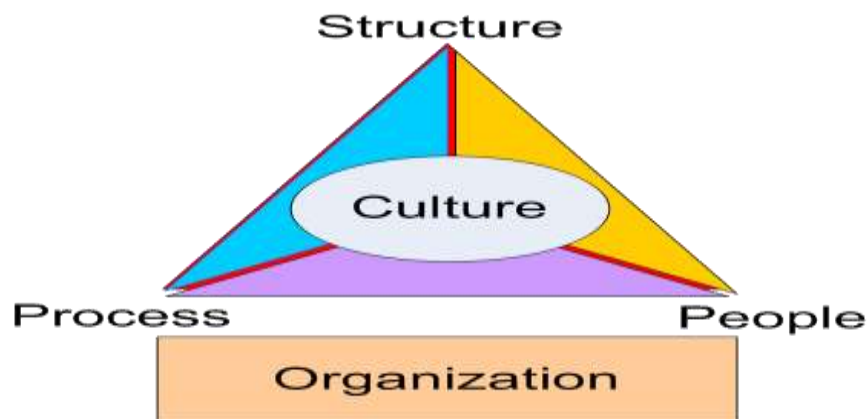
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Aralis Adames
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Administration Team



Deborah Ziozis
A.P. Organization

At the approach of summer, please take some time to reflect over the school year. We'd like you to think about the coming school year and how you can help make it a successful one for your child.

As we are all aware, children need healthy meals to learn. The Office of School Foods offers each student a healthy **free** breakfast and lunch every school day.

Family Income Inquiry Form – (Formerly known as the School Meal Application)

Have you filled out the Family Income Inquiry Form? If not, we urge you to submit your form for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year. Since **all forms must be submitted yearly**, please take a moment to **reapply**. By submitting your Family Income Inquiry Form, you are ensuring ongoing education benefits for all our students. Through the submission of this form, we were deemed a Title I School. This means we will receive funding to provide additional services to the students at Hillcrest High School for the 2018-2019 school year. You can apply as early as **July 2, 2018** at www.myschoolapps.com

If you apply online during the summer break, you will not need to submit a paper form in September of the new school year. Please bring us a copy of your confirmation page for our school records.

If you need assistance or have questions, please call the School Food Customer Information line at **(877) 363-6325**.

We hope you and your family have a restful and refreshing summer.



John Michalos
A.P. Pupil Personnel Services

As summer approaches, the guidance department is busy preparing for the Fall term. Counselors have prepared student fall programs based on third marking period grades. Students who fail classes may need to attend summer school.

Summer School begins on July 5th through August 15th (Regents Exams on August 16th and August 17th). The promotion requirements are as follows:

- 9th – 10th grade – 10 credits (including 2 English, 2 Social Studies)
- 10th – 11th grade - 20 credits (including 4 English, 4 Social Studies)
- 11th – 12th grade – 30 credits (including 6 English, 6 Social Studies)

A minimum of 44 credits and a 65 (minimum) on all five Regents exams are required to earn a Regents diploma. Students who earn a 65 or higher on an additional four, including three Mathematics exams, one additional Science and a Foreign Language (total of nine Regents exams) are eligible for an Advanced Regents Diploma. We encourage ALL of our students to strive for this distinction.

It is critical for students who receive a grade of 65 - 74 on the English Regents and/or a score of less than 70 on the Common Core Algebra Regents to retake the exams. Although 65 is the minimum requirement for a Regents endorsed diploma, most Colleges will require that any incoming freshman take Placement exams in both English and Math if they scored lower than 75 on the English Regents and lower than 70 on the Common Core Algebra Regents. We encourage all of our students to strive for the higher grade rather than have to take remedial Math and English classes in college before they can take credit bearing classes.

Remember, the remedial classes in college are **NOT** free. You have to pay and you do not earn college credit.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call your child's Guidance Counselor at 718-658- 5407.

The Guidance Department wishes everyone a happy and healthy summer.

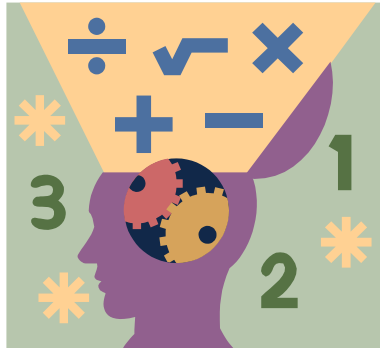


**Eliot Finkelstein, A.P.
Security & Student Life**

This school year we have made great strides in enhancing safety and security at Hillcrest High School. Many safety procedures have been revised along with the addition of state of the art scanning machines and alarm system. It is our goal to continue to provide a safe and orderly school environment and to make Hillcrest High School a wonderful place for teaching and learning. It is also our goal to maintain our status as a New York State Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and the safest large High School in Queens.

When you return for the Fall semester, keep in mind that school is also a place where students with common interests can come together and have a great time. I would like to encourage students to participate in one of our many clubs, teams, or after-school activities in the new school year. Please go to Room 332 to receive information on times, dates, and programs available.

Have a great summer.



**Jose Rios
A.P. Mathematics**

The end of the school year has arrived. This year, the Math Department continued implementation of the Common Core Algebra 1 curriculum, through two-semester, three-semester, and four-semester courses. This is the fifth year of Common Core Algebra 1 instruction and we have noticed, through internal studies, that students must understand the nature of movement in all function types, be ready to identify key points in graphs, including intercepts, roots (zeros), y intercept, and also be ready to identify constant and proportional rates of change. This examination is a more complex examination, and it requires consistent tailoring to meet the needs of our students. Different levels of exposure have proven necessary as students absorb, work, and demonstrate understanding of the challenging new curriculum. The Math Department will continue to modify our internal curriculum and continue to implement New Visions Math Curriculum in Algebra, MathBits curriculum, JMAP Sequencing, YouTube Preparation, and Big Ideas Math Curriculum in order to help our students succeed. All of these resources focus on big concepts, formative assessments, balanced assessments, essential questions, and re-engagement activities in order to continue to address the needs of our students for this examination.

Additionally, this year we changed the sequencing for students, opting to put forth instruction in Algebra 2 and Trigonometry. This move was meant to provide ongoing instruction for students in skills learned in Algebra 1. Two-semester, three-semester, and four-semester courses were created - all with a focus on a different pace to meet student needs. We will continue to refine our execution of this curriculum in order to continue to meet student needs next year. Additionally, geometry will return as the third course and regents needed to qualify for the Advanced Regents Diploma. This course, too, will be refined to make geometry a more hands-on course - with

probable use of Geometer's Sketchpad for certain students, and a renewed focus on hands-on geometry using graph paper, the distance formula, and the Pythagorean Theorem in new and creative ways to teach about parallel and perpendicular lines, and area. Use of SOHCAHTOA will also be reinforced in this course.

The challenges and initiatives are many, but our department will continue to work hard to become stronger in content; to improve instructional delivery in a way that stresses group work, discussion, and justification, and by continuing to improve in assessment practices so that we can improve student instructional outcomes in our school.

Have a nice summer, and see you in September.



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

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.

Wishing everyone a safe and fun-filled summer.



Amar Nepal
A.P. Data Analyst

As this school year ends, it is important to take some time and reflect. We thank you in assisting us with your child to achieve academic success. We hope all our returning students continue to excel in their courses and Regents Exams. If your child has not met with success in all courses or Regents, please make certain your child is registered for summer school. If you are not sure, please call us at (718) 658-5407. Studies show that students are more likely to pass Regents when the material is fresh in their minds.

As you may already know, Hillcrest has a myriad of programs that ensures that your child will achieve to the highest of his / her ability. This is due to a never-ending cycle of assessment of programs to enhance the learning of your child. These programs are constantly being monitored, tweaked, and evaluated for effectiveness.

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 the largest College Now program in the city. The College Now courses are direct indicator of the College Readiness of your child. Students can gain up to 6 college credits in just one semester. These courses are all FREE and not only do they enhance your child's college application, they may save you thousands of dollars in college tuition. We offer two types of York College Now courses, some of which students are able to attend courses right here at Hillcrest as well as some courses at the college. We want the students 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 lecturers 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 Mrs. 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 Mr. 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 looks 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**

Looking back as this school year comes to a close we have many accomplishments to be proud of. Despite all the academic obstacles students faced as well as difficult winter weather, students managed to stay on track and accomplish their goals. All of the students receiving Instructional Support Services (ISS) have worked hard to pass their classes and many attended tutoring for both Regents and Common Core exams. Classroom teachers prepared lessons to ensure that students in their classes were learning while related service providers worked hard to ensure that students are ready for June state exams. The Resource Room turned into a laboratory for Regents preparation with students using technology and preparing their own regents portfolios to monitor their progress. Counselors, Directors, and teachers met with these students to review their annual goals, complete their transition goals for next year, and review the progress they made.

Seniors in the ISS program have completed their high school studies and are now moving on to the next phase of their education. We congratulate them and wish them much success in their future endeavors! Remember, support does not end when you graduate. Please feel free to contact us if you need additional information about programs such as ACCES (formerly VESID), Co-Op Tech, QCP and Metropolitan Learning Institute.

On behalf of the ISS Department, and all of the teachers and support staff, I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. Please remember to encourage your children to read and practice the skills they have learned in this past school year. Keeping all the skills sharp that students obtained over this school year will ensure that when they return in September they are ready and eager to acquire new knowledge!



Kevin Meichsner
A.P. Social Studies

The end of the year traditionally presents us with an opportunity for reflection, and this is as true for the end of the academic year as it is for the calendar year. As we look back at the school year just ending, we can find much of which to be proud.

Throughout this year, our first and foremost goal has been to prepare our students for success, both in high school and in their lives after graduation. The Social Studies Department has worked closely with our Small Learning Communities to create new courses and strengthen already existing ones so that we may meet the needs and interests of all students. Success can be defined in many ways, but within a school setting, it includes fulfilling one's potential as both a student and a person. In the classroom, students have spent the last ten months mastering the skills and content needed to meet and exceed the state requirements for graduation. Outside the classroom, our students have been involved in numerous activities. A small sampling includes participation in the New York State Bar Association's Mock Trial Competition, induction of students into Council for Unity, and competitions at the United Nations. This year our students have excelled at these competitions, earning numerous awards in the process.

Over the summer, we would urge you to encourage your children to stay informed about current events so that they may soon begin to participate in our democracy at the local, state, and national level, as well as to continue to expand their knowledge of the world and its peoples, which continue to have such a dramatic impact on us. History does not just look at the past; it also attempts to use the past to influence the future, and our students can have a major impact.

Have a safe, enjoyable, and restful summer.



Russell Wasden
A.P. ENL

As we end this year in Global Citizens, we are joyful over the success of our students who come from all over the world and from languages other than English. Our students have seen steady increases in scholarship and Regents scores. Our students' performances on the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) have also steadily improved over the years.

Regarding our community and culture, several of our teachers, including our SLC Director Ms. Mussafi, joined with students to continue old traditions and create new ones. This year we had several award ceremonies and family activities. We continued with the publication of a literary magazine, *Journeys*, which highlighted the inner thoughts, feelings, and experiences of our unique student population, as well as showing their talents in visual arts and writing.

As we take time to celebrate these successes, we are also reflecting on the future. Once again, we are reminded of our name — *Global Citizens*. We look toward next year with much excitement and anticipation as we will explore deeply the concepts of Global Leadership and Citizenship, in and out of the classroom. Taking a cue from these ideals, we will move forward with our purpose: creating confident, caring citizens of Hillcrest High School, New York City, the United States, and the world.



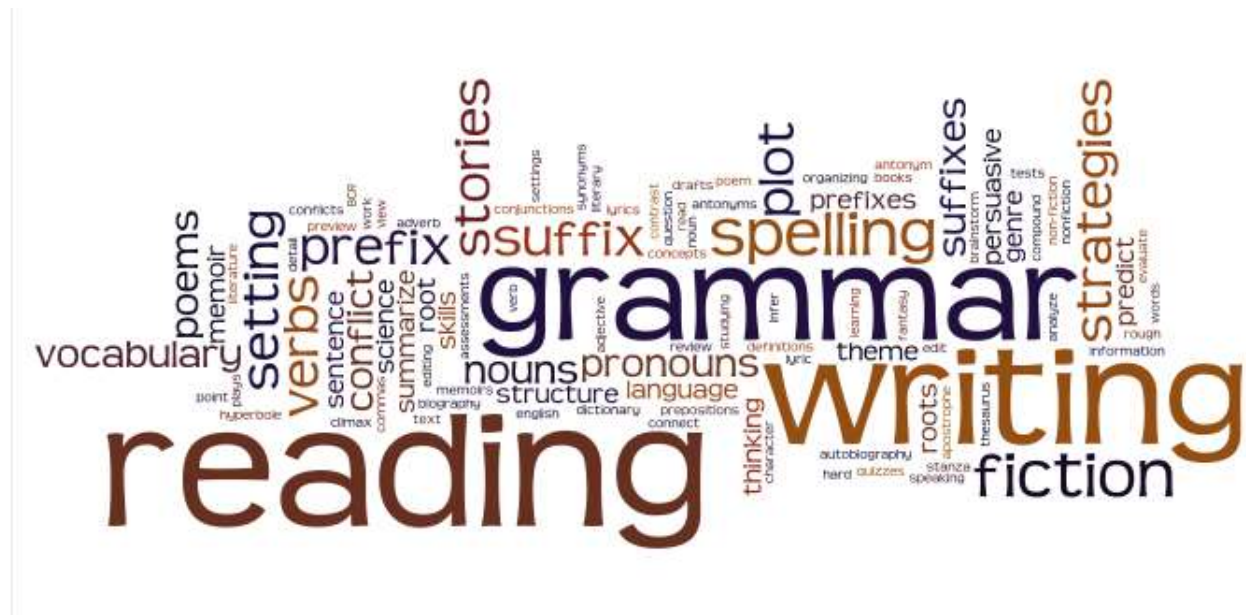
Maureen Reilly-Gaisor
A.P. Science / CTE

The Science Department wishes you all the best in the upcoming school year! Attending class is very important to achieve success in science! It is also expected that you attend the lab period as in Regents Science Classes. You cannot sit for your Regents Exam unless you meet the lab requirement of 25 labs! See your teacher for opportunities to make-up labs, if you should be absent. Attend tutoring if you are having difficulty in science. You will need to pass one Science Regents and have one year of physical science, one year of a living science and a third year of either physical or living science to graduate. To be college prepared, you should have 4 years of science. For an Advanced Regents Diploma, you need two Science Regents.

Your CTE teacher is in a unique situation to prepare you for both your college experience and your career! Take advantage of internships, job site visits and career exploration expos that come your way! You will need to complete your Employability Profile and a Career Plan, with the assistance of your teacher and update it throughout your three-year program. The skills you learn in your field will be important to your success! Skills such as being responsible, being on time, being a team player, being a good communicator, and being a good problem solver are

all important skills that a future employer will look for in order for you to get your dream job! Learn these skills now to be prepared for your amazing future!

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



John Binet
A.P. English

On behalf of the entire English department, I would like to wish the 2018 graduates much success in all future endeavors. Congratulations on a job well done.

This summer please remain proactive about setting aside time for your children to read. The best way to promote reading is by modeling and having family reading time. Go to the library together and select a book you and your child can read as a family and have book discussions weekly. With the Common Core Standards and Instructional Shifts, it is important our young readers have a more balanced literacy. Make it a goal to read one novel but also to read poetry, essays and informational articles in newspapers and journals. If you are interested in finding texts, go on to this link: <http://www.engageny.org/resource/text-list-for-p-12-ela>

You should also view the Common Core Regents side by side with your child. Have a conversation about what skills may be needed to do well in this exam. My teachers and I have discovered the importance of reading stamina as one of these skills. Ask your children how good is their reading stamina.



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

I want to thank all our athletes, coaches, and parents for well played games this season. Have a wonderful summer.

Small Learning Communities



**Teachers of Tomorrow Institute
Jessica Miller, Director**

It is that time of year where we say good bye to the Class of 2018!

On May 31, 2018, our small learning community celebrated with our students and teachers our SLC's graduating seniors. Also, on June 26, 2018, Hillcrest High School's graduation will take place at Hofstra University at 10:00 A.M.

Over the last four years, our seniors have acquired the necessary skills to prepare them to achieve success in college and the "real world". With that being said, our seniors have had the opportunity to participate in the Junior Achievement program through our SLC. Through their participation, students were able to visit a local elementary school to become "teachers for a day". This past April, our seniors had the opportunity to visit historical Philadelphia. As part of our trip, seniors visited the Liberty Bell, posed with the Rocky Statue, ran up the Rocky Steps, and enjoyed food from dozens of vendors at Reading Terminal Market.

In closing, I want to wish the Class of 2018 all the best in life. As always, may all your dreams stay big and your worries stay small.



Theatre Institute
Adia Barboza, Director

The Theatre Institute is excited for our 2018 graduates, whose college acceptance letters and scholarship notices have flooded our office! Although they will be missed, we know they are all going to make their mark on the world. The teachers in our Small Learning Community are committed to providing the best possible education to all the students in the Theatre Institute and have worked extremely hard this year to provide extra tutoring help during lunch time and after school. With the Regents approaching we hope that all students will take advantage of the extra help provided.

The Thespian Society has spent the year creating art out of our hallway. The Thespians had their Black Box Theatre debut with a production of *In the Red and Brown Water*; it was an overwhelming success!

In June, our juniors will illustrate their amazing acting abilities in the Junior Theatre Showcase, which will highlight the great work they accomplished throughout the year. In an effort to give all actors time on stage, the sophomores will have a chance to shine in their own showcase! We didn't forget about our 9th graders who participated in our Poetry Readings and Open Mic Nights to show off their talents! BRAVO to the cast and crew of *Broadway Dreams* who did an incredible job this May!

This past fall and winter, our students were given the opportunity to see off-Broadway and Broadway shows, including *The Lion King* and *Feeding the Dragon*. The Theatre Institute is looking forward to continuing its partnerships with LEAP and participating in the annual Shakespeare and August Wilson Monologue competitions.

We hope you and your child had a wonderful school year. Feel free to contact the Director Ms. Barboza anytime at abarboza@hillcresths.org



BizTek Institute
Catherine Magrane-Romero, Director

Congratulations on another great year in BizTek! We have explored career opportunities, worked together and played together. BizTek's Honor Roll hit an all-time high this year, reaching 109 one marking period! That's almost 25% of our SLC!

Goodbye to our beloved Senior Class! Our seniors are heading to colleges all over the country. Good luck to all! We will miss you!

Congratulations to Mr. Aghassi for another successful year with the Robotics Club. Participants build their own robots, learning and having fun at the same time! The club is held after school and all are welcome.

Kudos to Mr. Pepenella for the challenging Software Engineering/Cybersecurity Program. Students are learning important skills for 21st century engineering careers requiring top-notch analytical skills. Thanks, Pep!

Way to go, Ms. Wirth! Virtual Enterprise rocked the Trade Fair with Party Rockerz' "Party in a Box". VE students sold their virtual products to other virtual companies from all over the world!

BizTek held its second annual Pi Day this year. It was a great success with many BizTek students and their guests enjoying lots of food, a DJ, a PI Recitation contest, Hula Hoop contest, and a good old fashion pie in the face! Mr. Pulgar was such a great sport! Thanks to Neron Balram and friends for supplying the great music for PI Day and the Senior Celebration.

Ms. Dulaney has just completed her second year working with NASA to support a new STEM program at Hillcrest. This spring students participated in Hillcrest's 2nd annual Science Fair, many of them from Ms. Dulaney's research class. In addition, Mr. Pepenella's software engineering class participated, rounding out the sciences represented to include some of the hottest technologies. Many thanks to Ms. Skobelsky for supporting *all* Hillcrest students in the fair.

BizTek Freshmen completed the "Intro to Business and Technology" course, culminating with each student's very own personal website. The website will be used to catalog the work performed by each student over the next four years.

Watch for the fall newsletter when the BizTek "Spirit Squad" holds its first meeting in September. The Spirit Squad is responsible for organizing student events and doing service in the SLC. All grade levels are invited to participate. Meetings will be held period "0" but most communication is via email. We need newsletter contributors, photographers/historians, Student Ambassadors, outreach monitors, artists and marketing specialists.

Have a great summer everyone!



Public Service & Law
Salima Khan, Director

The Academy of Public Service & Law has had an extremely successful 2017-2018 academic year. Our teachers have significantly raised the educational standards of our students in every single subject area.

The law program was transformed this year. Two of our students Ashley Nelson and Hadja Bah were chosen to represent the United States at an International Moot Court Competition at The Hague in Holland. The US team won 2nd place. Students participated and did well in the city wide Mock Trial and Moot Court tournaments. They were specially trained by lawyers from the prestigious KL & Gates law firm who were very enthusiastic about their performances. Our valedictorian Ashley Nelson won the prestigious New York City Theodore Roosevelt Public Speaking Competition and was presented with an award of \$5,000. Another student Cenaya Davis took the third spot in the competition. Zakira Naim was a finalist in the American Bar Association High School Essay Competition. Students completed internships at the Attorney General Richard A. Brown's Office and served on his Student Advisory Council. Other students served as lawyers/judges in the Quest Youth Court and our participation in the New York City Police Department's Explorers Program @ Hillcrest has expanded considerably. We are happy to announce that two of our students attained the rank of sergeant.

As part of a CTE Law program, we offered a four-year sequence of law classes - Introduction to Law, Constitutional Law, and Criminal Justice/Criminology, Legal Research/Moot Court and Forensics. On May 1st, we celebrated International Law Day with a special program at which prominent legal professionals addressed our students. Students also participated in a Law Day Poster competition and received useful prizes. Ten of our students graduated from the High School Law Institute at Columbia and New York Universities. These students attended workshops every Saturday for two semesters and received one high school credit. Another six students graduated from the Model City Council program.

This semester ten students had the honor of being inducted into the Council for Unity International Organization as lifetime members.

We rewarded our students who did well in class. Honor Rolls and Perfect Attendance lists were generated at the end of each marking period and displayed throughout the Academy. In January 2018 and May 2018, we had Achievement Parties where we honored our top students and those who had improved considerably. Our students received trophies and Certificates of Achievement and were feted with many delicacies. On May, 8th we hosted a gala Senior Luncheon in the school's library and on June 4th our 70 graduates were addressed by Principal David Morrison at our annual SLC graduation exercises. Our Guidance Counselor Jamie Olechowski did us the honor of presenting prizes, plaques, trophies and certificates to the honorees. Our valedictorian was Ashley Nelson and our salutatorian was Tasneem Sultana. We would like to wish all our graduates success in their future lives and invite them to visit us regularly while they continue to reach for the stars.

We wish the entire Hillcrest community a safe and enjoyable summer.



**Health Sciences Institute
Gloria Zotti-Meltzer, Director**

What a great year for Health Sciences! Health Sciences students toured Queens General Hospital and visited the QCC Nursing Program. Health Sciences CTE students also presented at the UFT Spring Education Conference and the Hillcrest Science Fair. Our seniors toured Manhattan on the City Sightseeing Tour boat and our Nursing Assistant students were feted with a thank-you luncheon at the Margaret Tietz Nursing Home. This month, CNA students are successfully passing the New York State Nurse Aide Certification Exam. Health Sciences students also continued their internships at locations such as the VA Nursing Home at St. Albans, Queens.

This was the fourth year that Health Sciences celebrated Health Sciences week - May 21 - May 25. Events included: EMT CPR and Fire Safety workshops, a yoga for stress workshop, a Healthy Food and Nutrition Fair with blood pressure screenings and a positive body image board, Movie Day, a Health Sciences Scavenger Hunt, a Health Issues poster contest and the Health Sciences Senior Breakfast.

Congratulations to our Valedictorian, Joyce Jin and our Salutatorian, Amelia Barran. The Health Sciences Graduation/ Awards Ceremony was held on June 1, 2018. The Candle Lighting Ceremony for Certified Nursing Assistants was held on June 4, 2018. CNA students received their pins and certificates from Ms. Utke, Ms. Zotti, Ms Johnson and Ms Gasior.

Seniors: Hope you were successful in passing your Regents and classes and are now looking forward to celebrating Graduation and preparing for that great college experience. For those of you who did not meet your goal - there are classes this summer; Regents to pass in August and Graduation. Keep focusing on your goal; work hard and you will achieve it.

Health Sciences Students: All the teachers in our SLC wish you a great summer. Enjoy- hope to see all of you in the Fall ready to start a fresh exciting new year.

**iLearn Academy
Ena Baxter, Director**

Hillcrest High School offers online courses, often referred to as **iLearn**, to meet our diverse students' needs and to give students the opportunity to make up courses they have failed or courses that are not offered during the school term. The boundary of the school day can be expanded so students can complete their coursework anytime, anywhere from any computer with internet services.

The digital resources offered with our online courses — video and audio instruction, practice sheets, cumulative and formative assessment allow students to work at their own pace, review materials as many times as they wish until they master the content. The courses offered are Common Core aligned and consist of instructional web-based materials that are accessible in the class and at home. They also offer a variety of resources which includes text and research options for our students to explore.

We have a certified subject teacher for each course who is available throughout the day and with specific office hours for one-on-one instruction for iLearn students.

Our students, especially seniors, continue to take advantage of online courses offered at Hillcrest. They have embraced the concept of online learning and have taken charge of their own learning and success.

The commitment **"to prepare students for success in college and career by personalizing learning to meet the needs, motivations, and strengths of each student"** (iLearnNYC) mirrors the vision of Hillcrest High School. We continue to explore options that keep abreast with the digital age.

Please visit iLearnNYC on the Department of Education website or visit us at Hillcrest for more information.



**Pre Med Institute
Nelcia Skobelsky, Director**

It is that time of the year in which our PreMedical Institute celebrate its successes. First and foremost, our Principal, the PreMed teachers and I would like to congratulate our graduating Class of 2018. We are very proud of your academic and personal growth here at Hillcrest. Many of our students have been accepted to outstanding S.U.N.Y, C.U.N.Y and private four-year institutions (i.e., Cornell University, Howard University, SUNY Albany, SUNY Binghamton, Hofstra and CUNY). Recently, our PreMed students have been accepted into the McCauley Honors; an outstanding program that provides internships and research programs. In the recent past, a few of our students have also received acceptances from the Sophie B. Davis Medical 7-year B.S./M.D. program. Our top ten percent PreMed students have won academic scholarships (i.e., the New Visions, Gates Millennium, Albert Shanker College Scholarship Award, The New York Times and the list goes on). Our students aspire to be doctors and engineers and the Hillcrest staff wishes them well.

PreMed held its annual Science Fair on May 29, 2018. It was a spectacular success with over 105 participants. This herculean task was made possible by the effects of the Hillcrest Staff and student participants. Soon we will be competing at the New York City Science and Engineering Fair. Wish us Luck!

This year we celebrated our High Honor Roll ceremony in which students were rewarded certificates and medals in which they had to have at least a ninety in every subject and a minimum overall average of 92. Special invite and rewards were given to our ninth, tenth and eleventh graders with similar grades. Keep up the good work!

Our students are required to complete one hundred twenty hours (120 hrs.) of community service. This past May, a guest speaker and former Hillcrest alumni Lawrence R. Schiff, M.D. F.A.C. E.P., Chairman Emergency Medicine from Eastern Long Island Hospital presented to our students the benefits of becoming a medical doctor and volunteering in the hospital environment. Please make sure that your child has updated immunization records and that he or she submits the application to their institution's department of volunteer services. Our students will get a first-hand experience of witnessing the doctors, nurses, and other allied health professionals in their environment.

At PreMed Hillcrest we are implementing a new Science Research Course: High School Research Pathways Program in which students will focus on Hydroponics, Aquaonics and Independent Research. We will continue with our Earth Science Research Methods course under the guidance of NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Institution) and our teacher liaison and researcher Ms. Dulaney. Our selected students are required to complete an application and submit to Mr.Ertel, our guidance counselor. During the summer, students can apply for internship opportunities based on their project preference.

As the year wraps up, please make sure that your child reviews for their state exams. Results of these exams are usually found on their Pupilpath account or most likely provided on June 26th at which time they will return to school to get their report card. Please check our school's website for more information on this. During the summer, your child should be reading books, journals, periodicals that provide them with rich literature experiences to help with their continued journey for college readiness (i.e. PSAT, SAT, ACT, York College and Queensborough classes at Hillcrest).

Good luck on your Regents exams and Bon Voyage to Class of 2018! Come back and tell us about your first semester in college.

Parents see some examples of our student research and presentations:



Left (Director: Ms. Skobelsky and students)



Hillcrest Annual Science Fair May 2018, over 105 Contestants





Global Citizens
Sally Mussafi, Director

Global Citizens had an outstanding school year with many achievements and accomplishments. First, we welcomed two new teachers to our SLC family and team of teachers - Mr. Islam, bilingual Bengali history teacher and Mr. Ladja, ENL teacher, both have been wonderful additions to our awesome staff of educators.

We have so much to be proud of this school year. Our SLC continues to celebrate student achievement, teacher and student participation, good citizenship and an increase in SLC spirit. From semester to semester, we have seen an overall increase of academic achievement in our SLC Honor Roll ceremonies. When students have a *sense of belonging*, they begin to *value learning*. We had so many amazing events that supported and built our community to promote a *growth mindset* in students.

Our students come to America with many hidden talents. Those talents were revealed in our season one **Global Citizens Got Talent** show where teachers and students performed dances, sang songs in English as well as in their native languages, and played musical instruments. We even uncovered that a few of our teachers, Ms. Davar, Ms. Guha, and Ms. Reyes had hidden talents when they sang at the show.

We continue to educate our students to become ready for the future. Education takes place both inside and outside of the classroom. This year we visited Stony Brook University where students had the opportunity to tour the campus and hear presentations from students about the programs and courses that are offered there. They even had a buffet lunch at the Student Union. As a result, there has been an increase in college awareness and more students applying to college. Lastly, a group of teachers and students traveled to Washington, DC. to learn more about American History and make connections to what they are learning in their history classes.

There were so many more spectacular events that took place in our SLC – Hispanic Heritage Night, Broadway shows to *Aladdin* and *Phantom of the Opera*, Desi Night, a Volleyball tournament, Bengali New Year, Sports & Field Day, an ice cream social after the NYSESLAT, a World of Dance & Fashion Show and of course, our upcoming graduation.

Finally, our SLC leadership team took on a social action project by pledging to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Maria that devastated the people of Puerto Rico. Each \$30 donation purchased a home water purifier which provided up to 24 liters of safe water per day to a family in need. The students collected \$1,080 which gave 36 families access to clean water. We are so proud of our students who decided to give back and *pay it forward*.

There are so many remarkable things happening in Global Citizens under the leadership and guidance of our Assistant Principal, Mr. Wasden, who continues to work tirelessly to support our thriving SLC.

We wish everyone a happy summer and we look forward to an upcoming 2018-2019 school year.



Academy of Media, Arts and Music
Stella Boghosian, Director

The Academy of Media, Arts, and Music congratulates its students for another productive, successful year overall.

In Media, the members of the Model UN were once again outstanding in every meet, no less than 5, in which they participated this year, again under the tutelage of Mr. M. Jackson. Our students ranked the highest at every conference, garnered well deserved awards, and brilliantly debated in every committee they represented, continuing their path of excellence in this very worthy endeavor. Their outstanding performances are due to their unmatched persistence in preparation and practice on important world issues, their skillful expertise and uncanny debates, which have never failed to impress the judges. They are already preparing for the next conferences coming to Hillcrest in autumn.

In Journalism, the student reporters, editors, and crew worked diligently as a team in order to publish the *Highlighter* news for our Hillcrest community. Apart from writing many articles of interest for our student body, the journalists practice extensive proofreading, revisions, and edits, helping one another to produce the best article possible while our editors-in-chief work tirelessly on the layout and publishing. This year we unfortunately lost our website due to complications, but we look forward to restarting it next year with another company.

In Creative Writing, we offer kudos to Ms. E. Ruiz and her creative writing team for twice publishing their stupendous magazine, *The Notion*, full of terrific narratives and meaningful poetry, as well as beautiful, original artwork, all from her students' creative minds. Furthermore, her students in film studies gained extensive perspective on film, camera work, film genres, and so much more in this very insightful course.

For our students in the Art and Music tracks, we congratulate their efforts which culminated in the Fall and Spring Art and Music Festivals. These wonderful Hillcrest student events showcase the spectacular art pieces of students from the classes of Ms. Barnum, Ms. Nakos, and Ms. Varoski, from fabulous printmaking to impressive sculptures of endangered species, a shout of *bravo* to all!

While our remarkable musicians strive to perform music pieces ranging from classical to pop, from orchestra to band, from solos to drum squad, we gratefully acknowledge and salute our music teachers, Mr. E. Cortright, Mr. D. Tomlet, and Mr. G. Belmonte for their work with all their students and congratulate the musicians themselves who practice on their own as well as with the ensemble to bring the musical pieces to life. We applaud each and all successful students of AMAM who rose to meet every academic challenge and their responsibilities with grace and fortitude; and we praise our AMAM faculty for the hard work and professionalism they exercised throughout this past year in helping our students achieve the best results possible.

The Academy of Media, Arts, and Music held its graduation ceremony for their Seniors on June 5, 2018, in the school's cafeteria. The ceremony celebrated the achievements of all students who strived to meet goals and academic responsibilities, no matter the challenge. They were toasted with catered food and DJ music, as they were presented with the AMAM SLC diplomas and certificates of merit.

Unquestionably, under the impeccable guidance of our Guidance Counselor Ms. Regine Dejean, our students have consistently been assured of personal and academic support to help them move forward. Also, many thanks to the sincere engagement of our outstanding AMAM teachers and their collaboration with their SLC director, for having worked tirelessly and effectively as a team to provide our students optimal encouragement and assistance in helping them achieve their best, a task that never ceases.

My heartfelt gratitude goes out to each of them. Thanks to Regine, Amaryllis, Erica, Christine, Karoline, Sandy, Doreen, Nadja, Adacia, Malka, Panayiota, Malik, Paul, Christian, and Matthew.

We look forward to another highly rewarding year come September.



**College Office News
Nicole Caruso**

As the end of the academic year approaches, there are many exciting events nearing such as prom, scholarship and award ceremonies, and of course graduation; to name a few. Parents please remind your sons/daughters to tie up the loose ends. Please read through emails regarding monthly check lists and informing students in all grade levels of internship, job and summer opportunities.

Please be sure to check your Pupil Path and/or email regularly during the summer months. The College Office will email important college and scholarship related materials when necessary.

12th Graders should make sure they:

- Are up to date with all graduation requirements (credits/regents).
- Attend weekly tutoring, if regents are pending.
- Have applied for both FAFSA (federal) **www.fafsa.gov** and TAP (state) **www.hesc.org** aid if they qualify.
- Updated TAP/School Code on **www.hesc.org** after college commitment.
- Contacted their financial aid office about their financial aid status and award amount.
- Provided the information about the "EFC" on their FAFSA Confirmation email to have their CUNY deposit waived or paid their \$100.00 deposit to reserve their seat.
- Paid any other housing or pertinent college deposits and fees.
- Informed other colleges that they will not attend.
- Provided immunization form to a medical professional/physician and submitted the forms to the Health Office at your college/university.
- Taken any assessments/placements (Such as CUNY assessment/placement) exam as directed.
- Attended Orientation, followed by Advisement, and Registration. Most colleges will not allow you to register until you attend Orientation.
- Completed all other forms required by the college/university.
- Completed their College Exit Sheet for the College Office (required prior to graduation; sent to Gmail account).
- Requested to have their final transcript sent to the college they committed to. Instructions have been emailed and students can find instructions posted outside the College Office.

11th Graders should make sure they have:

- Already taken the SATs **OR** ACTs at least twice during junior year unless otherwise instructed.
- Signed up for or taken an SAT preparation course before taking another SAT/ACT.
- Completed community service hours and obtained proof.
- Identified teachers, counselors, directors, and/or employment supervisors and requested Letters of Recommendation for September/October. (College applications are due **BEFORE** Thanksgiving).
- Began writing Personal Statements/College Essays. For ideas visit:
http://www.teenink.com/college_guide/college_essays/
Essay prompts will be sent to you via Pupil Path and Gmail accounts.
- Signed up to take the October SAT for the last time during senior year.
- Attended a College Fair and visited Colleges and Universities.
- Plan financially for next year's applications and college process.
- Check Pupil Path regularly for important information from the College Office.

SAVE THE DATES – 11th and 12th Graders

- COLLEGE FAIR @ HILLCREST - Monday September 17, 2018 (11th and 12th graders)
- FINANCIAL AID NIGHT - Monday September 24, 2018 – MANDATORY for 12th grade students and a parent. Juniors are strongly encouraged to attend

10th and 9th Graders:

- Participate!! Get involved in your community during the summer months. Volunteer, work, babysit, offer help to a neighbor on a steady basis, etc. When you return to Hillcrest in September, join a club, a sport, play an instrument, join the school play, volunteer to help in an office on your free time etc. Any of these tasks will show a college you can maintain your academics while committing and contributing to society in a positive way.
- Start considering college summer programs. It's never too early to visit a campus or participate in a program at a college/university.

COLLEGE OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- The Class of 2018 collectively earned over \$2 million in institutional and private scholarships, including a full scholarship to NYU, a full scholarship to Howard University, and an acceptance to Cornell University.
- 93% of graduating seniors applied to CUNY, SUNY or private's colleges/universities.

REP VISITS

We organized representative visits from University of Buffalo, York College, Hunter College, Herkimer Community College, New York Institute of Technology, Macaulay Honors-CUNY, University of Toronto, Quinnipiac University, Manhattanville

SAT TEST PREP

We organized an eight-week SAT prep program with Catalyst Prep for current 11th graders

COLLEGE FAIR

This year we organized a very successful college fair, with a turnout of over 600 students and parents. We had a variety of CUNY's, SUNY's and private schools attend along with nonprofit organizations and career development representatives. Over 65 institutions were represented

FINANCIAL AID EVENTS

This year we organized a very successful Financial Aid Night with over 700 students and parents. We had a standing room only turnout where former College Counselor, Ms. Norma Feriz-Gordon and current College Counselor, Nicole Caruso hosted an informed presentation to two grade levels. This coming October, we welcome a representative from NYS Tuition Assistance Program to host our event. We also ran Financial Aid Completion workshops during the year after school for students to complete their applications.

Class of 2018 Commitments

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adelphi University• Clark Atlanta University• CUNY College of Staten Island• CUNY Baruch College• CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College• CUNY Brooklyn College• CUNY City College• CUNY Hostos Community College• CUNY Hunter College• CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice• CUNY Kingsborough Community College• CUNY LaGuardia Community College• CUNY Medgar Evers College• CUNY New York City College of Technology• CUNY Queensborough Community College• CUNY Queens College• CUNY York College• Hofstra University• Howard University• Molloy College• Monroe College• New York Institute of Technology• New York University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pace University• Penn State University• Siena College• St. Francis College• St. John's University• St. Joseph's College• SUNY Albany• SUNY Binghamton University• SUNY Buffalo State• SUNY Farmingdale State College• SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology• SUNY Fredonia• SUNY Old Westbury• SUNY Oneonta• SUNY Plattsburgh• SUNY Stony Brook University• SUNY Sullivan• SUNY University at Buffalo• University of Rochester• University of Southern California• Utica college• Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology• Wells college
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If you have any questions, please contact the College Office collegeoffice@hillcresths.org
Have a restful and productive summer. Looking forward to starting another year together with all grade levels.

**Parent Coordinator
Bilquees Akhtar**

Parental involvement has been tremendous this year! Title I trips were a huge success under the supervision of Title I Chair, Ms. Titus. She took parents to Gulliver's Gate, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and Liberty Science Center. All these events were FREE for families.

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, guardians, and students who attended PTA meetings; and special acknowledgment to PTA President Ms. Marcus for her great leadership. Ms. Marcus and the PTA Executive Board held many informative workshops, such as Know Your Rights, Graduation Requirements, College Now, Anti-Bullying, and Stress Management.

We had a well-attended Parents' Saturdays Academy @Hillcrest High School which ran from December 2017 to May 2018. Adult Computer Literacy was led by our wonderful teacher Mr. Pulgar. Parents gained new skills like resume uploading, web design, Excel spreadsheets, job searching engines and much more. ESL was taught by our terrific teacher Ms. Davar. Students learned basic reading, writing and life skills. They completed tasks like paying bills, drew self-portraits, and personal narratives. The most important part of engaged learning was conversational English.

Parents please make sure you stay engaged with your child during the summer. There are so many fun and educational things to do in our city, such as museums, libraries, parks, beaches, zoo, and so much more. See you in September 2018!



"The most influential of all educational factors is the conversation in a child's home." William Temple

**Parent Teacher Association
Melissa Marcus, President**

Serving on the PTA is a voluntary commitment, and one that makes a big difference in the school and in the lives of our children. When we took on this role, we knew the dedication that it took, and we were willing to step up to the challenge. The PTA works in conjunction with the Parent Coordinator and the Principal. Together we assure that any issues are addressed, and that the parents are kept informed of things going on in the school during monthly meetings. These monthly meetings also provide information from the community, local businesses, and organizations. We offer opportunities for networking and becoming more involved in your child's education. The PTA is always available and welcomes all parents to attend our meetings as we end a successful school year.

PTA Executive Board would like to wish seniors all the best for a GREAT graduation and much success for the future. This journey may have been filled with challenges and obstacles, but you overcame them and are receiving your honor.

May you continue on the path of success and remember the good times (and the bad) at Hillcrest High School. Remember the teachers, the lunches, continue to nurture the friendships that were formed. Take with you the knowledge you received and apply it to your future, whether it is college, a career, or something else. Let your light shine on and be BRIGHT!

"Go confidently in the direction of your DREAMS, live the life you've imagined".

PTA Executive Board of Hillcrest High School
Melissa Marcus, President
Lelian Harrigan, Treasurer
Milicent Shields, Secretary
Deidre Titus, Title I Parent Representative



IMPORTANT DATES

**TRANSITION REGENTS EXAM
(Global History & Geography)**

June 5, 2018

SENIOR PROM

June 8, 2018

ACT EXAM

June 9, 2018

REGENTS MARATHON

June 9, 2018 and June 10, 2018

REGENTS EXAMS

June 12, 2018; June 13, 2018; June 14, 2018; June 19, 2018; June 20, 2018

EID AL FITR (Schools Closed)

June 15, 2018

SENIOR PICNIC – Great Lawn

June 22, 2018

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

June 26, 2018

**GRADUATION
@ HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY**

June 26, 2018

FIRST DAY OF SUMMER SCHOOL

July 5, 2018

LAST DAY OF SUMMER SCHOOL

August 15, 2018

REGENTS EXAMS

August 16, 2018 and August 17, 2018

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

August 29, 2018 (6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.)

MEET & GREET PIZZA SOCIAL

August 30, 2018 (12:00 Noon)

PROGRAM CARDS & METRO CARDS FOR FALL SEMESTER

September 4, 2018 (Pickup time from 8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.)

FIRST DAY OF FALL SEMESTER

September 5, 2018