

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
Jamaica Estates, New York 11432
718-658-5407
David T. Morrison, Principal

www.hillcrestweb.com

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Melissa Marcus, P.T.A. President

AUG. / SEPT. 2019

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!

Since 2006, Hillcrest High School has provided all students a "home" in one of our 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 among the students, parents and staff.

Our results from school year 2018-2019 continue to reflect the hard work our school community does each and every day, 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 school 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



IMPORTANT REMINDER – MARK YOUR CALENDAR
PROGRAM CARDS & METRO CARDS FOR FALL 2019 SEMESTER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 (Pickup time from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.)



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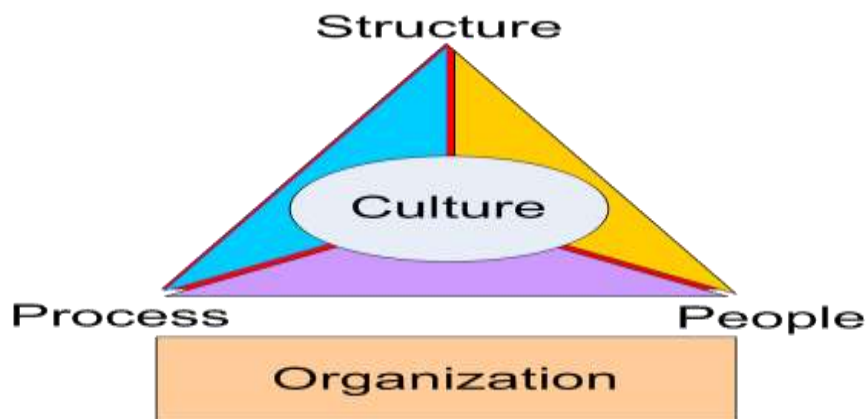
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collegeoffice@hillcresths.org 1060

Aralis Adames
Attendance Teacher 1164

Denise Montgomery
Transportation 1570

Bilquees Akhtar
Parent Coordinator 1161

Administration Team



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.

As you know, breakfast is widely regarded as the most important meal of the day. Unfortunately, many of our students go without breakfast. Hillcrest High School distributes "**Bag and Go**" breakfast in the school lobby. 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 Meals Application)

Have you submitted your Family Income Inquiry Form? Even though all students are currently receiving free breakfast and lunch, we urge you to submit this form to ensure ongoing education benefits for our students. Due to the submission of the Family Income Inquiry Form, we are a Title I school. Through the funding of Title I, we can afford our students many avenues to enhance their education.

All forms must be submitted yearly. On July 1, 2019, the online application system for the 2019-2020 school year opened. Therefore, **please apply now at: www.myschoolapps.com**

If you apply online, please bring us a copy of your confirmation page for our school records.

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

When you apply for the Family Income Inquiry Form, your child is eligible for the following financial benefits:

- 2 Waivers for SAT I Exams, SAT Score Reports, 6 SAT Subject Tests, Free SAT Prep Courses, 2 Waivers for the ACT Exam, College Application Fee Waivers for **participating** colleges, SUNY Application Fee Waivers, NCAA Clearinghouse Application Fee Waiver, and AP Examination Fee Reduction
- Potential opportunity to save thousands of dollars in fees.
- Over 300 **participating** colleges.

We are looking forward to a productive **2019-2020** school year.

Metrocards

Students who are eligible for full and half-fare metrocards will pick them up at Hillcrest High School on **Tuesday, September 3, 2019 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am**. Metrocards are extremely valuable. Please talk to your child about the importance of keeping their Metrocard in a safe place.

Parent Teacher Conference

Open School Evening will be on **Thursday, November 21, 2019** from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Open School Afternoon will be on **Friday, November 22, 2019** 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. Parents should also sign up for a Pupil Path account. This will give parents access to their children's grades, attendance, and a means to communicate with teachers.

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. Karoline Varoski, 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.



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

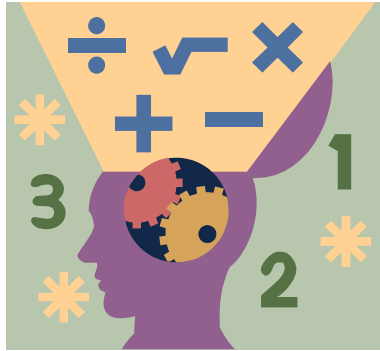
Hillcrest H.S. students have both the rights and responsibilities that will provide a safe and secure surrounding in which to learn and in which all people are treated with respect and courtesy. We are committed to working with staff, students, parents and community organizations for this purpose. School 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 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	7:30 A.M.	8:20 A.M.
2	8:30 A.M.	9:00 A.M.
3	9:30 A.M.	

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.



Jose Rios
A.P. Mathematics

I trust that you will have a pleasant beginning to the new school year. This is my ninth year as the Assistant Principal for Mathematics Department; and I continue to be excited about new initiatives that I trust will result in even stronger mathematics achievement this year.

As in prior years, 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 through our newly purchased computer cart, more access for students to external resources (such as topical review books), increased focus on assessment and practice (through Castle Learning, common assessments, and use of assessment criteria), 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 Algebra 2 for 10th graders, and Common Core Geometry 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 five 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 – and prepares for transition to the Next Generation Standards over the next few years. Additionally, for the first time ever, Math Curriculum and resources will be provided on a periodic basis for students and families to reference and use during the school year via the school website. In this way, students, parents, and teachers can know where we are heading with the curriculum, and to plan for common and periodic unit assessments.

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 provides 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.



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

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 discontinued 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 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.

We pride ourselves in having the finest certified teachers and the best course offerings of any high school in the city. We offer one of the largest College Now program in the city. The College Now courses are direct indicators of your child's College Readiness. Students can gain up to 3 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.

Spanish 101 is instructed by Mr. Pulgar. This course is an introduction to college Spanish.

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 Ms. Zotti. 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**

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 60 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!



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 or SLC Directors.

The Social Studies Department also offers a variety of electives, including Introduction to Law, Criminal Law, Council for Unity and Model U.N. 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 or SLC Directors.

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 Model U.N. 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 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 questions.



Russell Wasden
A.P. ENL

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 rigorous, standards-based 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 symbolized the growth and success of our students. Our after-school program 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 support Global Citizens. We know that 2019-2020 will prove to be another great year!

Please feel free to contact me (rwadsen@schools.nyc.gov or 718-658-5407 x 1169); our SLC Director; or our bilingual Guidance Counselors if you have any concerns or questions.



Maureen Reilly-Gaisor
A.P. Science / CTE

Welcome to the Fall Term of 2018! At Hillcrest, we have a robust science program including: Regents Sciences in Living Environment, Earth Science, Chemistry, Physics, AP Environmental Science, AP Biology, Anatomy, STEM Research Class, Forensics, and Environmental Science. I hope you have a great semester and will enjoy continued success throughout the term!

All Regents Sciences, Living Environment, Earth Science, Chemistry or Physics require you to complete **1200** minutes of lab, or you cannot take the Regents Exam in June of 2020. We do lab make-ups for Living Environment and Earth Science during Saturdays at Hillcrest or during the tutoring periods. The tutoring schedule is available on the school website: www.Hillcrestweb.com

We have five Career and Technology Educations Pathways at Hillcrest High School. Our programs include Cybersecurity Software Engineering, Computer Assisted Design/Computer Assisted Manufacturing, Virtual Enterprise, Law Academy and Nurse Assistant. The programs are embedded in one of these Small Learning Communities - Biz-Tek, Public Service & Law, or Health Sciences.

Our Hillcrest CTE students are taking their high school required classes and in addition are taking courses that are preparing them for an entry level position in a career that they have chosen as well as job seeking skills, interviewing techniques, etc. Students will be taking technical assessments that certify that students have the necessary skills to be successful in the world of work! We have built relationships with industry partners from the community that collaborate with us to be sure students are workforce ready. Our students participate in job shadowing, visiting worksites, listening to guest speakers, and paid and unpaid internships. Our Virtual Enterprise; Nurse Assistant; and CAD/CAM Programs are NYS CTE Certified and our students are eligible for the NYS CTE Endorsed Diploma.

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 it 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.

Small Learning Communities



Teachers of Tomorrow Institute
Jessica Miller, Director

Hope everyone enjoyed their summer. I want to welcome everyone to the 2019-2020 school year. 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.

As incoming freshman into high school, I want to stress the importance of time management & school involvement. As your child begins their high school journey, the Teachers of Tomorrow (TOT) team and I will ask for your assistance from time to time. As the 9th grade team of teachers comes together, we will be monitoring your child's

success and struggles and may call upon you from time to time. This may include holding an in-person meeting or holding a phone conference with you. The goal of this inquiry is to ensure that your child will succeed at Hillcrest High School.

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 PSATs & the SATs 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. Caruso 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
Karoline Varoski, Director

We're looking forward to a great start to the year! Parents and students, please remember to log onto Pupilpath and to check your updates and emails frequently - there are always great opportunities being mailed for jobs, scholarships, internships and performing arts opportunities. It is also a chance to see grades, assignments and attendance in order to keep track of your progress. If you need help setting it up or logging on, you can reach out to Ms. Varoski (x2081) or the Parent Coordinator Ms. Akhtar for Hillcrest.

Together we look forward to making the 2019-2020 school year our best yet!

Feel free to contact via email the Director Ms. Varoski anytime at kvaroski@schools.nyc.gov



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 in September 2019. Projects will count towards a grade for the first marking period. Be sure that 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 in September 2019. Join our leadership club and show your BizTek Spirit! Interested in joining our Robotics Club or after school Hack-a-Thon Coding Club? Stay tune for information about our first meetings in September 2019.

BizTek welcomes you to the 2019-2020 school year!



Public Service & Law
Salima Khan, Director

The Academy of Public Service & Law plans on having an exciting and challenging 2019-2020 academic year. Our teachers will continue to raise the educational standards of our students in every single subject area. Using 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 must 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 2019). 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 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 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 staff and students of Health Sciences Institute. Hope all of you enjoyed the summer and are now preparing for the beginning of school.

Health Sciences Freshmen: Freshmen Orientation will be on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 6 PM in the Hillcrest Auditorium. Orientation is a day that gives you get 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 and Greet Pizza Social" is on Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 12 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 do 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 continuing our program in Personal Trainer/ Sports Medicine. We are also looking forward to more exciting field trips, SLC events and of course Health Sciences Week.

Any problems or any concerns, feel free to see me in my office (room 362) or visit our great guidance counselors: Ms. Johnson in room 358 and Ms. Grullon in room 354.

**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

Hope you have enjoyed your Summer of 2019. Welcome back to our new school year 2019-2020. To begin this school year, it is important that all parents complete the school lunch form. Our school receives its funding based on this very important application. As your first priority for your child's education; we ask you to complete this form and return it to school as soon as possible. To expedite this process, you can log on to: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Home/PickDistrict> to apply for school lunch online. There is also a cell phone app that you can install to complete this process at: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application> or call 877.363.6325 if you have any difficulty. This information is kept by the Department of Education and it is private material.

You may also get a hard copy of the application to complete on **Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 6:00 pm** at our *Freshman Orientation* and **Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 12 noon** at our new students' *Meet and Greet Pizza Social*. Students report to school **Thursday, September 5, 2019**. Parents are encouraged to sign up and log on to *Pupilpath* to view your child's progress, such as their grades and attendance. You and your child will be provided with your own access code to use *Pupilpath*. If you need help with this, please contact our school for support.

Your child will be receiving a PreMed **summer project assignment** soon which will be due on **September 24th**. Please have your child submit this project which will be **graded** by their first report card. New at our PreMed Small Learning Community is **High Honor Roll**. This means that your child will be recognized for their academic excellence in which all their subjects should be in the 90's with 1 allowable exception of an 85 if necessary. All PreMed students are expected to follow a PreMed track which includes Science electives, such as Anatomy & Physiology, Microbiology or Advanced Placement classes like A.P. Biology, A.P. Calculus completion of the foreign language regents and complete 120 hours of Volunteer Hours.

Our students are interested in many clubs and events; we ask your child to let us know what club that they would like to be a part of, such as the Chemistry & Math tutoring club, robotics, chess, Anime, Science Movie Night (early Fall and late Spring), High School Science Research Club and so on. Please remember to sign their permission slips to be a part of the club. You will receive a copy of the club information in mid-September.

This fall we start our first trip to the Museum of Natural History Hayden Planetarium Space Theater and the New York Environmental Study Center DNA Analysis Lab. We will continue our STEM Earth Science Research Methods with NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Institution) in which our class will be led by our liaison Earth Science teacher. Students will be expected to complete their research projects and present their projects at the Hillcrest annual Science Fair and New York City Science and Engineering Fair. Our York College STEM students who were enrolled in the York College Toxicology class will also be presenting their research projects this spring. We will continue our Hydroponic research at the Environmental Study Center (ESC).

As you can see, PreMed has a lot to offer and we set high expectations. Any student having difficulty in a subject(s) should be attending our school wide and SLC tutoring sessions during their lunch periods. You can also contact our Small Learning Community Guidance Counselor Mr. Ertel if you need further assistance or questions you have unanswered about your child's education in our institute. Excited to see you all in a new school year!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email or call me at nskobelsky@schools.nyc.gov or 718-658-5407 Ext. 3871.



Global Citizens
Sally Mussafi, Director

We look forward to welcoming our incoming freshmen and other newly arrived students from all over the world. Our community of dedicated staff and motivated students are always available to assist new students and help them acclimate to Hillcrest High School and their new way of life in America. Everyone is a team player and is available to guide students academically, socially and emotionally to become the best they can be.

We will continue to grow as a unique Small Learning Community where we believe in **RESPECT, COMMUNICATION, EQUITY, OPPORTUNITY, and EMPOWERMENT** for all teachers and students.

Our diversity is what makes Global Citizens an amazing place for everyone! We are looking forward to an awesome 2019-2020 school year!



Academy of Media, Arts and Music
Stella Boghosian, Director

The Academy of Media, Arts, and Music awaits another successful academic year with hope and enthusiasm for the 2019-2020 school terms. The staff and its director welcome back all cohorts, and extend a hearty welcome to our incoming freshmen, which we optimistically feel will be yet another superb group of students to join our Honor's program.

As we expect and challenge each of our students to rise to their academic demands, we also look forward to the continued creative achievements from our Art and Music students, our Media writers and filmmakers, and the ever-exemplary triumphs of our Model UN students. We support all the praiseworthy productions from AMAM students in debate, creative writing, journalism, art, music, every core subject class, acceptance and engagement in every AP class, as well as all internships and College Now afternoon courses. May they all meet with academic success. We hope our students learn the value of commitment in preparing for the future through steady attendance, physical, aural, and oral participation, patience, dedication and persistence to accomplish their required tasks. True success comes quietly, one step at a time; be assured that, *slow and steady wins the race*.

Wishing all the students a great academic year!!



**College Office News
Nicole Caruso**

I hope you've had a restful yet productive summer. As we approach a new academic year, each grade level will take on new responsibilities as we gear up for college, trade school, the workforce and beyond.

Seniors will sit through college presentations in their classrooms during the month of September and will apply for college in October. It is very important you provide them with all the necessary information, documentation, and fees in a timely fashion, so they do not fall behind in the process.

Note - ALL students and parents should check their email DAILY. The College Office sends emails each day with important dates and details regarding ALL phases of the college process. Failure to check email can and will result in a student falling behind the scheduled timeline and miss hard deadlines.

Note - Family Income Inquiry Forms (a/k/a lunch forms) are still required each year for all grade levels. Submitting this form gives each student the opportunity to qualify for free SAT/ACT registration, free college applications and all college related requirements that may come with a cost. If a household does not submit a lunch form at the beginning of September, the student will NOT qualify for any fee waivers and the college process will be very costly. www.myschoolapps.com

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 inquiry 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 inquiry 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>

Advanced Placement and College Now

Qualified students are strongly encouraged to take Advanced Placement (AP) classes and/or College Now classes. **AP:** college level advanced curriculum. Registration, qualifications and a small fee are required. A student in an AP class will take an AP exam at the end of the year. Their exam score can potentially earn them college credit(s) and/or place them into a higher-level course in that subject area. This makes a transcript stand out to admissions and could potentially save student hundreds of dollars in tuition.

College Now: Actual college classes sponsored by CUNY colleges, taken at Hillcrest High School. A student can earn real college credits for free! This can potentially save students thousands of dollars in tuition and a student can potentially earn a Bachelor's Degree in less than four years (or an Associate's Degree in less than two years).

College Applications

There are a variety of applications and forms that need to be completed depending on where a student is applying. Your child will be given all 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. Cost of applications vary by school and waivers may be available.

*(Inquiry 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
- FAFSA/TAP (eligible students)
- 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 the requirements of a particular school.

Reminder: Regent Scores are particularly important; most 4-year colleges require 70 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 taxes as soon as possible. Not doing so can and will delay, financial aid applications. 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 if they bring in the required documents/information.

**Seniors will need access to their parents' 2018 TAX RETURNS
The FAFSA application goes live for submission after October 1, 2019**

12th Graders

You should return in September with a final draft of your college essay/personal statement. Your essay should be checked by an English teacher (preferably) for content and grammar. The essay is a critical part of your application and could be a deciding factor if a college is on the fence about admitting you.

If you have not done so, you should ask a junior year teacher to write you a letter of recommendation. These are necessary by October 15th for general admission applications. You may need more than one and you may need it earlier if you are applying to special programs. Be sure to identify and ask a teacher early in September if you haven't done so in June.

SAVE THE DATES

**Hillcrest Annual College Fair
Thursday, September 26, 2019**

Please encourage your children to attend. The fair is open to 11th and 12th graders.

**Financial Aid Night
Tuesday, October 8, 2019**

MANDATORY for all 12th graders and a parent/guardian. Juniors are strongly encouraged to attend as well.

Feel free to contact the College Office collegeoffice@hillcresths.org
I look forward to starting another year together with all grade levels

**Parent Coordinator
Bilquees Akhtar**

Welcome to our freshman class of 2023 and returning students! Parents thank you for sending your child to Hillcrest High School and being part of our family. Please stay informed and engaged by:

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

The PTA will conduct workshops on various topics: Graduation Requirements, College Now, Anti-Bullying, Health and Wellness, etc. 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 6 pm.

Fall 2019 Parent Teacher Conference will be held on November 21, 2019 (5:30 pm to 8:00 pm) and November 22, 2019 (12:45 pm to 2:45 pm). Spring 2020 Parent Teacher Conference will be held on March 19, 2020 (5:30 pm to 8:00 pm) and March 20, 2020 (12:45 pm to 2:45 pm). Please attend because this is your opportunity to speak to your child's teachers and learn about his/her progress.

**Parent Teacher Association
Melissa Marcus, President**

Freshmen, welcome to Hillcrest High School! Sophomores and juniors, welcome back, the journey continues. Seniors – Get ready, this is your year!

As we start another school year, the Executive Board of the PTA is gearing up for a year filled with exciting trips, successful fundraisers, and informational PTA meetings. Please remember to support your children and come out to the PTA meetings. It is important for all parents, no matter what grade your child may be in, to come out and hear from the principal, members of the community, and get information that is needed to assist your child in their success.

We welcome all ideas, suggestions, and presenters to help create a meeting filled with information, knowledge, and fun. Look for our PTA meeting dates soon, and we look forward to seeing you there.

PTA Executive Board

- Melissa Marcus, *President*
- Deidre Titus, *Vice President/Title I Representative*
- Milecent Shields, *Recording Secretary*
- Anthony Mason, *Corresponding Secretary*
- Sherifat Sadiq, *Treasurer*



IMPORTANT DATES

LAST DAY OF SUMMER SCHOOL CLASS	Thursday, August 8, 2019
AUGUST REGENTS EXAMS	Tuesday, August 13, 2019 and Wednesday, August 14, 2019
FRESHMEN ORIENTATION	Wednesday, August 28, 2019 (6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.)
MEET & GREET PIZZA SOCIAL	Thursday, August 29, 2019 (12:00 Noon)
PROGRAM CARDS & METRO CARDS DISTRIBUTION	Tuesday, September 3, 2019 (9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.)
FIRST DAY OF FALL SEMESTER	Thursday, September 5, 2019
PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE Fall 2019 Semester	Thursday, November 21, 2019 (5:30 pm to 8:00 pm) Friday, November 22, 2019 (12:45 pm to 2:45 pm)
PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE Spring 2020 Semester	Thursday, March 19, 2020 (5:30 pm to 8:00 pm) Friday, March 20, 2020 (12:45 pm to 2:45 pm)