November 2019 Principal's PTA Report
November 12th, 2019

2019-2020 Priority Statement
During the 2019-2020 school year, we will have a renewed focus on systems and structures for tracking and addressing student credit gaps, graduation plans, and strategic programming. This data will be reviewed systematically and cyclically, by a wide range of stakeholders including Counselors, Assistant Principals, Teachers, Student Government and SLC Directors. Data based decisions will be made, along with consideration of each students’ social and emotional well-being, in order to most appropriately program and support each student, thus increasing 4-year graduation rates. This information will be communicated to parents and students throughout the process.

2019-2020 Instructional Focus
Students learn best when they are able to engage their peers and solve problems collaboratively. Hillcrest educators will develop instructional strategies and discussion protocols to improve student to student discussions thus increasing equity of voice.

Principal Notes:
It has been a productive month at Hillcrest! We are in the process of finalizing our Saturday at Hillcrest Programs, After School Regents Prep Programs, and SAT prep programs. Students will be receiving letters from the counselors with the schedule for these courses, and the schedules will be sent home via Pupil Path and posted on our websites. While all of these courses are not mandated, we strongly recommend you ensure your child attends in order to be prepared for their January Regents Exam or March SAT exam.

On Friday November 8th, I invited in many local politicians, NYPD, PTA members, and the Superintendent’s Office for a Meet and Greet. The major items I discussed were the desperate need for traffic safety on Highland Ave, our technology needs, and the unusable field adjacent to the school. Everyone pledged their support, and I look forward to working with all community members in the near future to secure resources for our students and school community. Below is a photo from the event:
ENL/Global Citizens:

- Our Title III After School program has started and will continue until January Regents. This program for current and former English language learners (ELLs) provides academic support in all major subject areas. Courses are taught in Spanish, Bengali and English supports on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.
- All students must bring a signed parent permission slip. These forms are available in Global Citizens’ SLC office (Room 480), AP ENL Office (Room 487), and with every teacher who teaches in the program.
- Students who are scheduled for Regents exams in January will be automatically registered to attend the supplemental programs they need.

Mathematics:

- A Department Tutoring Schedule is being published on the website. This tutoring is available for Regents Preparation, and in-class help.
- Hillcrest Math Textbook Study Link is available on Hillcrestweb.com (For Students, Departments, Textbooks) - and will be available for student use shortly
Social Studies Department:

- On November 14th our school’s Moot Court Team will be competing at Fordham School of Law. This will be the team’s first competition of the year.
- On November 16th Hillcrest will be hosting our annual Model UN conference, HILLMUN. This event will feature over 150 students from all over the city, giving our team the chance to compete against some of the top high schools in our area.

As pictured above, on October 22nd our Council For Unity classes visited the Manhattan Supreme Court. Students had the opportunity to speak with various court staff including justices

Safety / Deans / Trips:

- All students are required to have an ID. ID cards are free in room 160
- Please remind your children that cell phones must be in the off position upon entering the school building
- If your child would like to join a club, please see Mr. Rashid in room 332

Athletic Director:

Our teams participated and won several games:

- The Girls Soccer team “Division Champion” finished their season with their record of 11-1
- The Boys Soccer team finished their playoff game with 6-3 record
- The Bowling teams established their record in the league with 6-6 record.
- The Girls Volleyball team finished their playoff game with 6-4 record.
- Girls J V Volleyball team finished their season with 2-4 record.
- The Cross-Country teams represented us Freshman Sophomore City Championships - Track & Field at Van Cortlandt Park

SLC Updates:
BizTek is proud to announce the approval of our third Career and Technical Education program! On November 6, DOE CTE Program Approval visited our Software Engineering classrooms, and interviewed the instructors, students and administration. Congratulations and thanks to Mr. Pepenella for his commitment to the program. BizTek is grateful for the support of administration, especially Mrs. Gasior!

- New Hillcrest Website coming soon courtesy of BizTek Software Engineering
- Oct 28 - Trip to Bank of America building - Engineering classes visited the Durst Corporation’s LEEDS Platinum skyscraper.
- NEW! College classes available through Vaughn College program: $200 each course. Includes Engineering Graphics, Robotics and C++
- Water Bottle fundraiser for Parent-Teacher Conferences - Buy 10 water bottle tickets for $10 and get two free
- BizTek Hoodies for sale - Deadline extended to Nov15 - check pupil path email for more information or email Ms Romero cromero@hillcresths.org.
- Hackathon Scheduled for Dec 9-12 Rm 280B; Open to all students! Students will compete in city wide coding competition. Beginners welcome.

The Theater Institute is announcing the dates of the first Thespian production “Stop Kiss” for the beginning of December. Performances will run from December 3rd to December 6th. To further expand student’s understanding of the Civil Rights Era, Mr. Farber is taking history students to see “The Great Society” at Lincoln Center on November 13th.

Teachers of Tomorrow:

- Our students have had the opportunity to apply to Read Alliance to become a tutor. We were able to place 25 students into paid positions at one of our local elementary schools.
- In addition, all of our TOT students will have the opportunity to design our SLC logo. We look forward to our future logo!

College Office: Ms. Nicole Caruso - College Counselor

- College Visits to Hillcrest: Hofstra University, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY, Onenta, New York University
- SAT Prep Programs: ALIST SAT program has begun and Hillcrest SAT program will be on November 19. These two programs are prepping registered juniors for the March SAT. (College Access For All
- Students are now responsible for submitting all college, financial aid, and scholarship applications on their own or in school during their free, lunch, or study hall periods with the help of the College Counselor. Please read previous and upcoming emails from the College Office regarding HOW TO documents, important dates, scholarship applications etc.

CUNY: www.cuny.edu/application
SUNY: www.suny.edu
SUNY/Private College: www.commonapp.org
SAT SCORES: www.collegeboard.org (sending SAT scores to 4 year colleges)
● FAFSA and TAP applications: FREE MONEY
  Federal Money: www.fafsa.gov 2020-2021 application
  State Money: www.hesc.ny.gov – available after FAFSA application

● Fee Waivers: seniors may be eligible for a CUNY fee waiver according to their lunch form. Students must see the college counselor for their fee waiver code. Fee waivers are given out on a first come first serve basis

** Undocumented students ARE NOW ELIGIBLE for NYS financial aid!!! Visit the TAP website and apply to the Jose Peralta NYS DREAM Act www.hesc.ny.gov

● Scholarships, To Do Lists, FAFSA and College Mail
  all contact will be done via email. Colleges and/or FAFSA will email students daily with updates, missing document requests and all other reasons for communication. Ms. Caruso will also send important resources and information via email.

*Special College Programs: Macaulay Honors, The Grove School of Engineering at City College, Sophie Davis Medical School, early action applications, etc. Students applying to special programs should see Ms. Caruso in the College Office DURING the month of October for application assistance