March 2020 Principal's PTA Report
March 10, 2020

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 student's 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’S NOTES:

March is PARENT SURVEY MONTH! Parent Surveys are a vital way for us to gather and reflect on your feedback to improve our school. We review the survey results and use them to guide our future practice. Your feedback is extremely important to us. Parent Surveys were given out to students on Tuesday March 10th. Please complete the paper survey and send it back to school with your child to submit to their period 3 teacher. All classes who obtain 100% return of Parent Surveys will have a pizza party!

In addition, at the March PTA meeting we will be handing out a copy of our spring Saturday, After School, and Advanced Placement Tutoring Schedule. This will also be posted on our website. Please encourage your child to attend all sessions to prepare themselves for their upcoming exams.

Parent Teacher Conference will be the evening of March 19th, and the afternoon of March 20th. More information and details will be sent out to families.

SECURITY / STUDENT LIFE:

- 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.
- Your child will be receiving a Consent to Photograph Form. Please fill this form out and return to your child’s SLC Director.
If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s attendance, grades, or academic progress, please feel free to contact the Deans’ Office at extension 1604.

SOCIAL STUDIES:
- The Social Studies Department’s tutoring schedule is available on our school’s website. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these in-day tutoring opportunities. Tutoring is available for Regents preparation, and in-class help for all social studies courses.
- Sat@Hillcrest Regents prep offerings have resumed. Students are highly encouraged to attend if they are planned to take an upcoming exam in June. Our department offers support for both the Global II and U.S History exams. These sessions will focus on practicing specific exam tasks such as stimulus based multiple choice questions, constructive response/document based questions and enduring issue/thematic essay extended writing prompts.
- AP applications for students interested in taking AP courses have opened. Please check Pupil Path for more information.
- The Social Studies Department is proud to announce that on March 5th we were able to register over 500 students to vote during our Civics Weeks activities.

ENL:
- Our Spring ENL After School Program starts on March 23rd for all eligible English language learners and former English language learners (FELLs). Tutoring is offered in all major academic subjects. We also offer enrichment programs such as Friday Leadership classes, Council for Unity, etc. Interested students should reach out to the SLC Director, Ms. Mussafi, or AP ENL, Mr. Wasden, if they have questions. These classes will be advertised within the Global Citizens SLC.
- Several of our ELLs and FELLs recently received paid internships with computer-based APCSP. Shout-outs go to Shahzadi H, Shakir B, Sazid O, and Jabeed A for this honor!
- Over 60 of our students have been invited to attend two Broadway matinees (Mean Girls and Wicked) on Wednesday, March 11th. Special thanks to ENL teacher, Ms. Patterson, and bilingual Guidance Counselor, Ms. Valerio, for organizing these special enrichment opportunities for our students.

SLC UPDATES FROM DIRECTORS:

BIZ TEK:

BizTek is very proud and excited to announce that three of our students have been selected for a prestigious Pathfinder’s Internship! Congratulations to Shakir B, Sazid O, and Tyler R! In addition, the following students in Mrs. Weiss’ AP Computer Science class also
received the honor of an internship: Manesha J,, Shahzadi H, Shaina G.

CS4All’s Pathfinders Internship Program provides high school students across New York City with opportunities to gain work-readiness training and on-the-job experience by placing them in internships at local industry offices. Students in the Pathfinders program must be at least 14 years old, enrolled in a computer science (CS) class, and have at least a B average. Each intern will be working in a technology based company this summer, learning valuable job skills. Kudos to Mrs. Weiss for her support!

Coming soon!
BizTek’s 4th Annual Pi Day, a celebration of mathematics. Students from all SLCs will come together to enjoy video games, music, contests and can compete for the privilege of throwing a pie in the face of one of the BizTek staff volunteers! It’s always great fun! March 12 from 4-6pm in the 280 Box. Tickets ($2) are available from Ms. Romero in 280A. Pickup a permission slip before purchasing tickets. Donations of round food (think cookies, pies, tortilla chips, etc…) are gratefully accepted. Pizza will be served. Family members are welcome.

Congratulations to our CS4ALL Hackleague team! We made it to the finals!
Five of our Computer Engineering students: Sanjida O, Ryan N, Anika M, Sadekah M, Kyle S
Advisors: C. Romero, R. Weiss

Women’s Leadership Conference
On Tuesday, March 3, select Virtual Enterprise students participated in an elite leadership opportunity. Winning Women is a leadership conference series designed to support and prepare high-potential Virtual Enterprise female students for future success. This conference provides students with leadership and early career development training. Sessions were led by NBCUniversal and CVC Capital Partners, where students focused on four themes: communication skills, personal branding, professional presence and emotional intelligence. Female business leaders from a variety of industries engaged students in themed break-out activities. The wisdom and expertise of these real world “Winning Women” will inspire and empower our female students.

Congratulations to Nareshma R, Wanisha A, and Sumayyah R. These young ladies truly embraced the opportunity to grow!

BizTek’s Spring Honor Roll Celebration for the first marking period of Term 2 will be held in the library period 2 on Friday, March 27. Students watch for your invitation in your third period class! Parents are always welcome!

MEDIA, ARTS & MUSIC:
- Model UN student delegates attended the United Nations Conference at the United Nations Headquarters and debated with distinction to win the most awards of any school.
- Journalism students are shortly publishing the latest issue of The Crest.
- The Notion, the creative writing magazine is also in the publishing stage.
• AMAM Senior’s trip to the Freedom Tower has been postponed to March 25.
• Film Studies students have been creating puppets as part of their studies into animation movies.
• AMAM will hold a Spring Dance on March 26 from 4-6 in the 380 Box.

PUBLIC SERVICE & LAW EVENTS

• Congratulations to our NYPD Police Explorers - they continue to make Public Service & Law very proud by serving the community after school and on Saturdays. Police Explorers meets every Monday from 4-6 pm in Room 430C.

• Public Service & Law recently celebrated Respect For All week by creating a Lobby Display where students focused on the theme of “Celebrating our Differences and Embracing our Similarities”

• On March 7th ten students will be graduating from the High School Law Institute @ Columbia and NYU universities.
• On February 14th, Public Service & Law celebrated our annual Fall Honor Roll & Award Ceremony in the Library. Students received certificates and plaques and were treated to a sumptuous pizza party. Students were congratulated by Principal Milczewski and Assistant Principal Michalos who urged them to keep up their good work.
HEALTH SCIENCES

- March 10- Certified Nursing Assistant Program’s External Review Visit Hillcrest and Health Sciences will meet with Industry and Post-Secondary partners as part of the process to be reapproved as a New York State certified CTE Program.
- March 12- CTE (Career and Technical Education) Information night 6:30-8:00 PM in the Hillcrest High School auditorium. Interested students and parents can hear current students and staff discuss the various CTE programs that are available at Hillcrest.
- March 14- Today’s Girl/ Tomorrow’s Woman Conference
- Health Sciences is attending Today’s Girl/ Tomorrow’s Woman 7th Annual Conference at the UFT Building in NYC. Hillcrest High School Alumna and award winning author, Marina Budhos will be the keynote speaker.
- March 17- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Department of Radiology’s 17th Annual Radiology Program
- Health Sciences has been invited to attend the “Radiology: Giving Back to New York City Program” at MSK Cancer Center in NYC as part of an essay competition that leads to summer internships at MSK.
- Health Sciences Club meets every Tuesday from 3:30-4:30 PM in Room 366.

PRE-MED:
Just recently PreMed participated at Cornell Medical College Big Red STEM Day in which many of our students participated in 4 hands-on lab activities and had dinner with the scientists. Some of these activities included: BioBus is a mobile science lab built to be a new kind of laboratory space that is empowering, accessible, un-intimidating, and that facilitates scientific engagement; “Precision Medicine & Organoid Cellular Models”, a electroplating activity, experimenting with enzymes and a presentation made by a professor about the new computer science programs at Cornell Graduate Technology and Engineering program on Roosevelt Island.
-York College Toxicology-17 students were accepted into this science course at York. This course enrolls current students into a summer research internship.
-Our Cornell HPREP students performed a cadaver dissection at the medical campus.
-Several Summer internship applications were submitted to (NYU, Mount Sinai, Rockefeller, NASA and Intrepid) for Summer 2020 science research! Good luck students on your applications!
-Many of our students have received scholarships and college acceptances. List to follow next month!
STUDENT COUNCIL:

- Spirit Week March 9-13
  - Monday: Superhero Day; Tuesday: Favorite Artist Day; Wednesday: Sweatpants Day; Thursday: Sports Day; Friday: Color by grade - 9th blue, 10th green, 11th red, 12th purple/senior jersey, Staff purple.
- Senior Breakfast March 20 period 1, 3rd floor cafeteria.
- Women’s History month celebration sponsored by the Leadership classes and Student Council, March 26 from 4:30-6:00 pm, 3rd floor cafeteria. Celebrating the vital role of women from past and present time.

COLLEGE OFFICE UPDATES:

- College visits to Hillcrest: CUNY Brooklyn College, CUNY Macaulay Honors College
- Summer Youth Employment Program application is now open to current students. This is a NYC DOE program offering employment during the summer months. [https://application.nycsyep.com/](https://application.nycsyep.com/)
- 89% of graduating seniors applied to college.
- The College Office organized several after school workshops offered to seniors to help them evaluate and understand their college financial aid award packages and prepare them for final steps of the commitment process.
- College Counselors have been sending out weekly emails with specific instructions on this process.
- ALL students are expected to check their email/Pupil Path daily for important updates regarding PSAT, SAT, College/University/Financial Aid, Scholarships available to all grade level students etc.
- FAFSA and TAP applications should be completed by this time. These applications are mandatory for US citizen/permanent resident seniors who plan on attending college in the fall. Any student who is NOT a US citizen/permanent resident can receive financial aid through the Jose Peralta Dream Act!! See Ms. Herrera in the College Office for application assistance.
- Our in-house SAT prep programs have concluded this month, preparing over 275 juniors for the SAT. All sophomores and juniors sat for a free PSAT/SAT exam fully funded by the NYC DOE on March 4, 2020
  
  A good SAT or ACT score can earn a student thousands of dollars in scholarship money and admission into a good college/university.
  Sophomores can also earn scholarship money based on their PSAT score. Visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) to learn more about the PSAT and SAT exam. ALL sophomores and juniors must complete a Family Income Inquiry
  Form to qualify for College Board fee waivers
  Juniors can take another SAT in June, August or October to earn a better score before applying to college in October. Visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) for test dates.
- College Counselors are preparing to visit all junior classes this spring with presentations and meetings on the post-secondary process.