



**SCA HS/MS Joint Parent Council Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 13, 2013
Manhasset Secondary School Black Box**

Welcome

- **Caroline Kenlon, HS SCA President**
 - Margie Suga, HS SCA Vice President
 - Kathryn Clejan, HS Finance Chair
 - Kim Haggerty, HS/MS Secretary
 - Carol Conner and Vivan Thatos, 9th Grade Level Chairs
 - Lauren Barrett and Monica Zenobio, 10th Grade Level Chairs
 - Ruth Geismer and Semira Geiger, 11th Grade Level Chairs
 - Elene Farrell and Connie Parsons, 12th Grade Level Chairs
- **Michaela Sheridan MS SCA President**
 - Jill Ridini, MS SCA Vice President
 - Sue Powers MS Finance Chair
 - Marilena Katopodis, Cathy McAree, Kristen Perfetto, Megan Trotta, 7th Grade Level Chairs
 - Karen Barnes, Rachel Caton, Bethanne Demattis, Deanna Durso, 8th Grade Level Chairs

High School Update- Caroline Kenlon, HS SCA President

- **Photo Days are Thurs 9/19 and Fri 9/20.** Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Karen Barnes at karenbarnes@optonline.net if interested in helping.
- **HS Open House** is Wednesday, 9/25 7:30-9:45
 - Parents will follow their child's schedule, please bring a copy of schedule with you
 - Classes will last approximately 10 mins with 5 mins passing time between each class
 - Parents will follow a Day One Schedule
- **Homecoming is Saturday, October 19th.**
- **Homecoming Floats** will be organized by Grade Level Chairs. Additional volunteers are needed for float building, to "host" the float at your home and for transportation of the float in the parade, October 19th. Please contact Lori Downey at downeylc@aol.com or Christy Weppler at wazyabc@aol.com if interested
- Thank you to Hospitality Chair, Justine Lennon for providing refreshments for today's meeting

Summer Studies Award Program- Liz Oliveri, Chairperson

- This award is granted each year to juniors interested in participating in a meaningful summer activity. Juniors must apply for the award, which is not granted based on academic achievement, class rank or need but rather the students enthusiasm, and suitability for the chosen summer program. Any type of summer activity is considered.
- Candidates must submit an application, essay, two teacher recommendations and then have an interview
- Last year the SCA granted \$12,000 in awards, no single award exceeded \$1000 and covered cost of tuition, books or supplies.
- Due dates for summer 2014 applications will be announced in October and at 11th grade meetings

Guidance Report- Jane Grappone- Director of Guidance/Counseling 7-12

- 36 new students in High School
- 16 new students in Middle School
- There were many schedule change requests but most students seem to be adjusting to schedules and new school year
- Senior parent night on 9/11 was well attended
- Guidance Counselors are meeting with all students this week to give an overview of what to expect this year
- The **New Common Application** was introduced this August.
 - Guidance Dept. met this summer to become acquainted with the new application
 - It is very user friendly
 - There will be a new essay every year
- **College Fairs**
 - Open to all juniors and seniors
 - Must get a pass online before attending, teacher must sign off before student can enter fair; counselor will sign pass and then student will return to class
 - Pass is found on counseling page of Manhasset website
 - 120 schools scheduled
 - Mini Fair Schedule: (see website for schools attending each date)
 - ❖ **9/23 at 9:00am**
 - ❖ **9/30 at 1:00pm**
 - ❖ **10/7 at 1:00pm**
 - ❖ **10/15 at 1:00pm**
- **Individual College Visits**; see the website for dates and times

Principal Report- Dean Schlanger- Principal, Secondary School

- **New Grading System**
 - Beginning this fall a new grading system will be implemented at the Secondary School
 - This system was created by a committee comprised of administrators, teachers, board members and parent input
 - There will no longer be an "H" grade given, found it to be too ambiguous; now will be an A+
 - Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be determined by weighted GPA at the end of 1st semester senior year.
 - Course Weighting
 - ❖ Honors classes= 1.25
 - ❖ AP classes= 1.50
 - ❖ Pre-AP classes that end in AP exam= 1.50
 - ❖ Pre-AP classes that do not end in AP exam= 1.25
 - ❖ All other classes= 1.00
 - To provide equity between students all weighted GPA's will be retroactively adjusted to reflect the new changes
 - New Grade Calculation with a failure of a class
 - ❖ Teachers will be able to use the numeric grade to calculate a students final average
 - ❖ This enables a teacher to see a students actual grade and a student can no longer try to pass with a D

- National Honor Society
 - ❖ Will still be using same criteria this year; 3.7 unweighted and 3.85 weighted
 - ❖ This will be adjusted each year as the weighting and new grading system comes into effect
- Transcripts
 - ❖ The retroactive changes do not affect seniors' transcripts and GPA; seniors will not be affected
 - ❖ 11th grade transcripts will be noted to reflect that A+ was first added to grading system 2013-2014 school year
- New Grading System:

Grade	Numerical Range	Grade Point
A+	97-100	4.33
A	93-96	4.0
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	65-66	1.0
F	64 and below	0.0

Middle School Update- Michaela Sheridan, MS SCA President

- Thank you to Theresa Cozi and Kim Fuchs for organizing the **Opening Day Picnic on 9/9**. Students had a great time!
- **Photo Days are Thurs 9/19 and Fri 9/20** during gym.
- There will be 4 MS dances this year. The first is the **Welcome Back Dance, 9/20 at 7:30pm**
- **MS Open House- Thursday 9/19 7:30pm-9:30pm**
 - Evening will begin in the auditorium with opening remarks by Dr. Dean Schlanger
 - Parents will then follow their child's schedule, please bring a copy of schedule with you
 - Parents will follow a Day One schedule
 - Students will be posted throughout the building to help direct parents to classrooms

SCA Business & School Events

- MS Open House- Thursday, 9/19 7:30pm
- MS Welcome Back Dance- Friday, 9/20 7:30pm
- HS Open House- Wednesday, 9/25 7:30pm
- Homecoming Parade- Saturday, 10/19 2:00pm
- Homecoming Dance- Saturday 10/19 7:30pm-10:30pm

Next HS/MS Joint Parent Council Meeting, October 25th 10:00am in HS Board Room