

SCA HS/MS Joint Parent Council Meeting

Friday, January 10, 2020, Secondary School Community Room

Michele Longobardi, Middle School SCA President and Janet Diaso, High School SCA President

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Vincent Butera

- There will be a presentation on timely tips for parenting your teenager in the school auditorium on Wed., Feb 5, 730-830pm.
- A schematic of the new wing at the middle school was shown, this project is a district priority. Dr. Butera will present what has been done and what they plan to do to the board at the January 22 meeting. The purpose is to build awareness around mental health and designing our environment to foster this. The wing is no longer being referred to as the SEL Wing, it will be called the Wellness Learning Center. Social workers and school psychologists will be in this area and we want to provide spaces where the kids can work by themselves or be together. Important concepts to be fostered: self-awareness, regulation of emotions, social awareness, relationship building and decision making. The seventh graders will get to know all the mental health professionals that work in the building and where they are located. Intention is to create a space that destigmatizes mental health. From the previous survey, a quarter of the students say they are sad on regular basis and there isn't an adult to go to for a personal problem – this is what this wing will address--- we've worked on the space for a year and half and are talking to students as to how this can best serve them. The goal is to build it by summer 2020, if not then summer 2021. The wing will provide a space for kids to hang out before school starts and the transitions class can go

there to work —not intended for a subject class; the space can fit 45 students.

- Next spring, we are looking to create an Innovation Lab—where all the technology classes will be held. We will have a capital projects proposal presented to the board February 5. This will support the Manhasset Steam program and Project Lead the Way.
- The school calendar will be revealed at the next parent council meeting, we are starting after Labor Day in September 2020, but we will not have two weeks for Christmas.

Guidance Update: Dr. Joy D’Anca

- Main intention is to be more proactive than reactive, in other words, helping students with coping skills to handle stresses, the wellness wing is a bonus to help accomplish this. Students are coming to her office more and the conversations with the seventh grader students in the transitions class are great.
- Manhasset will have more student review teams.

Special Education Update: Ms. Allison Rushforth

- Manhasset is doing a lot more work with the faculty through the mental health team and partnerships with various community organizations. This will be discussed at length at the January 22 Board of Ed meeting.

Principal’s Update: Dr. Dean Schlanger

- Midterms will be from January 21-24. On Tuesday, January 14, room assignments and transportation requests will go out
- Quarter 3 report cards will be issued January 31.

- Eighth graders will meet on January 14^t with Mr. Vercessi for next year course selections.
- Teachers will make their recommendations for honor class placement.
- Freshman/Sophomore dance at North Hempstead Country Club—trying to reinvent this dance.
- Had 8th /9th grade orientation re scheduling for rising 9th graders. They will select their courses for next year. The course catalogue is only printed for students going from 8th to 9th to save paper. If someone wants a hard copy it can be furnished.

Dr. Gaurav Passi, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Various new courses being offered discussed below based on enrollment. Goal is for each child's experience to be rigorous but meaningful. The presentation of the new courses is posted on the curriculum and instruction section of the school's website.

Dr. Hale, Director of Fine & Performing Arts discussed two new classes:

- New AP History class which will be the telling of human history through visual arts. This class is open to 11 and 12 grades, no prerequisites are required. Will need to send faculty to be trained for this class. It will be offered beginning next year.
- Design and production 3D class, adding three 3D printers to the art room and the class will introduce the principal of design in the area of art, i.e. creating objects and creating space for specific purposes. This will be a half year course.

Dr. Chowske, District Coordinator English Language Arts

- New **Broadcast Journalism** class for the spring. This will be paired with the current journalism course offered in the fall and the goal

is to produce a morning show. Great way to bring experiential learning to writing. Also, there is significant interest in a broadcast journalism club. If you cannot fit the class in your schedule you can learn the broadcast journalism through the club as well. Eventually want to develop movie making capabilities.

- **Communication: Creativity, Persuasion and Problem Solving** class —high level thinking rhetorical structure without having to sit for an AP class. Designing and creating a Ted Talk is the goal of the course.

Laura Tallerine, District Coordinator Mathematics & Business

- New elective being offered: **The Mathematics of Sports**. Meets every other day for the full year, prerequisite is Algebra 1. Stepping away from pure math and delving into the portion of math that allows you to reason critically and problem solve.

Thomas Elkins, District Coordinator Science, Technology & Health Education

- Science department has added the last course in a four-year high school engineering sequence entitled **Computer Integrated Engineering**. In this course the students will solve a problem, design a solution and then implement the building of that solution with equipment such as a laser engraver. The course prerequisite is Aerospace Engineering.
- The 7th and 8th grade technology classes have become more engineering based.

Jim Amen, Director, Physical Education & Athletics

- Wanted a mission statement for athletics so that children and parents know what athletics all is about. This transitioned into a

positive coaching alliance with a cadre of coaches and members of booster club and MAAC. We developed a mission statement and rules for parent / student athlete communication, a final draft was presented.

- Coaches felt the need for a protocol and steps to help athletes advocate for themselves. Communication with coaches will be a 3-step process. First the student must advocate for themselves by approaching their coach to have a conversation similar to going to the guidance counselor. Should this not resolve the issue, the student athlete would come with their parent and meet with the coach. Should this still not resolve the issue, the student athlete would meet with coach and the parent and the athletic director. Things that can be addressed within the purview of the coach include the student athlete's current role on the team such as what can I do to get more playing time, any academic struggle the student is experiencing and any issues that might be taking place within the team. There will be certain topics that will not be discussed: e.g. why someone made the team or why someone didn't make captain. An agreement regarding this new policy will be part of the Family ID sign up and a parent will have to sign it.

Important ----We don't know whether football is starting on August 24th or August 17th this year - all the other sports begin August 31.

Casa Update, Jennifer DeSena and Connie Bruno

- Next Wednesday, January 15 at the Manhasset Public Library there will be a screening of the film "Screenagers"—deals with anxiety and things that our kids are struggling with. It is 66 minutes long and Dr. D'Anca will facilitate a discussion with the community afterwards.

- January 28 Chris Herren will be at the school discussing —mental fitness, i.e. sleep, exercise and nutrition and having a friend to talk to. Need tickets to register but the event is free.
- Bach Harrison poll conducted by CASA shows that drinking in 8th grade for Manhasset is below the national average, however Manhasset is double and triple the national average for binge drinking and 30 day drinking in 10th grade.
- February 12 CASA will have a community presentation on vaping – pediatric specialists coming.

Board of Education Report--- Christine Monterossa, Board Member

- Entering school budget season, the board meets every other Thursday—encourage you to get involved with this.
- Next meeting is Wednesday, February 5, at 730. Terrence Houlihan, counselor and expert on adolescents will be there and will present :”It’s All in Their Head” timely tips for parenting your teenager, in the Secondary School Auditorium.

College Essay Workshop Sign up will be coming this week. Next Parent Council meeting will be February 5, Secondary School Auditorium 730-830. Speaker Terence Houlihan.

Important Dates: 10th Grade Parent Night, February 6, 7pm. Secondary School Auditorium.