

## **SCA HS/MS Joint Parent Council Meeting**

**Friday, September 18, 2020 Via Zoom**

### **Janet Diaso, SCA President and Markela Malliagros, SCA Middle School President**

- With the pandemic and initiation of hybrid learning, the SCA still wants to mark milestones and create memorable experiences for the students. The goal this year is therefore to reinvent the school's usual events and start new traditions.

### **Superintendent's Report: Dr. Butera**

- *Technology:* Manhasset's plan is very tech oriented and this is why the opening day of school was delayed, i.e. to make sure all the technology was in place to implement home learning. Manhasset's model is different than other districts because it is more fluid e.g. students can easily switch back and forth from in school to remote learning. This makes implementation of this model more difficult and challenging for the teachers. There will be a meeting today with administrators and a teacher leader meeting on 9/21 to see what improvements can be made to our model. A flier will be distributed that explains what to do in the event of a technology problem. There will be someone manning a help desk in real time that parents and students can call. This allows the school to accelerate solutions to any problems. The systems are being continuously strengthened so problems will continue to decrease.
- Manhasset is committed to always improving the school experience. Parents are encouraged to voice their opinions as to how the experience can be improved e.g. recess in the elementary level is a topic that has come up.
- Now that the new year has begun and the students are getting accustomed to the new learning environment, the school wants to address making the school environment more active. There is active discussion on the feasibility of certain clubs as well as extra help tutoring. This is the next layer to be decided.
- Manhasset has implemented the Cleared for Class app that was developed by doctors. Students can either display the green pass at the entrance of the school or they get a temperature check. There will be follow up phone calls

to parents who are not filling out the surveys. Allison Rushforth is the point person for this app.

- *Sports:* Section VIII has met again and voted to delay sports to January 4<sup>th</sup>. Now that the new year has begun and the students are getting accustomed to the new learning environment, the school wants to address making the school environment more active. There is active discussion on the feasibility of certain clubs as well as extra help tutoring. This is the next layer to be decided.
- Jim Amen, Manhasset's Sports Director voted against the delay since some sports can be implemented safely. The sport season will be condensed from January through June. Currently discussing what can be offered from now until December in terms of practice. Joining another sports league is not a viable option. Exercise clubs such as a running club are currently being explored. Looking at the issue of allowing kids to return to the weight room.
- *Facilities:* Many of the projects are delayed such as the Learning Wellness Center. The delayed projects will most likely be addressed next summer, but this is to be discussed at a future meeting. The elevator at the high school will be in place by December 1<sup>st</sup>. The Munsey Park multipurpose room stage area will be completed in one month.
- *Social-Emotional Wellness:* This year David Hymowitz who was our point of contact for Nassau County and was working as part of our wellness team to train the faculty has requested to work with our district, arrangements have been made for him to run parent workshops via zoom.
- Some schools are beginning to see COVID cases. Should there be a positive case at Manhasset Schools, the Department of Health will be contacted. There is no target number that will cause the school to close; however, Manhasset would not close for one case.
- If a child as cold and wants to stay home, the parent should still fill out the screening and also contact the school – the teacher will report that the child is present, just that the child is on zoom.

## **Principal's Report: Dr. Schlanger**

- We are taking feedback to try our best to optimize the experience. Middle School open house went smoothly; a document containing zoom links for all teachers was provided on the parent portal; will do the same for the High School open house.
- Teacher Reacher will be available in November to sign up for Parent Teacher Conferences. The conferences will be remote, in ten-minute increments and the links will be sent by the teachers.
- Fully remote students have their textbooks and chromebooks.
- Picture day went really well – the number of days to complete this was doubled and remote students came after school to have their pictures taken. 10/20-21 retake days for senior portraits and 10/16-17 retakes for all students other than seniors. Seniors did not have cap and gown.
- The students have been wonderful in complying with the mask requirement.
- **The camera should be on at all times in the classroom, if there is a problem parents should email the principal.** Sometimes it is difficult for students at home to hear the other students talking as well as the reverse. The teacher is provided with a microphone so the students at home can hear the teacher. Because of this it is hard to hear the students in addition. Teachers should get into the habit of repeating the student's questions to the class so that everyone can hear. Still looking for a solution to this problem, snowball microphones will not work because they give off too much feedback.
- **Reporting on the COVID dashboard will begin soon.**
- Students in the elementary school have plexiglass shields on their desks since they eat lunch there. In the secondary school they do not because they eat in other locations that have the plexiglass. There are no mask breaks in the secondary school during class.

## **Guidance Update : Dr. Joy D'Anca**

- Main goal of our department has been to service families in the best way we can and be available to them.

- Counselors are going to push into the elementary schools and do lessons with groups; looking to have something for the remote learning students; currently working on what they can do to help remote students to socialize; parents should reach out to anyone on the wellness team to express your concerns.
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade transitions class will begin next week, the schedule will be finalized soon; counselors and wellness team members will push in to introduce themselves to the 7<sup>th</sup> graders and address the people that students can go to if they are struggling.
- One of the Middle school counselors just resigned; Dr. D'Anca will handle the blue team until they get a replacement, they are actively interviewing at this time.
- The high school social workers have moved to the high school counseling suite; another high school social worker has been hired, students will have easy access to them; the office will take walk-ins for social workers and remote students can get a zoom appointment with a social worker.
- The counselors will take emergency visits, students just need to email their counselor and fill out a google form, someone from the office will email the student an appointment time and a pass.
- Grade 12 parent night will be next week, there is a lot of information to be conveyed to parents who will join their seniors via zoom; forms for college applications can be submitted in person at the office without an appointment and remote students can submit their forms online.
- College university admission representative meetings have been set up exclusively for Manhasset students, check the counseling department's website for the links. Visits are done outside of school hours between 4-8 pm and continue on through the month of October.

### **SCA Summer Studies Awards –Meaghan Chainani**

- Summer Studies Awards Program is an opportunity for juniors to apply for a scholarship for a summer program when they are entering their senior year. The program focuses on passions not academics. This year they were able to award \$12,000 to 15 students

- Some of the programs the students chose included law internships, Brookhaven Labs, learning how to code.
- The committee will speak at the junior parent night for this year's program and will either continue with zoom format for interviewing or perhaps be able to do it in person.

### **CASA Update- Connie Bruno, Program Director**

- CASA is trying to reinvent itself as our programming moves to the virtual model and is also considering some direct mailings. CASA is always looking at social and emotional issues and frequently collaborates with Dr. D'Anca and Allison Rushforth as well as the SCA to deliver programs.
- If anyone has suggestions or wants to chat with us about our programming, please reach out.
- The Harlem Wizards program was postponed; working on programs for red ribbon week which is at the end of October

### **Board of Education Update: Pat Aitken**

- Manhasset's Board of Education's meetings are open to the public and we encourage parents to attend. Also encouraging parents to join our citizen advising committees, currently looking for someone to join the audit committee (accountant background is not required).

Next meeting will be October 18, 2020