

SCA HS/MS Joint Parent Council Meeting

Friday, January 15, 2021 Via Zoom

Markella Maliagros, MS SCA Pres., Janet Diaso, HS SCA Pres.

- Nominating committee is seeking nominees for the SCA Executive President, High School President and Shelter Rock President. For further information see the SCA website and bylaws and send nominations to Tonia Zaccharia.
- On Tuesday, Feb 2, at 730p.m. the SCA will be hosting Terrance Houlihan who will be giving parents tips for parenting adolescents during COVID-19.
- The Secondary School directory will be mailed out by mid-February.

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Vincent Butera

- Dr Butera reported on a medical panel discussion related to the vaccine. Dr. Butera reached out to a few providers for onsite administration of the vaccine, will hopefully know if this is possible in the next two weeks.
- Everyone has done a good job transitioning from fully hybrid to fully remote, illustrating the flexibility in the plan.
- Next week the Board will accept a bid for the Learning and Wellness Center. We intend to complete this by September 2021 when we return back to fully onsite. Returning will be a major adjustment for the students and faculty. We cannot lose sight of the fact that we have to support the students socially and emotionally.
- The Equity and Exclusivity Task Force has laid a framework of steering committees with major sub-groups with a plan. The Native American groups have a similar plan, but no decisions have been made at this point.
- With regard to punishments for not being truthful on the COVID-19 attestation, Dr. Butera is not familiar with any school that has suspended a student because a family did not fill out the attestation properly—any punitive actions on students would be illegal. He does not think this will happen again with the families that went away and did not quarantine.

Principal's Update: Dr. Dean Schlanger

- The parent teacher conferences on zoom were amazingly effective. We will consider whether to continue this format for the coming years even when classes resume normally. The benefits of zoom are confidentiality and efficiency. The teachers have space and parents do not need to spend their entire day at school.
- There were 200 attendees for the 8th grade orientation. Elective selections for 8th graders going into 9th have been completed.
- Teachers will make their recommendations for next year's classes by the end of January.

- Quarter ends January 29 and report cards come out February 5.
- Finals and regents will likely be cancelled but we do not know for sure right now.
- Deadline coming up for purchasing the yearbook—baby ads do not include the purchase of a yearbook.
- The graduation cap and gown order is due February 26. We are planning for a graduation, but we are not sure yet if it is happening. We will inform parents as soon as possible.
- Quarantine means you have returned back home and need to stay out of school for 10 days. You can test out if you have a negative result both 3 days prior to returning to New York and 4 days after you return. If a student's cleared for class result is orange as a result of travel – the nurse will follow up with you.

Guidance Update: Dr. Joy D'Anca (Reported by Dr. Schlanger)

- Seniors should inform the Guidance department of college/university decisions as colleges do not inform us directly of student application outcomes. Please have your child see his or her counselor with updates on their applications. If the outcome is not favorable, we will help you redirect your plan.
- Mid-year grades will be automatically sent to the schools to which all students applied. If your child was accepted under Early Decision deadlines, mid-year grades will only be sent to that school.
- The MS and HS Counseling Departments will be meeting with students or students and parents on the following schedule:
 - o **Grade 7**—Counselors met with students in the Fall to transition to MS
 - o **Grade 8**—Counselors will meet with students and parents starting after February break to discuss transitioning to HS
 - o **Grade 9**—Counselors will meet with students and parents also after February break to discuss the outcome of 9th grade and moving forward
 - o **Grade 10**—Counselors are in the process of meeting with 10th graders to discuss 4-year plans through HS
 - o **Grade 11**—Counselors will meet with students beginning in February for Junior Post-Secondary Meetings

*During all of the above meetings, schedules and long-term plans will be discussed. Please know that counselors continue to monitor the academic and social/emotional progress for each of their students throughout the year. If you have questions outside of the meetings, you are always welcome to reach out to the counselor or Dr. D'Anca

• **SAVE THE DATE: Grade 10 Student/Parent Night** will be Wednesday, February 10th at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The focus of the evening will be standardized testing and continuing the plan for the remainder of high school. More information will follow.

• **SAVE THE DATE:** Information on **Parent Circles** will be shared very soon as an opportunity for parents to share their successes and challenges in navigating the pandemic. Dr. D'Anca will moderate these circles in hopes of allowing you to learn from each other. Details will be forthcoming.

Course Enhancements: Dr. Passi, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

Manhasset cannot administer AP exams this year because the church where we normally so is not available. College Board is revamping its testing platform and we will know more about this in February.

- **Dr. Hale- Music & Art**

AP Art History has been reintroduced. In this class works of art are examined critically. The class is for 11th and 12th graders since we want students to have a strong background in world history. This class is an examination of human history through a cultural lens of all societies, not just western societies.

- **Dr Chowske—English**

The Broadcast Journalism club has over 50 members. The students experience journalism through a multimedia approach. Bruce Beck (sportscaster) is coming next week after school to speak to the members.

Journalism 1 is being renamed New Media which is an update to reflect a multi-faceted foundation, i.e., interviewing, reporting, and journalistic writing. This is an introductory course where younger students will be mentored by the upperclassmen. The Broadcast 2 course will be a project-based learning course focusing on camera work, writing, on air interviewing etc. Students will learn radio and video; they will produce a weekly radio program culminating in a Manhasset Broadcasting Company (MBC) capstone project.

The 3rd Annual SCA College Essay Writing Workshop will go forward this summer sponsored by the SCA and PASE. There will be 6 sections of students with a maximum of 12 students in each section (max 72 total). A special ed teacher will be available for students. Cost of the program is \$50 and there are scholarships available. The signups will occur February 1st. Two college admissions counselors will run the parent workshop on 6/28. Please put your child's name on your checks.

- **Mara Steidam-Social Studies**

Social Studies department is committed to providing classes through a diversity lens. AP Human Geography is a college level course that looks at the study of the relationship between humans and the earth. Students will become geo-literate. On a national level this program is open to mostly ninth and tenth graders, but it will be offered to all grades in Manhasset. The goal is to get students to become more engaged with world issues like climate change and environmental abuse. The course will discuss the impact of technology on things, struggles over political power and territorial control.

A second course is the History of Equity and Social Justice. In the wake of the death of George Floyd and the social unrest in America, this half year course will study the social, economic, cultural and political forces that have shaped historic events and impacted the contemporary experience of our diverse communities. Students will read Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Ibram Kendi (the young adult version).

- **Math- Lauren Tallarine**

Applied Geometry, is a new course that meets the general requirements of high school geometry but is not intended to prepare students for the NYS Regents exam. If a student takes this course and then returns to Algebra 2, they may not meet the requirements for an advanced regent's diploma.

CASA Update, Connie Bruno: Program Coordinator

- In December, CASA brought back Steven Hill for the "Not My Kid" program. His father also spoke about his challenges with a son battling the disease of addiction. This was successful, as they had over 100 participants.
- February 1st CASA will have a screening of the film "Like" which is a documentary discussing the effect of Social Media on kids, parents, and people in general. After the screening, several people in the film will host a panel discussion. This screening is relevant to current issues our kids face. People will have to register to see the film online. We will also have a recording which will be available for 48 hours after the screening.
- CASA will conduct the Bach/Harrison Survey in grades 8, 10 and 12. The survey questions the behaviors of our kids and looks at factors that influence these behaviors.
- We will be hosting a parent workshop called "Raising Resilient Children." This is tentatively scheduled for the end of February and will be finalizing it shortly.
- SALT (Student Athlete Leadership Team) has selected 33 new members. The club is looking to bring in speakers and may bring Robin Hoffman (the MS social worker) to address mental health issues. She has spoken to them in the past and was very well received.
- The MS SetConnect Club has 12-15 members and is creating a large banner about mental health and the banner will be displayed at the Secondary School with one side created by the Middle School Students and the other side created by the High School students. The HS club has 12 members and has started a Pen Pal program with senior citizens at a local nursing home.

Board of Education Update: Christine Monterosso

- The school's elementary math program will be discussed at the January 21st Board of Education Meeting.

Next Parent Council Meeting February 2, 7:30 pm

Adjourned