

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

**Friday, June 11, 2021, Via Zoom**

### **Markella Maliagros, Middle School SCA President, Janet Diaso, High School SCA President.**

We want to give thanks to Janet Diaso for her two years of service during a difficult time and a thank you to all the volunteers that form the SCA. Thanks to Whitney, Markella, Cathy and Leslie and the whole executive board for their support. We wish Rachel Harley all the best as she takes on the role of high school SCA president and we know she will be an amazing addition to the executive board.

The middle school BBQ is coming up on June 16, there will be a DJ and games. There is a sign-up genius for things that we still need. The staff appreciation luncheon will be in June to allow for an outdoor BBQ, likely on Tuesday, June 22.

### **Superintendent's Update: Rosemary Johnson (Dr. Passi could not attend)**

We are undertaking a review of all of the computer applications that have been implemented the last 15 months including Canvas. We are asking grade level chairs and others for input. We are going forward with construction this summer; it was approved by the community, and we are working out the logistics. There will be no access for anyone other than the construction staff and employees that work onsite. We have moved the booster camps to the other campuses. Weekend access camps with adult groups will continue at the secondary school and everything else is at the other two campuses. Trying to determine if there will be access to the fitness room for the football team who trains over the summer. The work will begin immediately after June 25.

SEL wing demolition has already begun. Allison Rushforth noted that as of June 7 when students are outside, they can remove their masks and can also remove masks during outdoor sports activities. They do not have guidance right now about what is happening in September.

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

Thank you to Janet for her hard work. The grade level chairs' feedback has been unbelievably valuable. Today a fire alarm went off at 7:40 am. It was two faulty fire alarms; one was in the kitchen and the fire department responded immediately. School began at 8:22 am.

Finals have been eliminated this year. We received some phone calls from parents about this. This year is an anomaly as each quarter is weighted 25 percent.

Teachers did a great job with both remote and in class instruction. We did not miss anything with the AP exams, the administration of the state tests and APs was optimal because we used Leonard's Palazzo. We will continue to work out whether we go back to the church or stay with Leonard's. Things were quiet for Leonard's during the day but after Covid they may have more events and be a less quiet environment. The church has better lighting, but Leonard's has better parking.

We have an enormous number of activities planned for the seniors this year. June 18 is the last day of classes for seniors and they will have college 101 with Jen DeSena and Chris Keen. We will have a senior prom (260 for the senior prom with guests) and the senior send off. We are working out the details for the outdoor graduation. The frolic is on no matter what happens rain or shine --it will be an outdoor frolic. We are currently up to about 210 attendees from our class of 250.

There is no car parade for the senior sendoff. Student will come onto campus, park at any spot, go to the football field to see the senior sendoff video. We will have a jumbotron for the video and after we will have a senior only PoCoHo live.

June 28 at 4 pm report cards will be posted to the portal.

Wed, June 23 is senior banner night.

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

We have had many amazing accomplishments for our graduating seniors during a difficult college process.

College and university representatives said that in going test optional the intent was to help our students but in reality, it made the process harder. The admission reps that Dr. D'Anca bonded with this year said they were faced with more applications without the one tool to narrow them down---the standardized test. The pool became difficult for them to select from because many students applied to schools that they may never had before, and the waitlists grew longer and longer. Colleges were completely overwhelmed, and this resulted in some schools having a 3-5 percent acceptance rate, which is the lowest rate ever seen.

By November 15th, 87 percent of Manhasset student applied Early Decision or Early Action. We averaged about 10 applications per student, but some students applied to many more, with 48 schools being the highest this year.

We were successful at getting students accepted off the deferred list and had a lot of success with BC, Cornell, Georgetown, Miami, Michigan, Villanova and Northeastern.

Our most popular schools were NYU, BC, Villanova, Wake Forest, Georgetown, Northeastern, Cornell, and Binghamton. We received acceptances to a wide array of extremely competitive schools which speaks to the work the students have done with the support of their parents. We do not know what the process will be like next year. Despite the pandemic we were successful and our proud of the kids. Since there have been pessimistic reports about the process the best advice is to understand that the acceptance process is impossible to figure out --so stop trying. Where your child goes to college is more about whether it is a good fit.

Advice:

- Reach for the stars but you need a well-rounded list of schools.
- Use the summer to complete the common app essay.
- Let the kids call the schools directly if you are not sure how something on your application is going to be looked at.
- Try hard to keep your feelings in check.

Jane Grappone's (previous head of guidance) college application checklist is the greatest tool that Dr. D'Anca has ever seen—this checklist is your life!

Colleges are beginning to open up for campus visits, some reps are cutting down on travel time and so this year we did virtual information sessions.

David Heymowitz has been doing the parent circles program. Most of the parents like the presentation but not the breakout rooms. June 17 at 7pm he will be presenting on adapting to change.

### **CASA Update: Jen DeSena and Connie Bruno**

An encore presentation of "Beyond the Huddle" will be held Monday June 14. This is a program led by a Long Island girl who was a straight A student and given a Division 1 scholarship and graduated in 2020. After one social media post during a protest last summer, she lost her scholarship and ability to play sports, and her family had death threats. We want the students to understand the importance of being socially responsible and that our actions in person and on social media can affect us. Anyone with a social media account should attend the presentation.

For girls ages 3-13 we will have the program "Raising Confident Girls" on June 15 and for boys ages 5-13 we have the event "Bringing Up Boys" on June 21. On June 18 we will sponsor College 101 with a zoom meeting with the Safe Center and AJ Diaz and Chris Keen will conduct the Red Watch Band training which shows our children how to help a friend who may be in trouble.

A community survey is coming out that will help us guide some of our work for next year and we are looking for people to join our Parent Advisory Council.

**Board of Education Update: Pat Aitken and Christine Monterosso**

We have two more board meeting this year with some recognition of students in science and athletics. We have our annual organizational meeting kick off for the next year on July 7<sup>th</sup>.