

Parents' Association of the Bronx High School of Science
Parent Association Meeting
February 16, 2022
Via Zoom

Co-Presidents – Jerome Kramer & Cliff Stanton

Meeting called to order by Jerome Kramer and commenced at 7:00 pm with 158 attendees
Minutes from January meeting approved by Jayesh, seconded by Danielle and with online parent poll.

Jerome explained as per their recent E-blast that there would be a fork in the meeting after 30 minutes with an option to listen to a presentation on the course selection process or to join a parent panel who would discuss What I Wish I Knew Before My Kids Went to College.

Principal Report, Rachel Hoyle

- Covid numbers are way down. If possible, please consent to your children being tested. Sending 2 test kits home for the break. Recognize there's a chance at catching more students with Covid.
- Girls varsity basketball team won their playoff game today and the boys varsity swim team is in the City Championship final tomorrow
- 10 students named as Regeneron finalists. This is more than any other school in the country.
- The Nutritional Council recognized the need for snacks after school and have made them available to students
- Valentine's Day was celebrated in the cafeteria with music and games.
- The hallways were decorated with posters to commemorate Black History Month
- Winter College Night took place last week and with University of Chicago's Dean of Admissions. Great information was provided.
- Teachers have had professional development training over the last few weeks with many learning opportunities including how to help students more easily navigate conversations with their guidance officers
- PT conferences to take place mid-March and parents are encouraged to sign up. They will take place virtually
- Families are asked to participate in school survey

SLT Report, Susan Anderson

- Meeting took place on February 1. Dr. Alison Davis gave presentation on course selection. Colin Maxwell surveyed students who dropped lunch and guidance will continue to follow-up with kids and parents where they feel it is having a detrimental effect
- The school has initiated process to find a new AP for Physical Science Department

Treasurer's Report, Ken Ho

- Total revenue is \$294K which represents an increase of \$22k from prior month. Reached annual target in December. Expenses were \$128k, an increase of \$13.8k and cash balance is \$696k

Other business, Jerome Kramer

- Announcing Nominating Committee, Alison Gardy and Joli Golden who were elected in September and who will also to be joined by Amanda Lee for the spring elections.
- We are required to review Bi-Laws every 3 years. A committee has been formed to review them and will offer amendments in the March meeting. One change of note is in relation to the budget presented at the beginning of every year. We're looking at the emergency spending provision and will ask PA to vote for increase from \$500 to \$1,000.
- We'd like to open up nominations to EB positions and SLT. Every position is open and everyone is welcome. We'll close nominations in April. Meeting and elections to take place in May.
- Introduced Tracy Ballas who is running the Gala on May 12 at Rodolph Sholom. Parents are encouraged to avail of early bird special. Online auction is April 24 to May 5. Donations are needed, experiences, gift certificates, travel, spa and beauty. Sponsorship through gala is available for interested small businesses and families. Looking for wine donations. Go to Gala auction website. Everything is appreciated. Raffle draw took place and William Rice won the prize.

Website Update, Christine Kattan

Showed the latest mock-up, which is cleaner, more modern and provides clearer pathways to information. The work is continuing with Educational Networks. Thank you to the web committees for their time and commitment so far

Other Business

- Comedy Night taking place on March 3 at 7pm. Please watch the promotional video and buy tickets. It will be in virtual format again. It's a fun night with 3 very funny acts.
- 1 safety notice. No u turns allowed outside the school on W 205th

Meeting split for presentation and parent panel.

Course Selection, Dr. Allison Davis

The main event: Course selection presentation featuring Assistant Principals Allison Davis, Ph.D., and Andrew Nasser. Dr. Davis indicates the presentation is geared toward all grade levels, and the information is largely the same as past years.

Slide presentation found here:

<https://bxscience.edu/pdf/CourseSelection2022.pdf>

Important dates discussed:

- **March 4:** Talos opens for viewing; students can view qualified entry classes for which they have pre-approval
- **March 7:** Course Information Week; students speak to student leaders in the cafeteria during lunch periods about their classes for next year
- **March 4–March 11:** Application period; students apply to qualified entry classes. There is no benefit to the student to submit applications early but it helps the people reviewing applications so submit as soon as you know you want to apply.
- **March 25:** Talos opens for course selection submission
- **April 11:** Talos closes; students must choose courses by this deadline
- **Summer:** Students receive preliminary programs for 2021-2022 by email

Qualified Entry Classes

- The minimum changes year to year; see department pages on the Bronx Science website.
- Disclaimer: The most up-to-date cutoff information has NOT been added to the department pages yet (currently is showing last year's very high cutoffs) but it will be amended very soon.
- Students who choose more than three Qualified Entry classes need parental permission.

“Elective Day” is now “Course Information Week.”

- Students will have more opportunities to speak to upperclassmen in the cafeteria, plus this allows for social distancing vs one overcrowded day.
- All students are encouraged to take advantage of this info week, four periods a day.
- Ask any questions you want without it getting back to teachers!

Advice: Look at the big picture when creating a schedule with regards to rigor of course load.

- The guidance team will also look at rigor and underchallenged students.
- 10th graders will have individualized meetings with their counselors who will be approving programs on the spot.
- Guidance team takes into account a student's program to make sure it is appropriate for post-secondary aspirations.

Class Sections

- A unique feature of Bronx Science is that the number of sections of any class is responsive to the number of students who sign up for said classes.
- If, say, 11 sections worth of students choose a class, they will staff accordingly and not stick to an arbitrary number of sections.

- This is why it is important to ask for what you want and not change your mind over the summer.

Summer School

- Not remedial
- Bronx students use this to knock out health and/or arts requirements to free up space in schedule during the regular school year.
- Look for a form from Cynthia Golan to sign up for Summer School

Lunch

- Take a lunch period!
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- Mr. Nasser cannot stress enough the importance of taking a break during the day.

Sleep

- Sleep is important!
- Parents are not the ones doing the work.
- Let kids choose a workload that is right for them.

Intrinsic vs Extrinsic Factors for Course Selection

- No magic formula for getting into MIT, Harvard, etc.
- Quality over quantity when it comes to classes
- Passion and true interest are important; do not take classes because you think you “should.”
- Students who are engaged in what they are doing do better in their classes.

Q&A; 76 in attendance

Summer School normally runs from right after school ends until August 7th or 8th.

- Grade requirements for qualified entry by department will be posted after break.
- Research classes are daily in 10th grade but not daily in 11th and 12th.
 - o In 11th and 12th, the research class would run opposite lab or gym, 2 to 3 times per week

Mr. Nasser says: Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. It is not a bother!
nasser@bxscience.edu
Meeting adjourned.

What I Wish I Knew Before My Kids Went to College, 2021 parents

Panel with parents of students attending a variety of schools including MIT, U Chicago, Northeastern, U Michigan, Hamilton, Stonybrook and Hostra

Comments and Advice

- Parents adjusting well to empty nest syndrome
- Taking a gap year is a great opportunity for maturing but the initial period after entering as a freshman can be a challenge certainly in the first few months.

- Don't stress out waiting for acceptances. It will be okay. It's about them and their journey. Trust the admissions process
- Support your child and trust them. Let them take the lead.
- Don't worry so much. Don't transfer anxiety.
- The world will treat your child as an adult.
- Get set up with the medical community. Leave files with medical center in case of emergency indicating that parent can be in charge if needed and can make decisions for his/her child.
- Some kids settled in well in first semester and others had a really rough start. One school over accepted 1200 students and student had to live in nearby hotel for first semester. It was frustrating with not being on campus and with not getting the full experience. Students learn how to deal with bad dorm roommates either through conflict resolution or with negotiating a switch. Being happy with roommate can make the difference between miserable and happy. Students can get over room situations and make it a bonding experience or at least be respectful and figure out a workable solution. Many schools don't let students select their roommates anymore. Friends and social life most important and in the right peer group, can turn negative into positive.
- Expect communication to change frequently and to be flexible. It doesn't stay static. Goes from tons of texts to Facetime to not at all. Not consistent. Impossible to pin them to weekly arrangement. They need space. Consider how will siblings communicate? Family zooms are great when they work but schedules are constantly changing
- Strongly suggest kids taking a course in financial literacy. Also convert high school bank accounts to college ones.
- Kids learn time management especially if commuter students
- Parents anxious about fraternity rushing and Greek life being too much pressure but it ended up being a great thing. Communication not good. Only reaches out when he needs something.
- College students don't need a lot of cash. Room and food is paid for. Accounts though of children coming home very thin. Need to ensure they have enough to eat and access to food. Using Venmo and Amazon for ordering food. If there is access to a good kitchen, students can reduce meal plan and costs. Good idea to fund costs semester by semester. For 529 education accounts, it's in fact best to use funds last as considered parental asset.
- Bronx Science students are well received. Advisors know what classes they're coming with. Very helpful. They're very well prepared.
- It's okay if they don't end up in their first choice. It works out.
- Students do need to be organized and to work hard. There's a lot of work.
- Students should visit the college in person before they start in August.

Meeting adjourned by Cliff Stanton at 9:02 pm