



HHS PTSA / SEPTA PARENT MEETING MINUTES

01/24/2023 6:30PM VIA ZOOM

Student Stress

It's mid-year, winter-time, finals time – parents are noticing high levels of student stress. Mr. Adipietro discussed that this is common at this time of year, and that some degree of challenge can be good.

If there are teacher specific issues with stress (managing multiple tests, or appropriate accommodations), please reach out to [Mr. Adipietro](#) or [Ms. Hardesty](#).

The process of planning for next year's schedule begins at the end of February, and initial course requests occur in March.

As families consider the appropriate level of challenge for their child, there are a few things to consider in order to achieve a healthy balance:

- Honors level courses begin in 11th grade (only math has honors levels options in 9th and 10th grade).
- AP Advanced Geo is on hold for next year.
- AP Calculus BC is on hold for next year.
- Commitments in theater, athletics, and music should be considered, as these activities add additional workload/stress
- For seniors, the college application process adds additional workload/stress.

Health and Safety

Vaping

There continue to be issues with vaping occurring at school. To address this issue, the administration monitors bathrooms. Individuals who are caught vaping must attend in-school suspension, in which they attend a 6-hour anti-vaping course. They receive a referral to the substance abuse counselor, Ms. Repp.

Substance Use and Abuse

The current curriculum addresses issues related to substance use and abuse, wellness, etc during the 10th grade Health class. This course was revamped in the past few years to match the NY State standards. Some units in PE also address some of this content.

Substance use and abuse, and other issues of wellness and mental health, have been addressed at Family University in the past. This year's Family University is in the early planning

phases, and topics and speaker ideas are welcome. Suggestions can be directed to [Mr. Adipietro](#) or [Linda Fossina](#) at Hastings WAY.

Family University

Will be held on April 26th in the evening, in conjunction with FMS, and is expected to be in-person at HHS.

Retirements

The following teachers have announced that they will be retiring this year, after long and distinguished teaching careers at HHS.

- **Josh Blum (English Department Chair)**
- **Ava Lambert (Special Education)**
- **Christine Geller (Math)**

Diversity

Diversity continues to be a priority in the hiring process. Lynn Walker, Director of Human Resources, and Jenice Mateo-Toledo, ESL Coordinator, participate in all screening of candidates.

Student Expectations

Lateness:

Students are considered late if they are not in the classroom at 8:15 am. They are expected to check in to the main office and get a late pass, which they then give to the teacher. If a student has an unexcused absence, this is addressed with Ms. Hardesty the following day. If a student is more than 20 minutes late, they are not able to participate in after school activities. If you are aware of a situation where this is not being adhered to, please contact [Ms. Hardesty](#).

Cell Phones:

The school policy is that phones should not be out during class, with the exception of Study Hall and if a phone is being used for a class activity (e.g., as a calculator). HHS will not ban phones during the school day. Teachers try to provide oversight and are reminded at faculty meetings. Phones are confiscated if the student is misusing it, and if the phone needs to be confiscated repeatedly then parents are called.

For more information on rules and regulations please see the [District Code of Conduct](#) Sections VI Prohibited Student Conduct, VIII Reporting Violations, IX Disciplinary Consequences, Procedures and Referrals

Electives

Elective courses are teacher driven, and approved by the Superintendent with the BOE.

You can find out about next year's electives in the [Course of Study](#) located on the HHS website on the School Counseling Tab. Sometimes, elective availability can change as teacher availability changes over the course of the planning for the upcoming year.

Of note, Mr. Adipietro and team are working on a new Chemistry elective, to be available in 2024-2025, which will be an alternative to regular Chemistry.

Community Organizations

[Rainbow Families](#)

Founders Jen DiBonaventura and Laura Heisler Mitton introduced this group, which aims to support families with LGBTQIA kids, and to advocate for equity in the District. They hold monthly meetings for parents, and are available for conversations with any parents seeking to participate or obtain support.

- Sun 1/29/23 A social gathering is planned

Contact information: hastingsrainbowfamilies@gmail.com

[Youth Advocacy Program](#)

The PTSA is working with the YAP Director, JoAnn Reed, to resume the YAP programming at HHS. In the past, this has included Open Gym Nights and other social gatherings at HHS. If you are interested in helping with this initiative, contact [Cynthia Brent](#) at the PTSA.

[Hastings WAY Coalition](#): drug and alcohol prevention for youth

Linda Fosina announced an event:

- Thurs 1/26/23 at 7pm - **Know 2 Prevent** with speaker – Dr. Kevin Gray on Youth Marijuana Use. This event is especially appropriate for high school families, for parents and students to attend together. A taping of this event will be available if you missed it.

Announcements:

PTSA Announcements

- PTSA has approved a **Grant to the Student Union** to support an event of their choosing, to increase social activities for students.
- [Friday Night Lights](#) - Supports the Athletic Department and Boosters Club. We encourage parents and students to attend the next scheduled events on January 27th at 4:30 and 6:15 and again on February 3rd 4:30 and 6:15.
- [Follow us on Facebook for announcements](#)
- **PTSA/SEPTA Sponsored Superintendent's Forum** Wednesday Mar 22, 2023
6:30PM
- **PTSA/SEPTA** - The Next parent meeting is scheduled to be in person on Tuesday March 28th at 6:30P

SEPTA Announcements

- **Trivia Night – 03/11/2023** at the Southside Social Athletic Club, join us for a fun evening challenging your knowledge and friends. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please reach out to SEPTA.
- **Student Scholarship Awards:** SEPTA will once again be offering two generous Graduating Senior scholarship awards, additional information can be found on our website <https://hastingssepta.memberhub.com/w/scholarships>
- As a result of our successful fundraisers over the course of the year, SEPTA is offering a "**Gratitude Flash Grant**" of up to \$1000 per school to any educator or service provider, with the goal of better supporting children with IEP's in their learning journey. Details and an application form will be shared with the staff in each building and qualifying grants will be awarded as they come in.
- With **IEP season** beginning, please consider SEPTA a resource. We can match you with a parent who has a child who may be similar to yours and who can act as a sounding board and partner as you prep for the IEP meeting,

Thank you to all who attended.