



A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, SCHOLARSHIP & SERVICE

HAP NEWSLETTER



JULY 2017

Welcome to HAP

The Higher Achievement Program was founded in 1964 at St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City, NJ. In the years since its inception at St. Peter's, HAP has spread to a number of Jesuit high schools throughout the northeast. HAP 2017 marks the 41st anniversary of the program at Fordham Prep.

Each morning at HAP, students take courses in Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Writing with a twofold purpose in mind: to provide academic enrichment in preparation for a rigorous high school workload and to improve their performances on the Test for Admission into Catholic High Schools (TACHS). Afternoons are devoted to games, athletics and special programs. The balance of academics in the

morning and sports/activities in the afternoon is conducive to an educational environment that strives to foster the Jesuit ideal of *cura personalis*, a Latin term meaning "care of the individual."

As an integral part of a vibrant Jesuit community, the Higher Achievement Program's various afternoon activities foster each student's character development, including personal integrity, sportsmanship, and wellness of mind and body. By the time of graduation, HAP students not only are intellectually and physically prepared for the challenges that lay ahead in the eighth grade and beyond, but are also well on their way towards being "men for others," a goal of Jesuit education.



"wellness of mind & body"



ACADEMICS

Mathematics

The Math curriculum focuses on the major topics found in many 7th and 8th grade Math courses, as well as some topics covered in 9th grade programs. The goal is to help students prepare for 8th grade math and the TACHS exam. These topics include addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, negative integers, fractions and decimals, algebraic equations, inequalities, graphing, simple geometry, percent problems, ratios, and helpful techniques for solving multi-step word problems.



English Language Arts

The HAP English curriculum includes study skills that present students with a firm foundation in basic language arts skills. Beginning with a concise review of capitalization and punctuation, the program focuses on the three fundamental aspects of language arts: grammar, proper usage and spelling. Teachers also devote time to strengthening students' study skills for high school and beyond by offering lessons on note-taking, outlining, and test-taking strategies in combination with the HAP Reading curriculum, which is focused on the close reading and analysis of short stories in order to familiarize students with the elements of fiction and the process of textual analysis. Students discuss stories in class and occasionally watch and analyze films related to the readings to prepare for the Written Expression sections of the TACHS exam.

Writing

HAP writing workshops are designed to focus on the key elements of quality writing. Writing tasks are assigned in class, discussed as a group and worked on individually. Students are coached in awareness of purpose and audience, effective word choice, sentence structure, and sentence variety. They are especially encouraged to pursue topics they have personal interests in. Tasks may include journaling, strategies for a short story review, the descriptive paragraph the personal narrative, poetry, the persuasive paragraph, the informational paragraph and biographical writing.



Athletics



In addition to academics, HAP students are exposed to a variety of athletic competitions. HAP sports include familiar backyard favorites (basketball, kickball and wiffleball), as well as activities that may be new to some Hapsters (floor hockey, Slammo, track and field events, and Schmolley, a sport unique to Fordham Prep). Groups compete in two different events per day. Wins and losses are recorded, but the focus remains on friendly competition and physical fitness.

Sportsmanship is a key element of the HAP experience and is stressed by all faculty and staff. Friendships that begin on the field contribute to productive group work in the classroom.

Track and Field Day

Perhaps some of the most exciting days of HAP are those devoted to Coaches Chavez's and Febles' Track and Field Program. Field events featured in the program are the hurdles, shot-put and javelin. Track events include a 55-meter dash, a 400-meter run and a team relay event. Each student participates in at least one track and one field event, and each teacher selects four students to represent their group in the final relay event. At the end of the afternoon, awards are given to the top 10 students of each event, while the names of the champions in each event.

Schmolley

Conceived at Fordham Prep a little over a decade ago, Schmolley is a combination of tennis and handball, and has become a tradition at the prep. It is normally played on the Fordham Prep backfield during free periods, but has evolved into club status. These 2017 Hapsters get to experience the sport on the same hallowed grounds of its conception.



Track & Field Champions:

Javelin Throw (600g)- Connor Dufresne (72.07 ft)

Shotput (8lbs)- Michael Meyers (30.0 ft)

55m – Aaron Portes (7.6s)

400m- Carter Tresgallo/Anthony Torricella (1:05.5)



Special Events

Speech and Debate

New to HAP this year, Speech and Debate, instructed by Johanthan Lee Ray of Fordham Prep's Speech and Debate Club, gives Hapsters the chance to experience the formative world of intellectual competition.



Italian/Spanish Classes

These courses are designed to get students interested in learning a new language by providing an engaging platform that combines traditional teaching with online aids. Both Mrs. Simeone and Mrs. DiVita-Geremia use Rosetta Stone, an online program. The students have an account through Fordham Prep which allows them to practice the lessons at home. The curriculum includes basic vocabulary, sentence structure and pronunciation.

Science Lecture

Mr. Haag's lecture on astronomy often proves far more interesting than students expect. The Fordham Prep physics teacher uses videos and online games to introduce concepts like gravity and inertia. The question and answer session gives students a chance to delve more deeply into topics that fascinate them.

Theater Program

Fordham Prep Drama Society director, Mr. O'Sullivan, has designed the program to introduce high school theater to young men who have never acted before, as well as those who may already have experience on stage. Students are taught the basics of theater technology which includes, acoustics, lighting and general knowledge of stage direction. The students also have a chance to develop their acting skills and are given an opportunity to write and perform their own plays.



Latin & Greek Classes

In the first part of the course taught by Mr. Christopher Lauber, students enjoy an introduction to the Greek alphabet, with a focus on vocabulary and the debt of English to Ancient Greek. In the second part of the course, the class turns its attention to Latin with the goal of increasing and developing the students' English vocabulary through its Latin roots. The adventure continues with an introductory classics lecture to the entire HAP class.



Science Classes

Mrs. Calvello teaches a science course for interested students. After studying the chemistry behind mixing Diet Coke and Mentos, students set off their own cola geysers on the back field. They also use basic chemistry to create a substance called *flubber*. The science program is an excellent example of the HAP philosophy that students learn best when academics are combined with hands-on activities.

Cooking Workshop

HAP is again offering its participants a chance to explore the art of cooking. Led by Certified Executive Chef, Mr. Romani, enrolled Hapsters engage in a four-week-long program that culminates in a restaurant-style culinary presentation and grand buffet tasting. Throughout the course, students acquire a knowledge of the fundamentals of basic knife skills, general kitchen safety and sanitation, fundamentals of basic cooking method (sautéing, braising, roasting and grilling), definitions and applications of sauces/stocks, and the five mother sauces and their uses.

Computer Graphics

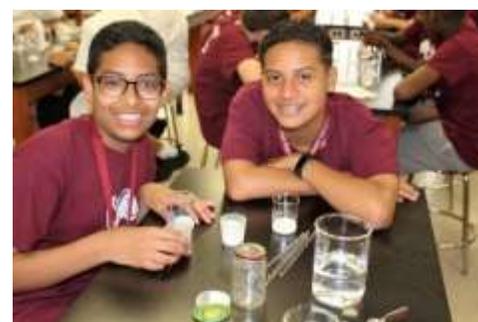
Mr. Butkowski and Mr. Saltarelli's introductory computer graphics workshop has a new and improved curriculum. Students experiment with Photoshop by participating in three unique activities, all of which involve the selection and layering of images. At the end of the program, the students use their new skills to design their own T-Shirt!

Studio Art

HAP offers both a general art class to all students and optional classes for interested students. All students work with Mrs. Porco on a scratchboard project, which involves etching a predesigned image onto a black board with a sharp tool. Students interested in fine arts are encouraged to sign up for additional classes taught by Mrs. Calamari, Mrs. Ritch and Ms. Constantine. The topics range from Japanese cartooning to work inspired by Henri Rousseau's jungle paintings. Exceptional student work from all classes will be displayed in the Hall of Honor at graduation.

Jazz Ensemble

New to HAP this year, Mr. LaGamma's jazz ensemble is open to all students who can play or have at least some familiarity with an instrument. The ensemble meets over a period of ten sessions throughout HAP, including a recording session featuring their work and skill. The recording is set to release by the end of HAP for the listening pleasure of the players' friends and family.



What's HAPpening

Farewell and Best of Luck

Mrs. Theresa Napoli began her career at Fordham Prep in 2003 as Director of the Higher Achievement Program. In 2005, she joined the administration as Assistant Principal for Academics and Student Life. In both roles, Mrs. Napoli has demonstrated an extraordinary care for students, especially those who experience challenges navigating academic life at the Prep. She has also served as a dedicated classroom teacher of freshman level Biology Honors for several years. Our community is deeply grateful for Mrs. Napoli's dedication to the mission of Fordham Prep and the loving care which has been a hallmark of her service and leadership. As the next Principal of St. Barnabas, she will surely advance their mission to "educate young women to develop both the confidence and the recognition that they have the potential to do and the power to be Christian leaders who will change the world."

~ Dr. Joseph Petriello '98



Update on Construction in the Building

In agreement with the Society of Jesus' belief in the practice of self-improvement, Fordham Prep frequently undergoes renovations that increase both learning efficiency and aesthetic appeal. The 2017 season of the Higher Achievement Program finds itself amidst an array of construction and repair. This year, the third floor computer center is undergoing a major renovation and facelift. The update is to feature a new layout for the computer center, designed to make working on one's personal computer easier, and a space for the long awaited third floor Chapel, and a new religious studies office. A much needed repair to Fordham Prep's athletic locker rooms is also underway. The modern locker rooms will provide a clean and peaceful space for athletes both before and after games, and should be completed before the 2017 football season. Go Rams!



HAP Teaching Staff



Mrs. Dolores Ahern

**Ramblers
Cohort D
Writing
BS, New York University
20+ Years Teaching**



Dr. Martin Carney

**Eagles
Cohort A
ELA
BA, St. John Fisher
College
MA, Fordham University
PhD, Fordham University
29 Years Teaching**



Mr. Anthony DiFato '99

**Cardinals
Cohort E
Math
BA, New York University
MSEd, Fordham
University
15 Years Teaching**



Ms. Teresa Faustini

**Hoyas
Cohort E
ELA
BA, Fordham University
MSEd, Fordham
University
25 Years Teaching**



Mr. Patrick Higgins

**Greyhounds
Cohort C
Math
BA, St. John's University
MA, Mercy College
29 Years Teaching**



Mr. Michael Kravatz

**Bulldogs
Cohort D
ELA
BA, Fordham University
MA, Fordham University
22 Years Teaching**

HAP Teaching Staff



Mr. Paul Lauber '08

**Broncos
Cohort E
Writing
BA, Fordham University
MST, Fordham
University
4 Years Teaching**



Ms. Amanda Martino

**Titans
Cohort C
ELA
BA, Iona College
MST, Fordham
University
3 Years Teaching**



Mrs. Anna Meechan

**Rams
Cohort A
Math
BA, Boston University
MA, Northeastern
University
9 Years Teaching**



Mr. Daniel Nolan

**Blue Jays
Cohort B
Writing
BA, Fordham University
MAT, Fordham
University
MSEd, Fordham
University
28 Years Teaching**



Mr. Kevin Pigott

**Rangers
Cohort A
Writing
BA, Iona College
MA, Boston University
36 Years Teaching**



Ms. Tiffany Robertson

**Lions
Cohort D
Math
BA, SUNY New Paltz
First Year Teaching**

HAP Teaching Staff



Mr. Al Seoge

**Hawks
Cohort C
ELA**

**BA, St. John's University
16 Years Teaching**



Ms. Lauren Sica

**Crusaders
Cohort B
Math**

**BA, Iona College
MST, Iona College
8 Years Teaching**



Mrs. Patricia Simeone

**Musketeers
Cohort B
ELA**

**BA, Iona College
MA, Fordham University
25 Years Teaching**



HAP Administration

Dr. David Gelpi
Co-Director of HAP

Mr. Bradley Serton '95
Co-Director of HAP

Mr. Matthew Distefano
HAP Activities Coordinator

Mr. Anthony Scotti '12
HAP Office Manager

Mrs. Laraine Batis-Gelpi
HAP Counselor

Ms. Ayanna Meade, LPN
HAP Nurse

Mr. Michael De Lia '17
HAP Media Specialist

Special Thanks

Fr. Christopher Devron, SJ
President

Dr. Joseph Petriello '98
Principal

Mr. Dennis Ahern '63
Assistant Principal for Professional
Development and Supervision

Mr. Chad Broussard
Assistant Principal for Academics and
Student Life

Mr. Christopher Lauber '79
Engagement

Cater To You Food Service

**Mr. Jim Pollard
and the Fordham Prep
Facilities**

Newsletter created and edited by:
Michael De Lia '17

