

Fordham Prep Newsletter
October 2019

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is a great joy to welcome you and your families to the Prep at the outset of the 2019-20 academic year. This is especially true for our freshman families of the Class of 2023. Our time together at Freshman Family Orientation and Back to School Night last month were filled with a positive spirit and a shared love for the Prep. It was so kind of many of you to provide feedback on the generosity of our faculty and staff and their care for your sons.

Everything that we strive to do as a community rests on our mission: ***to form leaders committed to faith, scholarship, and service through a college preparatory education in the Catholic Jesuit tradition.*** The formation of our young men is the heart of what we do. We also believe that academic excellence is rooted in human excellence, in the values of the [Grad at Grad](#): to form young men who are open to growth, intellectually accomplished, religious, loving, and committed to doing justice.

During my orientation remarks to students, I focused on academic scholarship. Particularly, I stressed that academic excellence cannot flourish without academic integrity, and with moral integrity of good character. Our mission of scholarship can only be accomplished if we hold one another accountable to high standards. So, I invited your sons at the start of this new year to reflect on what it means to be a young man of academic integrity. It is a commitment to five fundamental values: **honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility**. I encourage you to support this endeavor at home as the busyness of academic study, co-curriculars, and athletics challenges your sons in life-giving ways. Help them stay balanced in their pursuit of excellence, as we surely will care for their intellectual, social, and emotional well-being alongside your support.

This is an exciting start to the year: renovated classrooms and new student desks that support 21st century learning, a pop-up makerspace lab with cutting edge technology for our new iSTEAM initiatives, interdisciplinary, project-based learning connected to our ongoing curriculum review, and new video conferencing technology in our Global Education Conference Room, which will allow our students to dialogue in real time with students across our [global network](#) of over 800 Jesuit schools.

I hope you enjoy this first Fordham Prep Newsletter of the year. It is filled with many good things happening at the Prep and important reminders of what is to come in October. Your families will be in my prayers as always. AMDG!

In Christ's Peace,
Joseph A. Petriello, PhD '98
Principal

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In his note above Dr. Petriello refers to Fordham Prep’s mission statement, which is **to form leaders committed to faith, scholarship, and service through a college preparatory education in the Catholic Jesuit tradition.**

While Fordham Prep’s mission is centuries-old, this particular statement is new. In fact, it was officially adopted by our board of trustees at our June 2019 meeting, following a months-long process during which a task force of faculty and board members met to review and revise our previous mission statement created decades ago. In our drafting process, we solicited student input as well.

The fact that the final approved statement includes the three words “faith,” “scholarship,” and “service” should surprise no one. Over the years, these three words have been increasingly used in materials and signage throughout our campus. The task force ultimately decided that they capture the essence of our mission and therefore should be adopted and incorporated to appear front and center in our mission statement itself.

In the context of our Catholic Jesuit tradition, here’s what the words mean to me:

Faith: To believe this life-altering truth: that we are created in the image of God; loved by God; and put on this earth for a unique purpose.

Scholarship: To not accept the status quo for its own sake, but to think critically; to understand the world historically and scientifically. To not take short-cuts but to commit ourselves to rigorous and disciplined reflection; to communicate clearly, and to persuade through careful reason.

Service: To dedicate our effort, our passion, and our energy to be of some concrete assistance, not only to our families, but to our neighbors, and to our larger society—in which human dignity is so often discarded or compromised.

I hope our new mission statement inspires new generations of young men and their families to apply and enroll, and begin the journey of leadership formation in the Catholic Jesuit tradition.

Sincerely,
Fr. Christopher J. Devron, SJ
President

ADMISSIONS

- Applications for the Class of 2024 are now open (fordhamprep.org/admissions)
- Prospective students may submit an Inquiry Form to register for admissions events in advance of submitting the full application, this includes those not yet in 8th grade.
- Ram for a Day visits began on Tues 10/1. Thank you to the over 140 freshmen who have agreed to be guides for prospective students.
- There will be two Open Houses in the Fall. The first will take place on Thurs 10/17 (6-8pm) and the second will take place on Sun 11/3 (1-4 pm). Student volunteers are needed for both events. See Mr. Serton or Mr. Punter (and check your email) for details.

ACADEMICS

- Congratulations to our National Merit Commended Students: Colin Drew '20 and Jack Winiarski '20.
- Course changes for sophomores, juniors, and seniors ended this past Wed 10/2. Freshmen have until the end of the 4th cycle to do so, by Thurs 10/10. All questions should be directed to Mr. Chad Broussard, Assistant Principal for Academics and Student Life (broussardc@fordhamprep.org).
- Deficiencies for the first quarter were posted online Fri 10/4 and can be accessed through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#).
- The PSAT will take place at Fordham Prep for all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors on Wed 10/16.
- The deadline for all parents/guardians and students should sign the Handbook Acknowledgement Form has passed (Tues 10/1). If you have not yet complied with this requirement, please do so as soon as possible by logging into PowerSchool with **parent/guardian credentials** (not student credentials). You can access the form through Ecollect in the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). Detailed instructions on Ecollect can be found [here](#). Any questions about Ecollect or PowerSchool can be directed to Mr. Joseph Kohler, Registrar (kohlerj@fordhamprep.org).
- Letters went out to all parents of graduating seniors, requesting the proper spelling of their graduates name on the diploma. All responses are due no later than Fri 11/1. Please contact Mrs. Tina Porco, Administrative Coordinator, with any questions (porcot@fordhamprep.org).
- Parents who can help with the Senior Internship Program for 2020 should please contact Mr. Broussard.
- Students in the National Honor Society can apply for an NHS Scholarship. The application opens on 10/1 and the deadline is 12/6. Interested NHS members should see Ms. Lauren Zefran immediately. More information can be found at www.nhs.us/scholarship.

ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT LIFE

- We officially welcomed the Class of 2023 into the Prep community with the annual [Freshman Family Orientation](#). Welcome to all of our new families and thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the day a success.
- The annual Activities Fair for freshmen and transfer students was a huge success. Over 70 clubs and activities meet on E-Days during Activities Period. Please encourage your sons to get involved in this important area of student life.
- The Italian Club will be hosting events throughout the month of October in celebration of Italian Heritage Month. More information can be found [here](#).
- On Thurs 10/3, Fordham University alumnus Billy Keenan addressed the senior class during an assembly about "leaving a legacy" at Fordham Prep. Mr. Keenan talked about his experiences of being paralyzed and not allowing his limitations to persuade him from giving up on the life God has given him. We sincerely thank Prep trustee Tom Huvane '84 P'15 for coordinating Mr. Keenan's visit.

ATHLETICS

- **Bowling:** The varsity team under new head coach Frank Savoca will look to move up the rankings from last season. With a core group of talented bowlers, the team strives to compete for the CHSAA city championship finals. CHSAA bowling matches will take place every Tuesday from October through December at Whitestone Lanes.
- **Crew:** The varsity program spent the last weeks in August and September preparing for the Fall regatta schedule. The team will open up this weekend as they travel to Hartford, CT to compete

in the Riverfront regatta. On the weekend of 10/19, the varsity 8 & varsity 4 will travel to Boston to compete in the highly competitive Head of the Charles regatta.

- **Cross-Country:** The varsity team opened its season with a 6th place finish at the 20-team Dan Purdy Invitational in Pawling, NY. Eamonn Sullivan '21 took 1st Place in the 5,000 meter race over 120 competitors in a time of 16 minutes 57 seconds, accompanied by Justin Jordaens '20, Cole Shortall '21 and Liam Dennehy '22, Dean Mayo '22, and Matthew Febles '22. The following week Eamonn Sullivan '21 led the team again as he ran the 7th fastest time out of 8,000 runners at the McQuaid Invitational in Rochester, NY.
- **Football:** Varsity took on a challenge this year and decided to compete in the AA Tier I division which added two AAA programs to their schedule. Opening the season with three road games, the team began with a loss to Monsignor Farrell 24-0, they then traveled back to Staten Island a week later and lost a heartbreaker to St. Peter's 28-20. After a bye-week the Rams traveled to Cardinal Hayes and battled the number one ranked team in the CHSFL by a score of 52-14. The team will play its first home game on Coffey Field on Saturday 10/5 at 4pm vs. Kellenberg.
- **Soccer:** The varsity soccer team opened the season with a 2-0 victory over Iona Prep and have not looked back since. Currently sitting at 11-0 and ranked #5 in New York State, coach Peter McNamara and the varsity team have four more league games in the month of October before they make a run at the CHSAA City Championship.

CAMPUS MINISTRY AND SERVICE

- Seniors have been busy contacting service agencies in order to get their contracts signed and submitted to service teachers by the 10/2 deadline.
- Sophomores and Juniors will attend an assembly at the end of October to introduce them to the Christian Service Immersion Trip opportunities available this year. Applications will open after the assemblies.
- Families are invited to join the Fathers' Club and Parent Faith and Fellowship Committee on Sunday 10/27 for our **Bronx Day of Service**. Learn more and register [here](#).
- Emmaus 294 was a great start for our retreat program in September. Juniors have been emailed the participant lists for the remaining seven Emmaus retreats. Please pray for the participants of Emmaus 295, which takes place 10/21-10/23.
- Interested sophomores, juniors and seniors desiring to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and/or Confirmation this year at our Easter Liturgy on 4/22 are invited to reach out to Mr. Kravatz at kravatzm@fordhamprep.org. The program is designed to assist students whose home parish does not offer sacramental programs after the scheduled time of Confirmation. Classes will begin mid-October and will run through April.

FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY

- We opened the school year with our annual Mass of the Holy Spirit during which the Prep received its sponsorship renewal from the USA Northeast Province of the Society of Jesus. Video of the Mass and ceremony and pictures are available [here](#).
- Recently, Fordham Prep's Ignatian heritage and tradition have been featured on websites for both [The Journal News](#) and newspapers in [Fairfield County, Connecticut](#). Please enjoy and share with friends and family!
- Save the Date: Programs for Prep Parents/Guardians:
 - Advent Supper (Thurs 12/5)
 - Faith on Tap (Wed 1/29)
 - FP and America Media Forum on Faith with Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J. (Sun 3/8)

- **What is Ignatian Spirituality?**
 - Ignatian spirituality is a spirituality for everyday life. It insists that God is present in our world and active in our lives. It is a pathway to deeper prayer, good decisions guided by keen discernment, and an active life of service to others. [Learn More](#)

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

- Save the date for our upcoming musical, *Grease**, which will take place on Fri 11/15 (8pm), Sat 11/16 (8pm), and Sun 11/17 (3pm) in the Leonard Theatre. Tickets are \$10. Over 90 students are involved in the production from Fordham Prep and young women from 12 other high schools. 45 Prep students serve on stage crew. We hope to see you there!
 - **Grease is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company. Book, Music, & Lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey.*
- As part of our iSTEAM initiative, the Visual and Performing Arts Department will collaborate with NYU Langone Medical Center to bring understanding and awareness to the important issue of headaches. Using a week-long curriculum titled, *Headaches and the Arts*, Dr. Mia Minen, Neurologist, will be a guest at the Prep for one of these days to instruct our three sections of Studio Art 1 students.

GLOBAL EDUCATION

- A group of music and drama students from [Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview](#) in Sydney, spent a day at the Prep on Thurs 10/3. The group toured both the Prep and Fordham University, were treated to a History of Drama lecture by School Historian Lou DiGiorno '88, shadowed students in their music and drama classes, and met with the cast and crew of *Grease*. The group also enjoyed a special luncheon in the Hall of Honor.
- This month, *The Journal News* featured an article on the Prep's [Global Education Program](#).
- Information about Global Education trips for 2019-20 can be found at fordhamprep.org/globaleducation

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- The Diversity Committee held their first meeting on Wed 9/25 to discuss plans for the year. More information to follow from Mr. Randy Pedro, Coordinator of Diversity and Inclusion, and Dr. Craig Smith, Assistant Coordinator of Diversity and Inclusion.

SCHOOL COUNSELING

- School counselors have been helping the freshmen get acclimated to the Prep and discussing the habits they need to cultivate that will support their growth and success. With the sophomores and juniors, they will continue to look at the behavioral science on peak performance, achievement, and happiness and practice simple ways to be present and de-stress.

COLLEGE COUNSELING

- The Class of 2021 College Kick-Off Night took place on Thursday 10/3. This evening marked the official start of the college search process, and the college counselors reviewed important details regarding all aspects of the college application process. If you are a junior parent/guardians who missed this mandatory event, please contact Mrs. Carol Isabel (isabelc@fordhamprep.org) to get important information.

- Seniors planning on applying to colleges with deadlines in November were required to enter all transcript requests into Naviance by Friday 10/4. Any questions should be directed to your sons' college counselor.
- Seniors interested in applying to Fordham University at their parents are invited to Fordham Prep Night at Fordham University on Thursday 10/10 at 6:30 pm at the admissions office in Duane Hall. John Buckley, Vice President for Admission and Financial Aid, will host a panel presentation by the college deans. This also proves to be a helpful, informative meeting. Interested students should register for the program in the college visits section of Naviance.
- Senior parents can schedule a family appointment with their son's college counselor through the department's [online calendar](#).

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Vaping of THC, CBD, and nicotine has been popular for years. So what has changed to prompt this current outbreak? Our clinicians recommend reading [this article from The Boston Globe](#). Please see this article as well regarding how to talk with your teens regarding vaping: ["Getting Through to Your Teen about the Dangers of Vaping" \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- Dr. Jennifer Kelly, School Psychologist, recommends an important text: [The Addiction Spectrum: A Compassionate, Holistic Approach to Recovery](#) by Paul Thomas, MD and Jennifer Margulis, PhD. You can read an excerpt from the book [here](#).
- Robert McLaughlin, Chair of the Physical Education and Health Department, has secured Jennifer Monness, founder of The Meditation Lab in Irvington, NY to work with our freshmen once again this year. All freshmen will participate in three sessions through PE/Health class to introduce them to meditation and mindfulness practices in order to build inner resilience to help navigate physical, mental, and emotional stress. Each session provides a different technique, followed by reflection and group discussion.
- Our school clinicians are available at Fordham Prep on the following days:
 - Dr. Jennifer Kelly (School Psychologist) – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
 - Mr. Robert Degen, LCSW (School Social Worker) – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
 - Mr. Ted McCourtney, LMSW (ADAPP Counselor) - Thursday

TECHNOLOGY / COMMON SENSE EDUCATION

- For 2019-20, Fordham Prep is once again partnering with [Common Sense Education](#), an organization committed to developing digital literacy and digital citizenship programs for educators, parents, and school communities.
- The Common Sense [Parent Concerns](#) page has expert guidance on issues ranging from using media to teach young people empathy to teaching them how to spot fake news. Other resources available include the [Family Media Agreement and Device Contract](#). For information in Spanish, please visit [Common Sense Latino](#).
- CSE provides helpful tips to parents/guardians. Recent ones include: ["Talk About Your Digital Day"](#) and ["Support School Success with Digital Tools."](#)
- You can read the latest research study from CSE here: [Social Media, Social Life: Teens Reveal Their Experience](#).
- If you want to learn more about Common Sense Education, please contact Tali Horowitz, Education Director (thorowitz@commonsense.org).

MOTHERS' CLUB

- The Mother's Club is hosting a **Tapas for Trips** event on Thursday 10/10 from 7-9pm. All proceeds from this event will serve as financial aid to students who may otherwise not be able

to participate in Christian Service Immersion and/or Global Education trips. Tickets are \$40 per person and \$75 for a couple. If you are unable to attend but would like to make a donation, any amount would make a difference.

- Please join the Mothers' Club for their annual "Activities Fair" where they will be showcasing their events and committees. Come and see what they are all about: meet other moms, volunteer, or just come for some refreshments and socializing! Tuesday 10/15 at 6:30pm in the Commons.

FATHERS' CLUB

- Please join us for our 6th Annual Army Football Game and BBQ at West Point, NY on Sat 10/5. Parade at 9am, kickoff at noon, BBQ following the game.
- Fordham Prep Fathers' Club:
- Join us at the Prep on Wed 10/23 at 7pm for the first Fathers' Club meeting of the year. Keynote faculty speakers will share opportunities available for your sons to participate in the Christian Service Immersion and Global Education programs.
- On Sunday 10/27, the Fathers' Club will take part in the Bronx Service Day at St. Ignatius School in Hunts Point and Concourse House.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

- Each month we will highlight one strategic priority from our strategic plan: [Igniting Our Mission: Strategic Plan, 2017-2022](#). You can read Fr. Devron's letter about the plan [here](#).
- **Facilities for the 21st Century (2.1):** Expand, modernize, and effectively reconfigure classrooms, group learning spaces and offices.
 - Construction throughout the summer completely renovated two classrooms on the second floor and two on the third floor. These classrooms have state-of-the-art technology, a larger footprint, and new furniture for students and teachers.
 - The final phase of the East Wing Project will commence in Spring 2020 and the project will be completed for the start of the 2020-21 academic year.
- You can read more about the East Wing Project in the Spring 2019 issue of [Ramview](#).

OTHER NEWS

- School will be closed on Mon 10/14 for Columbus Day.
- All freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will take the PSAT at the Prep on Wed 10/16. There are no classes for seniors on that date.