



HAP NEWSLETTER



JULY 2016

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, SCHOLARSHIP & SERVICE

THE HAP EXPERIENCE

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 2016 marks the 40th anniversary of the program at Fordham Prep.

Each morning at HAP, students take courses in Reading, Mathematics, English/Study Skills, and Creative Writing with a twofold purpose in mind: to improve their performances on the Test for Admission into Catholic High Schools (TACHS) and to provide academic enrichment in preparation for a rigorous high school workload. 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.



Care of the individual



ACADEMICS

Mathematics

The Math curriculum focuses on the major topics found in many 7th and 8th grade Math courses, as well as topics covered in many 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

The HAP English curriculum includes Study Skills that presents 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.

Reading

The HAP Reading curriculum 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. Teachers give tests at the end of each week. The students also complete practice problems for the Reading Comprehension section 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 interest 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 rigorous academics, HAP students are exposed to a variety of athletic competitions.

HAP sports include familiar backyard favorites like basketball, kickball and wiffleball, as well as some activities that may be new to some, including floor hockey, rugby, track and field events, and a basketball clinic.

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 Coach Chavez's 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, records are kept and awards are given to the top 10 students of each event. The names of the

winners in each event will be published in the next newsletter.

Basketball Clinic

Fordham Prep English teacher, President of the CHSAA, and Five Star Basketball Camp director, Coach Pigott, holds a basketball clinic for all HAP students. The coach and his assistants demonstrate proper technique for lay-ups, jump-shots, and passing. They also hold relay races along with other exciting competitions.



Special Events

Mass at HAP

Fordham Prep's focus on *Faith Scholarship & Service* are never far away during the HAP experience. By engaging in daily studies and an end-of-program service project, HAP participants automatically meet the merits of *Scholarship and Service*.

Furthermore, those who wish to build upon their faith have the option of attending a weekly mass on Thursday mornings.

Celebrated by Fr. John Costello SJ of Fordham Prep's Campus Ministry instructor and Fr. Christopher J. Devron SJ, our own president. Weekly mass provides Hapsters with a serene environment in where they can reflect on the past and prepare for the future.

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. Simone and Mrs. DiVita-Geremia use the Rosetta Stone 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 following



question and answer session gives students a chance to delve more deeply into topics that fascinate them.

developing the students' English vocabulary through its Latin roots.

Theater Program

Fordham Prep Drama Society director, Mr. O'Sullivan offers his theater workshop to the students. He 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. They were taught the basics of theatre 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. C. 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



Science Classes

Mrs. Calvello teaches science a 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 used 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

For the first time in its forty year tenure at Fordham Prep, HAP is 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 are to 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 and Mrs. Ritch. 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.



What's HAPpening

Meet our Principal

As of January 2016, after months of reviewing, interviewing, and refining a field of capable candidates, the Fordham Prep Search Committee announced that Dr. Joseph Petriello, Class of 1998, would return to the Prep as its Principal. Dr. Petriello is an experienced Ignatian educator, having directed the Christian Service Program and chaired the Religious Studies Department at Xavier High School. Dr. Petriello's academic background, tenure as a teacher, experience as a school leader and innovative work with curriculum development reinforce his ability to support the professional growth of faculty and to promote student learning to meet today's challenges and seize the opportunities of tomorrow. His work demonstrates a commitment to the core Ignatian principles of *cura personalis* (care of the individual) and the *magis* (the more).



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. After completing a successful HAP season last year amidst constant construction, the Prep is entering its inaugural summer season, with its new front entrance and Commons. The updates include vaulted ceilings, counter tops and charging stations, a waiting area, and plenty of real estate to display artifacts that honor the Prep's rich history. This season of HAP, however, bears witness to less obvious renovations. The band room, home of our musically inclined clubs, will be the recipient of a thorough sound proofing operation. Furthermore, the Prep's locker rooms are receiving a much needed facelift and will be fully operational by the beginning of the next scholastic year.

HAP Teaching Staff



Mrs. Dolores Ahern

**Ramblers
Cohort 4
Writing
BS, New York University
20+ Years Teaching**



Dr. Martin Carney

**Eagles
Cohort 1
Reading
BA, St. John Fisher
College
MA, Fordham University
PhD, Fordham University
28 Years Teaching**



Mr. Anthony DiFato '99

**Ramblers
Cohort 4
Writing
BS, New York University
MSEd, Fordham
University
20+ Years Teaching**



**Mrs. Teresa
Di Vita- Geremia**

**Eagles
Cohort 1
Reading
BA, Iona College
MA, St. John's University
18 Years Teaching**



Mr. Ryan Fedak '09

**Rangers
Cohort 1
English and Study Skills
BA, Fordham University
MST, Fordham
University
3 Years Teaching**



Mr. Brian Heurer

**Rams
Cohort 1
Mathematics
BA, SUNY Purchase
MA, Lehman College
14 Years Teaching**

HAP Teaching Staff



Mr. Patrick Higgins

**Greyhounds
Cohort 3
Math
BA, St. John's University
MA, Mercy College
28 Years Teaching**



Mr. Michael Kravatz

**Bulldogs
Cohort 4
English
BA, Fordham University
MA, Fordham University
21 Years Teaching**



Mr. Paul Lauber '08

**Broncos
Cohort 1
Writing
BA, Fordham University
MST, Fordham
University
3 Years Teaching**



Mr. William Magner

**Titans
Cohort 3
Reading
BA, SUNY Cortland
MAT, Manhattanville
College
14 Years Teaching**



Ms. Amanda Martino

**Hoyas
Cohort 4
Reading
BA, Iona College
MST, Fordham
University
2 Years Teaching**



Mr. John Mercorella '07

**Wolves
Cohort 3
Writing
BA, Fordham
University
MS, Fordham
University
6 Years Teaching**

HAP Teaching Staff



Mr. Daniel Nolan

**Blue Jays
Cohort 2
Writing
BA, Fordham University
MAT, Fordham
University
MSEd, Fordham
University
27 Years Teaching**



Ms. Elizabeth Osselaer

**Crusaders
Cohort 2
English
BA, Northern Arizona
University Flagstaff
1 Year Teaching**



Mr. Al Seage

**Hawks
Cohort 3
English
BA, St. John's University
15 Years Teaching**



Mrs. Patricia Simeone

**Musketeers
Cohort 2
Reading
BA, Iona College
MA, Fordham University
24 Years Teaching**



Mr. Damien Strecker

**Lions
Cohort 4
Math
BA, Xavier University
MA, Fordham University
8 Years Teaching**

HAP Administration

Mrs. Theresa Napoli
Assistant Principal
for Academics and Student Life
&
Director of HAP

Dr. David Gelpi
Assistant Director of HAP

Mrs. Mella O'Halloran
Associate Director

Mr. Matthew Distefano
HAP Activities Coordinator

Mr. Anthony Scotti '12
HAP Office Manager

Mrs. Maureen Martinez
Guidance & Counseling

Ms. Ayanna Meade, LPN
HAP Nurse

Mr. Elias Gelpi '12
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. Christopher Lauber '79
Director of Publications

Cater To You Food Service

**Mr. Jim Pollard
and the Fordham Prep
Physical Plant Staff**

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