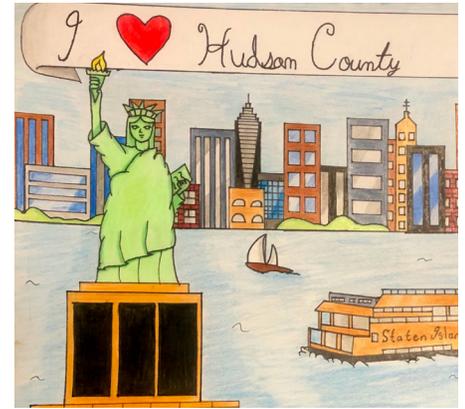


## #HCSTstrong: Coming Together to Continue Our Mission



### A Message from the Superintendent

Despite the unique challenges we faced during this global health crisis, I remain proud of the HCST Family's collaborative efforts to support one another. Even more remarkably, the "HCST connections" made during this time were not confined to those we would normally see on a typical school day. Our students, teachers and staff went above and beyond to give back to their own communities; whether that meant delivering meals to those keeping us safe or donating masks and ear savers to the men and women working on the front line.

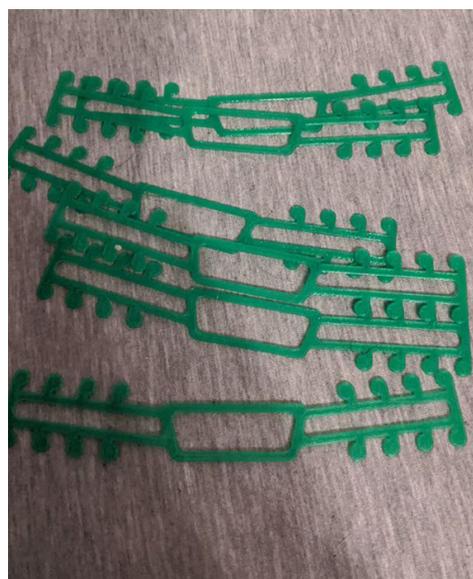
Times like these show the true nature of people. We are overwhelmed by the kindness, perseverance, creativity and flexibility our community has demonstrated during this pandemic.

In this issue of HCST Connections, we are highlighting a snippet of the work that has been done both inside and outside of the virtual environment. The past few months have certainly not been easy, but we thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation as we navigate through these uncharted waters - together - HCST strong. I hope you and your families enjoy a wonderful and much needed summer recess. We look forward to connecting with you again soon.

*Amy Lin - Rodriguez*

Superintendent

### Ear Savers for Those Who Need Them Most



**High Tech Interactive Media Teacher Jared Krinsky** along with students from the academy of Design and Fabrication put their 3D printing skills to good use.

The group designed and printed plastic ear savers for those working in the medical field to alleviate pressure from hours of wearing face masks.

## County Prep Junior Keeps Jersey City Clean with Go-Kart



When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, **County Prep** junior **Joseph Marto** decided to take a unique approach to giving back to his community. Marto, a Culinary Arts major, grabbed his go-kart and bleach, attached a broomhead to the front and began cleaning the streets around his Jersey City neighborhood.

Taking it a step further, Marto also stopped to clean dirty or graffitied surfaces he came across.

"I came about the idea because my father does graffiti removal for the City of Jersey City, so as I ride around anything that had graffiti or needed to be cleaned I started to do it myself," Marto said. "The social distancing is pretty good, I stay as far as I can from people and just go on about my day."

In the winter months, Marto uses his go-kart as a snow plow.



## Nurse Fargo Joins the Front Line in Fight Against COVID-19



*Riana Jumamil, Class of 2010 (far left) Nurse Karen Fargo (third from left) and volunteers at the COVID-19 testing site.*

**Nurse Karen Fargo**, of the Frank J. Gargiulo Campus, joined the frontlines of the fight against COVID-19 when distanced learning began. COVID-19 testing site, by providing tests to residents for the virus. During her time at the site, Nurse Fargo also met Riana Jumamil, a 2010 graduate of High Tech, who was volunteering before leaving for San Francisco to begin her own medical practice.

Additionally, Nurse Fargo helped arrange with **Alba Simon** to have face shields and ear straps that were made by students in the Design and Fabrication Academy donated to the testing site and the North Bergen Housing Authority nurses.

## Handmade Masks for Hudson's Heroes



**High Tech High School** student **Karen Iskander** put her sewing skills to work at the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak in New Jersey. Iskander made more than a dozen homemade, reusable masks for the staff at Bayonne Medical Center in April.

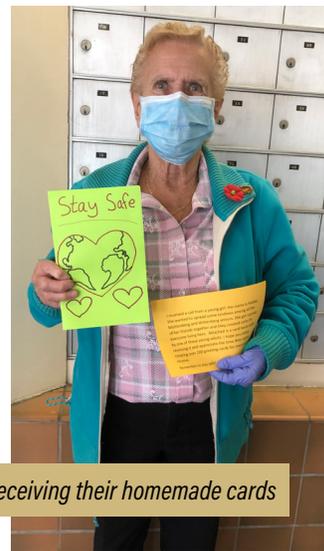
# Brightening the Day for Jersey City Seniors



Cards made for seniors living in Muhlenberg Gardens



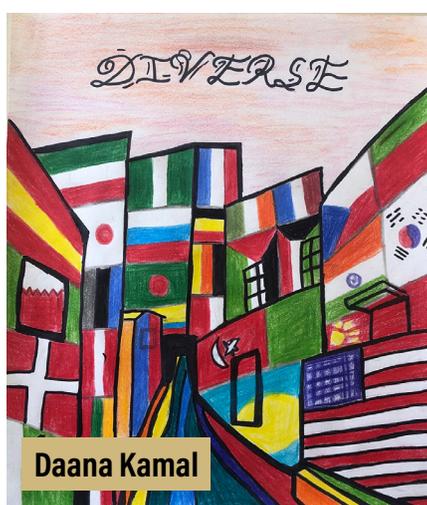
Residents of Muhlenberg Gardens receiving their homemade cards



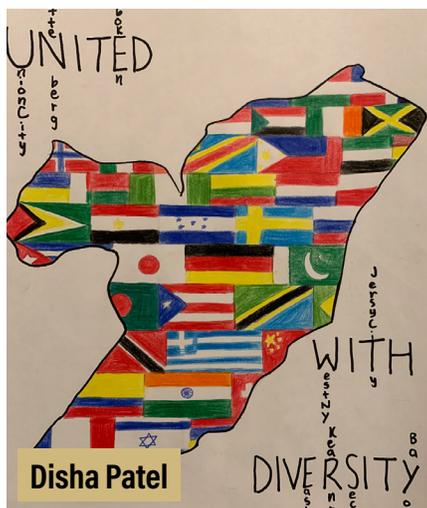
With many people feeling lonely during the COVID-19 stay at home orders, a group of **High Tech High School** students and their friends decided to brighten the day of Jersey City seniors. Senior **Rishika Bandamede** lives near Muhlenberg Gardens and decided to organize a way to deliver handmade greeting cards to seniors living in the complex.

Joining her in this effort were classmates **Kamila Esquivel**, **Aleema Ali**, **Julissa Laignelet**, **Shahbano Abid**, and **Shanaz Munna**, along with their friends and family. The group surpassed their goal of 200 messages and delivered 250 cards to the senior building.

## HCST Students Participate in 'How Much We Love Hudson County' Art Contest



Daana Kamal



Disha Patel



Nyellie Muniz



Tiara Jenkins-Amaker



Layza Velez

Hudson County  
a community

Students from **Explore Middle School** and **County Prep High School** participated in the "How Much We Love Hudson County" art contest to display their hometown pride during the COVID-19 pandemic. With dozens of entries, five HCST students were among the winners:

- **Layza Velez**, a seventh grade student at Explore Middle School
- **Daana Kamal**, a freshman at County Prep High School
- **Tiara Jenkins-Amaker**, a sophomore at County Prep High School
- **Nyellie Muniz**, a junior at County Prep High School
- **Disha Patel**, a senior at County Prep High School

Each winning student received a \$25 Target gift card and all participants were presented with a certificate.

"It was uplifting to see the creativity and messages of hope reflected in the artwork, videos and poems," said Hudson County Prosecutor **Esther Suarez**. "During these difficult times, we thought this would be a positive way for young people to engage in a creative outlet while sharing what they love about their home towns. We thank everyone who participated, including the teachers who used this as a way to showcase their students' creative talents."

## Loew's Jersey Theatre Pays Tribute to Class of 2020



To honor the Class of 2020 and celebrate their accomplishments, the Loew's Jersey Theatre displayed a congratulatory message on their marquee to every high school in Jersey City. The marquee displayed the **Academy of Technology and Design** on May 23 and 24 and **County Prep High School** on May 26 and May 27.

You can also watch as the Academy of Technology and Design display was installed [here](#). Be sure to read the next issue of *HCST Connections* as we honor the Class of 2020.

## High Tech Alumnus Treating Patients at Epicenter of COVID-19 Outbreak



Andy J. Reyes-Santos  
(Credit: Hackensack University Medical Center)

**Andy J. Reyes-Santos**, a 2010 graduate of **High Tech High School**, had been working as a pediatric resident doctor at Hackensack University Medical Center when COVID-19 began spreading at an alarming rate in New Jersey.

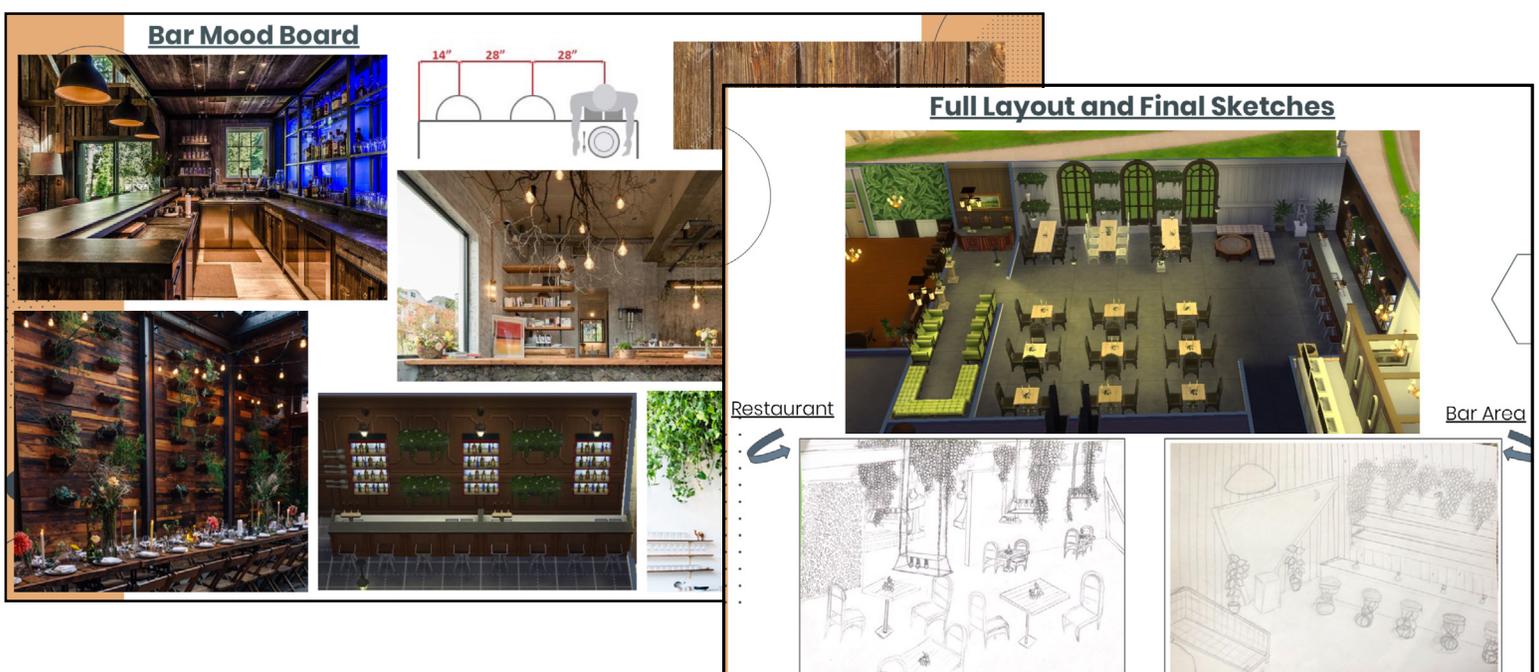
With more and more patients being admitted with the deadly virus, Reyes-Santos was reassigned to work with both adults and children who received positive test results. Some days were rougher than others, [he recalls in a ROI-NJ publication](#), and the reaction and pain felt when people were told their loved ones had passed, was gut-wrenching.

"You never know what is going to happen," he said. "You try your best. Sometimes, things go south very quickly and, sometimes, they go well. All we can do is show up to work and hope we are making a difference."

Reyes-Santos is just one of the former HCST graduates who have been helping treat and help those impacted by the global health crisis.

"When we had the opportunity to educate Andy over a decade ago, we knew he was destined to do great things within the community. I am in awe of what our graduates continue to accomplish in their professional careers," said **Superintendent Amy Lin-Rodriguez**. "The life skills our students learned within their vocational education and technical training have made all the difference as we continue down the road to recovery."

## ACE Students Complete Final Presentations



Despite the limited resources available to them this semester, students in the ACE Mentoring program completed their final presentations online with RSC Architects. Their project focused on a conceptual plan to build a Gastronomic Center at High Tech High School. Students researched the culture in the neighboring towns and created a presentation that encompasses various design elements to best suit the needs of the facility.

## Feeding and Thanking the Frontline



County Prep Guidance Counselor **Caroline Olivella** has been giving back to her community in Bayonne by working with Double Batch Bakery to deliver food to first responders and staff at Bayonne Medical Center and the RWJ Barnabas Health satellite hospital.

## Teen Arts Competition Goes Virtual for 2020



Despite distanced learning regulations still in place and limits on large gatherings, this year's Hudson County Teen Arts Competition was still conducted with students bringing their work online.

The Hudson County Alliance for Teen Artists collected various performances, paintings, photographs and other works of art to create a virtual showcase. Each of the submissions was compiled on a website ([hcata.com](http://hcata.com)) for all to enjoy.

"We were limited this year with the amount of work we could enter, but received pieces from Photography, Graphic Arts, Fashion Design and Art," said **Gerard Patten, Country Prep Photography Instructor**. "I think the work the students turned in was beautiful. There is also a section for Senior Spotlights where we were able to honor some of our seniors from the above programs and also Dance. A special thanks to all our teachers and students who participated this year and to the staff who put together the article for the website. A special thank you goes to **Amy Lin-Rodriguez** for your continued support throughout the year."

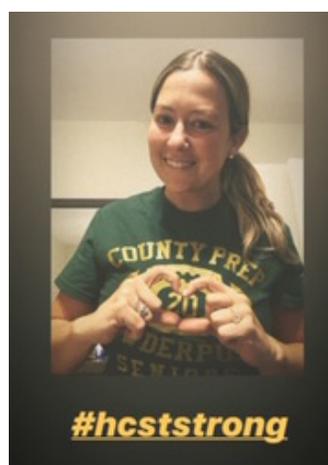
## Assisting those in Need in Hoboken



**High Tech High School** junior **Alison Fung** used her extra time to volunteer with Hoboken's Community Emergency Response Team to answer calls and assist residents with questions

about COVID-19. She also began training for a Teen CERT program, which trains teens in disaster preparedness and disaster response.

## Keeping Students Connected



Senior Class Advisor **Krystina Nardone** worked to keep her students motivated and energized during distanced learning. Checking in with her students regularly, she helped boost morale and promote a unique sense of school spirit

by emphasizing and driving to attention to the #HCSTstrong campaign, even with students learning outside of the classroom.

# High Tech Conducts Virtual National Honor Society for Dance Arts Ceremony



Seven **High Tech High School** junior Dance majors were inducted to the National Honor Society for Dance Arts at a virtual ceremony hosted by veteran Dance Instructor **Mrs. Trista DeFilippis**.

During the ceremony, the 2020 NHSDA inductees – **Isabel Dadulla, Jennifer Fuehrer, Emily Kelly, Isabella Pliskin, Lucy Rieder, Martha Silva and Nicolette Zika** – were awarded with a certificate and a pin from the NHSDA. The event also included a tribute to the four outgoing senior members of the NHSDA, **Krystal Andrade, Lola Buczkowski, Sophia Gallagher and Jasmine Grullon**, who were awarded special graduation cords to be worn with their caps and gowns. The seniors delivered speeches highlighting their four years as dance majors and described how dance has influenced their lives.

## The Show Must Go On: Theater Students Take Production Online

**County Prep** Theater students continued to practice their lines and put on innovative performances of plays they had been studying this school year. Instructor **Raluca Shields** directed *“Now What? EveryActor’s Dilemma During the Great Quarantine,”* which includes excerpts of the play *“You Can’t Take it with You”* by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman.

You can watch the performance on YouTube by [clicking here](#).

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT



#HCSTstrong

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