

HCST Students are Back in the Classroom!



HCST is thrilled to welcome students back for in-person classes.

Students reflect on what it feels like to be back in school, and on their hopes for the coming year:



"I love being back in school, seeing friends, and finally being in person. The staff at Explore have done a wonderful job keeping order and making sure everyone is safe and comfortable."

Isabella Escobar, Explore MS

"I am enjoying seeing all of my friends and classmates for our final year here at County Prep together."

Terique Miller, CPHS



"I am very happy to be back in school. After being virtual for more than a year I am finally able to socialize again with my friends and teachers."

Victoria Rich, Explore MS



"It feels amazing to be back in school and surrounded by this atmosphere. Being back in the building is very uplifting, and exciting. We haven't been fully in person in over a year and half, and I'm thankful to be able to experience my senior year surrounded by my friends and teachers!"

Taylor Shaw, High Tech HS



"Coming back to school is great because I get to make new friends and I get to learn about my favorite subjects. I love to work with other people and everyone is joyful! I also really love the chocolate chip muffins in the cafeteria."

Orchid Ryals, Explore MS



"Being back in school feels surreal. Over the past year and a half, I've adapted to online school and come to terms with the fact that it would be the new reality. Now, I have to readapt to being back in school but I'm excited to see what the year brings."

Selah Maple, High Tech HS



"I feel like I can focus better during class and get my work completed."

Amari Younger, CPHS



Welcome to Our New Teachers and Staff!

As we begin this new year, we are so excited to welcome all of HCST's new teachers and staff.



Adrian Nocum

**SOCIAL STUDIES,
EXPLORE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

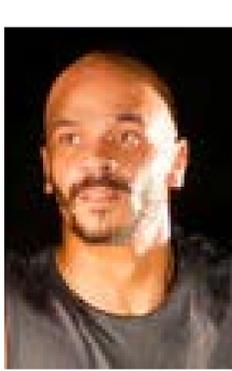
Adrian is a graduate of County Prep HS, and was born and raised in Jersey City. "As a graduate of CPHS, the idea of coming back to this district in any capacity always intrigued me. When a position opened up at Explore Middle School, I felt like the "motherhood" was calling me home. My favorite thing about HCST is the top to bottom leadership. Every district I've worked in before, different administrators and the superintendent made sure there was a clear separation between them and their teachers. Here in HCST, I feel supported by everyone I've come in contact with. It's a big family and nobody is too high up to have a conversation with. I feel I can do my job with ease knowing that leadership has my back and wants to put me in the best position to succeed working with students."



J. Martha Wachulec

**VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC,
COUNTY PREP HS/ATD**

Martha is from Bayonne and graduated from County Prep HS in 2015. "I chose to work at HCST as a way to give back to the school that gave me many lasting connections and a springboard into my career. I am excited to not only teach, but to learn from the bright and talented students at CPHS/ATD. I look forward to seeing how the last two challenging years have shaped their musicianship and outlook on the world. I have two favorite highlights from working at HCST. One has been reuniting with former teachers/staff and meeting the students, especially after quarantine. Another has been working in CPHS/ATD's new Music & Audio Technology wing - a space that inspires productivity, creativity, and excellence. It is affirming to work in a district that values and invests in music and the arts. I would like to give a shout-out to the sophomores, juniors, and seniors who participated in the Music & Audio Technology Department's first ever Music Performance & Recording Summer Camp in August. The can-do attitude, ambition, and positive attitude the students showed over the course of 8 days was infectious and inspiring! What a wonderful way to start my time as an HCST Staff Member!"



Addys Lorenzo Gonzalez

**AMERICAN AND WORLD LITERATURE,
HIGH TECH HS/ACTE**

Addys is from Santiago, Dominican Republic and graduated from High Tech HS where he has now returned to teach. "I chose to work at High Tech because I realized the impact this kind of education had on me as a young person. I want to offer students a space to investigate themselves, confront the world, and feel empowered to enact change. The students are by far my favorite thing about working at High Tech. They are fiercely intelligent and consciously sensitive. When I was a student at High Tech, I first majored in Biology and then switched to dance. I then became a professional dancer for 15 years."



Craig R. Morrison

**FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE DJFAB
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, HIGH TECH HS/ACTE**

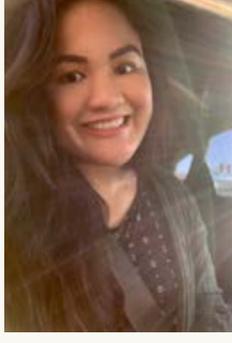
Craig was born in Jamaica and came to the USA at a very young age. He went to Public School #23 and Dickinson HS, before getting his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from New Jersey City University. "This school is wonderful. I felt the warmth of welcome from everyone. Principal Kathy Young was very welcoming and it has always been a dream of mine to work in a place where everyone respected each other."



Chef Athena Bellotti

**CULINARY ARTS INSTRUCTOR,
HIGH TECH HS**

Athena grew up in Bayonne and graduated from County Prep HS. "HCST is like home! My favorite thing about working here is being able to give back to those students in the community that want to learn culinary, just like I was taught by my mentor Chef Kevin Collins!"



Alexandra 'AJ' Llaguno

BIOLOGY TEACHER, COUNTY PREP HS/ATD

Alexandra attended Lasercat & High Tech HS, and grew up in Bayonne. "I grew up in the HCST community. As a shy student entering high school, High Tech introduced me to educators and peers who welcomed me with open arms. I had many unique experiences and pursued passions like judo and yoga that I found through the after-school programs. To have the opportunity to work here is amazing as I feel that I can continue to grow and mature as an individual with the district. Working with HCST, I get to collaborate with fellow colleagues who are very passionate about what they do. It truly inspires me to be able to work alongside the same people that I looked up to growing up. Meeting new friendly faces and being surrounded by familiar ones, my favorite thing about working here is being a part of this tightknit community."

Students Participate in Summer FunFit Program



This past summer, students from High Tech High School/ACTE, County Prep High School/ATD and Explore Middle School came together at the Frank J. Gargiulo Campus to participate in FunFit: a fitness-oriented summer program aimed at promoting exercise and healthy living.

Students enjoyed a comprehensive schedule which included breakfast, lunch, recreational activities at the park and indoor team sports activities. Students also improved their knowledge of overall health through short nutrition courses, meditative yoga sessions, and collaborative games with their peers. Fun Fit ended on August 12th with a Carnival surprise for all the students who participated.

Students Learn About Gardening at the Youth Urban Farm Club



This summer, students ages 11-18 gained a greater understanding of where their food comes from at the Youth Urban Farm Club, run by Rutgers 4-H Hudson County - Youth Urban Farm Club in partnership with the Historic Jersey City & Harsimus Cemetery, Sgt. Anthony Park & Garden, and Guttenberg Arts.

High Tech HS Students who applied for and were accepted into this program spent approximately 16 hours a week in July and August learning about all aspects of gardening, while also developing their teamwork and leadership skills, and building community.

"During my time with the Urban Youth Farming Club I learned more about the Indigenous Tribes that were native to the land here in Hudson and how to respect it," said **Alyssa Mohammed, High Tech HS** who participated in the club this summer. "I would continue to do this because it was right up my alley, I love plants and gardening so much and I got to share fun experiences with people that like gardening as well. It was definitely worth it."

Responses from Rutgers 4-H and students who participated this summer were so positive that the program will likely be expanding and working with the Environment Science Academy to continue work-based learning during the school year.

CPHS Holds First Ever Summer Orientation



This summer County Prep High School/ATD held its first ever in-person summer orientations for the incoming class of 2025 as well as the rising 10th grade class of 2024. The orientation took place over the course of two days, during which students took I.D. photos, issued school provided devices (chromebooks), and distributed schedules. In addition, our student Peer Leaders led our students on building tours and socialization icebreaker games to help welcome students to our family.

Career Development Center is Open and Taking Appointments



The Career Development Center is open and taking appointments. The CDC is a comprehensive resource for students at all stages of their education and professional development.

The Center is dedicated to serving students throughout HCST's schools. They offer ESL classes which meet Monday through Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm, both in person and virtually. The East Newark satellite office, which offers similar resources, is also open to the public Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00am - 3:00pm.

In addition to ESL classes, the Career Development Center offers services such as computers, phones, and fax machines, all of which students are able to use free of charge when they sign up for a time slot.

Visit hcstonline.org/cdc-one-stop to book your appointment today!



CALLING ALL JOB SEEKERS

JOB FAIR



Looking for a job? Want to learn a trade? Looking to network? Employers in various fields will be recruiting!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021 • 5 PM - 8 PM

**Earl W Byrd Center (County Prep High School)
525 Montgomery Street - Jersey City, NJ 07302**

Round-Trip Bus Transportation Beginning at 4:30pm Provided by HCST from the Following Locations:
Hudson County One-Stop - 48th Street & Kennedy Blvd., Union City
Frank J Gargiulo Campus - One High Tech Way, Secaucus

Come prepared to interview • Bring 5-10 copies of your resume • Neat attire recommended • Free parking

Register NOW Online to Attend!

Employers Interested in Attending, Please Call: (201) 369-5205 Ext. 3756



Adult Programs Available

ADULT HIGH SCHOOL

✉ hcstonline.org/adult-high-school

☎ (201) 662-6791

POST SECONDARY PROGRAMS

✉ hcstonline.org/hudsontechnical

☎ (201) 631-6350

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