

Here, at HCST we have spent the summer enriching our students and preparing our facilities for a successful school year.

We are always striving to develop new and creative ways to engage our students in preparation for college and career pathways.

#HCSTStrong!

County Prep Hosts Summer STEM Camp



County Prep/ATD High School hosted its second summer STEM Camp this year at the Earl W. Byrd Center, from July 11th - July 28th. This year's program featured frog dissections, rocket design and propulsion, as well as activities in the hydroponics lab. Students got to spend three weeks honing their science, technology, engineering and math skills under the supervision of science instructors Stephanie Szymanski, Nick LaVolpe, Mark Sotardi, Rafael Rosario, and Feridinad Ramos. Along with HCST staff, STEM in Arts, Partners in Education, LLC collaborated with the program to bring fun, innovative and educational lessons to our students. Under the direction of County Prep/ATD High School Assistant Principal Mark R. Rogers, this year's program was once again a huge success. Mr. Rogers said, *"Next year we hope to expand this program to all of our district students with the goal of providing more diverse learning opportunities to our HCST community"*.

STEAM Camp at Explore Middle School

This summer Explore Middle school incoming and current students participated in a STEAM Summer Innovation Camp, led by STEAM/Arts Partners in Education along with our Explore Staff. During the Camp, the students participated in STEAM community activity project-based lessons using the Engineering Design Process (EDP), Rocket Launch Pad project-based lessons that include math & science, Binary Coding project-based lessons using binary coding techniques, and race car project-based lessons that included applications of mathematics and science principles. They also completed maker-space projects and Mathletics, and learned how to solve a Rubik's Cube. At the end of the camp, there were two student competition days where students won awards and certificates, joined for the final competition and awards ceremony on August 18th by parents and HCST staff.



Summer Fun Fit Teaches Students To Build Healthy Habits



This summer's Fun Fit Program, led by Adam Fitzgibbons, FunFit Lead Coordinator & HTHS Physical Education Instructor, had the largest student enrollment to date! Students from every school in the district participated, learning about the importance of discipline and accountability, as well as how to create healthy habits and a healthy lifestyle. They also had the opportunity to work on team building, and build relationships with their peers. Mr. Fitzgibbons expressed pride in the students' and staff's consistency and commitment to showing up everyday for themselves. They went through some very tough workouts!



True Schools of Technology



Over the course of the summer we were busy completing our yearly technology upgrades and building maintenance projects to ensure that when students and teachers returned to their classrooms everything was running smoothly, and that all of our systems were fully up to date.

Annual updates span across district-wide departments and all schools. To begin, the Tech Department worked on installing the latest OS version, cleaning up the hard drives, and installing software updates on classroom computers as per teachers' requests. We also ensured the Smartboard and Nuc functionality was checked and updated in classrooms, and made sure that all new Chromebooks were inventoried, tagged, enrolled in the Google admin console, and connected to HCST wireless network. Laptops were prepared with the necessary software and connected to the HCST network for new staff members, and login and email accounts created for new staff and students. A file import preparation was executed for the State's Fall Start Strong Assessment ELA 6-10, Math 6-8, and Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry, as well as photo ID printing for all students in the district, and we updated the workflow of Work Based Learning and Internship applications. We created an online form for guidance counselors to provide SAT Fee Waivers to eligible students, worked with the Transportation Department to update the school bus stops based on responses from the back-to-school packet, and finalized student schedules for the 2022-2023 school year.

At the EWB Center, we replaced the 8-year-old server and storage environment with a modern HPe server and storage solution to increase the speed and availability of files and applications. The wireless controller was upgraded to the latest version and all wireless access points were replaced to allow for support of the faster and most recent iteration of the Wi-Fi network protocol WiFi 6. Lastly, a new core switch and a new switch in each network closet was installed to accommodate the power requirements of the new access points. The rest of the switches will be replaced as new ones are delivered.

At Explore Middle School, all the 8-year-old wireless access points were replaced with new ones that support the latest wireless technology WiFi 6, 50 percent of the network switches were replaced and the remaining will be replaced as they are delivered, and the WAN connectivity between Explore and EWB Center was doubled from 1GB to 2GB.

Summer Film Camp 2022

This year we gathered eleven students to partake in a Summer Film Camp where we worked collaboratively with the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office. We joined forces to teach students video editing skills as well as expose them to various important health and safety topics by having students edit various filmed clips into informational videos.



The end product is a 14-part segment that consists of topics from elderly fraud to sexual assault. Each segment is focused on a separate subject and informs viewers how to prevent, deal with, and recognize these situations. Topics that are discussed include elder law fraud, sexual assault awareness, what to do before the ambulance arrives, sammy's law safety ride share, the law enforcement helping hand

program, drugs: what's on the street, recognition and response to an overdose including an intro to narcan, love smart, rising trends in juvenile justice, what you should know about vaping, interaction with law enforcement, implicit bias in the law, use of force, and internet safety.

Through the editing process students learned how to perform a variety of tasks, such as catalog, add picture-on-picture, title, lay audio tracks on their voices, and more. These videos will be distributed to high schools, colleges, workplaces, religious sanctuaries, school camps, and elsewhere to inform the general public about the important topics that they cover. For their hard work and dedication, these students will be receiving a prestigious internship certificate from the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office.

In addition to making these videos, the students carried out another project where they interviewed staff members in order to get to know the personnel of High Tech better. Students gained numerous skills pertaining to the interview process such as using lapel microphones, fixing lighting, camerawork, interview scripting, as well as setting up the backdrop, such as the green screen and table.

We conducted open discussions regarding projects for the upcoming school year, and we agreed upon a cross media project. We will be utilizing projection screens and canvases to appreciate police sketch artists who dedicate their skills to saving lives.

"It was a great experience with the students and myself creating a partnership that will last years to come," said Gregg Ascolese, Audio + Production Instructor. "They did exceptionally with these videos and will continue to pursue projects."

Congratulations to our New Security Supervisors!



Frank Janssen

Frank Janssen has resided in Hudson County for 45 years and is a father to 3 boys. They all enjoy sports, music, and the outdoors. Frank attended high school and grammar school in North Bergen before he attended and graduated from the Essex County Police Academy. A retired North Bergen Police Officer, he loves having spent so much of his career serving his hometown. In 2012, Frank was hired as a part time Security Officer at High Tech High School in North Bergen, was given a full time position in 2013, and then promoted to Supervisor in 2014. Frank is a people's person and is dedicated to treating everyone equally. He considers the staff and students family and treats them as such, but when it comes down to doing his job, professionalism is his very first priority. Over the course of the school year, he works diligently with his staff to educate and assist teachers and students to ensure that High Tech High School is safe for all!



Mohammed Awadallah

Mohammed Awadallah, known by most people as Marve, is currently the Floating Supervisor for the district, based mainly at the Frank J. Gargiulo Campus. He has worked for the school district for 11 years so far, and loves his job and the special connections that he has been able to make at work. He has grown to know a large number of the staff, students and their families which helps him to keep everyone safe. He takes pride in knowing where most teachers' classrooms are located at the campus, and always strives to offer help to students, teachers and other staff anytime it is needed. Taking the SORA (Security Guard Continuing Education) class helped him to learn about current events and security regulations, such as brushing up on checking IDs and other safety procedures within the school building.



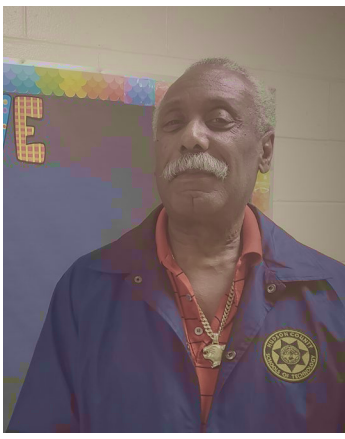
Kimberly Bryant

Kimberly Bryant is a proud wife and mother of two, and has worked for the district for over 10 years. In her current role as the evening shift Security Supervisor at County Prep High School, she ensures that only authorized personnel are allowed on sight, and protects the safety and wellbeing of both students and faculty. Kimberly credits the SORA training that the Security Department recently completed for instilling in her even more confidence in her abilities.



Thomas Murphy

Thomas Murphy, Security Supervisor based at EWBC is the father of 2. He is a graduate of Bayonne High School where he played Varsity baseball, basketball and soccer and a graduate of Keystone College where he played soccer and baseball. Outside of his role as a Security Supervisor for the district, he also works as a high school and college baseball recruiter. Tom also works as a recruiter for Chattanooga Post Grad. For the HCST school district, he coordinates daily assignments for the security staff at the EWB Center, puts together plans for emergency responses for the building, and works closely with school district officials along with school Principal Mendolla, Facility Director D'Alessandro and Asst. Facility Director Pandolfo to keep faculty, staff and students safe on a daily basis. In addition, he also works with the Sheriff's Department to coordinate daily assignments in the district. Tom is grateful to work alongside such great people to ensure a safe and healthy environment for the students of the HCST school district.



Yves Monplaisirpierre

Yves Monplaisirpierre is a Security Supervisor at the EWBC, and has worked for the district for 32 years as a Security Officer. His responsibilities are to keep the grounds and employees safe, as well as notifying the other supervisors in charge any time there may be a safety issue. He works to be a positive role model for all HCST students by leading through example, and believes in the saying, "Treat others as you want to be treated and respected so that it is returned unto you".



Frank Altomare

Frank Altomare is a Security Supervisor at Explore Middle School. He has been with the district for ten years, beginning at the Earl W. Byrd Center where he learned that security wasn't just about the safety of buildings, but also about communication with students. This attitude has helped him to continue growing the security team at Explore into not only an observant one, but one that is well informed when it comes to the student population. Training in SORA has also given his staff and him increased knowledge of true security applications, and they look forward to embracing new challenges to come.



Paul Ensmann

Paul Ensmann has been with the District for 27 years, and is the last person you see at the end of the day as he closes up the building. Paul is always happy, and works hard to ensure that our students are not only safe and protected but also happy and laughing! Paul's hobbies include football, sports, and taking care of his new grandson who is about to have his first birthday! Paul is also the father of two educators, one of whom teaches history at HCST and the other who teaches art graphic design at North Bergen High School.

Student Support & Mental Health Summer and Upcoming Programs

The summer enrichment program continues to be a success because of the support from all Child Study Team members, County Prep

Guidance Counselors and teaching staff. The Summer Enrichment Camp afforded students the opportunity to further develop their academic and social emotional skills. The upcoming 12th graders participated in the SAT Prep Program that enhanced their test taking skills in Math and Language Arts, and the upcoming 9th graders were exposed to algebraic concepts. The 10th and 11th graders learned more about geometric concepts, and all students received reinforcement in writing skills and grammar. Students were exposed to strategies to enhance their time management and organizational skills and developed crucial coping and mental wellness skills to support them throughout the school year.

Coming into the 2022-2023 school year, the Child Study Team will provide a myriad of services like support for special education students to meet their educational, social and emotional needs, and identifying struggling students and determining eligibility for programs and services. We will also continue to implement federal and state code for special education, provide individualized college preparation/after school sessions, implement software and technology for accessibility, and provide school based counseling for Special Education Students. Lastly, we also host a Social Skills Club, a Student/Parent workshop in the evening and after school, the SEPAC Meeting (Special Education Parent Advisory Committee), and a Parent Social Emotional Training.

Building Projects



At the EWB Center, we renovated the bathrooms in the B-Wing, and the boys bathrooms in the C-Wing. We installed an outdoor kitchen and picnic area, dehumidification units in C-wing classrooms, new fuel tanks in lot 1, and replaced the flooring in the child care facilities and several windows in the A-1 wing. We entirely renovated the ITV room, upgraded security cameras throughout the building, and relocated the control room for expansion to accommodate the new CPHS Music and Audio Tech Program which will be located at County Prep the EWBC!

At Explore Middle School we built a lactation room, did some tree removal work on Marin Blvd, replaced the flooring in the 3rd floor restrooms, put up new fencing on Marin Blvd, and installed an outdoor turf field.

Lastly, at the Frank J. Gargiulo Campus, we extended our daycare program to make it easier for teachers to bring their children with them to work, and added an additional music room as well as an upgraded acting room. HTHS is also the first school to partner with the Hudson County Improvement Authority to pilot an exciting new composting and recycling program. We're excited to welcome students back to our beautiful campuses!

Theatre Tech Summer Programs Prepare Students for Careers

This summer the Theatre Tech Department was hard at work finding new ways to create opportunities for our students to find positions working as stage technicians in the field, including establishing a partnership with the IATSE Local 59, with whom we have created a two part internship program.

Through this program, students will train with union personnel on the stages at High Tech High School to learn the essential skills necessary to work on any stage. Upon completion of the in-school training, students will be given the opportunity to work alongside professionals on productions all around New Jersey.

Teaming up with our Video, Broadcasting, and Performing Arts Departments, we will document these training sessions, as well as behind the scenes footage from all of the performances that our students take part in. This will culminate in a video production that will display for everyone the amount of time and dedication that goes into a show, from the standpoint of the crew tasked with making the technical portions of the show run smoothly.

This production will be a one of a kind, behind the curtain documentary; filmed, narrated by, and starring High Tech High School students.

Food Services Department Updates

In preparation for the 2022-2023 school year here at HCST, the Food Services Department prepared the file submission for students eligible to receive Summer 2022 Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefits. All HCST students approved for free or reduced lunch during the 2021-2022 school year will receive P-EBT benefits! We are also continuing to process meal applications for the school year. If you have not applied, please visit hcstonline.schoollunchapp.com. Please also be aware the online sandwich ordering system will be available to students and staff at the Earl W. Byrd Center in September 2022.

Music Performance and Recording Summer Camp

Students in the HCST Music and Audio Technology Program participated in a two week Summer Camp that exposed them to hands-on, collaborative music and production experiences at the EWBC.

During the first week, students worked on songwriting arrangements and performance. By the end of the week students set up the studio for the process of recording their original songs, building on what they learned in a studio microphones master class led by Wilkis Figuero.

The second week of the program began by recording students' original songs and discussing the process of editing them inside the Avid Pro Tools Student software - truly a Work Based Learning experience!

They were then visited by a group of 23 students



from Hot House Music UK, a school that offers lessons to students all over the world during a summer tour. They set up the recording studio to record a jazz performance by the Hot House Music Student group. This was a great experience for our students because they had an opportunity to meet other young musicians from across the world and expose them to our program. They ended the summer Camp by taking the students on a Field Experience to the Grammy Museum at the Prudential Center. They had an opportunity to meet Ernie Paniciolli who is a famous photographer of Hip Hop culture who is currently being honored and showcased at the museum. He was generous enough to take a photo with students and promised to visit the school in October. Overall the camp was a huge success and we look forward to next summer!



Summer at the HCST Transportation Department

Just because the school year wasn't in session doesn't mean that the HCST Transportation Department has been on vacation. We've been hard at work running routes for the District's summer programs in Jersey City and Secaucus like Fun Fit, LEAP Programs, and many others for kids in the district that all run through the month of August.

Aside from busing for programs in the district, the Transportation Department also runs routes for day trips to almost every community in Hudson County. We service the Secaucus Recreation Department's Day Camp, the North Bergen Recreation Camp, Guttenberg, Harrison, Jersey City summer camps, and summer programs in Liberty State Park, Bayonne, and West New York. We also provide transportation for the annual senior citizen boat rides, sponsored by Hudson County. This includes the use of 10-15 buses which pick people up from senior citizen buildings in several towns throughout the county.

Summer is also a time for the department to update key safety features on their buses. In the past three months we have been in the process of installing the latest Verizon GPS system and camera equipment, as well as other new safety features. Drivers also participated in safety training so that the whole department is ready for the start of the school year and when internal routes resume, as well as routes for the Hudson County Consortium which handles bussing for special needs students in every district in the county.

Transportation Department Supervisor John Shinnick commends all drivers and transportation staff for the excellent job they do safely transporting almost 3 thousand students a day during the school year!

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