WELCOME TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-20!

It was a joy to greet our returning Seniors, Juniors, and Sophomores, and to welcome the Class of 2023 on September 4th. And so once again we turn to the serious business of academic achievement enhanced by emotional and spiritual development: It is our hope that through our partnership – parents and teachers – we can serve the best interests of your daughters. Let’s keep the lines of communication open.

Important Reminders for Parents

- Please make note of the following parent and college admissions-related meetings
  
  Parent Association Meeting, **Tuesday, September 17**th, 6:30 p.m. ALL parents welcome!
  
  Back-to-School Night for 9th & 10th grade parents, Thursday, September 19th, 6:30 p.m.
  
  Senior Parent Night & FAFSA Information, Wednesday, September 25th, 7:00 p.m.
  
  Junior Parent Night, Thursday, October 3rd, 7:00 p.m.

- Be sure to check our website (www.prestonhs.org) regularly for updates on events, breaking news, parent bulletins, school closing information, and information on how to contact specific teachers and administrators.

- As evidence of the value that Preston places on attendance, we continue to focus on increasing our students’ personal responsibility by reducing the number of absences (including partial-day absences). **Therefore, please read carefully the section concerning absences, early dismissal and lateness on pages 18-21 of our Student Handbook. Note especially the penalty for excessive absences.** (You can find this in your daughter’s Planner). Note in particular the following consequence: “Academic credit depends on instruction time, and as such will be withheld when a student misses more than 17 instructional days in a given class (9 for semester classes).” As parents, you have an important role to play in this process.

Parent Association News

Welcome on board to all parents!

The Preston Parent Association looks forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting or event! Thank you to everyone who completed the 2019-2020 Volunteer Form. These sheets help us build a database of interested volunteers for each event. However, we know that schedules can change and we will confirm your participation before each event. Please try to attend the monthly PA meetings – check the calendar for the complete schedule. These monthly meetings give you the chance to meet other parents and faculty members. We will discuss academics,
school events, and all the upcoming information you will need for months to come. Our first meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30pm in Room 100. Light refreshments will be served. The next meeting will be October 15th.

Recent and Upcoming Events:
The Freshman Family Picnic – Sunday, September 29th from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on the back lawn. A great day for our freshman families to get involved in the school spirit filled with delicious food, exciting games, fun prizes and more! Freshman families, please RSVP to Grace Fragale by placing the form in her mailbox in the main office, or sending an e-mail to gfragale@prestonhs.org no later than Friday, 9/27. Sophomore, Junior, and Senior parents if you would like to volunteer at this event, please contact Grace Fragale in the Advancement Office at 718-863-9134 ext. 143.

Our 4th Annual Haunted House Tour and Festivities – Saturday, October 19th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. for kids 10 and under and 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. for all others. Come join the Preston community for an evening of magic, pumpkin painting, games, haunted tours, and much more.

Faculty News
Welcome to our newest Preston faculty and staff members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree/College</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Eugenia Wolovich</td>
<td>PHS ‘12, B.A., Hunter College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History &amp; Theology</td>
<td>George Reed</td>
<td>M.A., Queens College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Benjamin Arthur</td>
<td>Leave Replacement, B.A., Lehman College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Bakhtawar Ghaffar</td>
<td>B.S., Iona College</td>
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PRESTON HAPPENINGS

Preston Remembers
On Wednesday, September 11th, the Preston community offered special prayers for those who were directly or indirectly impacted by the tragic events of 9/11.

Co-Curricular recruitment began on September 11th. The Co-Curricular Fair will be held on Friday, September 20th, where students will check out the after-school activities available here and sign up according to their interests. It is possible that some Freshmen may initially “overbook” themselves, but eventually they will realize what they can reasonably commit to and make more permanent choices. Co-curricular activities are such an essential part of school life and personal development that all students should be engaged in at least one after-school activity. As there are many to choose from, we trust that every student will find something to satisfy her interests. Students are also invited to propose new activities.

Please note the following date change: On Wednesday, September 25th senior parents/guardians are invited to attend Preston’s annual Senior Parent Night hosted by the Guidance Department. This meeting provides important information concerning the FAFSA process.

Yes, there were many forms to complete for school but all are necessary. Thank you very much for taking the time to do so. Also, please notify the Main Office if you move or change any of your contact information (especially phone numbers!) during the school year. It is vital that we be able to contact you in an emergency.
Each Spring Spanish teacher Sra. Varela organizes a trip to Europe, independent of Preston High School. **This spring you can travel with your daughter to Berlin, Prague, Vienna, and Budapest,** in Central Europe. There are still spaces available. If you are interested, please contact Sra. Varela for more information, 718-863-9134, ext 676 or email avara@prestonhs.org.

The Preston High School Driver Education Program’s fall orientation date was Tuesday, September 13th at 3:30 p.m. The program is open to all students in the area who are at least 16 years of age. **NOTE: Student athletes who play on our soccer and volleyball teams should not sign up for the Fall Drivers Ed course as it conflicts with team practices and games!** Preston High School’s Driver Education course can help provide the foundation for safe driving behavior and has a number of other tangible benefits including eligibility for a senior license at age 17, instead of age 18, and insurance discounts that more than pay for the cost of the program (discounts vary by individual insurance companies). The program is 48 hours long—24 hours in the classroom and 24 hours in the car. PAS Auto School has been contracted to provide the in-car portion of the program. Students will be taught by trained, state-certified instructors using specially equipped cars (e.g. dual brakes, dual mirrors) to ensure maximum safety. Students must have their learner's permit by September 20, 2019, to take Driver Education this fall. Applications are available in the main office. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Murphy in the main office at 718-863-9134, ext 112. We hope your daughter will enjoy learning how to become a safe driver!

**SPORTS NEWS**


**Varsity Volleyball,** coached by Mr. Joel Sanchez & assistant coach Saeedeh Saledepout ~ Marilian Arboleda, Jessica & Melaniean Broderick, Ananda Burgos, Isabella Colon, Kaitlyn Feliciano, Miranda Loughery, Briana Marmolejos, Lauren Pabon, Mia Rodriguez, Brianna Schroeder, Margaret Varenne and Chloe Western.


**Varsity Cheerleading:** coached by Ms. Lori Finelli (Head) & assistant coaches Marisa Caliendo, Alyssa Finelli, & Gabby Vitiello: Giana Angel, Briana Boiano, Daniella Caggiano, Kylee Ceballo, Angelica Chavez-Downes, Arianna DiNuovo, Samantha DiTomaso, Ava Ferro, Elizabeth Kalaj, Analisa & Gianna Matranga, Dena Nally, Phoebe Oquendo, Sarah Quinn, Ava Salvato, Elmarina Vucaj, Elizabeth Wickes, Chloe Zerbo and Gianna Zillito.

**JV Cheerleading:** coached by Ms. Lori Finelli (Head) & assistant coaches Marisa Caliendo, Alyssa Finelli, & Gabby Vitiello: Patria Aguadana, Ashely & Nashley Coronado, Alana DeFedele, Gianna DiNuova, Isabella Lozano, Kalia Noble, Miranda Perez, Regan Perez, Hailey Romero, Jillian Torres, and Jenna Zillitto.
Back-To-School Night – Thursday, September 19, 2019 @ 6:30pm

1. Why Back-to-School Night Is Important

Parents don’t get many opportunities to see school the way their daughters do. Go to back-to-school night so you can walk a mile in your student’s shoes and gather first-hand knowledge of these important matters and more:
- The teachers’ appearance, personality and tone
- Your student’s learning environment
- What each course entails
- What work will be expected

2. Ask the Right Questions

Keep questions general. Prepare questions in advance and ask questions that can help all those attending. Good general-interest topics include:
- How does the teacher prefer to be contacted?
- How much time is a student expected to spend on homework for this class?
- How can parents monitor student progress before report card time?
- What are the school’s policies regarding cell phones, bullying, etc.?

Avoid personal and confrontational questions. Matters specific to your daughter, or regarding school or teacher performance, should be discussed in a private meeting. Other parents and the teacher shouldn’t have their limited time together monopolized by issues affecting just you or your student. Please pay attention so as not to repeat already-requested information.

3. Take Notes: You’re at back-to-school night to learn.

So, just as students do, take notes. Topics to focus on include but aren’t limited to:
- Teacher and staff contact information. Know if you should call or email a teacher or advisor, and have the address or number to do so.
- Homework rules and guidelines. Know how each teacher assigns homework, how or if missed assignments can be made up, and procedures for completing and submitting assignments.
- Disciplinary policy. Know the rules for in-school and out-of-school activity, including social media use, what can and can’t be brought to school, bullying, and other issues.

Back-to-school night is a time when students’ parents are asked to contribute time during the school year. Join in! Being involved develops relationships with teachers and other school staff, helps you meet and be active with other parents, and familiarizes you with your student’s peers. Here are ways to get involved:
- Join a fundraising drive
- Help chaperone field trips
- Donate classroom supplies
- Promote public relations efforts

Summary: Get the most out of your back-to-school night by using this opportunity to learn what the year ahead holds for your daughter.
Looking ahead:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td><strong>Parent Auxiliary Meeting, 6:30 p.m.</strong> Note: Date changed from 9/27!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td><strong>Back-to-School Night, Grades 9 &amp; 10 Parents, 6:30 p.m.</strong></td>
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<td>Sept 20</td>
<td><strong>Co-Curricular Fair, until 3:00pm</strong></td>
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<td>Sept 25</td>
<td><strong>Senior Parent Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</strong></td>
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<td>Sept 27</td>
<td><strong>Early dismissal (1:16PM) due to Faculty Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>Sept 29</td>
<td><strong>Freshmen Family Liturgy/Brunch – 10am – 1pm, rain or shine (Gym, Café &amp; backyard)</strong></td>
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<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td><strong>Junior Parent Meeting, 7:00pm</strong></td>
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<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td><strong>Student Council Induction Ceremony, a.m</strong></td>
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<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>Junior Ring Measurements A-L $100 deposit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>Junior Ring Measurements M-Z $100 deposit</td>
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<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td><strong>1st Quarter Interim Reports are available at the end of the day.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td><strong>1:16pm Early Dismissal: Faculty Meeting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td><strong>Columbus Day Parade in Morris Park</strong> (All students &amp; parents are invited to march with us!)</td>
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<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td><strong>Columbus Day – No Classes in Session</strong></td>
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<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td><strong>Parent Auxiliary meeting, 6:30 p.m.</strong></td>
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<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td><strong>PSAT/NMSQT – All Sophomores &amp; Juniors take the PSAT Senior College Visit Day</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td><strong>Sophomore Retreat</strong>&lt;br&gt;Festivale Culinario, 3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., café</td>
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<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td><strong>Senior Retreat</strong></td>
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<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td><strong>Preston’s 3rd Annual Haunted Mansion, 6pm – 9pm</strong></td>
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<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td><strong>Challenge Day / Discovery Day (Grades 9, 10 &amp; 11)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td><strong>Happy Halloween! – School Closed No classes in Session– faculty Conference</strong></td>
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2019-2020
Dear Preston Parent/Guardian:

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Catherine Mulvaney, a counselor/social worker from ADAPP, will once again be providing a range of services to our school for this academic year. ADAPP is the school-based student assistance program within the Department of Education of the Archdiocese of New York. Preston is fortunate to have such a counselor and access to ADAPP’s services.

Ms. Mulvaney will be available four days per week. The service includes drug and alcohol prevention education, crisis intervention, as well as group and individual educational counseling. The purpose of the program is to help students develop positive life skills and foster healthy life choices. She will work closely with the school staff and me and is available to help parents with information and referral.

Ms. Mulvaney will be introduced (or re-introduced) to you at a future meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Jane Grendell, Principal

PARKING PROHIBITIONS

Parking in the bus stop or double parking in front of the school is strictly prohibited! We ask our parents to park up the block or on one of the side streets close to Preston. There have been far too many close calls in front of the school at dismissal time. Parents: PLEASE be considerate of our students, our neighbors and other drivers when you pick up your daughters. We will get Parking Enforcement Officers involved if we have to.

SMOKING PROHIBITIONS

FYI: NYC/NYS Smoking Laws Affecting Schools
As part of its Smoke-Free Air Act, NYC Administrative Code:

- Section 17-503(d) prohibits smoking in “all indoor and outdoor areas of...all public and private pre-primary, primary and secondary schools providing instruction for students at or below the 12th grade level, and any vehicles owned, operated or leased by such schools which are used to transport such students or the personnel of such schools”
- NYC Board of Health’s administrative tribunal can impose penalties ranging from $200 to $2,000 for employer-type violations, and $100 to a person smoking in prohibited areas.

NYS law:

- Prohibits smoking within 100 feet of school premises. Employees and visitors to PHS may not use any tobacco products within 100 feet of our campus, as defined by the gates and fences that surround our property.
- Another NYS law prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes to minors.