



PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

Pelham Memorial High School

Upcoming Events:

January 2:
Classes Resume

January 6:
Gr. 11 College Night
7:00 pm

January 9:
Tri M Induction Ceremony
7:00 pm

January 10:
Battle of the Bands
7:00 pm

January 13:
2- Hour Delay
Start 10:15 am

January 13:
Finding Balance when
Scheduling
7:00 pm

January 16:
Science Research
Open House
6:00 pm

January 20:
MLK Jr. Day
No School

January 21-24:
Regents and School
Midterm Exams
No Classes

January 27:
End of 2nd Marking Period

February 3:
2- Hour Delay
Start 10:15 am

February 6:
Gr. 11 College Night
7:00 pm

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Shortly after midterm exams, students in Grades 9-11 will meet with their counselors to choose courses for the 2020-2021 school year. As you discuss various course offerings with your child, remember to review our [Advanced Placement/College Course Booklet](#) on our website for essential information on requirements and prerequisites for course enrollments in these courses.

For some families choosing courses can be very challenging and stressful. Finding a balance in terms of requirements, rigor, choice, time for studying as well as extra-curricular activities are all important when making these decisions. On Monday, January 13 at 7:00 pm in Cafeteria C, the administration and counseling departments will be hosting an informal session answering your course selection questions with a focus on finding a healthy balance and the best fit for your child. I will send out an email reminder closer to the date.

We have two unannounced lockdown drills planned for the remainder of the year. If you wish your child to receive text message phone alerts for emergency situations, complete and submit the form, available at <https://forms.gle/JaYrEdx8Cme9AQyXA> by January 21, 2020. Please be advised that you may incur a charge from your phone carrier depending on your cell phone plan.

On November 18th, Registered Respiratory Therapist Jackie O'Connor came to Pelham Memorial High School to speak with our 11th and 12th graders about the dangers and health consequences of vaping. Mrs. O'Connor has worked in the pulmonology field for 12 years at Northern Westchester Hospital, and currently in the pulmonology lab and respiratory care at Phelps Memorial Hospital. Mrs. O'Connor has been visiting high schools throughout Westchester County, speaking with students about the dangers of vaping nicotine and THC.

Newsweek has honored PMHS as one of the TOP 5000 STEM schools in the nation. We are ranked #1042 thanks to our skilled teachers who keep up with developments in the STEM field and who create dynamic learning environments to engage their students.

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff at PMHS, I wish everyone in the Pelham community a restful, relaxing and joyous time with family and friends this holiday season.

Sincerely,
Jeannine Clark

February 7:
Senior Talent Show
7:00 pm

February 8:
Senior Talent Show
7:00 pm

February 11:
Chorus Pops Fundraising
Concert
7:00 pm

February 15 - 23:
Winter Recess

February 25:
English, Social Studies,
Math, Science Honor
Society Induction
7:00 pm

February 26
Band Fundraising Concert
7:00 pm



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following Students and their inductions into the **Knight & Lamp Chapter** of the **National Honor Society**!



CLASS OF 2020

Nicolas Franchini
Bhakti Kulkarni
Lucas Matos

Zachary Morgan
Spencer Nappi
Mariza Sheldia

Rose Spagnuolo
Nicholas Tiso
Daly Walsh

CLASS OF 2021

Emma Almo	Julia Davis	Dylan Lee	Katherine Roll
Sara Almo	Claire Deeney	Ethan Lee	Vanessa Rosado
Lilly Baxter	Jack Denison	Nadine Leesang	Benjamin Schneider
Irene Beldiman	Arthur Denner	Sophia Leung	Christian Shiels
Asia Bertuccioli	Myles DiFrisco	Aiden Levy	Ava Shotkoski
Brett Bober	Jack Dougherty	Gabriel Longoria	Sophia Shulzhenko
Eliza Bratone	William Doyle	Isabella Louro	Marlen Singh
Noah Breskin	Jane Dunbar	Emmett Mallach	Katharine Smith
Flynn Bryan	Honor Durham	Nevan Malwana	Caroline Spana
Jamie Burke	Lucy Edmunds	Dale Martin	Samuel Sucena
Ella Burns	Aidan Emery	Juan Carlos Matos	Sofia Tahan
Soren Bushong	Anna Esteverena	Conor Matz	Andrew Talamas
Lila Caminiti	Katheryn Fair	Collins Mbonu	Thomas Tapogna
Matthew Cannella	Allison Feldman	Elise McCarthy	Andrew Terraciano
Virginia Capeci	Shannon Gardner	Javier Mendez	Molly Terraciano
Nicholas Caruso	Brooke Gates	Alison Milanese	Brianna Valencia
Gabrielle Chavez	Grace Gilman	Steven Munn	Caroline Veteri
Natalia Cherner	Joshua Goldman	Alexandra Orlando	Giovanna Vitale
Emma Colkin	Stephanie Gristina	Caleb Persanis	Carlo Volpe
Georgia Connolly	Nya Haseley-Ayende	Cristian Pesante	Margot Wies
Finn Cork	Calvin Hoeh	Margot Phillips	Zoe Winburn
Katherine D'Adamo	Emily Kalyvas	Nell Plunkett	Jasmine Zaman
Jack D'Angelo	Oleksandr Kozytskyi	Laila Polito	
Katherine D'Angelo	Lucia Lavallee	Alyssa Purcea	
Joseph DaProcidia	Jenna Lavan	Thomas Roche	



DEPARTMENT NEWS

ENGLISH

The PMHS English Department is sponsoring their
3rd Annual Creative Writing Contest.

Are you creative?
Are you a storyteller?

Enter the 3rd Annual

PMHS Creative Writing Contest

Fiction authors and literary agents from the Pelham community will serve as judges.
Winners will be published in an Amazon eBook available for all to read!

*Some
things
change
everything.*

Write a short story set in any time or place based on a **TRANSFORMATION** in which the main character undergoes an experience that changes a significant part of his or her personality (for example, going from compassionate to heartless, selfish to generous, apathetic to motivated, etc.). Clearly establish how the first trait was evident in your character's past life, and tell the story of how the character changed.

Short stories should be 500-2000 words.

Contest open to all high school students, grades 9-12.

Deadline: February 7, 2020

Submit your contest entry with your name and a title to Nwasnetsky@pelhamschools.org.

The contest is open to all students who choose to write a short story in any time or place based on a transformation in which the main character undergoes an experience that changes a significant part of his or her personality. The short story must clearly establish how the first trait was evident in the character's past life, and how the character had changed. The deadline is **February 7, 2020**.

SOCIAL STUDIES



On December 3rd, the annual PMHS History Bowl was held in which student groups of 4-6 participated in a history trivia competition. A standard game included three periods of questioning with 125 students participating along with 16 volunteers from our Rho Kappa Honor Society who sponsored the event. A special thanks to the PMHS PTA for providing us with financial resources to purchase pizza and drinks for all participants and volunteers.



On December 14, PelMUNC (Pelham Model United Nations Club) hosted its sixth annual conference at Pelham Memorial High School. Over 85 delegates from The Ursuline School, Rye Neck High School, The Hackley School, Friends Seminary and, of course, PMHS attended the conference. This year's conference featured a wide range of committees with something for every type of Model UN delegate. They dealt with a global pandemic in the "Plague Inc." room, some delegates attempted to correct the problems faced during the "Paris Peace Conference" others relived the trials of the "Punic Wars" and finally they transformed one of the rooms into a version of the popular book series "The Hunger Games". This massive undertaking led by club members was over a year in the planning and the club looks forward to next year's conference.

MATHEMATICS



National Mindset
INNOVATION NETWORK

During the 2015-2016 school year, PMHS students and teachers were involved in a research –practice partnership with the University of Texas at Austin, as well as with Carol Dweck from Stanford University and the author of *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*. This National Study of Learning Mindsets used evidence-based practices to investigate the role of students' mindsets in student achievement and pathways through school.

Based on the results of this work, Mathematics teachers Mr. Robert Stellabotte and Mrs. Liane Livigni have been invited to The National Mindset Innovation Network event on March 12, 2020 in Austin, TX. Using students' survey data, these teachers whose students reported high levels of trust and respect and an environment supportive of a growth mindset were chosen. We congratulate both teachers and thank them for their dedication to our students.

WORLD LANGUAGE



On Thursday, December 12th the French, Italian, Spanish and Asian Culture clubs went caroling at the Bayberry Nursing Home in New Rochelle. The students joyfully sang Christmas carols in the target languages. After each club performed, the students and audience joined together to sing popular carols in English. This year we were surprised to receive a special honor. The administrator of the nursing home presented the French, Italian and Mandarin Club moderators, Mrs. Livaditis, Mrs. Prignano and Mrs. He with a plaque commemorating 25 years of this tradition. In addition, the World Language Department thanks the PMHS PTA for once again sponsoring the cost of the bus for our students to attend this wonderful event.

French News

On Tuesday November 19th, French 4/5 students attended the US Premier of the film: *Comme un Lion* (Little Lion), which retells the story of Mitri, a Senegalese boy with a dream to play professional soccer in France. After the film, students had the opportunity to participate in a Q&A with Bertrand Delaye, Business Development Manager of the French Football Academy in New York and Cyril Coisne, French Football Academy Head Coach and Camp Director. Students were engaged as they learned about the triumphant success story of Mitri, and the social issues on which the film shed light such as human trafficking and child protective services. After the movie, students enjoyed an authentic and delicious French lunch at La Bonne Soupe.

To support the French 3 Unit of Study on Art, students had the opportunity to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art on December 5. Coincidentally, that day was the anniversary of the death of Claude Monet, one of the founding fathers of Impressionism. Students explored the European Paintings wing. They were impressed, overwhelmed and in awe as we had the opportunity to see the real life paintings of the various artists we have been studying throughout the duration of this unit. After students finished their assigned work pertaining to the paintings, students were able to explore the Costume Institute's exhibit "In Pursuit of Fashion."

MUSIC



L to R: Matyas Spunberg, Ann Liu, Lucas Matos, Sophie Xu, JC Matos, Albert Ai.

Albert Ai was selected as Violin Alternate for the New York All-State Orchestra.

In addition, eight PMHS Orchestra students were selected for the Area All-State Orchestras: Albert Ai, Sophie Xu, Mark Tarazi, Ann Liu, Katie Scott, Lucas Matos, Mayas Spunberg, and Juan-Carlos Matos.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Forensics Speech Team



On October 19–20, our Forensics Team competed at the “Big Bronx” NYC Invitational Tournament at the Bronx High School of Science. This is a competitive national circuit tournament with schools coming from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, Texas, Maryland, California, Virginia, North Carolina and Minnesota. Congratulations to Junior Isaac Blackburn and Senior Nicholas Lieggi for advancing to semi-finals in Congressional Debate.



On October 26, the PMHS Forensics Speech Team had a successful day at the Sister Raimonde Memorial Service Tournament held at Xavier High School in Manhattan. The team placed an overall impressive 7th place in the Sweepstakes. Special congratulations goes to Georgia Connolly who won 5th place in Poetry Interpretation and Nicholas Lieggi who won 3rd place in Congressional Debate. Nick has now qualified for the NY State Championships to be held in April at Hofstra University. Congratulations to all!



On November 2, the Forensics Speech Team competed at the Fall Classic Tournament held at Bronx Science/PS 95 school. The team placed an impressive 8th place overall. Special congratulations go to Isaac Blackburn for being named Champion by winning First place in Congressional Debate!



On November 23, the team competed at the Bronx HS of Science. We had two medal winners in Congressional Debate. Congratulations go to Joshua Handelman as Finalist and Alyssa Purcea who was given 8th place overall.



Over the weekend of December 7, the team competed at the Emily Clement Memorial Tournament at The Ursuline School in New Rochelle. The team placed 7th overall. Special congratulations to Sofia Tahan, who placed 7th in Varsity Oral Interpretation, Leah Sherbansky who placed 5th in JV Oral Interpretation and Georgia Connolly who earned 2nd place in Varsity Oral Interpretation.

Pel Mel



Congratulations to the staff of the 2018–2019 Pel Mel. This student-led publication was recently awarded a ranking of Silver Medalist by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

Sports



Congratulations to Coach Mark Finegan. On November 25, he was given the Margot Irish Award for lifetime service to Section 1 Volleyball. A well-deserved honor, Coach!

