



HIGH TECH TIMES

The newsletter of the High Technology High School Parent Faculty Association

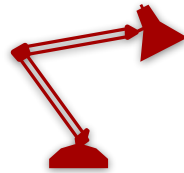
Letter from Leadership

Thankful.

That's the word that comes to mind when I was asked to write this article for the PFA Newsletter.

To say this year has been challenging would be quite the understatement. Our world is profoundly different than one year ago. But, I am thankful for the strength, professionalism, compassion and intellect of our HTHS community - and how we have risen to the challenge of staying connected. My family was drawn to HTHS for its high caliber of teaching, many accolades, and unmatched curriculum... we could not be happier with our choice and owe it all to the teachers, administrators, support staff and fellow students. That is what makes HTHS so special.

Continued on page 2



Staff Spotlight

By John Szumowski, '23

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the start of a unique school year, Mr. Craig Queenan succeeds Mr. Michael Roche as the new freshman biology and sophomore research practicum

teacher. Mr. Queenan studied genetics and history at Rutgers University and molecular biology at Montclair State University, after which he began work at Bergen County Academies (BCA) in Hackensack as a lab research specialist. At BCA, he was one of the lead teachers assisting



Mr. Craig Queenan

students with their research experiments, similar to the Research Practicum program at High Tech. After six years at BCA, Mr. Queenan turned his attention to his family's restaurant in Oceanport where he was general manager.

While working at his family's restaurant and enjoying the arrival of his twin boys, Mr. Queenan was seeking

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

This year, the PFA is tasked with the incredible challenge of helping students and families feel connected in an isolated environment. We welcomed new students with a virtual escape room created by two current sophomores over the summer. We attempted meet and greets through breakout rooms. We collaborated on a cookbook, and have so much more in store. Each month our virtual PFA meetings are well attended and disseminate valuable information with interesting guest speakers. Though this year's activities are not the same as previous years, the spirit of HTHS is alive and well, and for that, I am eternally thankful.

- Michelle Teitelbaum,
PFA Co-President

PFA Membership

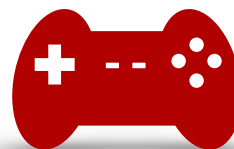
It is never too late to join the PFA and be "in the know" at HTHS! We are almost at our goal of 100% participation, so don't delay and join the PFA today! Visit hthspfa.org for more information. If joining the PFA is a financial hardship, grants are available for families that qualify - contact Michelle confidentially: michelle.teitelbaum@hthspfa.org

Continued from page 1 teaching opportunities closer to home when he heard about an opening for a biology teacher at High Tech High. He recognized that his expertise in biology and research would be extremely usefully at a prestigious STEM high school like High Tech. "It is the perfect job," Mr. Queenan stated when asked about his new position. However, he acknowledged that there have been some challenges in adjusting to the new environment because of the coronavirus pandemic: "Two of the greatest problems are student engagement and making sure that student needs are met. It is important to give the students the same level of education through virtual labs and simulations. Furthermore, there is less time to talk to a student about an issue." In addition, he explained that he needed to prepare a new biology curriculum that would be suitable for a virtual setting.

Despite the pandemic-related challenges, Mr. Queenan affirmed that he is enjoying working with High Tech students. "They are very dedicated," he observed. When Mr. Queenan is not teaching, he tries to make time for his running hobby, and he loves to spend time with his wife and five-year-old twin boys.

NEWS FROM THE CLASS OF 2024

*The Freshman Class is hosting an
Among Us Tournament
on Friday, December 11th from 6-9pm.*



Senior Scoop!

Class of 2021 Student Council Update



Hello parents!

With online social events, prom, and graduation, the seniors are super excited to make our last year at HTHS the most memorable!

Here are the events we have planned for the year:

- 12/4- *Among Us* tournament (FREE!, seniors only)
- 2/12- *Bedwars* tournament
- 3/12- *Scavenger hunt/ Capture the flag*
- 4/9- *Teachers game tournament (for everyone!)*

Due to the pandemic, we've missed out on a lot of fundraising opportunities for this year's prom graduation caps and gowns, senior awards ceremony, and senior gift, so **please consider donating to the senior class** by mailing a check (payable to HTHS Student Activities Fund and labeled with your student's name in the subject line) to:

High Technology High School
c/o Dina Ellsworth, Class of 2021 Advisor
765 Newman Springs Road
Box 119
Lincroft, NJ 07738

Or, if your student attends school, they can drop checks off directly in Dr. Ellsworth's mailbox in the front office.

THANK YOU, parents, for all the support you give us!

It is greatly appreciated!

Marlboro - Edison - South Brunswick



Since 2004
Marlboro
Learning Center

AP | SAT | Olympiad

HOME OF THE BEST TEACHERS

**SAT, AP, OLYMPIAD, ENGLISH, MATH
BIO, CHEM, PHYSICS, PYTHON, AI, JAVA**

WELCOME TRYOUT

FACTS

- A whole class got perfect 5 on AP
- SAT improved up to 300 - 400 points
- Students awarded Olympiad Phys, Bio, Chem 1st & 2nd Rounds (Silver)

www.marlborearningcenter.com

(732)972-0011 (call or text), info@marlborearningcenter.com

SGA Won't Let COVID Get in Their Way

By Melanie Chen, '21, SGA President

While all HTHS students are the engineers of the future, constantly working the gears in our brains to solve problems, we need to give our minds a break! Especially during this COVID-19 pandemic, we need to get out of the house, meet people, and spend time in an atmosphere free of school work, exams, and Google Meets that never seem to end. Run by HTHS students, the student government association gives students that time to relax by running monthly throughout the year that are non-



academic based and range from school dances to music performances to showcase the talent at HTHS, not just the brains. Due to COVID-19 this year, many of our normal planned activities are not able to run in-person such as our annual Back to School Dance, so we're working hard to hold online events that will allow students to connect with one another without having to leave their homes. Furthermore, SGA events are free this year, to promote more participation and unity during these unpredictable times.

So far this year, we have run two events: a movie night and a virtual game tournament. At the beginning of November, we

held an in person outdoor Halloween Movie Night at HTHS! We screened *The Quiet Place*, a science fiction film about a family that must live in silence to avoid vicious creatures that hunt by sound. Students and teachers sat outside on blankets socially distanced from one another, and afterwards, we held a short costume contest to have a belated Halloween celebration. The students loved being able to see and talk to their friends and we handed out small goodie bags with glow sticks and snacks as well. The event was a huge success and we will hopefully be doing a few more in the warmer spring months!

A few weeks ago, SGA hosted a Virtual Brawl Stars Tournament on the HTHS Twitch channel where teams from each grade competed in an intense bracket tournament to find out the real Brawl Stars Champions of HTHS! Jeff Min, a fellow senior and phenomenal entertainer, MC-ed the event as well as a few other seniors who narrated the games. Ultimately, the juniors won, keeping up their title from last year, much to the seniors' dismay.

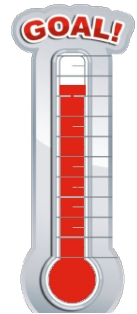


Notes from the PFA



Annual Fund Drive:

The generosity of our HTHS families is overwhelming, and **we are nearing our goal of \$20,000** to help fund academic enrichment. If you haven't contributed yet, and are able, please go to htspfa.org (or mail/deliver a check) and make your contribution today!



PFA Cookbook:

Thank you to the over 50 families that contributed to the HTHS Family Cookbook - we received close to 100 amazing recipes that we can not wait to share with you in time for the holidays! Pre-orders are closed, but there are a limited number of copies available for purchase, contact michelle.teitelbaum@htspfa.org to reserve your copy today! Distribution and payment information (\$10/book) will be forthcoming.



Call (732) 252-6190 today to schedule a FREE consultation

We welcome 9th to 12th grade students!

Helping our students get accepted to their top choice colleges!

I still can't believe I got in! Thank you so much for being an amazing support system for my college application journey. I'll be forever thankful and impressed by how completely thorough your guidance was—from the all-important essays and extracurriculars down to the details in crafting emails to colleges and asking for recommendations. I can confidently say that you're the reason I got into my dream college! —Yale, Class of 2024

Laurie & Matthew, Thank you for all your support and guidance along the way! Major credit goes to you for helping her seamlessly navigate through the admission process. We need to celebrate with you! —Carnegie Mellon, Class of 2024

At One-Stop, we work hard to demystify the college admission process for you.

Our college admissions counselors will help you develop the best possible plan, unique and personalized, to ensure your success in the competitive world of college admissions!



15 S. Main Street (Rt. 79) Marlboro, NJ 07746

www.One-StopCC.com (732) 252-6190

Class Council Communiqués

Class of 2022 Student Council

Hello everyone! Although we often find ourselves stuck at home with little to do, the Junior Class Council has a very exciting and interactive set of events planned to keep school spirit alive in the junior class.

We recently held an amazing grade-wide video game tournament where we played Among Us, an online multiplayer game. Going forward, we are planning to design and sell HTHS masks as well as organize HTHS trivia nights and more video game tournaments (more information about these events will be sent out to the students).

Our mission is to keep the HTHS junior class as virtually close as possible.



Image of our Among Us Tournament in November

Class of 2023 Student Council

Sophomore Class Council meetings are on Tuesdays from 11:30 - 12noon. Any sophomore student is welcome to attend the virtual meeting. Contact Jack Maniar for the link.

- President - Jack Maniar
- SGA Rep - Anushka Gupta
- Member - Michael Chen
- Member - Andrew Eng
- Member - Kevin Guan
- Member - Kylie Lin
- Member - Charlie Patton
- Advisor - Mrs. Tara Bufis

All events are free to all sophomores. (Since we have lost our ability to fundraise and charge for events, sophomore parent's received an email with instructions on how to donate if you would like to help the class. All donations, in any amount, are welcome.)

One \$20 Amazon Gift Card will be given out at each event to either the winner or drawn from who participated.

COUNCIL EVENTS

The Council, and various other students, have been hard at work planning events trying to connect the students as many don't get to see each other. Any student who would like to see a particular pop-up event is welcome to contact any member of the council or the council advisor.

ALREADY HAPPENED

- 10/23/20 - Halloween Variety Show
- 11/13/20 - Murder Mystery

UPCOMING

- 12/11/20 - Charades (bracket style)
- Jan./Feb 2021 - Among Us Tournament
- March 2021 - Game Night
- April/May 2021 - Escape Room

EazyML Hackathon organized by HTHS Students a Roaring Success

article adapted from: <https://eazymml.com/blog/eazyhacks-eazymml-hackathon/>

EazyHacks Hackathon, hosted by Easy ML, took place Nov. 13-15. Participants had 40 hours to create an application from scratch, incorporating the use of machine learning by utilizing the platform or API provided by EazyML. Participants worked on a variety topics, including analyzing factors to help manage California wildfires, creating a bot that analyzes tweets about movies to create searchable categories, and tracking glaciers to help inform knowledge about the impact of climate change.

The first place project was the Glacier Time-Machine. This group chose to raise awareness about our rapidly changing environment due to global warming. They used EazyML to predict the sizes and locations of glaciers in the future. Second place went to California Wildfire Intensity Explanation. This group figured out the model that would most accurately predict the intensity of California wildfires in different areas. Earning third place was FireSense, which also focused on California wildfires, but with a different approach. This group took a proactive stance towards immediate detection through the use of images.

There are still many applications of EazyML's machine learning platform that have not yet been realized. If you would like to make predictions with large and complex data, EazyML can help. With just some data and EazyML, you can predict your world. Get started with EazyML: <https://eazymml.com>



By Blake Cregg-Wedmore, '24

Food for Thought: How HTHS Adapted *Snacks With Scientists* to Continue Event for 7th Straight Year

On Wednesday, October 28th, HTHS hosted its seventh annual Snacks With Scientists event - a joint effort between the National Honor Society and the STEMInists Club. This yearly event provides an opportunity for middle school girls in Monmouth County to learn about STEM careers by connecting them with women working in those fields. Students had the chance to hear from exciting speakers, such as Tiffany Zhao, an HTHS alumna who works as a data scientist for Instagram. Other fields represented in this year's event included neuroscience, chemical engineering, electrical engineering, and computer science.

However, the event looked a little different in 2020 than it has in the past: it was held online using Google Meet instead of in person at High Tech. Students were split into groups to hear from a series of speakers

through the use of virtual breakout rooms. To keep with the spirit of Snacks With Scientists, "We encouraged [the girls] to have their own snacks at home," said Eileen Liang, '21, Co-President of the STEMInists Club.

Despite the changes, the event was as successful as ever with approximately 100 attendees. The virtual platform did not detract from the fun of the event. "We ran over time because the girls had a bunch of questions. They were super interested," said Tyler Pagaduan, '21, President of NHS.

"I learned that I like brain science and it was a pretty cool experience," said a Tinton Falls middle schooler who attended. "I still don't really know what I want to do, but talking to the scientists got me interested in my future."