

# techtalk

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE TECH PA

06.14.20 Volume 8/Edition 42

## Stay Connected



# TechPA

BROOKLYN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION

## 2019-20 PA meetings

September 12  
 October 10  
 November 14  
 December 12  
 January 9  
 February 13  
 March 12 (cancelled)  
 April 7  
 May 7  
 June 11

All meetings are on a Thursday and will start at 6:30pm unless otherwise noted.

Executive board meetings immediately precede at 5pm.

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## Quick Links

[BTHS website](#)  
[Tech PA website](#)  
[BTHS Calendar](#)  
[DOE website](#)  
[HowTechWorks](#)  
[TechTalk Archives](#)

**TechFRESHMAN**

[CLICK HERE](#) for freshman specific info

Follow Brooklyn Tech PA announcements in Chinese on the WeChat social media

## Message from the PA Presidents



Dear Brooklyn Technical High School Community:

On behalf of the Brooklyn Tech Diversity and Community Engagement Committee we hope you are all safe and well. Recently, there have been protests against racial inequalities in New York City, across the country, and around the world. The catalyst for the current protests was the senseless death of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers. There has rightly been almost universal condemnation against this heinous crime.

Unfortunately this is only one of many equally unjust and tragic events that so many African Americans suffer, including among many others, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and Rayshard Brooks. We mourn the tragic loss of all of these fellow Americans. In addition, many of our Asian families are the victims of hate and harassment because of the Covid 19 pandemic. We must raise our voices to help end all racism and discrimination. To make matters even more complicated, the message of sincere protesters who want to be heard and enact meaningful change in our city and nation have been overshadowed by unlawful behavior during these important protests. There is no place for the violence we have seen in America's streets. As we discuss these difficult issues we should focus on empathy and our shared humanity.

Toward that end, our Diversity and Community Engagement Committee would like to host an open forum to listen to the concerns of our families

app. WeChat ID:  
 BrooklynTechPTA  
 欢迎使用中文的家长来参  
 与、交流、了解您的孩子的  
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 BrooklynTechPTA (布碌仑  
 科技高中家长教师会)

and try to find ways we can reach out to all communities and take positive, proactive steps to bring our children and our families together. These conversations may be difficult and emotional but they are necessary. To quote teacher and author Jamilah Pitts: "We may be uncomfortable talking about race, but we can no longer afford to be silent."

This is a tragic time in America. We are in the midst of a pandemic and we are all under a great deal of pressure. Please join us for this important work. We ask that you send your questions and comments to us in advance by email to [bthsdiversitycommittee@bths.edu](mailto:bthsdiversitycommittee@bths.edu).

Please note that this is a parent meeting and that no representatives from Brooklyn Tech administration will be speaking. Please plan to attend our remote Diversity and Community Engagement Committee Open Forum on Thursday, June 18th at 6:30 PM. Log-in details will be posted on the PA website and distributed by email on Thursday morning.

As always, we appreciate your comments and input. Please feel free to reach out to us with your questions, ideas and suggestions at time by email to [papresident@bths.edu](mailto:papresident@bths.edu). We are here for you.

Stay well,

Lisa Sullivan and Cindy Kue

([欢迎点开中文翻译](#))

## In this week's edition

- June 11, 2010 FINAL Parent Association General Meeting Notes
  - 2010年6月11日家长协会总会汇报
- Special THANKS to our May Donors!
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- Special thanks for Tech Good News!
  - 庆祝"校喜"讯栏板
- Remote Learning Update - Surveys
  - 教育局请广大家庭就明年远程教育计划意见填写问卷
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## June 11, 2010 PA General Meeting Notes



6月11日晚家长会汇报

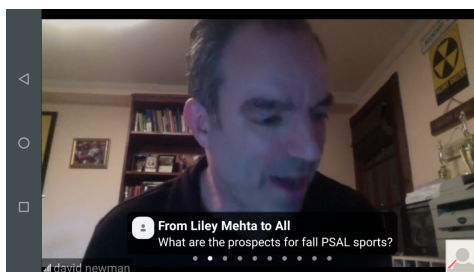
The PA hosted its final General monthly meeting (and third "virtual" Zoom session) this past Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30pm.

Principal Newman, APs Kelly Nottingham and Johnny Ventura and Tech Librarian, Joy Ferguson joined Co-Presidents Kue and Sullivan to discuss a dozen questions collected from over 100 Tech families as the school approaches the finish line of a challenging and unique school year.

### Co-Presidents Kue and Sullivan:

- 1) Co-President Sullivan thanked Mr. Newman for making his Zoom account available to host a larger PA General meeting.
- 2) Both Co-Presidents thanked outgoing Senior PA Executive Board members and 12th grade families for their efforts and support of the PA. Co-President Kue especially noted 12th grade parent, Rosie McConnon's tireless efforts to feed, hydrate and "provide a sugar boost" for all PA members back when PA meetings were held in the library.
- 3) No official PA matters (e.g., the PA Budget, new PA Exec. Board candidates) were discussed or voted upon as a quorum of membership was not in person for voting on them.
- 4) Co-President Sullivan suggested that the PA might conduct Zoom sessions over the summer pending any important news or developments for this term or next year's.

### Principal Newman:

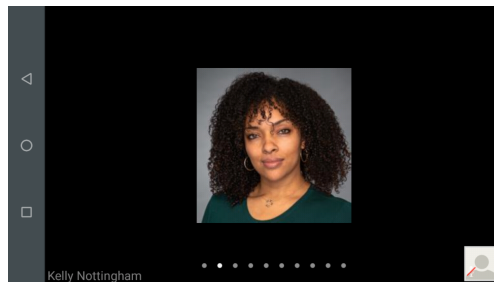


- 1) Regarding PSAL sports this fall, Mr. Newman was highly skeptical any sports would be played that season.
- 2) Responding to a question about budget cuts, Mr. Newman reported that he had not received any confirmation of next year's budget but was anticipating a number of contingencies, including not replacing retiring or departing teachers as well as cutting back on non-major electives. All of which is still in the planning stages and not final pending receipt of the DOE budget which he expected by the end of June.
- 3) A parent asked Mr. Newman about the status of ongoing exterior renovations for the Tech facades and he replied that all NYC School Construction Authority projects were "on hold due to NYS pulling back funding." Mr. Newman added that custodial staff was in the building maintaining the facilities and that previously funded painting contracts were still in operation.
- 4) Answering a question about library books on loan, Mr. Newman reported that in general as the building is still in lock down mode, no students can return books, clear out lockers until further notice.
- 5) Mr. Newman responded to a question from Co-President Kue regarding the release of the DOE 2020-2021 calendar and agreed that typically it would be on record by this time of the year. However, like so many DOE annual milestones it remains outstanding and that he would inquire as to status. Co-President Kue noted that the PA cannot plan next year's monthly meetings until the calendar is available.
- 6) Mr. Newman stated that all new classroom learning would end on June 15th and that between the 16th and the 26th students would engage in "Enrichment Learning" focusing on related course topics but outside the specific curriculum for each department. Mr. Newman also noted that this period is available for students to make up work and generally work with teachers to complete class requirements.
- 7) In response to a question about final exams, Mr. Newman stated that it is exclusively dependent on the teacher how he or she determines the final grade -- whether it involves a final exam or not.
- 8) Mr. Newman reported that report cards would be issued on the last day of school, June 26th.
- 9) In response to PA Co-Senior VP Ene's question about the June 26, 3pm 12th grade "virtual" graduation ceremony, Mr. Newman confirmed that it would be available for re-broadcast and viewed at the discretion and schedule of the community for at least a week after the initial broadcast.
- 10) A parent reported that her child had not received any grades or feedback from her teachers since April 1. Mr. Newman replied, "this sounds like a unique individual student-teacher issue" and that the proper course of action would be to contact that teacher's department AP as well as Mr. Newman directly.
- 11) Mr. Newman, in response to many questions about planned changes for September in light of COVID-19 follow-up reported that he expects a DOE sponsored Feasibility Study to outline suggested changes in teaching within

the building. While nothing is finalized he noted that "staggered schedules", "9-student classroom size to achieve social distancing" were among many rumored changes he's heard recently.

12) Also many parents emphasized their disappointment in how remote learning has unfolded in the past months and how was Brooklyn Tech going to avoid the same lack of engagement next fall. Mr. Newman responded that he and the faculty were working hard to adapt to a sudden and changing educational environment and that everybody "was learning on the job." He also suspected that going into the fall the DOE and UFT (teacher's union) would "cut a deal on how to navigate a better path to teaching under different classroom conditions in September."

#### Assistant Principal Nottingham:



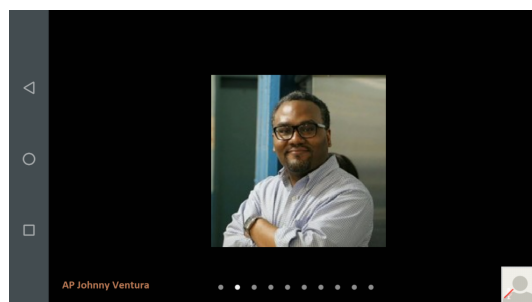
1) In response to parent concerns about the Class of 2020 graduation events falling short of expectations, AP Nottingham explained that she and her committee of Senior parents were working as hard as possible within the budget constraints (and financial hardship of many families needing refunds as well as prohibitive mailing costs to 1,500+ families) and social distancing requirements currently in place to give the graduating students the best celebration possible.

2) When asked how students who hadn't met their community service hours would fare, AP Nottingham assured the members that this was not a pressing matter for the school. Mr. Newman confirmed this current administrative position.

3) AP Nottingham was asked in the CHAT sidebar the protocol for requesting refunds for prorated PA dues and AP Exams. She replied, "when schools reopen, families will have an online form to fill out then checks will be sent via regular mail".

4) AP Nottingham estimated that this year's diplomas would not be mailed to Class of 2020 Seniors until September.

#### Assistant Principal Ventura:



1) AP Ventura reported on speaker Goldie Mohammad's training workshops on implicit bias. The workshops were designed to help teachers and other school staff increase self-awareness of sub-conscious biases they may have, so they might be consciously corrected.

2) AP Ventura reported on the schools Culturally Responsive Education ("CRE") programs. Recent programming has focused on raising awareness of "microaggressions" and ways to eliminate them.

3) When asked by a parent whether her non-Black, non-White, non-Brown child would need to align with particular ethnic groups in order to "fit in" and succeed as a member of the Tech student body, AP Ventura responded that, despite all of the racial inequity and injustice being reported in the news recently, the Tech community by and large respects and values each of its student members as unique individuals, regardless of racial, ethnic or socio-economic background.

4) AP Ventura provided an overview on the Guidance Office's Social-Emotional Learning programming, which is based on the [CASEL curriculum](#) model. AP Ventura also commented on the Guidance Office's ongoing to enrich students' educational experience during the COVID-19 epidemic. Since the beginning of the Remote Learning Model, AP Ventura and the Guidance Office have organized two SEL Days for the students. For access to some of the programs, please follow this [link](#) to various videos.

#### Tech Librarian Ferguson:



1) Librarian Joy Ferguson reported on recent readings by the school Equity Team book club. She highly recommended their latest reading, "How to be an Antiracist", by Ibram X. Kendi.

2) Ms. Ferguson introduced her work-in-progress Summer project for Tech students called a "Passion Project", which will guide students and their families through the process of developing and producing a personal research project which will be particularly rewarding for them and ultimately may be shared with the Tech community. Stay tuned for more details!

([欢迎点开中文翻译](#))

## A Very Special THANK YOU to the May PA Donors!

鸣谢5月份家长会捐赠者!

Brooklyn Tech is a special place with special families. THANK YOU for your generosity in these challenging times.

Anatoliy Rubinshteyn	Isabel Kyriacou
Andrew Karonis	Jackelyn Frost
Anna Rousakis	Jeffrey Drew
Antonia Martinelli	Jennifer and Kevin McCoy
Arnold Lim	Jennifer Dalton
Bruno Grandsard	Jennifer Lombard
Bunny Ellerin	Julia Saiz
Carol Adams	Kristin MacQuarrie
Colin Rafferty	Leila Ligougne-Moskovic
Craig & Patricia Laraia	Melanie Schwarz
David Glasser	Mieko Mendez
Hayes Slade	Nathaniel Bravo
Heather O'Donnell	Nilar Zeyar

## Thanks to Mr. Malchiodi for all the Good News!

Students at Brooklyn Tech have surely been garnering accolades and winning awards since Tech was founded almost a century ago, but for the first 94 years, the Tech community was mostly left unaware of these accomplishments. Then venerable Brooklyn Tech English teacher Giancarlo Malchiodi stepped into the part-time role of Good News Coordinator. You have probably seen, and hopefully enjoyed, his bimonthly "Good News" letter detailing Tech students' achievements in sports, arts and letters and charitable work, as well as awards bestowed upon our distinguished faculty members that would otherwise escape our attention. In his own words, his mission was "To better inform ourselves about the special place we come to every day and all the good things that happen here so that a greater sense of community may be established...[and] To better educate the City-at-large about all the good that happens or starts here so that our profile as a school is increased."

If you have not already seen it, take a look at the [latest issue here](#). The issue features student achievements ranging from the winner of an environmental poetry contest to 3-D printing of PPE for a senior citizens home in Brooklyn. Mr. Malchiodi even highlighted his own accomplishment - a formal course in College Advisement through a scholarship he won via Teachers College. Mr. Malchiodi has served many roles during his more than 20 years at Brooklyn Tech, including Co-Coordinator of the Gateway Science Program, Co-Coordinator of the College Office and perhaps most notably, teacher of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Senior Elective English class, enjoyed by Tech students for many years.

Unfortunately, this issue of "Good News" will be the last from Mr. Malchiodi; his tenure as the official "good news guy" is up at the end of this school year. Stay True Blue, Mr. Malchiodi, and thanks for all you do!

## Remote Learning Updates - Surveys

市政教育局邀请广大家庭就远程教育的看法和感受递交民意调查答卷

BTHS has been operating under the "Remote Learning Model" since March 23rd, and by most accounts, students, teachers, and families seem to have

adapted well. If parents have issues, concerns or experiences they would like to share, please feel free to email [papresident@bths.com](mailto:papresident@bths.com) with "Remote Learning" in the subject line.

Parents who are concerned about their student's progress may reach out to individual teachers at any time through PupilPath. See instructions for accessing the PupilPath website or app at this [link](#); access the PupilPath website [here](#).

**2020 Return To School Survey** - BOE created a short, anonymous survey to help administrators to understand what is most important to parents and students in terms of considerations to [return to school in the Fall of 2020](#). Parents or students should take the survey to voice your concerns about returning to school this fall. For those families who cannot take the online survey, they may call 3-1-1.

- [Parent Survey](#)
- [Student Survey](#)

**2019 /2020 NYC School Survey** - The 2019/2020 NYC School Survey's deadline has been extended to **June 26th**, please take this [survey](#) if you have not done so. School leaders use feedback from the survey to reflect and make improvements to schools and programs. Survey results are also used to help measure [quality](#).

- [Parent Survey](#)
- [Student Survey](#)
- [Survey Look up Code](#)

## Summer Opportunities

暑假机会

11th Graders: See [letter](#) from Mr. Amato, the Mathematics Teacher/Department Coordinator which describes the summer pre-calculus program and has the link to the application form. [Applications](#) are due June 15.

今年上代数Algebra 2的11年级学生暑假可以在学校上微积分预备班（Pre-calculus）

Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) [Summer Programs](#).

## Student Course Requests 2020-2021

2020年-2021年学生课程选择更新消息

Tentative course program for the 2020-2021 school year has been sent. Some of the elective courses are not listed due to the ambiguity of next year's budget. If any courses are there in error, or your student no longer wishes to take an AP section of a class, your student may speak with his/her guidance counselor before June 26th.

## College Corner Updates

BTHS 大学联络办公室最新消息



Click here to [access](#) College Corner Newsletters.

请查看最新版的《[大学申请联络办公室通讯](#)》

**NEW - [College Office Newsletter 6\\_12.pdf](#)**

- 1) College Board Test Updates
- 2) COVID Updates For Colleges and Universities
- 3) 10 Scholarships with Upcoming Deadlines

Financial Aid and Scholarship Info Session presentation slideshow from Ms. Amy Lucisano can be downloaded [here](#). Note that the prefects and email addresses for all college counselors (on the last slide) have been updated.

### **JUNIORS:**

Some great new items in the 5/29/20 edition of College Corner feature online college fairs and tours! Dream big, plan now; take some tours while you shelter in place. Your Decision Day less than a year away!

### **SENIORS:**

Bored at home while waiting for graduation? Why not try for another scholarship or two? Start by reading through [College Corner](#) and checking out [Ms. Lucisano's newsletter](#) for lots of ideas.

Seniors should also update their Naviance accounts and let us know which colleges have accepted you and where you plan to go. This information is very helpful to Juniors -- you remember those scattergrams? The data comes from you! 大学办公室谨在此提醒高中四年级的学生，请他们更新他们的Naviance帐户，并让我们知道哪些大学接受了您，以及您打算去哪所高校！

Seniors also need to complete their **MANDATORY EXIT SURVEYS**. Please see [instructions here](#). 高四毕业生得填报毕业问卷。请打开[此链接](#)了解细节要求。

Ms. Quinn of the College Office has some great resources to evaluate financial aid offers. See this [presentation](#), and [video](#) from her previous meeting. You can also [email](#) her with questions.

### **ALL PARENTS**

Brooklyn Tech's [College Office](#) has loads of information to offer you and your student about the college vetting and application process, including the College Handbook. You can read the [College Office newsletter](#) to get the latest ideas. 访问[此链接](#)浏览大学联络办公室最新资讯。访问学校大学联络办公室网站资源在[此链接](#)。

## **Grading Policy During Remote Learning**

远程学习评分策略

Look out for an email coming soon regarding end of school year procedures, including what students are entitled to with grading policy. Specifically, if you failed a class or if you are not happy with the numerical grade you receive, there are new grading policies instituted to assist you.

Previous announced advisory : On May 4 Principal Newman sent [this email](#) regarding the new grading policy for remote learning. You may also refer to

the entry for April 28 at this [link](#) for more background information from the NYC Department of Education. Please note this grading policy is only applicable for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

5月4日, Mr. Newman 校长发了这封关于远程学习的新评分政策的[电子邮件](#)。您还可以在[此链接](#)获取4月28日来自纽约市教育局的更多信息。请注意, 此评分政策仅适用于剩余的2019-20学年。

## Reminders and Key Dates

提醒和重要日期

- **AP Make Up Exams:** The window for requesting a makeup exam has closed. If students have two makeup exams scheduled at the same time or are unable to take or complete the makeup exam, they'll be able to take one exam in the makeup testing period and the other in the final [exception testing](#) period in late June.
  - Please see [here](#) on how to request for Exception Testing as well as Exception Testing Schedule.
- **Final Dates for the School Year:**
  - Monday, June 15 and Tuesday, June 16 - Makeup days for finals
  - Monday, June 22 - Senior Awards Ceremony broadcast
  - Monday, June 22 to June 30 - AP Exception Testing Dates
  - Friday, June 26 - Last day of school
  - Friday, June 26 - Graduation Ceremony broadcast
- **Summer School:** High school students who failed a class or need to continue a course, and students with 12-month IEP's will attend Summer School remotely. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **Seniors:** Please double check your home address on PupilPath. The school is preparing to mail your caps, gowns, and yearbooks to your home addresses soon. If you need to submit a [change of address](#), please fill out the change of address form and the [residency questionnaire](#).
  - 如果您需要更改地址, 请填写地址变更表格和居住问卷。

We know you *love* the Tech PA.



the Tech PA?



Please **like** the [PA's Facebook page](#). We post information about school, notable stories about Tech, cool stuff in Brooklyn, and info about city, state, and national education.



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