

Stay Connected



TechPA

BROOKLYN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION

2020-21 PA meetings

TBD

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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Tech FRESHMAN

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

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BrooklynTechPTA

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Town Hall Meeting Recap



Principal Newman hosted a Town Hall for BTHS families on Wednesday, August 5th at 6:30 PM to discuss questions about school reopening plans

August 5th at 6:30 PM, to discuss questions about school reopening plans in progress. Over 500 families attended the Town Hall remotely, either on-line or by dialing into the meeting teleconference line.

During the Town Hall meeting, Mr. Newman introduced the hybrid remote learning / in-person instructional program Brooklyn Tech is preparing to roll out when school reconvenes in September. Under this plan, the entire student body will be divided into four cohorts. Each cohort will have an even mix of students from all four grade levels. The four cohorts will take turns attending classes in physical classrooms at the school building in a four-day cycle, so each student will generally physically attend classes in classrooms at the school building once every four days, or approximately 5 days per month. On other school days, each student will attend classes remotely from home. Students may also opt to attend school in a 100% remote format, without any physical attendance at the school building whatsoever.

Regardless of which instructional format students participate in, every student will follow a pre-planned, set schedule and will participate in live, interactive lessons every day, either remotely or, on up to 5 days per month, in a physical classroom. Mr. Newman highlighted that all Major classes, AP classes and other special classes unique to Brooklyn Tech will continue to be offered under this plan, and no classes would be cancelled, despite the remote mode of instruction, because Brooklyn Tech is unique for its extensive offering of specialized courses and this is an important consideration for many families and students choosing to attend to Tech. Supporting all of these course offerings, even in the new blended remote/on site instructional format, is key to the Tech educational experience.

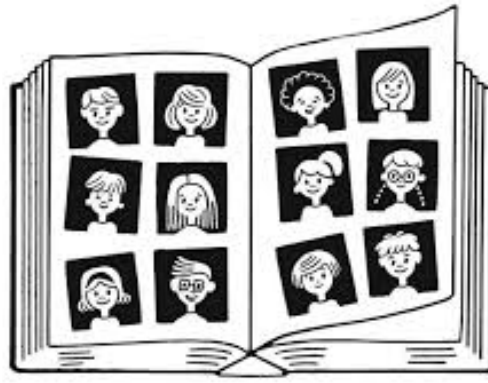
Mr. Newman also pointed out that the planned hybrid instructional format will work seamlessly even if the school needs to close for a quarantine period at any time during the school year due to an outbreak of COVID cases in or around the school. However, Mr. Newman also mentioned that the plan is still subject to approval from the DOE, so it is still a work in progress.

During the Town Hall, Mr. Newman responded to nearly 60 specific questions that the PA had gathered in advance from Brooklyn Tech families at large. Please access [this link](#) for a complete list of the questions addressed at the Town Hall meeting, together with a summary of Mr. Newman's response to each question. Parents and guardians of BTHS students are welcome to direct additional questions they may have to Principal Newman via email at dnewman2@schools.nyc.gov.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Principal Newman for the detailed responses to all the questions from our Tech families. A big thanks also to our PA Co-Presidents Lisa Sullivan and Cindy Kue for organizing and categorizing the questions prior to the Town Hall meeting and doing everything to set up the meeting and coordinate everything to run smoothly.

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Class of 2021 Senior Portraits Updates!



Dear Seniors and Parents of the Class of 2021:

New appointments are being offered by the Portraits USA website on a rolling basis.

We are working with a changing local and national situation and the studio is working with us to get portrait slots scheduled on a rolling basis after August. At this point, Portraits USA is scheduling portrait appointments 2 weeks in advance. In order for the 1500 BTHS seniors to get their portraits in a socially distanced manner, we thought it important to start as soon as was possible. When September comes around, watch for email updates and announcements from Mr. Johnston, check for updates on with Portraits USA's scheduling page <https://SeniorPortraitsScheduling.as.me/BTHS>, or email Portraits USA directly at: info@portraitsusainc.com.

To make an appointment, click the school scheduling link below to select a date and time! There is a \$10 sitting fee due when getting photographed that can be paid in advance online, in EXACT cash, or by check or money order when getting photographed. Location: 1254 Prospect Avenue, Brooklyn, 11218.

APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED. WALK-INS ARE NOT ACCEPTED. YOU MUST ARRIVE 15 MINUTES BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT, READY TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED. TIMES ARE LIMITED!

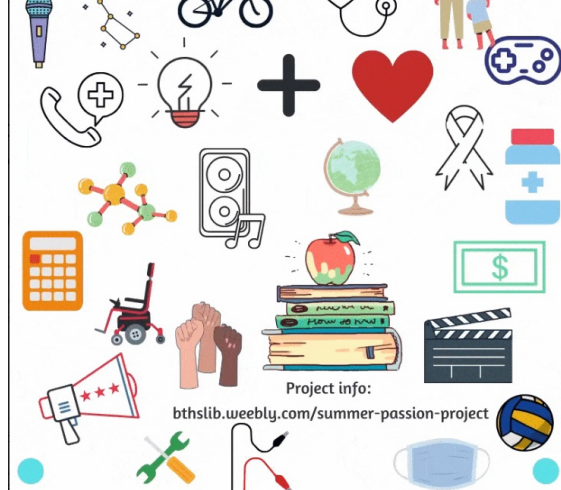
Instructions on how to prepare for your portraits will be on the scheduling page! Schedule your portrait appointment at this [link](#).

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Summer Opportunities

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1) BTHS Library Summer Passion Project

With the lack of summer jobs, internships, and other opportunities in 2020, students are looking for ways to learn and expand their experiences while at home. An independent passion project (aka 20% time project) is a great way to take advantage of this time to delve into personal interests and it also shows student initiative. Passion Projects that involve research and learning can be shared with teachers who write recommendation letters, be incorporated into college essays, and included on college applications.

The Summer Passion Project program involves a student (or a group of students) developing their own project and learning about something they are passionate about, but also sharing the learning in a way that could be useful or potentially useful, and reflecting on their experience.

Students in the program are following their own desires to learn and reach out, mixing and matching among their diverse interests. The projects include time spent learning through books, research articles, interviews, testing, etc. Students in the program are writing and sharing songs, blogs, websites, stories and a novel, poems, computer code, interviewing alumni, teaching classes and mentoring projects for younger students, doing a Ted Talk, making and editing videos, making masks, and starting a baking business. Some will be learning and teaching about the Chinese Exclusion Act, food science, fogponics, gentrification, current politics, the crisis in Yemen, comparing Covid in different countries, discrimination in health care, climate change, how to reduce plastic in businesses, sharing college advice, staying organized with schoolwork, how not to raise a serial killer, photography, how to make miso and more!

While the deadline has passed to sign up, students can do their own passion projects and submit them for sharing; there is still almost a month before projects are due.

If you are interested in sharing your Passion Project with the school community, please mail your finished presentation (Video file, PowerPoint, Google Slides, Presi, etc.) to the [BTHS Library](#) by Aug 25th; we can't wait to see it!

Learning + Making + Sharing + Reflection = Passion Project!

[See here for more information:](#)

See here for more information:

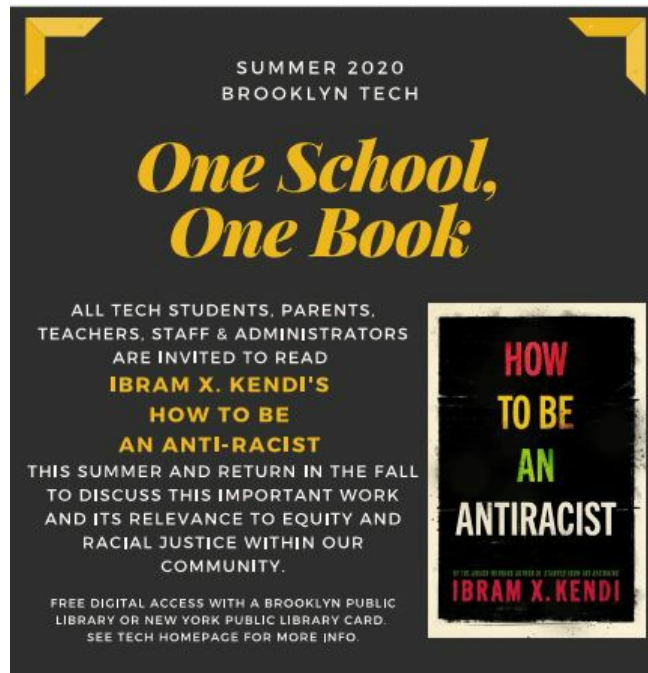
<https://bthslib.weebly.com/summer-passion-project>.

2) Summer Reading

Students should check the Tech homepage for [summer reading assignments](#). Summer homework is due by September 21.

3) One School, One Book

Please see [more information](#) about our chosen book for students, staff and families: "How to be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi. NY Public Library and Brooklyn Public Library have unlimited copies and any New Yorker can [get a library card online](#).



Princeton Review Discounts for Tech Students

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The Princeton Review test preparation company offers discounted rates to Brooklyn Tech students. In-person session might have been canceled due to COVID-19 Pandemic. See link below for specific updates.

[Princeton Review Link](#) for Brooklyn Tech Students.

College Corner Updates

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

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SENIORS:

- 1) SENIOR High School to College Transition Checklist
- 2) Helpful Documents for College Students & Their Families
- 3) Summer Internships - All Ages 15 - 18

JUNIORS: Develop your college plans!

Some great new items in the 06/30/20 edition of College Corner feature timeline for juniors to-do list for the summer, such as SAT Fee Waivers, COVID Impact on Testing. In addition, the 06/30/20 edition has many updates on 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!

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.

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PupilPath Tutorial

PupilPath□□□□

Parents, please use PupilPath to keep in touch with teachers. This applies to questions about your students' grades, homework assignments, attendance, as well as other important school messages.

See instructions for accessing the PupilPath website or app at this [link](#); access the PupilPath website [here](#).

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We know you *love* the Tech PA.

But do you



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.
